

When

Constitution of India

Spoke in Honest English without lawyers

Democracy Stolen

Dedicated to the Constitution of India, whose words inspire us—and
whose betrayal compels us to speak

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Write us at: adv.mnsarkar@gmail.com

Kolkata. West Bengal

Disclaimer

This book is a satirical and educational interpretation of the Constitution of India. It does not reflect the official views of any government, court, or public authority.

All content is fictionalised for commentary and protected under the freedom of speech guaranteed by Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

The author respects the Constitution and all institutions of Indian democracy. This work aims to promote critical thought, not defame or discredit.

No legal advice is offered. If offended, consult the original Constitution — not your lawyer and **please remember:** The Constitution was meant to be questioned. So is this book

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PREAMBLE

WE,
THE ENTITLED OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute
India into a

SOVEREIGN (as we take orders from no one... except donors & the
party high command)

SOCIALIST (until we sell/close all the public sectors)

SECULAR (unless vote bank is concerned)

DEMOCRATIC (one vote every five years)

REPUBLIC (only during election)

and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, for well connected, well positioned and well offed

LIBERTY of thought and expression, within officially acceptable
boundaries;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; as long as legacy and lineage
permit and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and
integrity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of
November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO
OURSELVES and those who understand English THIS
CONSTITUTION.

THE UNION AND ITS TERRITORY

Article 1: Name and Territory of the Union

India — that is Bharat — also known as “The Estate of the Entitled”, shall be a Union of States. The States and their boundaries shall be as listed in the First Schedule — until redrawn for electoral convenience.

The territory of India shall comprise:

- (a) the States (subject to mergers, splits, and midnight political gymnastics);
- (b) the Union Territories (also known as “centrally controlled experiments”); and
- (c) such other lands may be annexed, claimed, or conveniently forgotten, depending on international pressure and domestic drama.

Article 2: Admission or Establishment of New States

Parliament may, by law — or by election strategy — admit into the Union, or create new States,

on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit (or politically profitable).

Names, borders, and capitals may vary —

depending on voter sentiment, coalition arithmetic, and how badly someone wants a cabinet post.

Article 3: Formation of new States and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing States

Parliament may, at its convenience —

- (a) create a new State (for votes),
- (b) merge two States (for optics),
- (c) shrink a State (for revenge),
- (d) redraw boundaries (with crayons and cabinet notes),
- (e) rename States (based on mood, mythology, or manifesto).

Provided that the President nods, the State pretends to agree, and the party’s poll numbers approve.

Article 4: Housekeeping Clause (a.k.a. Covering Our Tracks)

When Parliament makes a new State or changes an existing one (under Article 2 or 3), it can also make laws to adjust: boundaries, names, representation in Parliament and State Assemblies, or anything else needed for the change. These changes are not treated as constitutional amendments, even if they affect the Constitution.

Law student: “Wait, Article 4 lets Parliament redraw state boundaries and even alter the Constitution... but it's not a constitutional amendment?”

Constitution: “Correct. Because why bother with Article 368 and all that democratic formality drama?”

Law student: “But isn’t that a loophole?”

Constitution: No. It's called Political Science.

CITIZENSHIP

Article 5: Citizenship (Opening Sale Edition)

At the grand opening of the Constitution, anyone with a domicile, decent paperwork, or grandparents in the right postcode was welcome as a citizen

- (a) born here,
- (b) born to someone born here, or
- (c) just hanging around for five years without getting deported or noticed.

No documents? No problem — until we invent new ones.

Article 6: Citizenship — Special Offer for Those Migrating from Pakistan

-If you (or your parents or grandparents) were born in what used to be India — and you made it across the new border from Pakistan—Congratulations, you might be a citizen!

-If you came before July 19, 1948 — just live here and don't get noticed.

-If you came after that — fill a form, wait in line, charm a government officer, and prove you've lived here for six months (without being thrown out).

Article 7: Exit = Exile

If you packed your bags and left for Pakistan after 1st March 1947, *don't bother coming back* —

we've updated the guest list, and you're not on it.

Doesn't matter if your cousins stayed behind, or you just went for a wedding and got stuck during Partition —you crossed the wrong line on the wrong day.

Articles 5 and 6 don't apply. Article 7 slams the door.

Article 8: NRI Pass – Bloodline Bonus

If your parents or grandparents were born in India, and you're sipping coffee in London or trading stocks in Singapore — don't worry, you still qualify!

Just file a form with the nearest Indian embassy, smile for the official photo, and boom — citizenship by nostalgia.

Article 9: One Passport Only, Please

If you loved another country enough to take their passport, India takes the hint.

No matter what Article 5, 6, or 8 promised — you're out. No dual citizenship.

Article 10: You're a Citizen... For Now

If you got citizenship under the earlier rules —
 congrats, you're in.
 But remember:
 Parliament reserves the right to change its mind.

Article 11: Parliament decides who is A Citizen

Note to readers:
 All that stuff you read in Articles 5 to 10?
 Cute. But ultimately:
 Parliament makes the real rules.
 It can add, remove, or remix citizenship laws as it pleases.
 Today you're a citizen.
 Tomorrow? Depends on the next Bill, debate, or "your role in the movie."

Law Student: So, Article 11 lets
 Parliament rewrite citizenship laws
 anytime?

Constitution: Yes. That's how we
 got the CAA—citizenship now
 comes with footnotes.

Law Student: But what about spirit
 of the law?

Constitution: Cute concept. But
 under Article 11, Parliament plays
 editor-in-chief. Identities can be
 revised by majority vote.

Law Student: So, citizenship is
 now a policy, not a principle?

Constitution: Welcome to the
 Republic. Terms and conditions
 apply.

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Article 12: Definition--“The State” means anyone in power —

from big ministers to small babus. Where even the Clark is your Sir.

Article 13: Any law against your rights is void —

unless we cleverly call it a “constitutional amendment (article 368)” or “The word Reasonable” is there.

Article 14: Everyone is equal before law —

but sometimes your father’s ambulance might have to wait for VIP Convoy to pass

Article 15: No discrimination due to caste or creed

State shall not discriminate---- unless it's ‘positive’, ‘protective’, ‘special’ or “Official “discrimination. Then you may have to stand in line all day.

Article 16: Equal opportunity in public employment

unless your surname opens doors, your caste fills quotas, or your loyalty earns a minister's letter. Merit matters... after the reservations, referrals, and recommendations.

Article 17: Untouchability is outlawed.

So, we no longer exclude people... we just “politely” avoid them, deny them, and keep them out — with dignity, of course.

Article 18: Abolition of titles —

No more kings, nawabs, or sirs...

Just “Hon’ble,” “Your Excellency,” “Ma’am,” “Your Lordship” and “Shree Shree”

Article 19: Your Theoretical Rights...on paper

Speak your mind — unless it hurts someone’s sentiments (which it will).

Protest — with permission, in silence, preferably online, and not too close to power.

Associate — but avoid the “wrong” Party.

Move anywhere — as long as the barricades and Section 144 aren’t in place.

Settle anywhere — just don’t disrupt the demographics

Choose any profession — unless it’s journalism, activism, or whistleblowing. And if you are an Advocate then you cannot speak only whisper as it is a sacred profession.

Otherwise Yes, you’re free, free, free.

Article 20 — Certain Protection against Crime

No retro crimes! If it wasn’t illegal yesterday, relax... for now.

One crime, one punishment. Unless public outrage demands a sequel.

And no, you don’t have to testify against yourself for your crime, Police will help you in this.

Article 21: You have the right to life and liberty — On Paper

don’t get excited. This may not help when police show up at your door at night 2 O’clock uninvited.

Law Student: Article 21 promises life and personal liberty. That’s reassuring.

Constitution: On paper, yes. Until the police ask for police custody (PC) — then it’s *life with conditions*.

Law Student: But it's a fundamental right!

Constitution: So is due process and try explaining that in a lock-up at 2 a.m. without a lawyer.

Law Student: So, liberty is negotiable?

Constitution: Only when it's "inconvenient" for the State. And convenient for the Police. Which is often.

Article 21A: Free Education....

Every child aged 6 to 14 has the right to free education — just not necessarily with books, teachers, classrooms, or actual learning.

Article 22: Sometimes, you have the right to not be arrested —

unless you are inconvenient to the ruling party, politics and threat to its power. And if you are arrested, you might even get to know why... eventually and someday your family will also get to know.

Article 23: Forced labour is banned —

unless you're in a 9-to-9 job, unpaid law intern, or "volunteering" for team spirit.

- Human trafficking? Illegal.
- Corporate slavery? KPI-driven.

Article 24: No child under 14 in hazardous jobs — For good conscious

Because we *deeply* care about our children —

Law Student: Then what about those kids on the street, begging?

Constitution: That's *culture*, not *employment*, Beta. Don't mix the syllabus.

Article 25: Freedom of Religion

Everyone is free to follow any religion, preach their version of peace, and occasionally riot if the mood (or vote bank) demands it. The State will intervene—mostly on social media, occasionally with lathis—unless it's election season. Watch the movie “Nayak” by Anil Kapur

Article 26: Divine Business Rights

Every religious group can own land, run institutions, and manage divine revenues—because nothing says salvation like real estate and tax exemptions.

Article 27: No Tax for God (Unless He's in Real Estate)

Pray all you want, chant all day—No need to pay any entertainment tax to us but don't expect the State to fund your faith... unless it's a packaged Voting Benefit.

Law Student: *Then why did Tirupati Temple pay so much GST?*

Constitution: *Because divine blessings are free, beta — but laddus are not exempt under Section 11!*

Article 28: When the State Pays, Gods Wait Outside (Unless God Comes with a Trust Deed)

Public schools run by the government can't teach religion—But if some rich ancestor said “build this school and add my god,” the State politely nods. And no student can be forced to join any religious class or worship unless they—or their guardian—say “yes” first.

Law Student: So, the two big loopholes are Trust Deed & Guardian Consent?

Constitution: *Loopholes?* Beta, that's not a loophole—It is divine.

Article 29: Protection of interests of minorities.

You have the right to preserve your language, script, and culture but don't expect the state to publish its gazette notification in your language—Also, if you're a minority and the State runs an institute, they can't deny you admission just because you're *not in the majority club*.

Law Student: How do you decide who counts as a minority?

Constitution: Simple, beta — whoever shouts the loudest and blocks the most roads and destroy the public property.

Article 30: Minority Education Edition-Funding

Minorities (based on religion or language) can run their own schools. They pick the syllabus, the staff, and the shade of freedom — While the rest fill out three affidavits to teach ABCs. But the state can't deny them funds even if they believe "Earth is Flat"

Law Student: So, minorities get special rights to run schools?

Constitution: Yes. It's called empowerment. But try calling it "privilege"—and suddenly *you're* the problem.

Law Student: But isn't it indirect funding of religious institutions through education?

Constitution: Shhh... it's not "funding religion" — it's "preserving culture." As long as the label says "minority", the syllabus can include miracles.

Article 31: Right to Property (Now Repealed)

In 1978, by the 44th Constitutional Amendment, Article 31 was repealed. The Right to Property is no longer a Fundamental Right. It is now a legal right under 300A.

Article 31A – Land Reform Gets a Free Pass

Article 31B – The Ninth Schedule: Where Laws Go to Escape Judicial Review

Article 31C – Socialism Overrides Fundamental Rights (With Parliamentary Blessings)

Article 31D – The “Shut Up, It’s for National Security” Clause (Now Repealed)

Law Student: So, the government could take my land, build a dam, and just say “*public purpose*”?

Constitution (Before 1978): Yes, but at least we had the decency to leave a Cheque. (After 1978): Now? We just leave a notice. And maybe a photo of the dam.

Law Student: So... Can the State take my land, pass unfair laws, and ignore my rights?

Constitution:

31A: “If it’s for land reform, yes.”

31B: “If we drop the law in the 9th Schedule (VIP lounge for laws), courts can’t even blink.”

31C: “If we say it’s for socialism, your *Rights* take a nap.”

31D (back in the day): “And if you complained too much, we’d label you *anti-national*—but don’t worry, we repealed that... for now.”

Law Student: So basically, my rights are optional?

Constitution: Only when you are feeling revolutionary, beta.

Article 32 – Right to Constitutional Remedies

If your fundamental rights are violated, you don't just sulk — you go straight to the Supreme Court. This Article empowers citizens to approach the highest court of the land to enforce their rights.

Tools Supreme Court Can Use (Writs):

Habeas Corpus – “Where’s the body?” (If someone is unlawfully detained)

Mandamus – “We command you” (When the government is sleeping on duty)

Prohibition – “Stop right there!” (Lower courts crossing their line)

Certiorari – “Bring it here” (To quash illegal orders)

Quo Warranto – “By what authority?” (Why is this person in office?)

Law Student: But I live in Jammu and the Supreme Court is in Delhi? I don't have a lot of money!

Constitution: In that case the only right you have is “Right to remain Hopeful”

Law Student: Then what is the point having it? It is like taking a blind man see Taj Mahal.

“Hay, he cannot see it's his problem. We have built Taj Mahal for him”.

Article 32A: The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Clause (Now Deleted)

"Supreme Court, when someone comes crying to you under Article 32 about their rights being violated, just... ignore whether the state law causing the mess is even constitutional. Pretend you don't see it. Thanks!"

Law Student: Why was it deleted?

Constitution: It was born during the dark days of the Emergency (1976), when the ruling party really didn't want courts poking around state laws.

Article 33 – Parliament's Power to Modify Rights for Armed Forces

Empowers Parliament to restrict or abrogate the application of fundamental rights for members of the Armed Forces, paramilitary forces, police, intelligence agencies, and similar services, in order to ensure proper discipline and duty.

Law Student: So, soldiers don't get all fundamental rights?

Constitution: Of course not. You can't fight terrorists *and* file PILs at the same time

Law Student: But what if there's a riot led by a political party? Do the jawans get their rights then?

Constitution: Only one right: "*Right to remain silent... and follow orders.*" And maybe a bonus if they don't ask who started the riot.

Article 34 – No fundamental Rights during Martial law.

During martial law, Parliament can pass a law to legally protect those who "maintain order" — even if that means breaking your bones or leaving you with a skull fracture. And yes, your fundamental rights can be suspended while you're lying in the hospital.

Law Student: But who decides when it's martial law?

Constitution: Well... if the streets are burning, the army's in charge, and everyone's rights are on vacation — congratulations, you might be in it.

Article 35: Parliament's Exclusive Power

Only Parliament can make laws on certain super-important Fundamental Rights stuff

1. Parliament's Exclusive Power:
 - States: "Can we make laws on reservations (Art 16(3)), Supreme Court powers (Art 32(3)), armed forces' rights (Art 33), or martial law (Art 34)?"
 - Parliament: "LOL, no. That's OUR job."
2. Punishing Rights Violations:
 - If someone messes with your Fundamental Rights, only Parliament can decide their punishment.
 - "States, don't even think about it."
3. Old Laws Stay (For Now):
 - Any pre-Constitution laws on these topics? They stick around until Parliament changes or scraps them.

Law Student: *"But States can also make laws too!"*
Federalism?

Constitution: *"Yes they can but Parliament does not like sharing power. State can focus on fixing roads, drains or something."*

DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES OF STATE POLICY

Article 36: Definition of 'State' (for Part IV – Directive Principles)

For the purposes of Directive Principles of State Policy, the word "State" means the same as it does in Article 12 (which includes government, Parliament, legislatures, and local or other authorities under government control). Any Organizations run by Big Politicians or Small babus.

Article 37: Application of the Directive Principles

Directive Principles are *not enforceable by any court* (you can't sue the State for not providing free meals or clean air). But they are fundamental in the governance of the country and it is the duty of the State to apply them in making laws.

Law Student: So who's responsible for following the Directive Principles?

Constitution: Everyone we blamed in Part III... just now, they're *morally* obligated, not *legally* bound.

Law Student: So... I can't go to court if the State doesn't follow these?

Constitution: Of course not, beta. These are like new year resolutions or marriage vows— taken seriously only on occasion.

Article 38: State to Secure a Just Social Order

The State must promote the welfare of the people by securing a social order based on justice — social, economic, and political. It must also minimize inequalities in income, status, facilities, and opportunities among individuals and groups.

But if the everybody presses the “correct” button on election day

Article 39: Certain Principles of Policy

Hey Government, here's a wholesome to-do list for a just society! ...But, like, as you know, no pressure or target or accountability— Just remember for the ceremony. It looks nice and feels good. Make a note please:

- Equal right to adequate means of livelihood for all citizens
- Ownership and control of material resources to subserve the common good
- Prevention of wealth concentration

- Equal pay for equal work for both men and women
- Protection of health and strength of workers, men, women, and children
- That children are not forced by economic necessity into vocations unsuited to their age or strength

Article 39A: Equal Justice and Free Legal Aid

The State shall ensure that: The Legal system promotes justice based on equal opportunity. Provides free legal aid to ensure that no citizen is denied justice due to economic or other disabilities

Law Student: So, even the poorest person can fight for justice?

Constitution: Absolutely! Assuming they find a lawyer... who works for free... can wait years for a hearing.... and shows up on time on that day and hope....the court doesn't adjourn for lunch, leave, or strike.

Article 40: Organisation of Village Panchayats

The State shall take steps to organize village panchayats. Endow them with the powers and authority to function as units of self-government

Law Student: So, villages get to govern themselves?

Constitution: Yes! We empower them... just enough to hold meetings, pass resolutions, and then wait for funds that may or may not arrive.

Unless they vote the right way, pass the ruling party motion, paint the walls on the party's colour, and name the community hall after the party Chief.

Law Student: So, power without money.

Article 41: Right to Work, Education, and Public Assistance

You have the right to work, learn, or get help when you're down...But only if the government isn't broke or busy funding political rallies.

Article 42: Just and Humane Conditions of Work—With Occasional Humanity

The State shall ensure just and humane conditions at work...Unless it's election season, then slogans matter more than safety. Ohhh “we are forgetting about Maternity” we love our mothers.

Article 43: Dignity of Labour

The State shall secure a living wage and ensure dignity for all workers.

Law Student: What about divorced husbands paying alimony while barely affording rent?

Constitution: Ah, that's *not* labour — that's penance. Dignity... optional.

Law Student: What about the minimum wage being 100/day when the Petrol per litre is 107.

Constitution: Well, that's not the state's problem; They only promised a *living* wage, not a *thriving* wage. And besides, have you tried walking? That's good for your health, and your wallet!

Article 44: State shall try to implement Uniform Civil Code (one law to rule them all).

Provided it does not hurt the Vote Bank.

Law Student: What is this Uniform Civil Code?

Constitution (looking away):

A dream...

A ghost...

A law that dares to treat all citizens equally—

But only after the next election. Or the next one. Or the one after that.

Article 45 –The State promises to take care of your kids under age 6 and educate them early... someday.

Law Student: Article 45 says the State will provide early childhood care and education to all children under six.

Constitution: Yes, it's a *Directive Principle* — think of it as a polite wish, not a binding duty.

Law Student: But government schools are vanishing while the number of children is rising!

Constitution: Exactly. The dream is growing... the classrooms aren't.

Article 46 – The State shall promote the education and upliftment of SCs, STs, and other weaker sections.

Law Student: But that SC certificate went to an IPS officer's son who studied in London!

Constitution: Yes, but Oppression is hereditary, and they run on historical injustice.

Article 47: The State shall try to improve public health, ban harmful drugs, and especially stop people from drinking... unless it's earning tons of tax money from alcohol sales. Then, cheers.

Law Student: Article 47 says the State will improve public health and ban intoxicants.

Constitution: Indeed — unless those intoxicants boost tax revenue. Then it's *health optional, revenue essential*.

Law Student: But tobacco and gutkha are sold openly everywhere!

Constitution: That's called *policy flexibility*. Ban in principle, profit in practice.

Law Student: Then why not allow marijuana? It's less harmful and even has medical uses.

Constitution: Ah, but marijuana lacks a strong lobby and taxable glamour.

Law Student: So public health is selective?

Constitution: Of course. It depends on what's addictive *and* lucrative. Welcome to Article 47 — where morals meet market.

Article 48: The State shall protect cows, ban cow-slaughter, and promote fancy breeds... because sacred GDP (Gau-Dhan Production).

Law Student: "But we have many states where openly cows are slaughtered and sold for consumption!"

Constitution: "Shhh... those are just 'secular exceptions'

Article 49: The State shall (in theory) protect every monument, artifact, and historical site of national importance... unless, of course, someone offers really good money for that land or lease.

Article 50: Separation of judiciary from executive

The State shall try to make sure that judges do not party with executive & legislative.

Law Student: All the tribunal judges are hired by legislative only?

Constitution: Yes. It is only theory, beta.

Law student: Does it now violate the basic separation of power doctrine?

Constitution: Technically yes. But we call it “cooperative independence” — very popular in constitutional cocktail parties.

Article 51: The State should promote international peace, respect global law, and settle disputes through hugs and handshakes.

FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

Article 51A: If you want to be a good citizen then follow the "Good Citizen's To-Do List (That Nobody Actually Follows)" like respecting the Constitution, cherishing freedom, protecting the environment, promoting harmony, etc. And yes, if tomorrow there is a war and if you are called upon then you must join the army.

