



GS-2 POLITY 2013-2024 ANALYSIS

Parliament/SLAs

Debate Quality:

Q1: The role of individual MPs (Members of Parliament) has diminished over the years and as a result healthy constructive debates on policy issues are not usually witnessed. How far can this be attributed to the anti-defection law, which was legislated but with a different intention? (2013)

Q2: Individual parliamentarians' role as national lawmaker is on a decline, which in turn, has adversely impacted the quality of debates and their outcome. Discuss. (2019)

Rajya Sabha:

Q1: Rajya Sabha has been transformed from a 'useless Stepney tire' to the most useful supportive organ in past few decades. Highlight the factors as well as areas in which this transformation could be visible. (2020)

Q2: Discuss the role of the Vice President of India as the chairman of Rajya Sabha. (2022)

Functioning:

Q1: The 'Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and its Members' as envisaged in Article 105 of the Constitution leave room for a large number of un-codified and un-enumerated privileges to continue. Assess the reasons for the absence of legal codification of the 'parliamentary privileges'. How can this problem be addressed? (2014)

Q2: The Indian Constitution has provisions for holding a joint session of the two houses of the Parliament. Enumerate the occasions when this would normally happen and also the occasions when it cannot, with reasons thereof. (2017)

Q3: 'Once a Speaker, Always a speaker'! Do you think this practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha? What could be its implication for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India? (2020)

Q4: To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India? (2021)

Q5: "The growth of cabinet system has practically resulted in the marginalisation of the parliamentary supremacy:" Elucidate. (2024)

State Legislatures:

Q1: Explain the constitutional provisions under which Legislative Councils are established. Review the working and current status of Legislative Councils with suitable illustrations. (2021)

Q2: Discuss the role of Presiding Officers of state legislatures in maintaining order and impartiality in conducting legislative work and in facilitating best democratic practices. (2023)

Acts

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act:

Q1: Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure an effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in the society? Discuss (2017)

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Q2: The rights of persons with disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of Government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment. (2022)

Other Acts:

Q1: Discuss Section 66A of IT Act, with reference to its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution. (2013)

Q2: What are the major changes brought in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1966 through the recent ordinance promulgated by the President? How far will it improve India's dispute resolution mechanism? Discuss. (2015)

Q3: "Recent amendments to the Right to Information Act will have profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission". Discuss. (2020)

Q4: Indian Constitution exhibits centralising tendencies to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. Elucidate in the perspective of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897; The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and recently passed Farm Acts. (2020)

Q5: The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 remains inadequate in promoting an incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse. (2022)

Q6: What are the aims and objects of recently passed and enforced, The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024? Whether University/State Education Board examinations, too, are covered under the Act? (2024)

Federalism

Special Status:

Q1: Recent directives from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas are perceived by the 'Nagas' as a threat to override the exceptional status enjoyed by the State. Discuss in light of Article 371A of the Indian Constitution. (2013)

Q2: To what extent is Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, bearing marginal note "temporary provision with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir", temporary? Discuss the future prospects of this provision in the context of Indian polity. (2016)

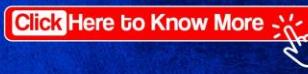
Inter-State Issues:

Q1: Constitutional mechanisms to resolve the inter-state water disputes have failed to address and solve the problems. Is the failure due to structural or process inadequacy or both? Discuss. (2013)

Q2: The concept of cooperative federalism has been increasingly emphasised in recent years. Highlight the drawbacks in the existing structure and extent to which cooperative federalism would answer the shortcomings. (2015)

Centre vs. State Issues:

Q1: Though the federal principle is dominant in our Constitution and that principle is one of its basic features, but it is equally true that federalism under the Indian Constitution leans in favour of a strong Centre, a feature that militates against the concept of strong federalism. (2014)





Q2: Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any, that have led to recent reported conflicts between the elected representatives and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of the Indian federal politics? (2016)