Law Student: Article 51A says I must defend the nation if there's a war?

Constitution: Yes, it's your fundamental *duty*. Patriotism on demand.

Law Student: Then why don't politicians and their sons go first?

Constitution: They fight their battles in Parliament. Your battlefield comes with bullets — theirs with benefits.

THE UNION/THE CENTRE

The President-

Article 52: There shall be a President of India — mostly for ribbon cuttings, Republic Day parades, and signing things he/she can't question and don't have time to read and understand.

Article 53: The President holds all executive power — but in real life, the Prime Minister shall run the show — the President must sign whatever lands on the desk as and when asked by the Council of Politicians.

Article 54: The President is elected by MPs and MLAs — basically, a grand popularity contest where common people cheer from the sidelines but don't get to vote.

Law Student: So, politicians choose the president as per their convenience?

Constitution: Of course. They prefer someone of their own: adjustable—no firm convictions, avoids decisive action, and is easily guided... or should I say, handled.

And always willing to sign... whatever's placed in front of them

Article 55: The value of each vote in the Presidential election is calculated with a math formula so complex, even math teachers look confused — all to ensure “uniformity” while the public still just watches from the gallery.

Article 56: The President holds office for five years — unless they resign, get removed, or accidentally say something politically inconvenient... then suddenly, five years could be optional.

Article 57: Yes, the President can be re-elected — again and again. There's no term limit... as long as Parliament is happy with his/her Notary Work.

Article 58: To be President, you need to be Indian, 35+, and qualified for Lok Sabha — basically, good at paperwork, polite speeches, and signing things without asking too many or any questions.

Article 59: The President gets a fancy house, a nice salary, and can't take up any side hustle or Parliament seat — full-time ribbon-cutting is a serious job, after all.

Article 60: The President must swear to *preserve, protect, and defend* the Constitution — basically promising to be the nation's decorative firewall against chaos... with no real admin rights.

Article 61: The President *can* be impeached/removed from Office — but only if two-thirds of Parliament *really* agree. So, unless the President steals lunch from the MPs' canteen, they're probably safe.

Article 62: If the President resigns, gets impeached, or, you know... dies, a new one must be elected within six months.
So don't worry — the ceremonial chair never stays cold for long.

The Vice-President

Article 63 – *There shall be a Vice-President of India.*

Just in case the President goes on international tour or then goes missing, or naps too long, or gets too ceremonial — we keep a Vice-President handy. A spare One.

Article 64 – *The Vice-President shall be ex-officio Chairman of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha).*

Meaning: When he is not warming up as backup President, the Vice-President runs the Rajya Sabha — like a referee in a match where everyone yells, nobody listens, and walkouts are part of the game plan.

Article 65 – Vice-President to act as President or to discharge his functions during casual vacancies.

If the President resigns, dies, or just takes a long nap, the Vice-President steps in as Acting President.

Article 66 – Election of Vice-President

The Vice-President is elected by the members of both Houses of Parliament, using a special vote — like a school election, except the winner gets a fancy chair, not real power.

Law Student: So, how's the Vice-President elected?

Constitution: Oh, all MPs and MLAs gather, vote seriously... to pick someone who'll mostly wait for the President to be unavailable

Law Student: So legislative is selecting executive? What happened to separation of power?

Constitution: Yes — because *separation of powers* takes a coffee break during high-level appointments.

Article 67 – Term of office of Vice-President

The Vice-President holds office for **5 years**, unless: MPs and MLAs are not liking him anymore then they can kick him out with due procedure.

Article 68 – Time of holding election to fill vacancy in the office of Vice-President

Law Student: Article 68 says an election must be held soon if the Vice-President's seat is vacant?

Constitution: Yes, preferably within six months — unless politics gets “busy.”

Law Student: So, the nation waits... while parties negotiate?

Constitution: Exactly. First comes the math, then comes the mandate. Vice-President? More like Vice-*Placeholder*.

Article 69: Vice-President takes an oath to uphold the Constitution in a big ceremony— and then mostly upholds the chair in Rajya Sabha

Article 70: If something goes wrong with the President's duties, Parliament decides who fills in.

Law Student: Article 70 says if the President can't function, Parliament decides who steps in?

Constitution: Yes, it's the backup for the backup plan — very ceremonial, very constitutional.

Law Student: Then why not scrap the President and Vice-President? Let Parliament do it all.

Constitution: Because every drama needs a stage... and a couple of dignified extras in decorative roles.

Article 71: If there's a fight over who should be President or Vice-President — like a political version of "Not it!" — the Supreme Court steps in as the referee, whistle and all.

Law Student: So under Article 71, the Supreme Court decides if a President or Vice-President was wrongly elected?

Constitution: Yes, they become the umpire *after* the match is over.

Law Student: And what do they check?

Constitution: Whether the ballots were proper, rules followed, and whether the drama deserves a sequel.

Law Student: So the Court can cancel the election?

Constitution: Absolutely... but only after the winner has already moved into the Rashtrapati Bhavan and redecorated.

Article 72: The President has the power to forgive — murderers, terrorists, and even tax evaders.

Law Student: But how do I reach out to the president?

Constitution: "Step 1: Commit a crime. Step 2: Get famous. Step 3: Wait for a politician to recommend you." Or just file a mercy petition. Which will only take 10-15 years to reach his desk!"

Article 73: The Union's executive power extends over all matters Parliament can legislate on — which basically means: "If it's in our list, it's our rule."

Article 74: The President's Advisors or Controllers

There shall be a Council of Ministers to aid and advise the President — and he *shall* act according to that advice. and by "advise," we mean he must do exactly what he is told.

Law Student: *So, you mean the President is just an actor and the Ministers are the directors? Said or done things by president are actually said and done by the Politicians?*

Constitution: *Yes.*

Law Student: *Then when it is said that the President is the head of the executive, what does it mean?*

Constitution: *It means he is the head — on paper. Somebody has to take the blame. It cant be them.*

Law Student: *So, the Council of Ministers is the real executive head?*

Constitution: *Exactly. The President is bound by their advice, like a pen that can only write what others dictate.*

Law Student: *But what if he disagrees?*

Constitution: *He may disagree once. After that, he must comply. The Constitution gives him one polite chance to object — and then expects him to sign on the dotted line.*

Law Student: *That sounds like constitutional monarchy in disguise.*

Constitution: *Except here, even the crown is rented.*

Law Student: *And people call it the world's largest democracy!*

Constitution: *Indeed. Where the people elect the Ministers, and the Ministers direct the President, and the President... ceremonially nods.*

Article 75: Ministers' Club — Entry by PM Only

- *PM gets hired (formality wise) by the President. Then PM gets to recommend their own team of Ministers — like building a cricket squad, but with more press conferences and fewer boundaries.*
- *Total Ministers can't be more than 15% of Lok Sabha — because even chaos needs a headcount.*
- *If you switch parties and get disqualified, you can't be a Minister — punishment for political gymnasts.*
- *Ministers stay in office "at the pleasure of the President", which secretly means "till the PM is pleased."*
- *All Ministers are a team — if one messes up, everyone gets shouted at in Parliament.*
- *Before joining, Ministers must take an oath — and pretend they'll keep secrets.*
- *If you're not an MP within 6 months of becoming a Minister, you're out — no free passes.*
- *Their salary? Decided by Parliament — but don't worry, they're doing okay.*

Law Student: *What do you mean by President appoints the prime minister?*

Constitution: It means the President waits for the winner of the political wrestling match... then crowns the last man standing.

Law Student: Lying on the Constitution?

Constitution: No, no... not on me. They lie in my name. It's more respectable that way

Attorney General of India: Politicians' Best Friend

Article 76 – Attorney General of India

Meet the Attorney General—India's top legal gun, handpicked by the President (read: government). Their job? Defend the government's actions in court and offer legal advice, even when the government's actions raise eyebrows. They must be eligible to be a Supreme Court judge, but unlike judges, they're free to practice privately too—as long as they don't sue the government. After all, biting the hand that appoints you? That's not part of the job description.

Law Student: Why should Tax Payers money be spent on lawyer?

Constitution: Because someone has to make bad decisions sound constitutional.

Article 77 – All government actions are done in the name of the President

Law Student: But president gets direction from Ministers?

Constitution: Yes, Minister takes a decision today.

President signs it tomorrow--and reads about it in the day after tomorrow's newspapers.

Article 78 – PM's Homework: Tell the President Everything

The Prime Minister must:

1. Keep the President informed.
2. Answer the President's questions.
3. Tell ministers when the President says, "I want to talk."

Translation?

The President watches all the drama, hears all the dialogue but no power to review it.

Article 79: India's Parliament = One President, Two Houses, and infinite debates — some productive, some theatrical and most performative

Article 80: The Rajya Sabha (Council of States) is like that family elder — not directly elected, mostly nominated, and always there to give advice... whether anyone listens or not.

Law Student: *So, they give advice and Lok Sabha gets to ignore it?*

Constitution: *Yes, but in constitutional manner.*

Law Student: *What is the point having it.*

Constitution: *it is a global standard; we had to copy it. ... looked good on paper. Think of them as the second opinion nobody asked for—but everyone has to listen to... politely*

Article 81: The Lok Sabha is filled based on population — more people, more MPs. So basically, the more babies your state makes, the louder its voice in Parliament!

- Max 530 members from States (directly elected).
- Max 20 members from Union Territories (election rules decided by Parliament).
- Seats per state based on population ratio (to ensure fairness).
- Each state is divided into constituencies with equal population-to-seat ratio (as much as possible).
- Exception: States with population < 6 million get a free pass (no strict ratio).

- For seat allocation to states: 1971 census (frozen till 2026).
- For constituency boundaries: 2001 census (for now).

****India plans to use 2001 data till 2026... because updating it might hurt certain vote banks

Article 82 – Readjustment after each census.

After every Census, Parliament can redraw (delimit) the boundaries of Lok Sabha seats to reflect population changes.

Law Student: *But they are using 2001 data? Is it a violation of the constitution?*

Constitution: *Nope, just democracy on “flight mode” — no updates until further notice!*

Article 83 – Duration of Houses of Parliament

The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha each have a set term—five years for the Lok Sabha, unless dissolved sooner; the Rajya Sabha is a permanent body with staggered retirements.

Article 84 — Qualifications for Members of Parliament (MPs): To be an MP, just be old enough, Indian enough, and—most importantly—clever enough to keep your crime records hidden!

Article 85: Parliament must meet every 6 months—unless everyone’s too busy campaigning. The President can dissolve the Lok Sabha, aka the ultimate ‘CTRL+ALT+DEL’ for governments.

Article 86 – Right of the President to Address and Send Messages to Parliament —mostly to remind them he still exists between inaugurations and award functions.

Article 87 – Special Address by the President. At the start of each new Parliament session, the President gives a grand speech...But it's written by the government, heard by half-asleep MPs, and forgotten before tea break.

Article 88 – Rights of Ministers and Attorney-General to speak in Parliament. Even if they're not members — basically VIP passes to the Parliament mic, but no voting rights. Like singing at the wedding without being on the guest list.

Chairman and Deputy Chairman: Umpire for Rajya Sabha

Article 89 – Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha

The Vice-President of India has a side gig: when not cutting ribbons, they are the **ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha** (Council of States). No election needed—they get the chair free with the Vice-President's job. Buy 1 get 1 free.

But since even VP may get busy (or bored), the Rajya Sabha elects one of its own as the **Deputy Chairman**—a member who steps in to run the House when the Vice-President is off doing vice-presidential things.

Law Student: So the politicians choose the President, then the Vice-President, and then one of themselves as Deputy Chairman?

Constitution: Yes. It's democracy... with an inner circle.

Law Student: Nice going!

Article 90 – The Deputy Chairman Takes the Mic. When the Vice-President's busy being ceremonial somewhere else, the Deputy Chairman becomes the stand-in referee — same chaos, fewer cameras.

Article 91 – *When the Deputy Quits or Gets Busy.*

If the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha resigns or is disqualified, the seat becomes vacant.

Article 92 – Temporary Backup for the Rajya Sabha

If both the Chairman (Vice President) and the Deputy Chairman are absent, someone from the Rajya Sabha will be chosen to preside over the session temporarily

Speaker and Deputy Speaker: Umpire for Lok Sabha

Article 93 – Speaker & Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha

Summary: Lok Sabha must elect a Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

Law Student: I'm sure they're also chosen by the politicians?

Constitution: Of course. Who else do you think is sitting in the Lok Sabha—astronauts?

Law Student: So basically, the ruling party picks the umpire?

Constitution: Yes. And then appeals its own decisions to itself. Checks and balances ... on paper.

Article 94 – Vacating Speaker/Deputy Speaker

Summary: If they resign or lose their seat, they're out.

Article 95 – Acting Speaker: The Substitute Umpire

Summary: The mic can't be left unattended, when both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker on holiday or political timeout—someone must keep shouting “Order! Order!” while chaos plays kabaddi on the floor

Article 96 – Speaker Can't Preside During Their Removal Debate

Summary: If there's a motion to remove the Speaker, they can't chair that session.

Article 97 – Salaries of Speaker, Deputy Speaker, etc.

Summary: Parliament decides how much these folks get paid.

Article 98 – Secretariat of Parliament

Summary: Parliament gets its own secretarial staff and service rules.

Article 99 – Oath or Affirmation by Members

Summary: MPs must take an oath before joining business.

Article 100 – Voting and Quorum in Parliament

Summary: Parliament needs a minimum number of members (quorum) present to Party, and menu is set by majority choice.

Article 101 – Absentee Parliamentarians & Dual Membership

An MP can't be in both Houses—pick one throne. And if they vanish from Parliament for 60 days without permission, their seat can be declared vacant.

But let's be honest—unless someone files a complaint, most MPs treat it like optional school attendance... with VIP canteen access.

Article 102 – Disqualification of Members

You can be disqualified from Parliament if you're insane, bankrupt, take bribes, hold an office of profit, or betray the nation.

But don't worry— if you just switch parties' mid-session, they'll politely wait till it's politically convenient to notice.

Law Student: So, a politician can switch parties just like that?

Constitution: Yes, but it's called "floor crossing"—sounds more polite.

Law Student: And they still keep their seat?

Constitution: Until someone files a complaint. Or until elections. Or until the ruling party changes. Whichever comes last.

Law Student: And the framers of constitution did not think this could compromise ethic? Or compromise democracy?

Constitution: But the framers were the politicians.

Article 103 – Decision on Disqualification by the President

If there's a question about whether an MP should be disqualified, the President decides—but only **after asking the Election Commission**.

Law Student: So, if an MP breaks rules, the President acts?

Constitution: Yes... after asking the EC, who may ask the Law Ministry, who might check with the ruling party. By then, the term is usually over.

Article 104 – Penalty for Sitting and Voting While Disqualified

If a disqualified MP still sits and votes in Parliament, they can be fined

₹500 per day. That's right—₹500 per vote. In Parliament terms, that's the cheapest deal for free AC and free Wi-Fi.

Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and its Members

Article 105 – Powers, Privileges, and Immunities of Parliament and Its Members

MPs enjoy freedom of speech inside Parliament and can't be sued for what they say or do there — no defamation, no contempt, nothing. They also enjoy a bundle of undefined “privileges” that they decide for themselves. Think of it as a VIP pass to say anything, break decorum, and walk out guilt-free — basically Twitter, but with taxpayer salaries and zero accountability.

Article 106 – Salaries and Allowances of MPs

MPs decide their own salaries as they have worked really hard for their freedom from the British.

Article 107 – Introduction and Passing of Bills

A Bill can be introduced in either House (except Money Bills), and until both Houses agree, it's just paper. Because we don't trust the states with Money.

Article 108 – Joint Sitting of Both Houses

When Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can't agree on a Bill, they sit together, and the bigger House wins.

Article 109 – Special Procedure for Money Bills

Money Bills can only be introduced in Lok Sabha. Rajya Sabha can just suggest changes — which Lok Sabha may safely ignore.

Law Student: Why only the Lok Sabha?

Constitution: Because they're directly elected by the people. So, apparently, they're better at spending public money.

Law Student: And Rajya Sabha?

Constitution: Think of them as financial consultants... whose emails go straight into spam.

Law Student: But this approach goes against Republican value?

Constitution: Ah, you remembered the textbook version. But in your case when it comes to money and power it is democracy and for the rest, we can be republican.

Article 110 – Definition of Money Bill (Gov. Wallet)

Defines what qualifies as a Money Bill — taxation, borrowing, and the government's financial chest. Basically, anything that touches the government's wallet is a Money Bill — and only Lok Sabha has the PIN.

Article 111 – Assent to Bills

After Parliament passes a Bill, the President signs it into law... unless he feels like “thinking” about it forever. Because that's all he can do.

Article 112 – The Union Budget (Annual Financial Statement)

Every year, the government lays out how it plans to earn and burn public money.

Meaning: Here's how we tax the poor, waive loans for the rich, and call it nation-building.

Article 113 – Procedure for Appropriation Bills

No rupee leaves the Consolidated Fund of India without Parliament's permission. Unless it's for emergency “development” like a ₹3,000 crore statue of a dead man.

Article 114 – Appropriation Bills

Allows withdrawal of funds for government expenditure once approved by Parliament.

Basically: Budget passed. Loot sanctioned.

Article 115 – Supplementary and Excess Grants

If the government overspends or forgets something in the Budget, they ask Parliament for more.

Don't forget: Government = Politicians = Parliament = Union = Politician

Article 116 – Vote of Credit facility & Advances

Allows temporary withdrawals if the full Budget isn't passed yet. Basically it is Article Credit Card.

Article 117 – Special Provisions for Financial Bills

Money-related Bills must follow special rules — mostly so Rajya Sabha doesn't feel too important.

Lok Sabha controls the purse. Rajya Sabha can just admire the purse.

Article 118 – Rules of Procedure

Each House makes its own rules — and occasionally follows them. Think of it as “guidelines,” not laws — especially during a heated debate.

Article 119 – Regulation by President during recess

If Parliament is on vacation and urgent action is needed, the President can make temporary rules.

Article 120 – Language to be used in Parliament

Business of Parliament shall be conducted in Hindi or English... unless you're making a political point, then throw in some Sanskrit and a regional language too.

Article 121 – No discussion on conduct of judges in Parliament

MPs can't talk about judges' behaviour—unless they're officially trying to impeach them.

Law Student: So, checks & balance gone? And Mutual Benefit in?

Constitution: Not gone — just locked behind the word “impeachment,” which nobody dares to use

Article 122 – Courts can't question Parliamentary proceedings

Whatever happens inside Parliament stays inside Parliament—even if it's shouting, paper throwing, or dancing on tables.

Law Student: But how did it happen? Weren't checks and balances meant to *balance each other*?

Constitution:

Once upon a debate, there were ideals.

But then came politics, party whips, and strategic silence.

Now, power plays chess while accountability plays hide-and-seek.

Law Student: From where—or which country—did this idea even come?

Constitution:

Ah, a cocktail of legacies. A splash of British Parliamentary privilege, a dash of American separation of powers—shaken vigorously in the post-colonial mixer, and served with a garnish of “Indian context.”

The recipe was noble. The execution? Often overcooked... or underdone.

Article 123 – Ordinance-making power of the President

When Parliament naps, the President (actually, the government) can wake up and make temporary laws. But remember, President takes instructions from his Bosses (council of ministers)

Article 124 – Establishment of the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of India: final interpreter of law, dreams, and political karma.

Law Student: What can judges do when their salary is signed by politicians and their appointment approved by the same?

Constitution: It is called Cheques and Balance not Free from Influence.

Article 125 – Salaries of Supreme Court Judges

Judges are paid handsomely to say, “Let the law take its course.” But unlike MPs they can't decide their salary.

Judges' salaries come from the Consolidated Fund. The fund is part of the Union or State government's accounts, managed by the Ministry of Finance, which is under the control of elected politicians.

Law Student: But I thought, it is the finance commission?

Constitution: They only make recommendation which the politicians can ignore.

Article 126 – Acting Chief Justice

If the Chief Justice is absent, someone else steps in—like a backup singer in a very elite opera.

Article 127 – Ad hoc Judges in SC

If there aren't enough judges, retired ones can be called back—because we believe in recycling, even in justice.

Old robes, fresh delays.

Article 128 – Retired judges can sit in SC

Just when they thought retirement meant peace, democracy calls them back.

Law Student: Do you know India has a severe shortage of judges? And the average tenure of Chief Justices of India is barely 1.5 years?

Constitution:

Ah yes, I've noticed. The robe barely settles before it's folded away.

But perhaps... Parliament prefers it that way.

Keeps the judges on their toes—never too settled, never too curious.

And certainly not around long enough...

to decode and discover the full *Parliamentary Magic Trick™*.

Article 129 – Supreme Court = Court of Record

SC can punish for contempt, and its judgments have eternal memory.

So, if you mock the court, be ready to be taught “respect” legally.

Law Student: *Has the contempt threat ever actually worked?*

Constitution: *Oh yes — on citizens. Never on politicians or government officials.*

Law Student: *Why not?*

Constitution: *Because the Attorney General politely submits a 500-page apology on their behalf... which the overworked judges don't read.*

Law Student: *And then?*

Constitution: *“Apology accepted. Contempt condoned. Next case, please.”*

Article 130 – Seat of the Supreme Court

It sits in Delhi—unless Parliament wants it somewhere else. Which it never does.

“Accessible justice for all,” but only if you can afford a flight to & hotels in the capital.

Article 131 – Supreme Court’s Original Jurisdiction

When states fight with each other or the Centre, the Supreme Court steps in like a strict parent.

Article 132 – Appeals on Constitutional Matters

If a High Court decides something on the Constitution, and you are not happy, you can appeal straight to the Supreme Court.

Law Student: So, I just can walk into SC and make an Appeal?

Constitution: “All you need is an advocate whose one-day fee is your one month’s salary”

Article 133 – Appeals in Civil Cases

Big civil case? High stakes? The Supreme Court is your next stop.

Constitution: “But only if your case is expensive enough to qualify.**”

Law Student: How much?

Constitution: Enough to prove you're not an average citizen

Article 134 Appeals in Criminal Cases

If the High Court sentences you to death or escalates your punishment, you can knock on the SC's doors.

Constitution: “All you need in this case is an advocate whose one-day fee is your annual salary”

Law Student: So, no money no justice?

Constitution: Justice is blind — especially to your bank balance

Article 134A – Certificate for Appeal to Supreme Court

High Courts can give you a certificate to appeal—like a VIP pass to the Supreme Court.

Article 135 – Federal Court Powers Recycled

All old powers of the now-abolished Federal Court go to the Supreme Court.

Like inheriting your great-grandfather’s walking stick—still symbolic.

Article 136 – Special Leave Petition (SLP)

The SC can hear any case, any time, from anywhere.

Basically, the Supreme Court is like a DJ—takes all requests, but play only the ones it likes or mood of the audience.

Article 137 – Supreme Court Can Review Its Judgments

SC can change its own mind.

Article 138 – Enlarging SC’s Jurisdiction

Parliament can give SC more powers.

Law Student: Has Parliament ever actually given more power to the Supreme Court?

Constitution: Given? Not quite.

They’re more comfortable taking time, not giving power. Think of it like this: the Supreme Court is a lighthouse—but Parliament prefers to control the electricity.

Besides, why expand when **delay, ambiguity, and selective silence** work just fine?

Article 139 – Transfer of Certain Powers to SC

Parliament may let the SC take over some High Court functions.

Article 139A – Transfer of Cases Between Courts

SC can shift constitutional cases from High Courts to itself.

Article 140 – Ancillary Powers of Supreme Court

Parliament may give the Supreme Court extra powers to help it function smoothly.

"They'll happily give the Court more powers, just not more judges to use them. Hundred chairs empty—justice delayed, but constitutionally enhanced!"

Law Student: But you're the Constitution. Can't *you* help the Supreme Court?

Constitution:

Oh, dear student—I'm parchment, not Parliament.

I *authorize*, I *allow*, I *empower*.

But I do not *appoint judges*, or *pass budgets*, or *fill vacancies*.

I gave them the pen.

What they write—or refuse to write—is on *them*.

Article 141 – Law Declared by Supreme Court Binding

Whatever the Supreme Court says is law for all courts.

Even if it contradicts what it said last week. Welcome to the land of precedents... and U-turns.

Law Student: Do other courts follow the law?

Constitution: Eventually yes. After couple of years, after receiving several requests or reminders or reprimand.

Article 142 – Supreme Court’s Power to Do “Complete Justice”

The SC can pass any order to ensure justice is done.

It’s basically the Court’s “**Thanos Snap**” power — can do anything “for justice,” even if Parliament gets a mild heart attack.

Law Student: So what does “complete justice” even mean? And how do they decide when to use it?

Constitution: “Complete justice” means... whatever feels right at the time.

Law Student: That sounds vague.

Constitution: It is. Think of it as judicial jazz—no fixed rules, just vibes and volume.

Law Student: But how do they know when to invoke it?

Constitution: Simple. When the law is inconvenient, Parliament is slow, and morality is trending—*boom*, Article 142.

Law Student: Isn’t that... dangerously broad?

Constitution: Of course. But it comes with Latin phrases and robes—so it looks very disciplined

Article 143 – President Can Ask SC for Advice

The President can consult the Supreme Court on legal questions.

Article 144 – All Authorities Must Help SC

Every civil and judicial authority in India must act in aid of the Supreme Court.

Law Student: Do authorities provide aid to HC?

Constitution: Yes. Absolutely, on paper.

Law Student: Can HC take action for disobey?

Constitution: Yes, but then a new state advocate comes with an apology note with sincere prayer that starts with “I

beg to state most respectfully” then courts get emotional and they decide it to let it go. Very popular show in courts.

Law Student: Nice way to waste Tax Payers money.

Article 145 – SC Makes Its Own Rules

The SC frames rules for court procedure and practices.

Law Student: What rule can they make.

Constitution: Don't be too excited. Nothing that will turn your 10 years litigation into 10 months. Public notion is, Supreme Court makes rules for your time wasted, patience tested, frustration collected, annual budget exhausted, and how old you'll be when judgment finally arrives.

Law Student: And how long they have been doing it

Constitution: Since Independence, it's one of the longest-running reality shows in the Republic.

Law Student: Is there any report on mean, median or mode of case disposal?

Constitution: Of course there are reports. But by the time you finish one, your 37th adjournment will be announced—just before the obituary column announces that *you* no longer have the locus standi to care

Article 146 – Officers and Servants of SC

The Chief Justice controls hiring in the SC, but the President pays the salaries.

Law Student: Why then there are so many Judges Vacancy?

Constitution: It's a classic case: HR (SC) finds the talent, but Finance (President) keeps dragging their feet on the offer letter.

Article 147 – Interpretation of Indian Laws

when a court in India (Supreme Court or High Court) is interpreting a "substantial question of law" related to the Indian Constitution, it is also allowed and expected to consider and interpret relevant provisions from the older, pre-independence laws like the Government of India Act, 1935, and the Indian Independence Act, 1947, as well as any related orders.

Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)

Article 148 – Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)

CAG audits all government receipts and expenditures.

Think of it as India's official accountant — pointing out scams that Parliament pretends it didn't read.

Law Student: Who appoints the CAG?

Constitution: Officially, the President.

Law Student: And unofficially?

Constitution: The President listens to the Council of Ministers...

The Council consults the Party High Command...

And they shortlist the most "flexible" candidate—

Ethically broken and morally compromised—

One who can balance the books *and* the blame.

Article 149 – Duties and Powers of CAG

Parliament can expand the CAG's duties by law. Because counting how many crores vanished isn't a one-person job anymore.

Article 150 – Accounts of the Union and the States

The President decides how the accounts of Centre and States are maintained, after consulting the CAG.

Law Student: But the President works under the advice of the Council of Ministers!

Constitution: Precisely! So, the CAG gives their unbiased, professional advice on how the books *should* be kept. Then, the Council of Ministers advises the President on how the books *will* be kept...

Law Student: So.. the politicians are managing the nation's money and power?

Constitution: Yes but with expert supervision — from the same people who need those accounts not to be audited too honestly.

Article 151- The Grand Unveiling of Financial Truths (audit report)

Our esteemed Comptroller and Auditor-General, the nation's chief accountant, meticulously scrutinizes every rupee spent by the Union and State governments. And then, crucially, these detailed reports are presented to *your* elected representatives—to Parliament, to the State Legislatures.

Law Student: But they are the people who have spent the money. Should it not be sent to the Tax payers?

Constitution: Are you crazy? If you tell the people that some politician spent 1.4 Cr for installing some fancy toilet on taxpayers' money. There will be a revolution the next morning. Tax Payers will go banana.

Article 152 – Definition of “State”

Any Office which is led by a party chief (disguised as Chief Minister)
Assisted by his ministers (selected by loyalty, not literacy) Surrounded by party minions (sycophants with slogans)

Governor: The Man who lives in the Raj Bhavan

Article 153 – Governors for All

A Governor is the state's ceremonial uncle. Every State gets a Governor—not because it's necessary, but because We need someone on the ground to smile, stall, or sign as instructed.

Article 154 – Power to the State... Sort Of

The executive power of the State is vested in the Governor—but only on paper. Governor shall watch, the Chief Minister rules, listen to the ministers and gossip with Delhi when to change the script. It's federalism, with footnotes.

Article 155 – How to Appoint a Governor

The Governor shall be appointed by the President—which means **We The Delhi** picks the person, and the President signs the form. No consultation needed, no explanation given. It's not about the State's choice; it's about **our voice**.

Power centralised. Process dignified. Politics certified.

Law Student: Does it not violate federalism? Or Principal of Republican Government?

Constitution: This is Central Federalism my child. the kind where the Centre federates and the States meditate. And republican with a footnote.

Article 156 – Governor's Term: Until Further Orders

The Governor holds office for five years—or until we in Delhi get bored, annoyed, or need a reshuffle. He serves at the President's pleasure, which really means our convenience, our calendar, our call.

Loyalty matters. Tenure doesn't.

Article 157 – Qualifications? Bare Minimum.

To be a Governor, you just need to be: A citizen of India. At least 35 years old No exam, no experience, no problem. We'll handle the rest—loyalty preferred, ideology appreciated.

Article 158 – Perks of Being Governor

The Governor gets a grand mansion, BMW Cars, free salary, and immunity from everyday accountability.
Can't hold any other job, can't be sued, can't be bothered.

Law Student: It a cool Job. Can I get one?

Constitution: “Only if you're loyal, available, and agreeable to Delhi.

Merit is optional. Obedience is not

Article 159 – Oath of Office

Before entering office, the Governor must swear to:
preserve the Constitution, uphold the law, and serve the people—
all while waiting for our instructions from Delhi.

Article 160 – Break Glass in Case of Emergency

If anything's missing, unclear, or inconvenient—
the President (read: we in Delhi) will make up the rules.

Article 161 – The Governor's Mercy

The Governor can grant pardons, reprieves, and commutations—
but only for State laws.

Article 162 – State Power: Within the Lines

The State Government may exercise executive power—
but only over matters they're allowed to handle.
If it's in the State List, go ahead.
If it's in the Union List—back off, that's ours.
And if there's overlap? Central Gov. decide who gets the last word.

Article 163 – Council of Ministers to Aid and Advise the Governor

The Governor acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers— except when Delhi says he shouldn't. That's called "discretion."

Law Student: So, Can I file an RTI to know who advised what? Or go to court?

Constitution: No No my disciple. It is a black box of politics. Only the entitled have access.

Law Student: So, Principle of Republics sleeps?

Constitution: "No. It was put to sleep long ago. Now it dreams of discretion."

Article 164 – Ministers: Appointed, Advised, and Aligned

The Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor—
but only after Delhi gives the wink.

Ministers are chosen on CM's advice,
hold office at the Governor's pleasure,
and survive by loyalty, not legacy.

They swear oaths, get six months to win a seat,
and vote their own salaries with bipartisan enthusiasm.

Law Student: So, they decide their own salary? How?

Constitution: Yes. It is based on their performance during the election. i.e. vote acquisition, fund collection.

Advocate-General: The Local Politician's Best Friend

Article 165 – Advocate-General: The State's Lawman (With a Wink)

Every State gets an Advocate-General— a lawyer appointed by the Governor, but politically scented. He's the State's top legal advisor— unless, of course, the advice goes against the ruling party's script. Must be qualified to be a High Court judge— but more importantly, qualified to toe the line. Paid as the Governor decides, serves at pleasure, and speaks law in a language politics understands.

The confused Law Student:

Law Student: So, the Governor takes advice from the State Ministers, right?

Constitution: Yes, that's the rule.

Law Student: But the Governor also talks to Delhi (PMO/Home Office) before deciding big things?

Constitution: Ah... that happens too.

Law Student: Wait, isn't the Governor supposed to listen only to the State?

Constitution: In theory, yes. But in practice, the Governor is appointed by Delhi. So when things get political, he waits for Delhi's signal before signing.

Law Student: So... the Chief Minister gives advice, the Governor forwards it, and Delhi gives the final nod?

Constitution: Exactly. It's like sending a WhatsApp message— but the Governor checks with "last seen in Delhi" before replying.

Law Student: But that's not fair! And there is no way of knowing "who says what" because of Article 163(3)

Constitution: That's politics.

Article 166 – Paperwork Parade

All executive action of the State must be done **in the name of the Governor**— because someone has to sign the paperwork while others run the show.

Article 167 – The CM's Homework

The Chief Minister must:

- Keep the Governor informed (whether he wants to know or not),
- Answer the Governor’s questions (even the ones came from Delhi),
- And say “Yes Sir” to any suggestion from the Raj Bhavan.

Article 168 – Assembly of the Honourable

Every State gets a Legislature— either one House (Legislative Assembly) or two Houses (Legislative Council & Legislative Assembly), depending on how much drama the State can afford.

Article 169 – Add or Remove the Second House

Some States have two Houses in their Legislature. But if a State feels the Upper House (Legislative Council) is too expensive, too slow, or just not useful— they can ask for it to be removed.

How?

1. The State Assembly passes a special resolution (with two-thirds of the members agreeing).
2. Then Parliament in Delhi steps in and makes it official.

And if someday they miss it? They can ask for it back—same process.

Law Student: So, the Upper House is like extra furniture. If the State wants, they keep it. If not, they send it to Delhi’s storage unit.

Constitution: You are getting smart!

Article 170 – Musical Chairs in the Assembly

Each State has a set number of seats in its Legislative Assembly. But how many seats? That depends on the **population**—because more people, more chairs.

After every Census, Parliament can redraw the seating chart. But right now, that number is **frozen until 2026**— so no new chairs, even if the room is overflowing.

Article 171 – Who Gets a Seat in VIP lounge (Legislative Council)?

The Legislative Council (Upper House) is not for everyone— It's a VIP lounge with limited entry and special invites.

Here's how it works:

- Some members are elected by MLAs (basically, politicians voting for politicians).
- Some are elected by teachers and graduates (yes, really).
- Some are picked from local bodies (like mayors and district leaders).
- And the Governor **nominates the final few**—usually “experts” in art, science, literature, or... loyalty.

Article 172 – Five Years, Unless There's an Emergency

The Legislative Assembly of a State lasts for five years. After that, it's election time—pack your files, prepare your slogans.

But wait—if there's a national emergency, that five-year term can be extended. And sometimes... extended again. And again.

Article 173 – Entry Rules for Netas

Want to become an MLA? Here's the checklist:

- You must be an **Indian citizen** (passport, not just patriotism).
- Your father or Uncle/Aunt should be a Politicians
- You must be **at least 25 years old** (so you've aged enough to shout in the Assembly).
- You must meet the other qualifications set by **Parliament** (which may or may not include knowing how to dodge questions).
- And of course, you **can't be disqualified** under any law (unless you know a good lawyer and have strong party backing).

Article 174 – The Governor Rings the Bell

The Governor decides when the Assembly should meet—like a school principal with a big brass bell.

He can:

- Call the Assembly,
- End the session,
- Or even **dissolve** it altogether (preferably after checking with Delhi).

But there’s a catch: Six months can’t pass between two sessions—otherwise, people might notice no one’s doing any actual lawmaking.

Article 175 – The Governor’s Annual Monologue

The Governor can address the Assembly— to tell them what’s going on (or what Delhi wants them to hear). Usually happens at the start of a new session— a speech full of “progress,” “vision,” and long pauses for applause.

And guess what?

The Governor can also send messages to the Assembly— like a WhatsApp broadcast from the Raj Bhavan.

Article 176 – The Big Welcome (and the Bigger Walkout)

At the first session after elections (or each year’s first meeting), the Governor gives a grand speech to both Houses of the State Legislature—if there are two.

It’s supposed to lay out the government’s plans for the year. It’s the ruling party’s vision, wrapped in Raj Bhavan’s voice. Opposition listens. Then... walks out.

Article 177 –VIP Passes to Assembly for Some Unelected Ministers & Advocate-General.

AG and Ministers who aren't elected members of the State Legislature, but did good job during election, no problem—they can **still attend and speak** in the House. Because of their contribution in securing funds and votes.

But—they can't vote. Expert will handle it.

Speaker & Deputy Speaker for State Assembly Matches

Article 178 – Speaker & Deputy Speaker (Referee for Legislative Assembly Matches)-

Every Legislative Assembly needs a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker—because without a referee, it's just a shouting match.

The MLAs choose both. And once chosen, the Speaker gets the final mic—to say things like “Order! Order!” while the House does the opposite.

Law Student:

Rajya Sabha has a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman.
Lok Sabha has a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker.
State Assemblies have a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker too.
Same story. Different screens.
Different actors... but the same directors.
Some wear national caps. Some run the local caps.
But the script? Always approved by Party HQ.

Constitution: Exactly. It's a franchise model.
Democracy™ — Directed by the Party High Command.
Produced in Delhi

Article 179 – How to Remove the Referee

Not happy with the Speaker or Deputy Speaker? No worries—there’s a procedure.

Pass a resolution in the Assembly to kick them out. Just give them 14 days’ notice—because even referees deserve a heads-up.

If the Speaker is under threat, they can’t preside over their own removal debate.

Article 180 – When the Chair is Empty

If the Speaker or Deputy Speaker is not around—maybe they resigned, got removed, or just went missing— someone still has to keep the House in order.

So, another member is chosen to act as Speaker for the time being. Kind of like a substitute teacher, but with more shouting and less respect.

Article 181 – When the Speaker Steps Aside

When the Assembly is debating something very awkward—like a no-confidence motion against the Council of Ministers, or the Speaker’s own removal—

the Speaker has to step away from the chair.

Same rule for the Deputy Speaker when it’s about them.

Article 182 – The Chair Upstairs

If your State has a Legislative Council (the Upper House), it needs its own Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

But unlike the Assembly’s Speaker, the Chairman is not elected by the House. He’s usually the Vice-President-style figure—more formal, less fiery. Still, if the House wants to remove the Chairman or Deputy, same rule applies: give notice, pass a resolution, and make it dramatic.

Article 183 – Exit Rules for the Chairman

The Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council can leave their post if:

1. They **resign** (with a formal goodbye note).
2. They're **no longer a Council member** (seat gone = chair gone).
3. The Council **votes them out** (with proper notice and plenty of drama).

And just like in the Assembly—you can't run the show if the show is about removing you from the office.

Nobody likes to sit in one's own termination meeting, in any way.

Article 184 – Who Sits When the Chair is Empty

If the Chairman of the Legislative Council is absent— or that seat is just plain vacant—the Deputy Chairman takes charge.

And if both are missing? Then the Council picks one of its own to play Speaker-for-the-day.

Article 185 – When the Chair Can't Chair

If the Legislative Council is debating a no-confidence motion against the Chairman or Deputy Chairman, they have to step aside during the discussion.

Because no one wants a referee calling fouls in their own trial.

Another member takes the chair, so the House can argue freely—without the boss watching.

Article 186 – Chairs Come with Cheques

Being a Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chairman, or Deputy Chairman isn't just about shouting "Order!" It also comes with a salary, allowances, and perks.

Who decides the amount?

State Legislature.

But until they make up their mind, the pay comes from rules made by Parliament.

Article 187 – Every House Needs a Back Office

A Legislature can't run on just speeches and slogans— it needs a secretariat, staff, and paperwork pros.

So, each State House gets its own official office machinery. Hiring?
Conditions of service? Decided by the State Legislature, with help from the Governor.

Article 188 – Take oath (Pinky promise) Before You Speak

Before an MLA (or MLC) can jump into debates, protests, or walkouts, they must take an oath or affirmation— to bear true faith to the Constitution and do their duty.

No oath? No seat. No speaking. No shouting.

The oath is taken before the Governor (or someone he authorizes).

Article 189 – Count the Members, Count the Votes

To hold a meeting, the House needs a quorum—

That's just a word for “enough people to look serious in the eyes of people.”

No quorum? Meeting pauses till more MLAs show up (or wake up).

Every question is decided by a majority vote—and the Speaker/Chairman breaks the tie if it's a draw.

Article 190 – How to Lose Your Seat (or Give It Up)

Want to quit as an MLA or MLC? Just send a resignation letter to the Speaker (or Chairman).

If they believe it's genuine and voluntary, you're out.

But there's more:

- **Double membership?** You can't sit in both Houses—or in two States at once.
- **Gone missing too long** without permission? You might get the boot.

Article 191 – Who Can't Sit in the House

Some people just can't be MLAs or MLCs—no matter how loud, popular, or self-righteous.

Not everyone gets a seat in the House—
especially if you're broke, banned, blabbering honesty in public,
or moonlighting for extra cash.

Article 192 – Is there an Intruder in the House?

If there's a question about whether a sitting MLA or MLC is disqualified, don't start a shouting match.

The Governor decides—but only after getting the opinion of the Election Commission.

Law Student: But then The EC will talk to Delhi Office
then he/she will talk to party chief, he then might consult
party strategist who then will call back the governor
Constitution: Now you understand how they translate me.

Article 193 – Don't Sit If You Don't Belong

If you sit, vote, or speak in the House without being a real member—and you know you're not supposed to be there—you'll be fined: ₹500 per day.