Q3: Whether the Supreme Court Judgement (July 2018) can settle the political tussle between the Lt. Governor and elected government of Delhi? Examine. (2018)

Q4: From the resolution of contentious issues regarding the distribution of legislative powers by the courts, the 'Principle of Federal Supremacy' and 'Harmonious Construction' have emerged. Explain. (2019)

Q5: What changes has the Union Government recently introduced in the domain of Centre-State relations? Suggest measures to be adopted to build the trust between the Centre and the States and for strengthening federalism. (2024)

General:

Q1: Did the Government of India Act, 1935 lay down a federal constitution? Discuss. (2016)

Q2: How far do you think cooperation, competition and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation in India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer. (2020)

Q3: "While the national political parties in India favour centralisation, the regional parties are in favour of state autonomy." Comment. (2022)

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Elections

Q1: "The Indian party system is passing through a phase of transition which looks to be full of contradictions and paradoxes." Discuss. (2016)

Q2: 'Simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering but it will reduce the government's accountability to the people' Discuss. (2017)





Q3: To enhance the quality of democracy in India the Election Commission of India has proposed electoral reforms in 2016. What are the suggested reforms and how far are they significant to make democracy successful? (2017)

Q4: In the light of recent controversy regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), what are the challenges before the Election Commission of India to ensure the trustworthiness of elections in India? (2018)

Q5: Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct. (2022)

Q6: Examine the need for electoral reforms as suggested by various committees with particular reference to “one nation – one election” principle. (2024)

Constitution

Amendments:

Basic Structure:

Q1: The Supreme Court of India keeps a check on arbitrary power of the Parliament in amending the Constitution. Discuss critically. (2013)

Q2: “Parliament’s power to amend the constitution is limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power”. In light of this statement explain whether parliament under Article 368 of the constitution can destroy the Basic structure of the constitution by expanding its amending power. (2019)

101st Amendment:

Q1: Explain the salient features of the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016. Do you think it is efficacious enough ‘to remove cascading effect of taxes and provide for a common national market for goods and services’? (2017)

Q2: Explain the significance of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act. To what extent does it reflect the accommodative spirit of federalism. (2023)

Fundamental Rights:

Privacy:

Q1: Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy. (2017)

Q2: Right to privacy is intrinsic to life and personal liberty and is inherently protected under Article 21 of the constitution. Explain. In this reference discuss the law relating to D.N.A. testing of child in the womb to establish its paternity. (2024)

Life & Liberty:

Q1: Does the right to clean environment entail legal regulation on burning crackers during Diwali? Discuss in the light of Article 21 of Indian Constitution and judgements of the apex in this regard. (2015)





Q2: "The Constitution of India is a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism. It is a constitution made for a progressive society." Illustrate with special focus to the expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty. (2023)

Other:

Q1: What do you understand by the concept "freedom of speech and expression"? Does it cover hate speech also? Why do the films in India stand on a slightly different plane from other forms of expression? Discuss. (2014)

Q2: Right of movement and residence throughout the territory of India are freely available to Indian citizens, but these rights are not absolute. Comment. (2021)

Core Constitution:

CAG:

Q1: Exercise of CAG's powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss whether audit of the Government's policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own (CAG) jurisdiction. (2016)

Q2: "The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has a very vital role to play." Explain how this is reflected in the method and terms of his appointment as well as the range of powers he can exercise. (2018)

Q3: "The duty of the Comptroller and Auditor General is not merely to ensure the legality of expenditure but also its propriety." Comment. (2024)

Emergency:

Q1: Under what circumstances can the Financial Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force? (2018)

Q2: Account for the legal and political factors responsible for the reduced frequency of using Article 356 by the Union Governments since mid-1990s. (2023)

Ordinances:

Q1: Resorting to ordinances has always raised concern on violation of the spirit of separation of power doctrine. While noting the rationales justifying the power to promulgate, analyse whether the decision of the Supreme Court on the issue have further facilitated to resorting to this power. Should the power to promulgate the ordinances be repealed? (2015)