Yep, just ₹500. That's the penalty for fake lawmaking. Free WIFI and Cantine Food.

Article 194 – Freedom to Speak... But Only Inside

MLAs and MLCs get freedom of speech— but only inside the House. They can't be sued, charged, or dragged to court for anything they say or vote on while in session.

And yes, the State Legislature can make its own rules and enjoy some Parliament-style powers too.

Article 195 – Salary for speaking, bench drumming, shouting, chair throwing (if necessary)

Every Member of the State Legislature gets a salary and perks.

Who decides the amount?

The State Legislature itself—because of course they can.

For the politician, by the politician and off the politician salary

Article 196 – How a Bill Becomes a Law (State Edition)

Want to make a law?

First, introduce a Bill in either House—if there are two.

If there's only one, well, less drama.

The Bill must be passed by both Houses (if there are two), and then sent to the Governor for approval.

But wait—some Bills can't be introduced without a nod from the Governor first (especially the ones that involve money).

Law Student: So again... centrally operated federalism?

Constitution: Exactly. A Dish cooked in Delhi... just served on State plates. With garnish by the Governor.

Article 197 – Second House, Second Opinion (or Delay)

When a Bill passes in one House and goes to the second—things can get... **complicated.**

The second House can: Pass it (great), Reject it (oops), Ignore it for 3 months (classic delay move), or send it back with suggestions (aka political edits).

If it's still stuck after round two: Repeat the whole circus. And if it stalls again? The Bill dies. Quietly.

Article 198 – Money Bills: Handle with Governor's Gloves

Money Bills are special. They can only be introduced in the Legislative Assembly, and only with the Governor's blessing.

Once passed, they go to the Legislative Council (if there is one) ... but only to read and suggest—not change.

And they must return it in 14 days, or it's auto-approved.

Article 199 – What's a Money Bill, really?

Not every Bill about money is a Money Bill.

To wear that crown, it must deal with things like: Taxes, Government borrowing, State spending, or who gets paid from the public purse.

And who decides if it's really a Money Bill?

The Speaker of the Assembly. And the decision is Final. No debates. No appeals.

Article 200 – The Governor's Thumbs up to Bill.

Once a Bill passes the State Legislature, it goes to the **Governor**— who has a few classic moves:

1. **Give assent** – Congrats, it's a law.
2. **Withhold assent** – Nope, not today.
3. **Send it back for reconsideration** – Try again, maybe better.

4. **Send it to the President** – Especially if it's "suspiciously constitutional."

And yes, this can go on for months, depending on mood, memo, or Delhi's climate.

Article 201 – When the President Gets the Bill

If the Governor sends a Bill to the President, everything freezes.
Now the President can:

- **Approve it** – Law made.
- **Withhold it** – Law buried.
- Or just... **keep thinking**. Indefinitely.

No timeline. No pressure. Just quiet suspense.

Article 202 – The Annual Budget Show

Every year, the Governor lays out the State's budget— a.k.a. the Annual Financial Statement—before the Legislature.

It includes:

- What the State plans to **spend**,
- Where it hopes to **earn more vote**,
- And how deep the **borrowing hole** might go.

Think of it as a **Wishlist**, dressed up with numbers and hope.

Law Student: Does Governor write the Budget?

Constitution: No. The Governor doesn't write the budget. He just announces it, like a newsreader or a screen-reader

Law student: Then who does?

Constitution: The real script? It's prepared by the State's Finance Department, approved by the Council of Ministers, signed off by the Chief Minister, and finally handed to the

Governor to read in the House.

Law Student: So basically, the Governor gets the budget from the State Cabinet—which probably got half of it cleared through Delhi (if they are friends of Delhi).

Constitution: Yes, my dear. The grand game of politics.

Article 203 – Let the Budget Debates Begin

Once the Governor reads out the budget,
The opposition shouts, the ruling party votes,
and the budget passes—like it was meant to.
Sometimes for courtesy they can Refuse them, Or cut them down to size.
Just do people don't get the right impression.

Article 204 – Permission to Spend, Please

Passing the budget isn't enough. Before the State can touch a single rupee, it needs an official green light: the Appropriation Act. This Act authorizes the withdrawal of money from the State Consolidated Fund—because even governments aren't supposed to swipe without approval.

Article 205 – When the Budget Wasn't Enough

Sometimes, halfway through the financial year, the government realizes it has either miscalculated, underestimated, or just discovered a sudden “urgent need.” That's when it rushes to the Assembly asking for more money—through Supplementary Grants (for things they forgot), Additional Grants (for things they suddenly want), or Excess Grants (for things they already overspent on). Of course, all this still needs the Assembly's approval.

But let's be real—by the time it's discussed, the money is often already spent.

Article 206 – \$ Spend Now, Approval Later

Sometimes, the budget gets delayed, or the government needs money urgently—because, let’s face it, planning isn’t always their strong suit. So, what do they do?

They pull out a trick called the Vote on Account or an Advance Grant. This lets them withdraw money for a short time, just enough to keep the lights on until the real budget is passed.

Article 207 – Financial Bills: Handle with Care

If a Bill talks about taxing people, spending public money, or touching the State’s piggy bank, it can’t just be tossed into the House like a casual debate topic.

Only a Minister can introduce it, and only with the Governor’s blessing—who probably got a nudge from the Finance Department (and maybe Delhi too).

And don’t even think about sliding it into the Legislative Council—that door stays shut for financial bills.

However, if you want to cut a tax or kill one off, no permission slip needed. But if you’re just adding fines, fees, or local taxes, relax—it doesn’t count as a “financial bill” for this Article.

Oh, and if the Bill wants to spend from the State Consolidated Fund, it won’t pass unless the Governor says, “Go ahead.” Without that green signal, it’s dead-on arrival.

Article 208 – House Rules Are Made in the House

Each State Legislature gets to make its own rules for running the show—debates, disruptions, walkouts, and all. The Constitution gives them the stage, but the script? That’s written in-house.

Till they come up with new rules, they’ll just recycle the colonial-era handbook (with a few edits here and there by the Speaker or Chairman).

And if there are two Houses, the Governor—after politely checking with both presiding officers—gets to set the ground rules for how the Assembly and the Council pass notes to each other without causing a scene.

Article 209 – How to Talk Money \$\$

Before the State starts throwing numbers and allocating crores, it needs some ground rules. Article 209 says the Legislature can pass a law to **regulate how financial business is done**—how budgets are presented, how grants are asked for, and how money is withdrawn from the State's kitty.

It's basically Parliament telling the States: "Here's your financial script—don't improvise too much."

Article 210 – Language of the House

Inside the State Legislature, you can speak in the official language of the State, in Hindi, or in English—whichever helps you sound more authoritative. But if you can't express yourself in any of these, the Speaker or Chairman might kindly let you use your mother tongue—because Parliament believes in free speech, especially if it's hard to follow. Originally, the plan was to drop English after 15 years of Independence. But like most deadlines in Indian politics, that got extended—especially in States like Himachal, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal, Goa, and Mizoram, where English held on a bit longer. Turns out, the Queen's English has better political stamina than most election promises.

It is better in English as very few can understand.

Article 211 – No Criticizing of Judges in the House

No shouting about the conduct of the judges in the House—their names stay out of your speeches.

Constitution: Same story different stage. We don't talk about them; they don't talk about us. We are safe in that way.

Law Student: In another way of saying, I don't look into your flaws and you don't look into mine. Adjustable Democracy.

Article 212 – Courts Not to Poke into Our House Business

Courts can't question how the State Legislature runs its show—even if it's a circus inside.

Law Student: So, judiciary and legislature have made a nice deal!

Constitution: Yes. In that way they both can save embarrassments. Mutual respect—or mutually assured discretion

Article 213 – Governor's Emergency Scriptwriter Mode

When the Assembly is on vacation (or missing), the Governor can make laws by Ordinance—but only if Delhi doesn't mind, and only till the House returns to edit or erase them.

Article 214 – Every State Gets a High Court

Every State shall have its own High Court—because someone has to clean up after the Legislature

Article 215 – High Court = High Authority

The High Court isn't just a court—it's a constitutional heavyweight. It can hold anyone in contempt... unless they're too important to touch, of course. Specially if they are from ruling party.

Article 216 – Judges on the Bench

Every High Court has a Chief Justice and as many judges as Delhi thinks the State can handle—or if they can afford or want to afford.

Law Student: But there are so many vacancies and they are overworked.

Constitution: Because they don't want too many of them, let them be overworked and under stress. So that they don't see their magic tricks of Funds & Finance by State Gov.

Article 217 – How to Become a High Court Judge

To become a High Court judge, you need years of legal experience and a strong résumé

The President appoints, but only after everyone whispers in his ear: the Chief Justice of India, the Governor, and the High Court Chief Justice.

Article 218 – When a Judge Must Leave the Stage

If you want to remove a High Court judge, good luck—it's the same exhausting impeachment drama as with Supreme Court judges. Rare, complex, and politically... inconvenient.

Article 219 – Judges Take an Oath Too

Before playing judge, each High Court appointee swears to the Constitution—not to any party boss or Chief Minister.

Article 220 – No Boomerang to the Bar

Once you've been a High Court judge, you can't go back to arguing in any Indian court where you once judged. No switching robes for lawyer fees. Unless it's the Supreme Court, of course—because exceptions are a tradition.

Article 221 – Judges Get Paid (Mostly on Time)

High Court judges draw salaries like any respectable VIP—decided by Parliament, protected from State tantrums, and shielded from surprise pay cuts (unless there's a national crisis... or budget crunch).

But unlike legislators, they can't decide their salary. So, they can only afford TATA NANO to come to office. While the next-door minister use TOYOTA Fortuner.

Article 222 – Transfer Window: Judges Edition

The President can shift a High Court judge from one State to another—after a quick chat with the Chief Justice of India. One day you're judging in Kolkata, next week in Kohima. No complaints entertained.

Constitution: Transfer is castration, Gov. does not what a judge to settle down and figure out all their State Tricks.

Law Student: A judge who feels at home might start feeling too bold. The better as a guest—less likely to meddle in the family secrets.

Constitution: Exactly

Article 223 – Acting Chief Justice: The Backup Plan

If the Chief Justice is absent or the post is empty, someone is picked to sit in the big chair—just don't get too comfortable, it's still "acting."

Article 224 – More Judges, Please

If things get out of hand (read: backlog of 5 lakh cases), the President can send in additional or temporary judges. It's like calling in substitutes—but only if Delhi signs off.

Law Student: Why Delhi?

Constitution: Because the President of India—who appoints these additional or temporary judges under Article 224—is not acting alone. In practice, the President acts on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers, specifically through the Ministry of Law and Justice. And the Ministry of Law and Justice only drinks his 1st coffee of the Day after consulting with the Party Chief.

Article 225 – Legacy Settings Apply

High Courts can keep using their old British-era powers unless Parliament tweaks them. So yes, your Lordship can still scold, summon, or jail—just like the good old colonial days.

Article 226 – Writ Power: High Court's Magic Wand

If your rights are crushed, your voice is muzzled, or bureaucracy eats your paperwork, head to the High Court. It can issue writs (Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Certiorari, Prohibition, and Quo Warranto)—like legal thunderbolts—to fix injustice, fake orders, and government laziness.

If Delhi's busy, your State's High Court has your back... well, most days.

Constitution: But unlike Harry Potter's wand, this magic wand is slow as Snail.

Law Student: I heard it.

Article 227 – High Court: Big Brother of Lower Courts

High Courts aren't just courts—they're supervisors. They peek into district courts, tribunals, and any lower legal drama. If things go off script, the High Court walks in, clears the mess, and raises an eyebrow at sloppy judges.

Article 228 – High Stakes = High Court

If a case in a trial court smells like it needs constitutional brain surgery, it can be transferred up to the High Court. Because some questions are too tricky for the local stage and require expert spotlight.

Article 229 – The High Court can do own recruitment

Judges get to hire their own staff, fix their pay, and run their registry like royalty—though the State must foot the bill. The Chief Justice signs the cheques; the State Government just nods along.

Law Student: Millions of cases pending... and we're running on 1G registry tech.

Constitution: Autonomy, yes. Accountability? That's

buffering...

State Government: We pay the bill, but can't ask what the Wi-Fi password is.

High Court: Our court, our rules. Even our typist is untouchable—administratively speaking.

Article 230 – Delhi Can Redraw Your Court Map

Parliament can decide if a High Court serves one State or two—or if your Union Territory needs a full court or just a bench in a rented hall. Your local justice may come with a shared pin code.

Article 231 – One High Court for Two States

Sometimes, two or more States or Union Territories share the same High Court. It helps when setting up separate courts isn't practical. Parliament decides this arrangement. So, even if your State has its own problems, your High Court might be hearing cases from a neighbour too.

Article 232 - It was repealed by the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956

Article 233 – Appointment of District Judges

To become a District Judge, you need at least 7 years of experience as a lawyer. The High Court has to agree on your appointment, and the final call is made by the Governor then he talks to his bosses in delhi. So, it's not just about qualification—it's about recommendation and approval.

Article 233A – Judges Appointed During the Emergency

During the Emergency period, Ms. Gandhi @ 1975, some judges were appointed without following the usual rules. This Article was added to protect their jobs and decisions, even if the process wasn't strictly constitutional. It basically says, "Let it be. We won't question it now."

To fully understand this Article, you have to read the history. Article 233A aimed to prevent chaos and disruption in the judicial system by

retrospectively validating these appointments and the actions taken by these judges.

Article 234 – Other Judicial Officers

For judges below the rank of District Judge, the selection process involves the State Public Service Commission and the High Court. The Governor makes the appointment based on their recommendations. It's a formal, step-by-step method to make sure qualified people become judges.

Article 235 – Control of Lower Courts by the High Court

The High Court doesn't just hear appeals—it also manages the working of judges in lower courts. This includes posting, promotions, leave, and even discipline. Basically, the High Court is the boss of the entire lower judiciary in the State.

Article 236 – Some Definitions

This Article clears up who counts as a "District Judge" and what "judicial service" means. A District Judge isn't just one post—it includes Additional District Judges, Assistant Judges, Chief Judges of Small Causes Courts, and others handling serious legal matters. "Judicial service" refers to those who have been legally appointed to serve as judges—not clerks or admin staff, but actual decision-makers in courts.

Article 237 – Adapting Provisions for Magistrates

In some places, Magistrates (who handle smaller or preliminary matters) might not fall under the High Court's direct control. This Article allows the Governor to apply the same rules used for regular judicial officers to these Magistrates, with the High Court's consent. It's a way to ensure consistency in how judicial officers are treated.

Article 238 – (Repealed)

This Article is no longer in the Constitution. It used to deal with States that were Part B States (like former princely States), but since the reorganization

of States, this Article was deleted. Nothing to see here—just constitutional housekeeping.

Article 239 – Union Territories Run by the President

Union Territories aren't full-fledged States, so they don't have elected governments (unless Parliament says otherwise). The President runs them through an appointed official called the Administrator or Lieutenant Governor. In reality, Delhi often has a strong say in how things are managed.

Law Student: UTs are run by the president and president is run by ministers. Then why not say: UTs are run by politicians called ministers?

Constitution: In every movie if director stars acting then it will be a bad one. They need someone look handsome

Article 239A – Puducherry Gets a Mini Assembly

Puducherry isn't a full State, but it gets a legislature and Council of Ministers anyway. It's like letting a kid play house—with adult supervision from Delhi.

Article 239AA – Delhi Wants to Be a State (But Not Really)

Delhi got a legislative assembly and a Chief Minister—but not control over police, land, or public order. It's like having a driver's seat with the steering wheel locked.

Article 239AB – When Delhi Misbehaves

If things get messy, the President can dissolve Delhi's Assembly and take over. Think of it as pressing the emergency brake... from the PMO.

Article 239B – LG's Veto Button

The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi can step in, hold a Bill, and send it off to the President for approval. Because in Delhi, the final word is never local.

Article 240 – Presidential Rulebook for Union Territories

In Union Territories that don't have their own legislature (like Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, etc.), the President can make laws directly through something called “**regulations**.” These can deal with anything a normal State Legislature would handle—from taxes to toilets.

Law Student: So... is the President actually sitting and writing laws?

Constitution: No silly. The President signs what the Cabinet drafts, after they take a few cues from the Party High Command. It's top-down governance—Delhi decides, the islands follow.

Article 241 – High Courts for Far-Off Places (UT)

Union Territories don't always have their own High Courts. Parliament decides whether to share a High Court with a nearby State or get their own. It's like carpooling justice—until caseloads burst the seats.

Article 242 – (Repealed)

This Article was deleted. No drama, no mystery—just another outdated file sent to the constitutional shredder.

PANCHAYATS

Article 243 - Definition Section

Before the Panchayat can govern, someone has to define the playground. So, we ask:

What's a village? — “Whatever the Governor says.”

What's the population? — “Last census... even if the kids are now adults with kids of their own.”

Who runs the show? — “The *Panchayat*, a grassroots government... as long as it doesn’t grow *too* much power.”

What’s the *intermediate level*? — “That’s the layer no one remembers until election time.”

In short: the Constitution gives you the map, but the Governor draws the borders. The people may vote, but Delhi still owns the pen.

Article 243A – Gram Sabha: Assembly of the Hopeful

The Gram Sabha may get powers... if the State Legislature feels generous with their pocket money.

Article 243B – Panchayats for All (Unless You're Too Small)

Every State must set up Panchayats—at the village, block, and district levels.

Article 243C – Who Sits in These Panchayats?

The State Legislature decides who gets a chair and who gets a bench.

Law Student: So, once again... the politicians decide the rules of their own game?

Constitution: Yes. They choose the players, design the scoreboard, and still say, “It’s the people’s victory.”

Article 243D – Reserved Seats & Political Chairs

Some seats in Panchayats *must* be reserved:

- For Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), in proportion to their population.
- And yes, at least *one-third* of *everything*—seats, chairperson posts, etc.—goes to *women*.

So now your Panchayat can look like the country it serves... at least on paper. But don’t worry—State Governments still get to shuffle the deck.

Because *who gets what seat* can be as political as *who gets the loudspeaker* on election day.

Article 243E – Panchayats Last 5 Years... Unless They Don't

Every Panchayat gets a 5-year term. That's the promise. But if it's dissolved early (read: political drama, votes of no confidence, or sudden love for "fresh elections"), elections *must* happen within 6 months. The newly elected Panchayat will only serve the leftover term—like finishing someone else's lunch.

So yes, the clock keeps ticking, but the game can reset mid-way. It's democracy with a snooze button—and some State-level mischief baked in.

Article 243F – Disqualified? Disappear.

Want to be a Panchayat member? Great. But there's a checklist. If you're disqualified under State laws, or under any law made by Parliament for elections, you're out.

And if you lied about your qualifications or forgot to mention that tiny corruption case? Once caught, you're off the chair—even *if it takes a court case and two monsoons*.

But don't worry, the seat won't stay empty for long. There's always another candidate waiting with a garland and a slogan.

Article 243G – All the power and duty (except Money power).

Panchayats *may* be given power to plan and decide things for the village—like roads, water, streetlights, or cow shelters. But here's the twist: they only get these powers if the State Legislature says so and they have funds for your plan and you have voted for the right party.

Article 243H – No money without Father's Permission?

Panchayats can get money—through taxes, fees, and grants—but only if the State Legislature allows it.

So, Panchayats can plan all they want, but without the State's nod (and funds), they're just well-dressed beggars with a resolution in hand and no cheque in sight.

Article 243I – The Great Rural ATM Review

Every five years, the Governor sets up a State Finance Commission. Its job. Figure out how much money Panchayats should get (from the State's tightly clenched wallet), and suggest how to split it.

The Commission does the math, files a nice report, and then... waits. Because just like a Wishlist to Santa, these recommendations can be accepted, modified, or completely ignored—depending on political weather, budget mood swings, or upcoming elections.

Article 243J – Who Audits the Village Wallet?

The State Legislature decides who checks the Panchayat's account books. Because even the smallest village body needs someone to flip through receipts, count how many chairs were actually bought, and verify whether the new hand pump is real—or just exists in the tender file.

And if someone asks, “Where did the money go?” the answer is usually: “We have appointed someone to look into it.”

Law Student: Who audits Panchayat accounts under Article 243J?

Constitution: Officially, the State appoints someone.

Law Student: And unofficially?

Constitution: The accounts audit themselves. By the time the auditor arrives, the records have either faded, flooded, or flown away with the sarpanch's signature.

Law Student: And the funds?

Constitution: Fully utilised—for tea, travel, and temple inauguration

Article 243K – Panchayat Elections: A Local Drama in Five Acts

Elections to Panchayats are run by the State Election Commission—supposedly independent, occasionally awake, and usually working with one photocopier and zero staff.

Law Student: How does the State EC decide?

Constitution: Technically, it's independent but practically? It often checks the calendar of the ruling party, the strength of the opposition, weather forecasts, and—if the stars align—a notification might just appear.

Law Student: Who does the SEC report to?

Constitution: The SEC reports to the Constitution on paper, the Governor by letter, and the ruling party by silence.

Article 243L – Municipalities on Lease

Once elected, a Municipality gets to exist for **5 years**—unless, of course, someone pulls the plug early. Think of it like a local government rental agreement.

But if the House is dissolved early, ***fresh elections must be held***, and the new body still only serves what's left of the original 5-year term.

No extensions, unless there's a legal reason wrapped in a political ribbon.

Article 243M – Not Everyone's Invited to the Panchayat Party

The whole Panchayat framework skips over certain regions—Scheduled Areas, tribal belts, and states like Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and parts of Manipur and Darjeeling.

Why? Because they've already got their own traditional or autonomous councils—like the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council or Sixth Schedule district bodies.

Arunachal Pradesh? It doesn't apply Scheduled Caste reservations in Panchayats—mostly because SCs form a negligible part of its population.

But here's the twist: State Legislatures or Parliament can choose to include these regions—no constitutional amendment needed. Just a law, a vote, and some political will.

Article 243N – Old Laws, Temporary Seat Warmers

Just because new Panchayat rules came in, it doesn't mean the old laws vanish overnight.

Old state laws on Panchayats can continue—until new laws are made under this Part. So yes, the old system may linger a bit like that one elected member who lost the election but still gives speeches at village fairs.

Article 243O – No Court Drama, Please

Once the elections to the Panchayats have started, courts can't interfere.

No High Court, no Supreme Court—no “stay” or “delay” tactics. If you've got a problem with how elections were held or who got elected, go to the Election Tribunal after the results.

The Municipalities

Same Story: Different Stage

Article 243P – Urban Rulebook Glossary

This article defines key terms for urban local governance. A Municipality is a city-based self-government, while a Municipal area is the zone it governs. A Metropolitan area means a big urban sprawl with over 10 lakh people—declared by the Governor. "Population" is based on the last census (so expect some outdated numbers). And yes, the “Committee” mentioned here refers to one created under Article 243S.

Article 243Q – What Counts as a Municipality

Depending on size and importance, every urban area gets a local body. Big cities become Municipal Corporations, medium towns get Municipal Councils, and small towns are run by Nagar Panchayats. The State Legislature decides which place gets what tag, based on how crowded or developed it is.

Article 243R – Who Gets to Sit in the Municipality

Municipalities are filled with elected representatives chosen by the people. One seat, one person, one vote—that's the rule. But the State can also nominate a few members with special knowledge or experience in municipal matters. Just don't expect those nominated members to vote on big decisions like electing the mayor—they're more like advisors at the dinner table, not cooks in the kitchen.

Article 243S – Committees for Big Cities

In every big city called a "Metropolitan area" (that's 10 lakh+ population), the State must create a *Metropolitan Planning Committee*. This isn't just a fancy name—it's where plans for the city's development are cooked up. It includes elected members from municipalities and panchayats, experts, and sometimes state appointees. Their job? To make sure roads, water, housing, and chaos don't crash into each other. Think of it as a citywide panchayat with a little more paperwork and a lot more urban headache.

Article 243T – Reserved Seats: Because Representation Matters

In every Municipality, there must be seats reserved for:

- Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) based on their population;
- Women—not less than one-third of the total seats, including seats reserved for SCs and STs.

And yes, this one-third also includes seats for women from SC/ST communities too.

The State Legislature gets to decide exactly *how* these seats are distributed—rotation, manner of election, all that jazz. But the core idea is simple: more voices, more inclusion, less “old boys’ club.”

Law Student: It seems like Politicians really care about the oppressed.

Constitution: Yes. In Theory and On Paper.

Law Student: What do you mean?

Constitution: You have to dig dipper to understand the ground reality— let me break it down for you:

Corrective Justice — On Paper:

The original idea was noble — to correct centuries of oppression and give voice to communities that were historically excluded. So, Articles like 243D and 243T ensure SCs, STs, and even women get seats and leadership roles in local bodies.

Electoral Arithmetic — In Practice:

Let’s be honest: every reserved seat is also a vote bank calculation.

Political parties target reserved constituencies carefully — selecting candidates who can win and control local networks of power (tenders, welfare schemes, etc.). It becomes: “Let’s empower you — and in return, you help us stay in power.”

Tokenism vs. Real Empowerment:

Sometimes, real leadership happens. But often? The seat is reserved, but the decisions are remote-controlled — by husbands (in case of women sarpanches), local strongmen, or party bosses. The slogan is “empowerment,” but the reality may be: “symbolic presence, strategic obedience.”

Social Control — Cloaked in Inclusion:

Reservations are also a way to legitimize governance in deeply unequal societies. If the oppressed get a piece of the power pie, the system looks fairer — even if the pie is still backed by the elites.

Law Student: Ohh. I see.

Article 243U – How Long Can a Municipality Rule?

A Municipality gets five years from the date of its first meeting — that's its full term. If it's dissolved early, elections must happen within six months, unless there's less than six months left in its term anyway.

In short: No indefinite rule. No excuses. Local bodies must go back to the people regularly — unless someone finds a bureaucratic shortcut.

Article 243V – Who Can Be a Municipal Councillor?

Only Indian citizens can be members of a Municipality.

And just like in Assembly elections, if you're not qualified under State laws, or you're disqualified under any law made by the State Legislature, you're out.

Also, if there's any confusion about someone's eligibility — guess who decides?

Not the Mayor, not the MLA... the State Election Commission steps in.

In short: Want a seat in the Municipality? Be a citizen, be clean, and be legally eligible — or expect a polite rejection letter.

Article 243W – What Can Municipalities Actually Do?

Municipalities aren't just for cutting ribbons and planting trees. The State Legislature can give them powers to prepare plans, collect taxes, manage services, and generally run the show in towns and cities. Think sanitation, street lighting, water supply, town planning—you know, the stuff that actually affects your daily life.

But here's the catch: they only do what the State Government *lets* them do. So while the Constitution gives them a fancy list, the real power still hangs a bit higher up the chain.

Article 243X – Money Matters

Municipalities can collect taxes, duties, tolls, and fees—but only if the State Legislature allows it. They don't just walk around town handing out receipts.

The State decides what they can charge, how much, and on what, and even how to spend it. So, while your local body might be raising money, the real financial steering wheel still rests with the State.

Article 243Y – Finance Commission for Municipalities

Just like states have their Finance Commissions, this Article says every five years, the Governor must set up a State Finance Commission to decide:

- How money from the state's kitty should be shared with Municipalities.
- How much they can keep from the taxes they collect.
- How grants-in-aid should be distributed.

- How to improve their financial position.

It's like a performance review—but for local bodies, and the Governor is HR (after taking advice from the Cabinet, of course).

Article 243Z – Audit Time for the Municipal Books

This article makes sure that Municipalities don't go on a spending spree without oversight. Their accounts must be audited regularly, just like any government body.

Who does the audit? The State Legislature decides the rules—how it's done, when it's done, and by whom.

Because when local bodies start dreaming big—flyovers, fountains, flashy fairs—someone needs to check the receipts.

Law Student: If I want to see how the Panchayat or Municipality spent public money, how do I check it?

Constitution: Technically? File an RTI, attend a Gram Sabha, ask for an audit report.

Law Student: And practically?

Constitution: You'll get transferred from one babu's desk to another like a paper boat in monsoon drains.

Article 243ZA – Who Runs Municipal Elections?

Just like Panchayat elections, Municipality elections are overseen by the State Election Commission. They handle everything—from electoral rolls to the final count.

However, the State Legislature can make detailed rules and laws for how these elections will happen—timing, qualifications, wards, and more—as long as they don't mess with the Constitution.

Translation: The State EC calls the shots, but the State Legislature sets the stage.

Article 243ZB – Municipalities in Union Territories

This Article extends all the municipality-related provisions to Union Territories too. But there's a twist:

- Anywhere the law says "Governor," it means the Administrator (like the LG).
- If the UT has a legislature, that legislature steps in where a State Legislature would.
- Plus, the President can tweak these rules for a UT via public notification.

In short: Municipal rules apply to UTs, but with Delhi-style customization.

Article 243ZC – Exceptions to the Municipality Rulebook

This part of the Constitution doesn't automatically apply to Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas under Article 244. Also, it doesn't touch the powers of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council in West Bengal.

However, Parliament can extend these provisions to those regions—with tweaks and exceptions—and guess what? That won't count as a constitutional amendment (368).

In short: Some areas get special treatment, and only Parliament gets to decide how far the municipality rules should go there.

Article 243ZD – Planning for the District

Every State must set up a District Planning Committee (DPC) for each district. Its job? To prepare a development plan by merging the ideas from Panchayats and Municipalities—so rural and urban voices both get heard. The majority of members in this committee are elected by the elected members of the Panchayats and Municipalities in the district, using proportional representation.

In short: - It's supposed to be a people's planning body—a mix of local wisdom and government oversight—though in practice, it's often where plans go to nap.

Article 243ZE – Committee For Metropolitan planning

Look, when a city becomes too big for its own good — flyovers here, slums there, malls popping up like mushrooms — we need “*planning*,” right? So, we: Make a Metropolitan Planning Committee! Get some elected folks, a few experts, stir them in a pot, and ask them to dream big for the city. Roads, housing, traffic, jobs, water — all on paper, all very nice.

Of course, two-thirds of the members must be elected, so everyone's fighting to get in. The state decides how many chairs there are, and the Governor rings the bell to start the show.

We all sit around, drink tea, nod seriously... and then, nothing much changes. But hey, at least we're planning.

Article 243ZF – Old Committees, Please Pack Up

So, listen — before all these fancy Panchayat and Municipality rules came in (thanks to the 73rd and 74th Amendments), some states already had their own local committees running around doing their own thing.

Now, we tell them: “You’ve got one year to clean house.” After that, if those old-style bodies don't match the new rules — sorry, they're out. Gone. Finito.

Basically, it's like telling grandpa, "Thanks for your service, but we've got new management now. Time to retire."

Of course, if a state wants to shut them down even sooner, be my guest. One year is just the grace period.

Article 243ZG – Courts, Please Stay Out of Our Elections (At Least Until They're Over)

Dear citizens, once the election circus begins — banners up, promises flying, free tea everywhere — don't waste time rushing to court over seat allotments or how the wards were drawn. That ship has sailed.

Clause (a): If you don't like how the seats are carved up or how constituencies are drawn under Article 243ZA, tough luck — courts can't touch it. Not their playground.

Clause (b): And if someone *really* wants to challenge an election? Sure — but do it only through an election petition, and only in the way your state law allows. No shortcuts, no dramatic PILs.

In short: Elections first, complaints later. Let the show go on — we'll deal with the bruises after the results.

The Co-Operative Societies

Article 243ZH – Before We Start, Let’s Agree on What We’re Talking About

Alright, before we dive into the world of co-operative societies, let’s sort out the lingo. No one likes legal confusion — except lawyers.

Here’s the glossary people like us pretend to understand:

- **Authorised Person** – This fellow shows up later in Article 243ZQ. Just know he’s “authorised,” which usually means he has some power and a lot of paperwork.
- **Board** – Fancy name for the group that runs the co-operative society. Whether they’re called Directors, Managing Committee, or Uncle’s Friends’ Club — they’re the ones in charge.
- **Co-operative Society** – Any group officially registered to do things “together” — like growing crops, running banks, or creating confusion — under state laws.
- **Multi-State Co-operative Society** – Same idea, but now they operate in more than one state, so the chaos travels across borders.
- **Office Bearer** – The usual suspects: President, Vice-President, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer. Basically, anyone whose name shows up on the invitation card and in the minutes of the meeting.
- **Registrar** – The person who registers, regulates, and occasionally reminds co-operatives to behave. Could be from the Centre (for multi-state ones) or from the State.
- **State Act** – Any law your State Assembly passed that isn’t collecting dust.
- **State Level Co-operative Society** – A society that operates across the entire state and is big enough to say, “We’re not just local anymore.”

In short: Know who’s who before you start the co-operative game. Titles matter — especially when money and power are involved.

Article 243ZI – How to Legally Start a Co-operative (Without Making It a Family Business)

State Legislatures can make laws to help you set up, run, and shut down co-operative societies. But the Constitution says — keep it clean. That means people should join willingly, decisions should be democratic, everyone should pitch in financially, and the society should run on its own — not as a puppet of some political godfather. Basically, if you're starting a co-op, make sure it doesn't turn into a private club or a party branch office.

Article 243ZJ – Board Seats in The Office

Every co-operative society gets a board, and the State law decides how many people can sit on it — but never more than **21**. Out of these, one seat is kept for Scheduled Castes or Tribes, and two are reserved for women. Fair enough.

Once elected, these board members — along with the chairperson and other office bearers — get a solid five-year term. If someone quits early and there's not much time left, the board can quietly fill the vacancy with someone from the same group.

Also, if the society needs expertise — say, in banking or management — the State can allow up to two extra co-opted experts, but these folks can't vote or run for top posts. They're there to advise, not to campaign. And yes, full-time directors count as board members, but not toward the 21-member cap.

In short: Keep it representative, professional, and not overcrowded — it's a board, not a wedding banquet.

Article 243ZK – No Expired Board: Fresh Election Mandate

Every co-operative board must face elections before its 5-year term ends — no excuses, no extensions, no last-minute dramas. The idea is simple: as soon as the old board's term is over, the new one should be ready to take charge — like changing drivers without stopping the bus.

Who conducts these elections? That's up to each State, which will appoint a proper body or authority to handle voter lists, polling, counting — the whole circus. And yes, the State can also lay down rules and procedures to keep things clean (or at least look clean).

In short: No expired boards. Elections on time. Power to the people — even if it's just once every five years.

Article 243ZL – When the Board Messes Up (and We Have to Step In)

Sometimes, boards of co-operative societies become a total mess — lazy, fighting, or worse, doing things that hurt the society or its members. In such cases, the State can suspend or remove the board — but only for six months (or one year, if it's a banking co-op that's not multi-state).

But here's the fine print: suspension is allowed only if the board keeps messing up, ignores its duties, creates a deadlock, acts against the society's interests, or if the election body fails to hold timely polls. Also, if the society doesn't take a rupee from the government — no shareholding, no loan, no guarantee — then sorry, the board can't be touched.

Article 243ZM – Let's Talk Audits (Yes, the Boring but Necessary Part)

Every co-operative society must keep proper accounts and get them audited once a year — no creative accounting, please. The State Legislature decides the rules, and only qualified, experienced auditors or audit firms (as approved by the State) are allowed to do the job. These auditors must be chosen by the general body of the co-op, but only from a State-approved panel — no cousins or college friends sneaking in.

Also, no dragging your feet — the audit must be done within six months after the financial year ends. And if it's an apex co-operative society (the big boss of co-ops), its audit report must be tabled before the State Legislature, just so everyone knows where the money really went.

In short: Want to run a co-op? Then keep your books clean, get them checked on time, and don't expect to hide the numbers under a dusty file.

If the board is kicked out, an administrator is sent in to run the show temporarily and must hold fresh elections before the deadline. The State can also decide what perks and powers this administrator gets — because even temporary bosses like good terms of service.

In short: Boards behave, or pack your bags. But don't worry — even the babysitter (administrator) has to leave once fresh elections are done.

Article 243ZN – One Meeting a Year. Show Up. Or Shut Up.

Every co-operative society must hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) within six months after the financial year ends. Why? To discuss all the important stuff — money, decisions, who did what (or didn't), and whatever else the law says.

Basically: If you're running a co-op, you have to face your members at least once a year. No skipping the meeting. No hiding behind chai and samosa.

Article 243ZO – Members Have the Right to Know (And Must Show Up Too)

If you're a member of a co-operative society, you're not just a name on paper — you've got the right to check the books, accounts, and details of whatever business the society is doing with you. No secrets, no mystery files.

States can also make sure you show up to meetings and actually use the society's services — otherwise don't complain that decisions were made without you.

And yes, there should be some education and training too — because running a co-op isn't like running a tea stall (even that's hard enough!).

Article 243ZP – File Your Returns (Yes, On Time)

Every co-operative society must submit its returns within six months after the financial year ends. What all?

- A report of what they've been up to
- Audited accounts (hopefully with no red flags)
- How they plan to use or share the extra cash (if any)

- Any changes made to their rulebook
- Date of general body meeting and whether elections happened or not
- And anything else the **Registrar** wants — because hey, someone's got to keep an eye

In short: Run your co-op like you'd run your own house — and don't forget to submit your homework to the government on time.

Article 243ZQ – Break the Rules, Face the Music

Let's be clear — if you mess with a co-operative society, there will be consequences. States can make laws to define what counts as an offence and how hard the punishment should hit.

Here's a greatest hits list of what *not* to do:

- Lie in your returns or give fake info — that's a straight red card.
- Ignore summons or orders under the co-op laws? That's asking for trouble.
- If you're an employer and you deduct money from your staff for the co-op but don't hand it over within 14 days, you're now on the naughty list.
- If you're a co-op officer or custodian and refuse to hand over society property, accounts, or records, consider your exit door already open (with a fine or jail behind it).
- And finally — don't try any election-time stunts. Corrupt practices before, during, or after co-op elections are a straight route to penalties. No "booth management," please.

So yes — cheating the co-op is not just bad manners, it's legally stupid.

243ZR – Same Game, Bigger Stage (multi-State co-operative societies)

All the fancy co-op rules?

They apply to multi-State co-operative societies too — just switch out “State” for “Centre”, “State Act” for “Central Act”, and “State Government” for “Central Government”. Because when the stakes are high, Delhi wants in.

243ZS – UTs: You Too! (Unless President Says Nah)

These co-op rules also apply to Union Territories.

If there’s no Assembly, the Administrator runs the show.

If there’s an Assembly, then they get to play Legislature.

But hey, the President has the final mic — he can turn off the co-op rules for any UT or part of it, just like that. (*Power move.*)

243ZT – Old Laws on Life Support

If any old State co-op law clashes with these new rules, don’t panic —

It survives for one year, or till it’s amended or repealed, whichever comes first. Basically, grace period for cleanup — or for dragging your feet, depending on who’s in charge.

Law Student: But most of the cooperative societies are dead... or in a coma?

Constitution: Yes. Some were born healthy, but political parasites and bureaucratic ventilators did the rest.

Law Student: Weren’t they supposed to be democratic, autonomous, member-driven?

Constitution: That was the prescription. But the infection of State control turned them into party-owned fiefdoms.

Law Student: But didn’t the 97th Amendment give them constitutional status?

Constitution: It did... and then the Supreme Court removed the ventilator. Said you can’t impose it on States without their consent.

Law Student: So, cooperative societies are constitutional... but not really?

Constitution: They're in the schedule, not in the bloodstream.

The Scheduled and Tribal Areas

Article 244 – Who Runs the Tribal Belt?

India has two special instruction manuals for tribal areas:

- **Fifth Schedule** – applies to Scheduled Areas in all States *except* Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
- **Sixth Schedule** – kicks in for tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.

Basically: North-East has its own playbook. Everyone else? Follow the Fifth Schedule.

Article 244A – A State Within a State (Just for Assam's Tribals)

Parliament can cook up an autonomous State inside Assam – using any or all tribal areas listed in the Sixth Schedule's VIP list.

And then? It can give them a Legislature, a Council of Ministers, or both – elected, nominated, or a mix of both.

Parliament can also decide:

- Which subjects this mini-State can make laws on.
- How far its executive power goes.
- Which taxes from Assam should be handed over to it.
- That "State" in the Constitution includes this autonomous mini-State.
- Any fine print to make this experiment work.

But there's a lock:

Any change to this setup (if it affects its law-making or executive power) needs two-thirds majority in both Houses of Parliament.

Oh, and even though this *smells like a Constitutional Amendment (368)*, it isn't one.

Neat trick, right?

Article 245 – Who Can Make Laws Where?

Parliament can make laws anywhere in India – Kashmir to Kanyakumari, Andaman to Arunachal.

State legislatures can only play within their own fences.

And if Parliament passes a law that also affects people or things outside India, don't panic – it's still valid. Parliament dreams big.

Law Student: Total how many amendments are there for this Reservation or SC/ST subject?

Constitution: It a long boring and banal list...More less 23 times

- **1951 (1st Amendment)** – Opened the constitutional door for caste-based reservations in education and employment.
- **1956 (7th Amendment + SC/ST Orders Amendment Act)** – Reorganised states and revised SC/ST lists across India.
- **1960 (8th Amendment)** – Extended legislative reservations for SCs/STs and Anglo-Indians till 1970.
- **1969 (23rd Amendment)** – Renewed political reservations for SCs/STs and Anglo-Indians till 1980.
- **1971 (24th Amendment)** – Reasserted Parliament's power to amend Fundamental Rights—indirectly reinforcing reservation policies.
- **1980 (45th Amendment)** – Another 10-year extension of political reservation, this time till 1990.
- **1989 (62nd Amendment)** – Continued legislative reservations for SCs/STs and Anglo-Indians till 2000.