Q2: Discuss the essential conditions for the exercise of the legislative powers by the Governor. Discuss the legality of re-promulgation of ordinances by the Governor without placing them before the Legislature. (2022)

Other:

Q1: Instances of President's delay in commuting death sentences has come under public debate as denial of justice. Should there be a time specified for the President to accept/reject such petitions? Analyse. (2014)





Q2: The size of the cabinet should be as big as governmental work justifies and as big as the Prime Minister can manage as a team. How far is the efficacy of a government then inversely related to the size of the cabinet? Discuss. (2014)

Q3: Discuss the possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizen a **uniform civil code** as provided for in the Directive Principles of State Policy. (2015)

Q4: Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Republic' in the 'Preamble'. Are they defendable in the present circumstances? (2016)

Q5: What was held in the Coelho case? In this context, can you say that judicial review is of key importance amongst the basic features of the Constitution? (2016)

Q6: Do you think the Constitution of India does not accept the principle of strict separation of powers rather it is based on the principle of 'checks and balance'? Explain. (2019)

Q7: 'Constitutional Morality' is rooted in the Constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of 'Constitutional Morality' with the help of relevant judicial decisions. (2021)

Q8: Explain the constitutional perspectives of Gender Justice with the help of relevant Constitutional Provisions and case laws. (2023)

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Constitutional Comparison:

USA:

Q1: Indian and USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenets on which the two political systems are based. (2018)

Q2: Analyze the distinguishing features of the notion of Equality in the Constitutions of the USA and India. (2021)

Q3: Discuss India as a secular state and compare with the secular principles of the US constitution. (2024)

France:

Q1: What can France learn from the Indian Constitution's approach to secularism? (2019)

Q2: Critically examine the procedures through which the presidents of India and France are elected. (2022)

UK:





Q1: The judicial system in India and UK seem to be converging as well as diverging in recent times. Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the two nations in terms of their judicial practices. (2020)

Q2: Compare and contrast the British and Indian approaches to Parliamentary sovereignty. (2023)

Local Governance/Panchayat

Q1: In the absence of well – educated and organised local level government system, Panchayats and Samitis have remained mainly political institutions and not effective instrument of governance. Critically Discuss. (2015)

Q2: Khap panchayats have been in the news for functioning as extra – constitutional authorities, often delivering pronouncements amounting to human right violations. Discuss critically the actions taken by the legislative, executive and judiciary to set the things right in this regard. (2015)

Q3: “The local self-government system in India has not proved to be an effective instrument of governance”. Critically examine the statement and give your views to improve the situation. (2017)

Q4: Assess the importance of the Panchayat system in India as a part of local government. Apart from government grants, what sources the Panchayats can look out for financing developmental projects? (2018)

Q5: “The reservation of seats for women in the institution of local self-government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian political process”. Comment. (2019)

Q6: The strength and sustenance of local institutions in India has shifted from their formative phase of ‘functions, functionaries and funds’ to the contemporary stage of ‘functionality’. Highlight the critical challenges faced by local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent times. (2020)

Q7: To what extent in your opinion has the decentralisation of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots? (2021)

Q8: “The states in India seem reluctant to empower urban local bodies both functionally as well as financially.” Comment. (2023)

Q9: Analyse the role of local bodies in providing good governance at local level and bring out the pros and cons merging the rural local bodies with the urban local bodies. (2024)

Constitutional/Non-constitutional Bodies/Committees

Finance Commission:

Q1: Discuss the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission which have been a departure from the previous commissions for strengthening the local government finances. (2013)

Q2: How is the Finance Commission of India constituted? What do you know about the terms of reference of the recently constituted Finance Commission? Discuss. (2018)

Q3: How have the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission of India enabled the states to improve their fiscal position? (2021)

NHRC:





Q1: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India can be most effective when its tasks are adequately supported by other mechanisms that ensure the accountability of a government. In light of above observation assess the role of NHRC as an effective complement to the judiciary and other institutions in promoting and protecting human rights standards. (2014)

Q2: Though the Human Rights Commissions have contributed immensely to the protection of human rights in India, yet they have failed to assert themselves against the mighty and powerful. Analyzing their structural and practical limitations, suggest remedial measures. (2021)

NCW:

Q1: Is the National Commission for Women able to strategize and tackle the problems that women face at both public and private spheres? Give reasons in support of your answer. (2017)

Q2: Which steps are required for constitutionalisation of a commission? Do you think imparting constitutionality to the national commission for woman would ensure greater gender justice and empowerment in India? Give reasons. (2020)

Others:

Q1: Discuss the role of Public Accounts Committee in establishing accountability of the government to the people. (2017)

Q2: Whether National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) can enforce the implementation of constitutional reservation for the Scheduled Castes in the religious minority institutions? Examine. (2018)

Q3: Why do you think the committees are considered to be useful for parliamentary work? Discuss, in this context, the role of the Estimates Committee. (2018)

Q4: Do Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees keep the administration on its toes and inspire reverence for parliamentary control? Evaluate the working of such committees with suitable examples. (2021)

Q5: Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body. (2022)

Q6: Explain the structure of the Parliamentary Committee system. How far have the financial committees helped in the institutionalization of Indian Parliament? (2023)

Judicial/Quasi-judicial Bodies

Q1: The product diversification of financial institutions and insurance companies, resulting in overlapping of products and services strengthens the case for the merger of the two regulatory agencies, namely SEBI and IRDA. Justify. (2013)

Q2: 'A national Lokpal, however strong it may be, cannot resolve the problems of immorality in public affairs'. Discuss. (2013)

Q3: For achieving the desired objectives, it is necessary to ensure that the regulatory institutions remain independent and autonomous. Discuss in the light of experiences in recent past. (2015)

Q4: What is quasi-judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples. (2016)





Q5: The jurisdiction of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) regarding lodging an FIR and conducting probes within a particular state is being questioned by various States. However, the power of States to withhold consent to the CBI is not absolute. Explain with special reference to the federal character of India. (2021)

Q6: Who are entitled to receive free legal aid? Assess the role of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in rendering free legal aid in India. (2023)

Q7: Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in containing the abuse of dominant position by the Multi-National Corporations in India. Refer to the recent decisions. (2023)

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Judicial Activism/PIL:

Q1: Starting from inventing the 'basic structure' doctrine, the judiciary has played a highly proactive role in ensuring that India develops into a thriving democracy. In light of the statement, evaluate the role played by judicial activism in achieving the ideals of democracy. (2014)

Q2: Judicial legislation is antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers as envisaged in the Indian Constitution. In this context justify the filing of large number of public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities. (2020)

Q3: Explain the reasons for the growth of public interest litigation in India. As a result of it, has the Indian Supreme Court emerged as the world's most powerful judiciary? (2024)

Judicial Independence:

Q1: Critically examine the Supreme Court's judgement on 'National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014' with reference to the appointment of judges of higher judiciary in India. (2017)

Q2: "Constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence is a prerequisite of democracy". (2023)

Tribunals:

Q1: How far do you agree with the view that tribunals curtail the jurisdiction of ordinary courts? In view of the above, discuss the constitutional validity and competency of the tribunals in India. (2018)





Q2: Explain and distinguish between Lok Adalats and Arbitration Tribunals. Whether they entertain civil as well as criminal cases? (2024)

Others:

Q1: "The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India." Discuss (2019)

Q2: Discuss the desirability of greater representation to women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity and inclusiveness. (2021)

Q3: The most significant achievement of modern law in India is the constitutionalization of environmental problems by the Supreme Court. Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws. (2022)

Mains With Mudit Jain