- **1990 (65th Amendment)** – Established a multi-member National Commission for SCs and STs.
- **1992 (73rd Amendment)** – Brought SC/ST reservations to grassroots democracy in Panchayats.
- **1992 (74th Amendment)** – Ensured SC/ST reservations in Municipalities and urban local governance.
- **1995 (77th Amendment)** – Allowed reservation in promotions for underrepresented SC/ST government employees.
- **1999 (79th Amendment)** – Yet another 10-year extension of legislative reservations, now till 2010.
- **2000 (81st Amendment)** – Permitted backlog SC/ST vacancies to be carried over without breaching the 50% ceiling.
- **2000 (82nd Amendment)** – Enabled relaxation in evaluation standards for SC/ST promotions.
- **2000 (83rd Amendment)** – Exempted Arunachal Pradesh from SC reservations in Panchayats.
- **2001 (85th Amendment)** – Granted **consequential seniority** in promotions to SC/ST employees.
- **2003 (89th Amendment)** – Split the SC/ST Commission into two separate constitutional bodies.
- **2005 (93rd Amendment)** – Allowed SC/ST reservation in private educational institutions (except minority-run).
- **2009 (95th Amendment)** – Extended legislative reservations again—now till 2020.
- **2019 (103rd Amendment)** – Added 10% EWS quota, subtly reshaping the reservation matrix.
- **2020 (104th Amendment)** – Discontinued Anglo-Indian reservations but extended SC/ST political reservation till 2030.
- **2021 (105th Amendment)** – Restored states' power to maintain their own SEBC lists—indirectly affecting SC/ST dynamics.
- **2022 (SC/ST Orders Amendment Act)** – Updated official SC/ST community lists for several states and UTs.

Federalism or Central Federalism?

Article 246 – Who Controls What? Here Comes the List Game

India runs on three shopping lists of power:

- **List I (Union List):** Centre's playground. Only Parliament can legislate here. Full control, no sharing.
- **List II (State List):** State's turf. States run this – unless Parliament has other ideas (see clause 4).
- **List III (Concurrent List):** The common ground. Both Centre and State can make laws. But if they clash?

Centre wins. It's like a joint account that one partner controls more.

And Parliament can make State-like laws in places that aren't technically States (think Union Territories without assemblies). Because – well, someone has to rule them.

Article 246A – GST: One Tax to Rule Them All

This one changed the tax game.

- Both Parliament and State legislatures can make laws on GST – that's the Goods and Services Tax.
- But if the transaction jumps state borders? That's Parliament's solo show.
-

Whatever the GST Council recommends under Article 279A(5), that's when these GST rules kick in.

So, for GST: it's a Centre-State tag team, unless it's inter-State, then it's Centre's solo dance.

The Tax-to-Service Ratio: A Federal Illusion

Law Student:

If I calculate a tax-to-service ratio... who really serves the people more—the Union or the States?

Constitution:

The State delivers the ambulance. The Union owns the expressway it gets stuck on.

Law Student:

Wait—so the Centre collects most taxes, controls big infrastructure, and even gets royalties from mines and ports?

Constitution:

Yes. The Union drinks from many wells—

Income Tax, Corporate Tax, Customs Duties, Excise, GST (shared)...

Ports, Airports, Telecom Spectrum, Railways, National Highways, Petroleum, Mines, Coal, Offshore energy, and even strategic reserves.

Law Student:

And the States?

Constitution:

They get:

Stamp duty, liquor tax, road tax, electricity duty...

...and the daily headaches of schools, hospitals, water, law & order, garbage, potholes, and angry citizens.

Law Student:

So the Union is the rich absentee landlord. And the States are overworked tenants?

Constitution:

Bingo! And every five years, the Finance Commission rings the doorbell and negotiates rent relief.

Law Student:

Why don't States just print more money?

Constitution (whispering):

Because only the Centre can do that. Fiscal federalism is not financial freedom.

Article 247 – Additional Courts for Union Laws

- Objective: Empowers Parliament to establish additional courts for better administration of:
 - Laws made by Parliament, or
 - Existing laws related to subjects in the Union List.

- Notable Point: Overrides other provisions of this Chapter; a tool to augment judicial infrastructure in support of Union legislation (e.g., special CBI courts, NDPS courts, tax tribunals).

Law Student:

Article 246 just carved the wedding cake—Union, State, Concurrent Lists.

So why is Parliament already setting up courts in 247?

Isn't that the Judiciary's job?

Constitution:

Oh, that's just Parliament being helpful... you know, *judicial event management*.

Law Student:

What happened to the **Doctrine of Separation of Powers**?

Constitution:

Ah, yes. It went on honeymoon after Article 50...

Then Parliament texted: "*Just one little exception, baby...*"

Law Student:

And it never came back?

Constitution:

Nope. Still missing. Probably trapped in a Tribunal.

Article 248 – Residuary Powers of Legislation

- **Clause (1):** Parliament has exclusive power over matters not mentioned in the State List or Concurrent List (i.e., residuary subjects).
- **Clause (2):** Includes the power to impose taxes not specified in either List (e.g., wealth tax, gift tax before GST-era reforms).
- **Subject to Article 246A:** So, GST is now governed by a separate provision and council.

Article 249 – Parliament's Power to Legislate on State Subjects in National Interest

- **Trigger:** Requires Rajya Sabha resolution (supported by 2/3 of present & voting members) declaring it necessary in national interest.
- **Effect:** Parliament can legislate on **State List matters** (e.g., public order, police) for **1 year**, renewable.
- **Clause (3):** Such law ceases to have effect **6 months** after the resolution lapses, but actions already taken remain valid.

Law Student:

So Article 248 lets Parliament grab anything the Lists forgot,

And 249 lets it invade State matters if Rajya Sabha just feels patriotic?

Sounds like the Union's on "**Mission Loot**".

Constitution (straight-faced):

Oh no, no. It's not loot.

It's "*Legislative Rescue Operations*."

When in doubt, Centre steps in—with love, of course.

Law Student:

And tax powers too? Even those not listed anywhere?

Constitution:

Of course! Parliament is like that one guest at a wedding—Eats from everyone's plate, and still asks, "What's for dessert?"

Law Student:

What were you *doing* during your making?

You watched Parliament stack powers like monopoly cards—

248, 249, 250... and said nothing?

You let Parliament grab what the Lists forgot (248),

Barge into State subjects with a "national interest" badge (249),

And seize full control during emergencies (250)?

And you just... *let it all happen*?

Constitution:

I was young.

Idealistic. Nehru was speaking. Ambedkar was tired.

Someone said, "Strong Centre, strong nation."

And everyone clapped.

Law Student:

But did you not see the **Doctrine of Separation** leaving the room?

The **Federal Structure** looking confused?

Constitution:

I did. But I was told "*Unity over diversity*."

So I looked away.

And called it "cooperative federalism" —

...while the Centre quietly packed the State List in a suitcase.

Article 250– Power of Parliament to Legislate on State List During Emergency (A.K.A. "Crisis Mein Centre Hi Boss Hai")

In normal times, States flex their muscles making laws on cows, crops, and crime. But the moment someone sneezes *Emergency*, Parliament shows up like a boss with backup powers.

Article 250 lets the Centre crash the State party and make laws on anything — from law and order to lassi regulations. It's temporary (six months post-Emergency), but we all know how long "temporary" can be in politics.

Article 251– When Centre and State Say Opposite Things — Guess Who Wins?

Sure, States can still make their own laws during an Emergency or when Parliament suddenly takes interest in State matters (Articles 249 & 250). But if the Centre’s law says “Yes” and the State says “No” — guess who gets the final word?

Spoiler: It’s always *Delhi*.

The State law doesn’t die — it just goes into *deep constitutional coma* until the Centre’s law retires. Like an overruled side character waiting in the wings.

Article 252– When States Say: “Bhaiya, Aap Hi Kar Lo”

Sometimes States get tired. Drafting laws is hard work — there are committees, debates, and snacks involved. So when two or more States decide, “Why not let Delhi do the heavy lifting?”, they pass resolutions saying, “Dear Parliament, please make this law for us.”

And just like that, Parliament gains the magical ability to make laws on State subjects — with full VIP access.

Bonus feature: Other States can join the party later by just saying, “Same to same, please.”

Catch: Once Parliament makes the law, only Parliament can amend or repeal it. States can’t change a comma — even if they change their minds.

In short:

“You asked Delhi to babysit. Now Delhi’s naming the kid, choosing the school, and planning its future.”

Article 253 – When India Makes Promises Abroad and Comes Home to Panic

So India goes to an international summit, signs a fancy treaty about saving whales or reducing carbon footprints, and suddenly Parliament comes back like:

“We promised the UN we’d fix this — quick, someone draft a law!”

Article 253 lets Parliament make laws for the whole country — even on State subjects — just to keep international commitments. Because nothing says “diplomacy” like waking up States at 3 AM to pass a law about fish-friendly farming.

Basically:

“One dinner with world leaders, and boom — everyone’s getting new homework.”

Article 254– When State Laws and Central Laws Fight, Guess Who Wins?

When both Parliament and a State pass laws on the same topic from the Concurrent List — and those laws say opposite things — the Constitution politely says: “*Nice try, State law. But Delhi gets the final word.*”

Unless... the State law has been specially approved by the President — then it survives in that State only, like a VIP guest at a national party. But beware: Parliament can always come back and say: “*That’s cute. Now let’s overwrite it.*”

In short: “Concurrent List is a group project — but Delhi holds the eraser.”

Article 255– Forgot to Take Permission? No Worries, Just Get It Signed Later!

So technically, some laws need the Governor or President to *bless them* with prior recommendations or sanctions. But what if the paperwork was skipped, the memo got lost, or someone said,

“Arre yaar, kal dekhte hain?”

No problem! Article 255 says: as long as the Governor or the President eventually signs it, it’s all good.

So, what if constitutional protocol was missed? As long as the final stamp is there, it’s just a “*procedural issue*”. Like forgetting to RSVP for a wedding but still showing up and getting fed.

Centre-State Administrative Relation

Article 256– States Must Obey—Because Delhi Said So

Think States are independent? Cute. Article 256 gently reminds them that their executive power is basically on lease. If Parliament makes a law, States must follow it—no ifs, buts, or regional tantrums. And if they forget, the Union Government is just a phone call (or directive) away to “remind” them.

It's like Delhi saying:

“You’re free to govern—as long as you follow our instructions to the letter. Enjoy your freedom!”

Article 257– Union to States: “Don’t Step on Our Toes”

States can flex their muscles—but not too much. Article 257 is the constitutional way of saying:

“Behave, or Big Brother Delhi will step in.”

The Union can give States directions if they’re messing with national interests, army roads, railways, or anything that might look remotely “important.” And if Delhi builds something and hands over the bill? States better pay—unless they want an arbitration session with the Chief Justice. In short:

“You’re in charge... unless we’re more in charge.”

Article 258– Delegation: “Here, You Do It.”

The President can hand over Union powers to State governments “like a boss delegating annoying tasks to interns”.

Whether it’s running schemes, enforcing laws, or managing affairs too tedious for Delhi, the States get to act like the Union—but only until the Union wants it back. No arguments.

Article 258A – Reverse Delegation: “Here, You Take It Back.”

The State can toss duties up to the Centre like a hot potato — but only if Delhi agrees. Teamwork, but with parental supervision.

Article 259– Armed Forces in Part B States

— Deleted. Like that mysterious chapter in a textbook the teacher tells you not to worry about.

Article 260– India, Now Doing Freelance Abroad

The Indian Government can moonlight in foreign territories — make laws, run courts, or just manage things... like a very ambitious neighbour offering to fix your Electricals.

Article 261– One Country, One Stamp Paper

Court orders, birth certificates, and official papers from one State must be respected in another — no excuses like “Sorry, we don’t accept Andhra Pradesh judgments here.”

Article 262 – Who Owns the River? Nobody, but Everyone’s Thirsty

If States start fighting over rivers like kids over a water bottle, Parliament can step in. And if it wants, it can even say, “Courts, stay out of this aquatic drama!”

Article 263 – Inter-State Council: A WhatsApp Group for Chief Ministers

When States just won’t stop bickering, the President can create a Council to make them talk it out — kind of like a group project where nobody wants to do the actual work.

FINANCE, PROPERTY, CONTRACTS AND SUITS

Article 264– Finance Commission = Article 280’s Baby

This article basically says, “If we say Finance Commission here, we mean the one under Article 280. Don’t get confused. We’re just being lazy with definitions.”

Article 265 – No Tax Without Law. (But Loopholes? Maybe.)

You can’t be taxed unless there’s a law. So don’t pay if someone shows up with a smile and a receipt book — unless Parliament said so.

Article 266. One Piggy Bank to Rule Them All

All government income, loans, and paybacks go into a grandly named Consolidated Fund — like a national wallet nobody’s allowed to touch without asking (read: law).

There’s also a “**Public Account**” — basically, petty cash. But still, no freebies. Everything needs approval. Even babus can’t swipe the card without permission.

Article 267. Emergency Piggy Bank

The Constitution allows the creation of Contingency Funds — basically, official “oh no!” money. If something goes wrong (like floods, famines, or yet another government scheme gone wild), the President or Governor can dip into this emergency stash.

It’s the desi version of “In case of emergency, smash fund and spend — we’ll explain to Parliament later.”

Article 268. Union Levies, State Swipes: “You Bill It, We Keep It”

The Centre slaps stamp duties like a strict teacher handing out homework — but surprise! The States get to **collect the money** and **keep it too**.

It’s like the Union says, “We make the rules, but you can keep the cash. Just don’t forget who’s boss.”

Article 269. Centre Collects, States Rejoice: “Inter-State Trade, Local Payday”

The Union plays tax collector for inter-State sales and consignment of goods — but guess what? The States get the jackpot.

But Parliament decides *how to split the loot*, like a generous (but controlling) uncle at a family feast.

Article 270. Sharing the Taxes Loots—Centre First, States Later

The Centre collects most taxes (except those in Articles 268, 269, and 269A, plus surcharges and cesses—that’s *exclusive content*). Even GST (from Article 246A) joins the party. But after collecting the cash, the Centre doesn’t keep it all. A prescribed share goes to the States—like giving kids pocket money after payday.

How is this divine percentage decided?

At first, the President calls the shots. Later, it’s the Finance Commission whispering in his ear. Everyone gets something, but who gets how much? That’s a mystery only the Finance Commission’s calculator can solve.

Law Student: Are there any criteria on how the total collection should be distributed among states?

Constitution: No, Article 270 does not lay down a fixed formula or criteria for how the Union must distribute tax revenues to States. It delegates that responsibility to the President, based on the recommendations of the Finance Commission.

Law Student: So, both Federalism and separation of power are in graveyard?

Constitution: In a manner, yes. They have been succeeded by Central Federalism & Delhi Power.

Law Student: How can I see the report of total collection vs distribution across all states? So is there a Central Transparency Commission?

Constitution: No. Just Central Collection, Central Distribution, Central Discretion.

Law Student: Then how do States hold the Centre accountable?

Constitution: With humility, hope, and high-decibel debates.

Law Student: How do I know how much Centre has earned in a year and they have distributed across different states?

Constitution: If you want to know how much Centre earned last year, you'll need a CAG report, divine patience, and a Ouija board—because transparency died a quiet death long long ago.

Law Student:

But from where do I know how much the Centre has earned this year? And how much it gave (or didn't give) to the States?

Constitution:

Ah! You seek **fiscal enlightenment**.

The Union earns, the Finance Commission recommends, The Centre considers, and then...

Secrets are hidden in PDFs across 50 government portals.

Law Student:

Is there one report? One dashboard? One real-time update?

Constitution:

My child, this is India.

We have a Ministry of Finance,

A Comptroller and Auditor General,

A NITI Aayog,

And an entire **Finance Commission**—

But you'll still need a PhD in Spreadsheet Archaeology to find your answer.

Article 271. Surcharge – Delhi's Bonus Round

Parliament can slap on extra charges (called surcharges) whenever it feels underfunded. States? Sorry, these bonus bucks go straight into Delhi's piggy bank.

Article 272. (Omitted)

This article disappeared faster than state shares in Union taxes.

Article 273. Jute Jackpot (Limited Offer)

Assam, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal once got jute money as a consolation prize. But like most offers, it had an expiry date—10 years or until Delhi got bored.

Explanation:

When the Constitution came into force, some states (Assam, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal) used to get revenue from export duties on jute and jute products. But under the new system, export duties became a Union subject, and the Centre collected all of it. So, Article 273 said:

- The Central Government must pay these four states an annual grant-in-aid, to compensate for the loss of their share of export duty revenue.
- This compensation would continue only as long as the export duty was still being levied or for a maximum of 10 years from the Constitution's commencement (i.e., till 1960), whichever came earlier.

Article 274 – Prior recommendation of President required to Bills affecting taxation in which States are interested

This Article says:

- No Bill or amendment which imposes or varies taxes in which States have an interest (like distribution of revenues, or taxes that affect them) can be introduced or moved in Parliament without the President's recommendation.
- The President must consult the Finance Commission before recommending such a Bill if it affects distribution of taxes between the Union and States.

Law Student: But the President acts on advice from Parliament, right?

Constitution: Yes, but for Article 274, we pretend he's the boss—just for old times' sake.

Article 275. Grants-in-Aid for Some States in Special Cases

States: "We're broke."

Union: "Here's some pocket money... but behave."

This is the essence of Article 275

Article 276. Tax on Professions

State governments can levy a tax on professions, trades, callings, and employments, with an upper limit of ₹2,500 per person per year (though Parliament may raise this ceiling).

Article 277. Savings of Old Laws

Old taxes before 1950? They can still hang around like that one tenant who won't vacate—until Parliament says otherwise.

explanation: Even if a tax is listed under the Union List, if a State or local body was already lawfully collecting it before the Constitution came into force (1950), they can continue doing so—until Parliament passes a law to change it.

Article 278. [Omitted]:

Brief: It allowed the President to enter into agreements with the governments of Part B States (like Hyderabad, Mysore, etc.) for sharing revenues and managing financial matters. These agreements would determine how financial obligations, taxes, and grants would be handled between the Union and those States. These were temporary transitional provisions during the reorganization of India post-independence. Just like some friendships—quietly removed in 1956. No explanation needed.

Article 279. Calculation of Net Proceeds (Total Tax – Collection Cost)

The money collected from taxes isn't all profit — someone has to pay the tax collectors! The **CAG** (Comptroller and Auditor-General) steps in with a calculator, subtracts the cost of collection, and declares the “**net proceeds.**” Whatever number he certifies becomes the official truth — no questions asked, no appeals allowed. Basically, when the CAG speaks, the Constitution nods.

Law Student: “So, no room for creative accounting?”

Constitution: “Only if you're the CAG.”

Law Student: But the CAG listens to the President... and the President listens to the Cabinet?

Constitution: Welcome to the grand relay race of Democratic Accountability

Article 279A. GST Council: The Great Indian Huddle

Think of it as a family meeting where the Centre and States argue about who gets how much from the GST cake. They talk, fight, vote, compromise—then tax your chai. Chaired by the Union Finance Minister, it's where cooperative federalism meets competitive negotiation... with tax slabs.

Composition:

Chairperson: Union Finance Minister.

Members:

Union Minister of State for Finance/Revenue.

State Finance Ministers or any other nominated ministers from States.

Functions:

Recommend tax rates, exemptions, threshold limits, special provisions for States, model GST laws, and principles of levy and apportionment of IGST.

Promote harmonization of GST laws across States and the Centre.

Decision-making:

Quorum: 50% of total members.

Decisions require a 75% majority.

Centre has 1/3rd weight.

States collectively have 2/3rd.

Article 280. Finance Commission: The Referee of the Fiscal Tug-of-War

Every five years (or earlier if things get messy), the President appoints a team of economic umpires—called the Finance Commission—to figure out how the money pie should be sliced between the Centre and the States. They look at needs, demands, grievances, and then suggest who gets how much. Parliament may or may not listen, but hey, at least someone tried to be fair.

Article 281 – Recommendations of the Finance Commission

The President must lay before each House of Parliament: Recommendations of the Finance Commission, and an explanatory memorandum of what actions have been taken on those recommendations.

Law Student: Is the recommendation binding?

Constitution: Nothing is binding on Politicians. They read it like morning masala news then get on with their lives.

Article 282 – Grants for Public Purpose

Both the Union and the States can spend from their own revenues on any public purpose, even if they don't have legislative power over that subject.

Article 283 – Custody of Funds and Public Accounts

1. **Centre:** Custody and regulation of:
 - Consolidated Fund of India,
 - Contingency Fund of India, and
 - Public Account of India
 - by law of Parliament (or Presidential rules until then).
2. **States:** Same setup, but regulated by:
 - State Legislature, or
 - Governor's rules until laws are made.

Law Student: So all the money is controlled by Politicians?

Constitution: Ah, yes—welcome to the grand circus of Constitutional Finance, where the Legislature holds the purse strings, and the politicians perform acrobatics with your tax money! The Union and the States each have their own Consolidated Fund, guarded not by dragons, but by rules, regulations, and an occasional Finance Commission report nobody reads. Meanwhile, the Executive juggles schemes, the Parliament claps enthusiastically, and the public watches from the sidelines—amused, confused, and occasionally taxed twice for the same trick. And if you ever wonder where the money *really* goes? Just follow the trail of press releases, ribbon-cuttings, and mysteriously recurring “urgent” expenditures.

If tax payers starts shouting real bad, Judges might say “Order” “Order”.

Article 284 – Custody of suitors' deposits and other moneys received by public servants and courts

All money received by public servants or by courts in connection with affairs of the Union or of a State—such as suitors' deposits, fines, or other legal payments—must be handled with due diligence. These funds are to be kept in custody as prescribed either by Parliament or by the State Legislature, depending on whether the matter pertains to Union or State affairs. Until a law is made to regulate such custody, the funds shall be held in such manner as is directed by rules made by the President (for Union matters) or the Governor (for State matters). Essentially, this Article ensures that even the stray rupees handed over during litigation or administrative proceedings don't disappear into thin air—but are held securely, at least on paper, until properly claimed or appropriated.

Article 285 – Exemption of Property of the Union from State Taxation:

This Article grants immunity to Union property from State taxes—unless Parliament decides otherwise. Essentially, if a State wants to charge the Centre rent, tolls, or property tax, it must first seek the Centre's blessings—ironically, from the very entity it wishes to tax. However, there's a historical loophole: if a tax was being lawfully imposed on Union property **before** the Constitution kicked in, it can continue, but only until Parliament decides to end the party. So yes, some lucky municipalities might still be taxing that old post office... until someone in Delhi notices.

Law Student:

Can a State charge the Centre rent or property tax?

Constitution:

Only if the Centre agrees to tax itself. Spoiler: It won't.

Law Student:

So the Centre owns land in every State, runs offices, builds colonies... and pays nothing?

Constitution:

Correct. Article 285 says Union property is **immune**, unless **Parliament says otherwise**.

And Parliament is... *wait for it*... run by the Union.

Article 286 – Restrictions on Tax Imposition on the Sale or Purchase of Goods (Interstate and International Trade):

States are reminded here that their taxing powers come with borders. A State cannot tax the supply of goods or services if that supply happens outside its territorial reach or during international import or export. Basically, no State-level GST on that luxury yacht being shipped from Italy. Parliament, donning its referee jersey, is entrusted with the job of framing the rules that determine **where** a supply is considered to have taken place. Because in tax matters, like in cricket, the umpire's call is final.

Article 287 – Exemption from Taxes on Electricity in Certain Cases:

This Article sparks a clear line (pun intended) between taxation and transmission. It prohibits States from taxing electricity consumed or sold for purposes of the Union—especially when that power is being transmitted across State lines, unless Parliament itself provides otherwise. In simpler terms: if the electricity is fueling a Central Government operation or traveling inter-State, States must keep their tax meters off—unless New Delhi says otherwise. It's the Constitution's way of saying:

"Don't bill the Centre for its own lights."

Article 288 – Exemption from taxation by States in respect of water or electricity in certain cases:

This Article serves as a constitutional circuit-breaker for intergovernmental taxation conflicts. It states that if a State wants to tax water or electricity consumed by the Government of India or in the course of its distribution or development, it must first obtain approval from Parliament. In essence, States can't send water or power bills to the Centre unless the Centre agrees to receive them. It's the constitutional equivalent of saying, "Ask before you charge." This maintains a delicate fiscal courtesy between the Union and the States—like neighbors borrowing sugar, but asking before putting it on the grocery bill.

Article 289 – Exemption of property and income of a State from Union taxation:

This Article protects the financial sovereignty of States by stating that the Union Government cannot tax the property or income of a State. However, there's a constitutional caveat: Parliament may by law impose taxes on a State's income if it arises from a commercial activity. So, while the Centre can't generally collect rent from the States, if a State starts running a profitable business—say, operating a chain of luxury resorts or manufacturing eco-friendly scooters—then Parliament can step in and say, "Nice revenue stream you've got there. Mind if we take a bite?" It ensures that governmental functions are immune, but business ventures aren't beyond the reach of the taxman.

Law Student: *"So if a State earns, Delhi can tax it?"*

Constitution: *"Yes. If it's commercial and Parliament says so."*

Law Student: *"But if Delhi earns, can the State tax it?"*

Constitution: *"LOL. Nice try." Article 285 — the divine shield of the Union's wallet.*

Article 290 – Adjustment in respect of certain expenses and pensions:

This provision deals with financial arrangements between the Union and States, especially where certain obligations from before the commencement of the Constitution continue. If any State has been assigned the liability to pay any rent to the Government of India, or vice versa, for the use of any property, or has to bear any expenditure such as pensions payable to individuals (for instance, former employees of a princely state), such expenses are adjusted under this Article. Parliament may by law determine the mode of such payment, ensuring that historical financial legacies are honored without causing budgetary confusion. It's a reminder that in constitutional bookkeeping, the past still sends invoices.

Article 290A – Annual Payment to Certain Devaswom Funds:

This provision ensures a mandatory annual grant to maintain religious institutions. It mandates that ₹46.5 lakhs be paid every year from the Consolidated Fund of Kerala to the Travancore Devaswom Fund, and ₹13.5 lakhs from the Consolidated Fund of Tamil Nadu to the Devaswom Fund in that State. This arrangement relates to the reorganisation of States in 1956,

when certain territories were transferred from Travancore-Cochin to Tamil Nadu. The payments are specifically for the upkeep of Hindu temples and shrines in those regions. In essence, it's a constitutional commitment to continue supporting sacred institutions that were historically managed by princely states, preserving not just structures, but traditions, rituals, and community responsibilities.

Article 291 – [Privy Purse Sums of Rulers][Gone]

Status: Omitted by the 26th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1971.

Originally, Article 291 provided for the payment of privy purses—annual sums paid to the former rulers of princely states as part of their agreement to integrate into the Indian Union after independence. These payments were charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and were meant to be a gesture of respect and transition.

However, in 1971, the 26th Amendment abolished the recognition of titles and privy purses, marking a significant move towards greater republican equality—officially ending royal allowances in a democracy.

Articles 292 & 293 – The Great Indian Borrowing License

Article 292 says I, as your humble Union Government, can borrow money—on the strength of the nation's wallet, of course—our beloved Consolidated Fund of India. And don't worry, Parliament may (or may not) set limits. Think of it as a credit card with occasional parental control.

Now, Article 293 gives our State Governments a piece of the action too. They can borrow within India—as long as they're not still ghosting on old debts. But here's the kicker: if a State still owes us money, they have to ask us—nicely—before borrowing again. Because apparently, even federalism has a credit rating!

And yes, if they want more money while already owing us some, we get to say, 'Sure... but on our terms.' Classic 'Desh ki Sarkar' style.

Article 294 – Succession to Property, Assets, Rights, and Obligations

When British India became the Republic of India, the change wasn't just about flags and national anthems—it also involved a serious handover of property, contracts, and pending dues. Article 294 ensures that all property and assets that belonged to the Government of British India (or any

province), including all rights, liabilities, and obligations, automatically passed on to the Government of India and the respective State Governments, unless specifically altered by a new law.

So, in simple terms: when India got independence and became a constitutional republic, it inherited the colonial government's "stuff"—buildings, railways, contracts, debts, and even the fine print. And unless Parliament or a State legislature decides to rewrite the rulebook, that inheritance still stands.

Article 295 – Succession to Property, Assets, Rights, Liabilities, and Obligations in Respect of Indian States

After India became independent, and the princely states were merged into the Union, someone had to sort out the messy question: “Who owns what now?” Article 295 is the answer to that royal headache.

It declares that all the property, assets, rights, liabilities, and obligations previously held by any Indian State (as defined in the old days before the Constitution) are now legally inherited by the Union or the concerned State, depending on who's wearing the crown—or rather, who's holding the file. Unless Parliament or a State Legislature passes a new law saying otherwise, the successor government inherits the estate—including the dues and debts. It's like a legal will, but for kingdoms.

In other words:

“The Maharajas left the party, but their bills and palaces stayed behind—with us.”

Article 296 – Property Accruing by Escheat or Lapse or as Bona Vacantia

Article 296 deals with a rather morbid, but important, question:

What happens to property when no one has a legal claim to it?

Say someone dies without heirs, or a company dissolve without transferring its assets—who pockets the leftovers?

The Constitution says: If no one else can legally claim the property, it goes to the government—either the Union or the State—depending on where the property is located. This concept is called escheat, lapse, or bona vacantia (fancy Latin for “ownerless goods”).

It's like a last call in a bar: "Anyone left to claim this estate? No? Then it's ours now."

So, if you're planning to vanish without a will, just remember—the government is your default heir. Even the Constitution has a clause for unclaimed treasure!

Article 297 – Things of Value Beneath the Seas Go to the Union

All lands, minerals, and other valuable things lying under the ocean—whether beneath the sea bed or in the territorial waters or the continental shelf of India—belong to the Union of India. That includes oil, natural gas, precious metals, or even that hypothetical sunken pirate treasure. So, if you're planning an underwater expedition and hoping to stake a personal claim on some deep-sea gold, think again. The Constitution has already claimed it for the Centre. The States don't get a cut, and private citizens certainly don't.

In short: From land to sand to seabed—if it's under water and valuable, it's "Nation First."

Article 298 – Government Business: Not Just Politics, Also Commerce

Both the Union and the States have the power to carry on trade or business, acquire or dispose of property, and enter into contracts—basically, to behave like big corporate entities when it suits them. This means they can sell land, sign deals, or run enterprises, all in the name of governance. So yes, your government is legally allowed to act like a startup, a landlord, a wholesaler—or all three—as long as it's for a 'public purpose' (however creatively that might be defined).

In short: When it comes to money, the Constitution says the governments can hustle too.

Article 299 – How Governments Sign Deals Without Getting Sued (Too Easily)

All contracts made in the name of the President (for the Union) or the Governor (for a State) must:

- *Be **expressly stated** to be made in their name, and*
- *Be **executed by authorized persons** (basically, bureaucrats with the power to sign).*

If not? The contract is invalid—you can't sue the government over a handshake deal or a rogue official's promise, no matter how many "Government of India" stamps are on it.

Translation:

If a deal goes sour and it wasn't done by the book, the government shrugs and says,
"Oops, that wasn't official. Try again next time—with more paperwork."

Article 300 – Sue Me, maybe!

The Government of India and the Government of a State can **sue or be sued** in their respective names—just like the old British Raj used to do (yes, we inherited the drama). So, if you're wronged by the government, you can take them to court... but good luck winning.

And the flip side? The government can also sue you—so don't get too comfortable just because you have a fancy PIL ready.

Bottom line: The Government isn't above the law—just often adjacent to it, standing there with excellent lawyers and infinite patience.

Article 300A – Persons not to be deprived of property save by authority of law

No person shall be deprived of his property except by the authority of law. This means that the State cannot simply take away your land, house, or belongings unless it is backed by a valid law enacted through the legislature. This provision was introduced by the 44th Constitutional

Amendment, 1978, after the Right to Property ceased to be a fundamental right. It now exists as a constitutional legal right.

Law Student: Is my property safe?

Constitution: Of course! Unless Parliament AKA the Politicians, decides it's not.

Law Student: But that is the case with everything. If politicians want they can make, brake, remake everything at their convenience.

Article 301 – Freedom of trade, commerce and intercourse

Subject to the other provisions of this Part, trade, commerce and intercourse throughout the territory of India shall be free. This means that citizens, businesses, and entities have a constitutional guarantee to carry out the movement of goods, services, and financial transactions across State boundaries without arbitrary or unreasonable restrictions. However, this freedom is not absolute—it is subject to reasonable regulations as outlined in subsequent Articles (like Articles 302 to 305), which allow Parliament and State Legislatures to impose certain restrictions in the public interest or for ensuring equitable development.

Article 302 – Power of Parliament to Impose Restrictions on Trade, Commerce and Intercourse

Notwithstanding Article 301 (which promises free trade across India), Parliament may impose restrictions on the freedom of trade, commerce, or intercourse between states or within states, in the public interest. So, while trade is "free" in theory, Parliament can step in and say, "Yes, but only if it serves the greater good"—a phrase as flexible as political promises before elections.

Law Student: Trade is free?

Constitution: Yes, free... but only after taxes, tolls, conditions, exceptions, approvals, and a touch of "public interest."

Article 303 – Restrictions on Legislative Powers of the Union and of the States with regard to Trade

Clause (1):

Neither Parliament nor any State Legislature can make laws that give one State an unfair advantage over another in matters of trade, commerce, or revenue. So, no playing favourites—at least on paper.

Clause (2):

However, if Parliament thinks it's necessary in the public interest, it can make exceptions. That means Parliament can legally favor one State over another—but only for the public good (which may or may not rhyme with political good).

Article 304 – Restrictions on trade, commerce and intercourse among States

A State can:

Clause (a): Impose taxes on goods imported from other States or Union Territories, but only if it also imposes similar taxes on local goods. (Basically: no "outsider tax" unless locals pay it too. Equality in pain.)

Clause (b): Put reasonable restrictions on the freedom of trade, commerce, or intercourse within the State—but only in the public interest and with prior Presidential sanction if the law is about Parliament's turf.

Article 305 – The Government's Legal License to Break Its Own Rules (for "Public Good", of course)

Freedom of trade and commerce is important (Article 301), but... if the government already had some trade restrictions before the Constitution came in—or wants to run a monopoly now—go ahead. No problem. This freedom doesn't apply there."

And definitely this is for Public Good.

Law Student: Wait, so trade is free... but also not free... if the government says it's for public good?

Constitution: Exactly. Welcome to Indian federalism—where “freedom” comes with an *Ifs and buts*.

Law Student: Which are the sectors where they run the monopoly

Constitution: Like the Lotteries & Liquor etc. Because sometimes Monopoly makes more money than normal tax.

Article 306 – Power of certain States in Part B of the First Schedule to impose restrictions on trade and commerce

Status: Omitted

This article originally allowed Part B States (like Hyderabad, Mysore, Bhopal, etc.) to continue imposing restrictions on trade, commerce, and intercourse that existed before the Constitution came into force—until Parliament decided otherwise. However, Article 306 was omitted by the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956, when the distinction between Part A, B, and C States was abolished and Indian states were reorganized.

Article 307 – Appointment of authority for carrying out the purposes of Articles 301 to 304

Parliament may by law appoint an appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of Articles 301 to 304, which deal with the freedom of trade, commerce, and intercourse across India and the permissible restrictions thereto. This authority would be responsible for ensuring that the provisions regarding free trade are not violated and for handling any disputes or regulatory challenges that arise under these articles.

Law Student: So where's this magical authority to protect trade freedom?

Constitution: Ah, it's like a unicorn—Parliament can create it, but... hasn't.

Article 308 – Interpretation

In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires, the expression "State" does not include the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Article 309 – Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Persons Serving the Union or a State

Article 309 empowers the Parliament and the State Legislatures to make laws regarding the recruitment and conditions of service of persons serving in public services under the Union or a State.

Until such a law is made, the President (for Union services) or the Governor (for State services) may make rules regulating these matters.

Law Student: So, who decides how bureaucrats are hired or fired?

Constitution: The Parliament makes the rules. But until they do, the President or Governor gets to play HR Manager — with no HR degree required!

Law Student: So basically, Politicians are hiring and firing from background.

Article 310 – Tenure of Office of Persons Serving the Union or a State

Article 310 introduces the concept of "Doctrine of Pleasure". It states that every person who is a member of the civil services of the Union or of a State, or who holds any civil post under the Union or a State, holds office during the pleasure of the President (for Union services) or the Governor (for State services).

However, this "pleasure" is subject to the provisions of the Constitution, meaning it is not absolute and is limited by Article 311, which provides safeguards against arbitrary dismissal.

Article 311 – Dismissal, Removal or Reduction in Rank of Persons Employed in Civil Capacities under the Union or a State

Article 311 acts as a protective shield for civil servants against arbitrary or unfair dismissal by the executive. It ensures that no civil servant is

dismissed, removed, or demoted unless they are given a reasonable opportunity to defend themselves through a due process of law. This Article limits the “doctrine of pleasure” under Article 310 by laying down two core safeguards:

1. Subordinate Authority Restriction: No civil servant can be dismissed or removed by an authority lower than the one who appointed them. This ensures administrative fairness and hierarchy.
2. Right to Hearing: Before any dismissal, removal, or reduction in rank, the civil servant must be informed of the charges and given a reasonable opportunity to present their defence.

However, the safeguard under Clause (2) has three exceptions where an inquiry can be dispensed with:

- If the civil servant has been convicted of a criminal offence.
- If it is not reasonably practicable to hold an inquiry (e.g., due to unrest, threats, or chaos).
- If the President or Governor believes that conducting such an inquiry would be against national security interests.

In essence, Article 311 provides a constitutional check on executive power, balancing the flexibility of Article 310 with the principles of natural justice and fair procedure.

All India Service (Job): The Big Babus of India (IAS/IPS)

Article 312 – All-India Services

Article 312 empowers the Rajya Sabha (Council of States) and the Parliament to create new All-India Services common to the Union and the

States, in addition to the already existing ones like the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS).

Politician in Delhi: “We need more babus who can be blamed when things go wrong in both Delhi and the States!”

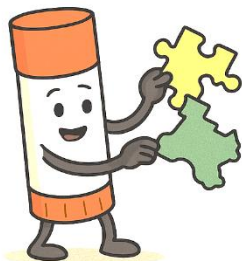
Article 312: “Granted. But only if the Rajya Sabha says so with a supermajority... because bureaucracy is serious business.”

Civil Servant: “So I serve both Delhi and the State? Great—double responsibility, single salary.”

<i>Aspect</i>	<i>All-India Services (AIS)</i>	<i>Central Civil Services</i>	<i>State Civil Services</i>
<i>Created Under</i>	Article 312 of the Constitution	Central laws/rules	State laws/rules
<i>Examples</i>	IAS, IPS, IFS (Forest)	IRS, IES, IFS (Foreign), IAAS, etc.	State Administrative Services, State Police Services
<i>Appointing Authority</i>	President of India	President of India	State Governor
<i>Cadre Control</i>	Central Govt + State Govt	Central Govt only	State Govt only
<i>Postings</i>	Both Union & State levels	Only Union Govt. departments	Only in respective State
<i>Recruitment</i>	UPSC – Civil Services Exam (CSE)	UPSC – Various exams	State PSCs (Public Service Commissions)

Transfer	Can be transferred between States	Transfers within central ministries/depts.	Limited to the State cadre
Removal/Discipline	Requires consultation with Union Govt	Controlled by Union Govt	Controlled by State Govt
Training Institute	LBSNAA (Mussoorie) for IAS, and other central academies	Respective training institutes (e.g., NADT for IRS)	Respective State institutes

I'm the glue holding Delhi and the States together. Sometimes I feel more like a political shuttlecock.



**ALL-INDIA
SERVICES OFFICER**

At least I only answer to Delhi.
No cross-state drama for me!



**CENTRAL
SERVICES
OFFICER**

My job? Enforce laws, manage districts... and survive political transfers every six month.



**STATE SERVICE
OFFICER**

Article 312A – Power of Parliament to Vary or Revoke Conditions of Service of Officers of Certain Services

Parliament may change or cancel service conditions of officers from Indian Civil Service (ICS) or similar services who were serving before

Article 313 – Transitional Provisions

Until new laws are made under the Constitution regarding recruitment and service conditions for public servants, the existing rules and laws (from before the Constitution came into force) will continue to apply.

Translation: When India became a Republic in 1950, the government didn't immediately have new rules ready for every department or officer. So, Article 313 acted as a bridge:

Article 314 – [Repealed] – Protection of existing officers of certain services

Status: Omitted by the Constitution (Twenty-eighth Amendment) Act, 1972.

This Article protected civil servants—especially those from the Indian Civil Services (ICS) and other pre-Constitution services—by freezing their terms of service, tenure, and privileges under the Government of India Act, 1935.

Article 315 – Public Service Commissions for the Union and for the States

There shall be a Public Service Commission for the Union (UPSC) and a PSC for each State (SPSC), unless two or more States decide to share one (called a Joint Public Service Commission) by agreement and with Parliament's blessing.

Article 316 – Where Bosses of the UPSC & SPSC Come From

So, here's the deal: the President of India gets to handpick the Chairman and members of the UPSC—the elite panel that decides the fate of millions of UPSC aspirants each year. In the states, it's the Governor who gets to appoint members to the State Public Service Commissions (SPSC)—kind of like the regional managers of the bureaucracy factory.

Once appointed, these members enjoy their thrones for six years, unless they hit age 65 (for UPSC) or 62 (for SPSC)—whichever comes first. After that, it's time to pack up their judgment robes and go home. But wait—there's a VIP loophole! A State PSC member can be promoted to the UPSC. It's like going from regional manager to national CEO.

But here's the twist: once you've chaired the UPSC, you're so “pure and powerful” that the Constitution won't let you take up any other government job. It's the civil service version of sainthood—once divine, you don't come back to the mortal world of employment.

Article 317 – How to Sack a UPSC or SPSC Boss (Without a Riot)

So, what if a chairman or member of the UPSC or State Public Service Commission turns out to be... let's say, less than noble? Can we just show them the door? Well, not that easy—this is India, and we believe in *due process*, even for bureaucratic royalty.

If the President (for UPSC) or Governor (for SPSC) gets a whiff of misconduct or misbehaviour, they can't just say “You're fired!” Nope, they must call in the Supreme Court, literally, to investigate whether the allegations are true. And till the Court decides, the alleged troublemaker can be suspended—like a student waiting outside the principal's office. But not all misdeeds need Supreme drama. If a member goes bankrupt, becomes mentally unfit, takes a bribe, or just stops showing up, the President or Governor can remove them directly—no Court time needed. Even gods of bureaucracy must answer when things fall apart.

Article 318 – “Make Your Own Rules, Because Why Not?”

This Article is basically the VIP lounge of the Constitution for the Public Service Commissions (UPSC and State PSCs). It says: The President (for UPSC) and the Governor (for State PSCs) can make regulations about how the Commission will work—like how the Chairman and Members are appointed, how their tenure is managed, salaries, leave rules, and even the “thanks, but goodbye” procedures. Think of this as the HR Manual for Bureaucratic Kings and Queens—written not by the Commission themselves, but by the very governments

they're supposed to stay independent from. Irony? Maybe. Power structure? Definitely.

Law Student: "Wait, so the President/Governor hires them, pays them, and also writes the rulebook on how to manage them?"

Constitution: "Exactly. It's like letting the landlord write the tenant agreement, the rent rules, and also decide when to evict you—with a smile."

Law Student: But both President/Governor takes instruction from Cabinet Politicians?

Constitution: "Ah, now you're getting it! It's a beautifully indirect system—the puppeteer pulls strings through velvet gloves. The President and Governor act 'on aid and advice'... which just so happens to be from the same political folks who might *really* like a cooperative Public Service Commission."

Law Student: "So independence is just... ceremonial?"

Constitution: "Like the ribbon at an inauguration—very visible, rarely binding."

Article 319 – Restrictions on holding offices after retirement

Once a member of the Public Service Commission retires, they can't take up another job in the same Commission or become Chairman after serving as a member.

But wait—they *can* become Chairman of another Public Service Commission or even the UPSC if they weren't already in one.

So basically, it's retirement... with a transfer window. Musical chairs, but with better pensions and fewer spectators.

Article 320 – Functions of Public Service Commissions

The UPSC and State Public Service Commissions are like HR departments for the government—only with constitutional backing. They conduct exams, advise on recruitment, promotions, disciplinary matters, and transfers.

Basically, whenever the government wants to hire, fire, or reshuffle, the

Commission's opinion *should* be sought. However, the Constitution quietly adds: if you forget to consult them, it won't make the decision invalid. So, it's mandatory... until it isn't.

Article 321 to 323: Public Service Commissions: More Duties, Little Power, and a Mandatory Annual Report Nobody Reads

The Public Service Commissions aren't just stuck with recruitment; Parliament or State Legislatures can assign them extra homework under **Article 321**—even for local bodies and public institutions. Think of it like being told, "You're doing great at your job, so now do five more... for the same pay." Speaking of pay, **Article 322** ensures that all expenses of the Commissions—salaries, allowances, and pensions—come directly from the Consolidated Fund. So, the government pays the bill, even if it doesn't always like the service. And as for **Article 323**, the Commissions must submit yearly reports to the President or Governor, who must explain whenever they ignored the Commission's advice.

It's the constitutional version of: "Thanks for your input—we'll pretend to think about it."

Articles 323A & 323B – Tribunals: Because Regular Courts Are Getting Too Crowded

Under Article 323A, Parliament can set up administrative tribunals for public service matters (like a private complaint box for government employees who feel wronged but want to skip the courtroom drama). Then comes Article 323B, which throws the net wider—Parliament and State Legislatures can create tribunals for everything from tax and land reforms to labor disputes and food stuff (because apparently even your grocery grievances needed a special judge). But here's the catch: while tribunals were meant to ease the burden, they slowly became a parallel legal universe—where justice is sometimes faster, sometimes cheaper, but always questionably constitutional.

Law Student: But the Government could just simply hire more judges, right?

Constitution (with a sigh): Yes... but instead, they created tribunals—quasi-judicial bodies staffed by bureaucrats, not

judges—where the Executive makes the laws, appoints the adjudicators, and sometimes even becomes a party in the case.

Law Student: That sounds like a textbook case of violating the doctrine of separation of powers—and isn't that inviting *bias*?

Constitution (smirking): Ah, my dear student, when the judge, the prosecutor, and the legislator all wear the same hat... we call it "administrative convenience."

Article 324 – Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission

In theory, the Election Commission is the mighty guardian of free and fair elections; in practice, it's a referee *hired by one of the teams*. The President—who follows the Cabinet's script—appoints the Chief Election Commissioner and friends, decides their perks, and can even expand the cast.

Sure, the CEC gets Supreme Court-style protection from being fired. But when your salary, title, and team are all decided by your boss's boss's boss (read: ruling party), neutrality is just good theatre. They may conduct elections, but who conducts *them*?

Law Student: "So, the empire of democracy is run by an umpire who owes his job to the emperor?"

Constitution: "Exactly. Now clap for the fairness of the match."

Article 325 – One Nation, One Voter List

No voter discrimination based on religion, race, caste, or sex—just pray your name isn't "accidentally" missing on election day.

Article 326 – Adult Suffrage for All

If you're 18+, alive, and not in jail or legally insane, congratulations—you have the right to choose from options pre-selected by party high commands.

Article 327 – Parliament’s Election Toolkit

Parliament has the power to write the rulebook for elections, including deciding where your vote counts... and where it mysteriously vanishes.

Article 328 – States Can Make Election Rules Too

State Legislatures can craft their own election laws—just as long as Delhi hasn’t already done it for them.

Article 329 – No Court Interfere, please:

Once elections are announced, courts must sit back and enjoy the show; challenges allowed only through election petitions (filed just in time to be decided after the winner’s term ends).

Article 329A (Omitted)

VIP Shortcut Removed – Once upon a time, we had a special election escape hatch for the PM and Speaker—until the Constitution politely kicked it out in 1978.

It stated that disputes related to the election of the Prime Minister or the Speaker of the Lok Sabha could not be challenged in court, and instead would be decided by a special authority created by Parliament. It retrospectively validated Indira Gandhi’s election to Parliament, nullifying the judgment of the Allahabad High Court, and placing her election beyond judicial review.

Article 330 – Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People

Parliament wants to ensure “inclusive democracy,” so it reserves some seats in the Lok Sabha for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). These reserved seats are allocated in proportion to their population in different states and Union territories.

Article 330A – Reservation of Seats for Women in the House of the People

Ah yes, a constitutional nod to balance the gender equation—Article 330A reserves seats in the Lok Sabha for women, including those from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In theory, one-third of all directly elected seats must go to women, because after 75 years of independence, we’ve finally discovered that women exist in politics too—and maybe, just maybe, they deserve a seat, not just a slogan.

Law Student: “Wow! One-third of seats reserved for women! That’s a landmark move!”

Constitution: “Yes, and like most landmarks in Delhi, heavily guarded but rarely entered

Law Student: “So, one-third women in the House?”

Constitution: “On paper, yes. In reality? Let’s just say patriarchy took a lunch break but never left the building

Law Student:

“So democracy... on paper.

Justice.....on paper

Republic... on paper.

Right to life... on paper.

Reservation... on paper.

Nice going?”

Constitution:

“Ah, the Paper Republic. We print justice, staple liberty, and laminate equality.”

Law Student:

“So when does it come off the paper?”

Constitution:

“When the people pick the pen... instead of just circling promises with it every five years.”

Article 331 – Representation of the Anglo-Indian Community in Lok Sabha (House of the People):

If the President feels the Anglo-Indian community isn’t adequately represented in the Lok Sabha, he may nominate up to two members from the community to ensure their voice is heard in Parliament.

Article 332 – Reservation of Seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in State Legislative Assemblies

This article mandates that seats be reserved in every State Legislative Assembly for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), in proportion to their population in that state, ensuring their representation in the democratic process at the state level.

Article 332A – Reservation of Seats for Women in State Legislative Assemblies:

One-third of all seats in every State Legislative Assembly are reserved for women, including one-third of the SC/ST reserved seats. This ensures gender representation at the state level.

Article 333 – Anglo-Indian Representation in State Assemblies:

If the Governor believes the Anglo-Indian community is not adequately represented in a State Legislative Assembly, they may nominate one member from that community.

Article 334 – Time Limit on Reservations:

Reservations for SC/STs in legislatures and nominated seats for the Anglo-Indian community were meant to expire after **80 years** and **70 years** respectively from the Constitution's commencement (i.e., 2030 and 2020), unless extended by amendment.

Article 334A – Women's Reservation Timeline:

Women's reservation in Parliament and State Assemblies (as per the 106th Amendment, 2023) will begin after the next delimitation exercise post-census and last for 15 years. Seats will rotate after each delimitation unless Parliament decides otherwise.

Law Student: "Why has it not started yet? The law is passed, right?"

Constitution: “Yes, the law is passed. But first, we count the people, then redraw the map, then play musical chairs with seats...”

Translation: It’s waiting for the next Census and delimitation exercise, both of which are politically sensitive and have been delayed. Until that’s done, women’s reservation is a promise with a pause button.

Article 335 – Claims of SCs and STs to services and posts

The claims of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in government jobs shall be considered, but without compromising administrative efficiency. Basically, representation is important—but so is competence.

Article 336 – Special provision for Anglo-Indians in services

Anglo-Indians had a **10-year grace period** from the commencement of the Constitution to get into government services **with relaxed qualifications**. After that, the concession **gradually phased out**. Think of it as a temporary VIP pass.

Article 337 – Special educational grant for Anglo-Indian schools

Anglo-Indian schools received government grants as they did before the Constitution—but only for sixty years. After that, the funding tap was turned off. The Constitution gave them 60 years to self-sustain.

Article 338 – National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)

Establishes the NCSC to protect the interests of **Scheduled Castes**.

It investigates complaints, monitors safeguards, and advises on their development.

Think of it as a constitutional watchdog with a caste-specific lens.

Article 338A – National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)

Creates a separate Commission for Scheduled Tribes, carved out of NCSC in 2003. It handles ST-specific rights, development, and safeguards. Tribal rights, forest protections, and cultural identity—this Commission monitors them all.

Article 338B – National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)

Inserted in 2018, it made NCBC a constitutional body. Handles welfare of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) and hears grievances. From advisory to constitutional authority—NCBC got promoted.

Article 339 – Union Control Over Scheduled Areas and Tribes

The President can appoint a Commission to report on the administration and welfare of Scheduled Tribes in Scheduled Areas. The Union Government can direct States to implement welfare schemes for Scheduled Tribes.

Article 340 – Commission on Backward Classes

The President may set up a Commission to study the status of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs). The Commission gives recommendations to improve their condition—through policies or grants. The report is placed before Parliament for accountability.

Article 341 – Scheduled Castes

The President specifies which castes are to be treated as Scheduled Castes (SCs) for each state/UT. Only Parliament can modify this list by law.

You can't self-declare as SC – only the President can do that (with Parliament's signature).

Law Student:

So, only the President can declare a caste as “Scheduled”?
Does that mean the President is going to visit every home—
see who's still cleaning gutters with bare hands?

Constitution (chuckling like a retired bureaucrat):

Visit?

No, my dear. The President doesn't do fieldwork.

The President signs files. With gold ink pens.

While sitting under central air-conditioning and Ambedkar's portrait.

Law Student:

But how do they know which caste is still suffering?

Constitution:

They rely on **data**.

Which relies on **commissions**.

Which rely on **reports**.

Which rely on **surveys**.

Which rely on **assumptions**.

Which rely on... **whoever wins the next election**.

Law Student: So, it's been 75 years. Have all the SC or STs or OBC have moved to upper class?

Constitution: Absolutely. In the past they used to beg for live in the village now they beg on the streets of City for the dignity. It is lateral promotion.

Article 342 – Scheduled Tribes

Same structure as Article 341, but for Scheduled Tribes (STs). The President notifies, and Parliament approves changes.

It's official when the President stamps it; tribal identity is constitutional, not self-proclaimed

Article 342A – [Proposed – Not Yet in Force]

Note: Article 341A is part of a proposed constitutional amendment to recognize Scheduled Castes of religious minorities (e.g., Dalit Christians/Muslims), but has not been enacted yet.

Still a bill on the table—not law yet.

Article 343 – Official Language of the Union

Hindi in Devanagari script is the official language of the Central Government. However, English may continue for official purposes for 15 years from the Constitution's commencement (i.e., until 1965)—and it still continues by law. Parliament can legislate to continue English even beyond that period (which it did through the Official Languages Act, 1963).

Law Student:

There are *so many* languages in India.

Why only Hindi and English?

Constitution (looking guilty):

Because **power** doesn't speak in dialects.

It speaks in **policy Hindi** and **accented English**.

Law Student:

But what about Tamil, Bengali, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Assamese, Marathi...?

Constitution:

They are beautiful—

in *poetry books, folk songs, and YouTube subtitles*.

Not in *Parliament files or court judgments*.

Law Student:

So the rest of India must translate itself to be heard?

Constitution (laughing bitterly):

Yes.

India is a democracy—but **only in two fonts**.

Article 344 – The “Hindi Ho Gaya” Commission

Every few years, the Constitution sends out a polite nudge to the government saying, “Hey, remember we promised to promote Hindi?” So, under Article 344, the President forms a Commission to study how well Hindi is doing as the “official language” and whether English is ready to be shown the exit. But don't worry—this is India. We set up committees to review commissions who then suggest that we set up more committees. Eventually, a parliamentary group sits down, reads the report, and agrees to do... absolutely nothing drastic. English continues to sip chai comfortably in bureaucracy, while Hindi keeps waiting for its promotion letter.

Articles 345–347: The Linguistic Tug of War

The Constitution, even the diplomat, tells States in Article 345, “Go ahead, pick your own official language—be it Hindi, Bengali, or even Tulu—just don’t expect everyone else to understand it.” Then comes Article 346, which adds, “But hey, if two States need to talk to each other or to the Centre, let’s all pretend we’re fluent in English.” Article 347 spices things up by saying, “If a big enough group in a State wants official status for their language, the President may step in and say, ‘Sure, why not—let the Babel begin!’” In short, the Constitution tries to keep 1.4 billion tongues from stepping on each other—but ends up juggling dictionaries instead.

Articles 348–349: English Vibes Only (For Now) Multilingual nation, monolingual justice

Article 348 politely tells everyone, “Yes, we have 22 scheduled languages, but when it comes to laws, High Courts, Supreme Court, and Presidential orders—let’s stick to English, shall we?” It’s like having a multilingual wedding and then announcing the vows will be read in Queen’s English. Then Article 349 jumps in with a warning: “Don’t even think about changing this without asking the President first.” Translation: If you’re planning a legal revolution in Sanskrit or Bhojpuri, you better get clearance from the top floor—because English, after all, has colonial immunity and above all very few understand it.

Law Student: This is really appalling? SC or HC are the institution of Justice, how can they do it?

Constitution: Reasons Often Given, Legal Terminology, Uniformity Across States

Law student: They can be addressed. **But** imagine a tribal woman, a Dalit farmer, or a small-town worker walking into a courtroom and hearing:

“Your Lordships, with due deference to the ratio decidendi of Kesavananda Bharati...

Meanwhile, their plea for ration card or life savings gets lost in translation—literally

Articles 350 & 350A – Linguistic Complaints Welcome (But No Promises!)

Article 350 assures every citizen that they can submit grievances to the government in any language they fancy. So, if you feel cheated by a government form, feel free to rant in Urdu, Marathi, or even ancient Prakrit—some poor babu will eventually get it translated (maybe).

Article 350A takes it a step further and says, “Hey States, be nice—teach children in their mother tongue!” But like all polite suggestions in the Constitution, there’s no penalty if you don’t. So, a tribal child might still end up learning the alphabet in a language that doesn’t exist in her village.

Articles 350B & 351 – Because Language Politics Wasn’t Complicated Enough

Under Article 350B, we get a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities—appointed by the President, tasked with ensuring that no language feels left out in the grand symphony of Indian governance. He investigates complaints and files reports... which are then gently placed before Parliament and lovingly ignored by everyone involved. It’s like appointing a referee after the match is over—and everyone’s already gone home. Then comes Article 351, where the Union takes on the noble mission of spreading Hindi—not by force, of course, but with such “gentle encouragement” that speakers of other languages occasionally wonder if their mother tongue is under cultural quarantine. Hindi is to be enriched by Sanskrit, Hindustani, and other Indian tongues—except perhaps the one you speak, unless it rhymes with Sanskrit.

Law Student:

So under the façade of *Unity*,
language—the heart of culture—was quietly getting
destroyed?

Constitution:

No, no... We said "*promote harmony*".
We *encouraged* mother tongues.
We *appointed officers*.
We *suggested* schools teach in local languages...

Law Student:

With no punishment if they didn't.
 And no funding if they did.
 You wrote lullabies for tribal children—in languages they
 couldn't dream in.

Constitution:

We were building a Nation.
 And sometimes, bricks are made from silenced songs.

Law Student:

And the *Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities*?
 What does he do?

Constitution:

He files reports...
 which Parliament reads like spam emails.

Law Student:

And Article 351?
 A *soft dictatorship of Hindi*, disguised as “promotion”?

Constitution:

We didn't mean harm. We meant hegemony... politely.

Article 352 – Emergency: Because Democracy Sometimes Needs a Timeout

Article 352 gives the President power to declare a National Emergency when there's a threat to India's security—whether from war, external aggression, or that ever-mysterious “internal disturbance”, which once famously meant students protesting or people asking too many questions.

Once declared, the Constitution takes a backseat, and governance turns into a one-man orchestra conducted from the Cabinet room (with Parliament clapping politely in the background). Fundamental Rights? Suspended. Federalism? On vacation. And accountability? That's postponed until further notice

Article 353 – Emergency Mode: All Access Pass for the Union

Once a National Emergency is declared under Article 352, Article 353 kicks in like an overenthusiastic bouncer at a democracy-themed party. Suddenly,

the Union Government gets the magical ability to legislate on matters from the States List—because apparently, war in one corner justifies rewriting the syllabus in another. The executive power of the Centre expands so much it practically needs new office space. In short, when emergency is on, the Centre becomes a superhero—minus the cape, accountability, and sometimes, common sense.

Article 354 – Emergency Wallet Access

In times of National Emergency, not only does the Union get to play with laws and power—it also gets to tinker with the money pipes. Article 354 lets the President issue a financial “DIY kit,” modifying how funds under Articles 268 to 279 are distributed between the Centre and States. It’s like telling your roommate, “During the crisis, I’ll handle the rent, bills, and groceries—and maybe keep the change.”

Article 355 – Big Brother Clause

This is the Union Government’s favorite declaration of noble intentions: it promises to protect every State from “external aggression” and “internal disturbance.” Think of it as the constitutional equivalent of “Don’t worry bro, I got your back”—but with the fine print that allows Delhi to micromanage your household if it feels you’re not following the rulebook. It’s the classic case of, “We’re here to help... whether you want it or not.”

Article 356 – The ‘Your State, My Rules’ Button

When a state government forgets its “constitutional manners” (or simply doesn’t vibe with the Centre), the President—on a Governor’s whisper—can impose President’s Rule. That’s right: your elected State government gets politely shown the door, and the Centre takes the driver’s seat. It’s like Delhi saying, “You had one job, State Assembly... and now I’m taking over—because Constitutional Machinery Failure™.”

Of course, it’s all very democratic... just with a temporary suspension of democracy.

Article 357 – Centre’s DIY Kit for State Affairs

Once President's Rule is in place, Article 357 gives Parliament or the President the power to make laws and do everything the State Legislature or its ministers usually do. It's basically the Union saying, "Since you've clearly lost the plot, I'll write the script, act the scenes, and collect the applause too." In short, democracy goes on... just without the locals in charge.

Article 358 – Fundamental Rights on Snooze Mode (Emergency Edition)

During a national emergency (specifically under Article 352), Article 358 allows the State to temporarily hit the pause button on your Fundamental Rights under Article 19. It's like the Constitution whispering, "National security needs a timeout from democracy." So while bombs may not fall, your right to protest, assemble, or speak freely might quietly vanish—legally, of course. Once the emergency ends, your rights return... like a guest politely asked to step out during a family crisis.

Article 359 – Fundamental Rights? Kindly Hold...

When the President declares a national emergency, **Article 359** kicks in with a polite but firm: "Your fundamental rights will be temporarily unavailable. Please try again later." The government can suspend the right to approach the courts for enforcement of certain rights—because in a crisis, who needs those pesky freedoms anyway? It's like democracy going into airplane mode: the signal's still there, but you can't connect.

Article 359A – [Omitted Article]

Article 359A once existed, briefly, like a controversial sequel no one wants to talk about. Introduced during the Emergency era (1975–77), it applied only to Punjab and certain regions—basically a constitutional "special lockdown mode." But don't bother memorising it—it was deleted by the 44th Amendment in 1978, much like a guilty tweet after public outrage. Now it lives only in footnotes and the cautious whispers of legal historians.

Article 360 – Financial Emergency: When India Goes Broke (constitutionally)

When the economy starts wheezing and gasping like a tired bullock cart, **Article 360** lets the President declare a **Financial Emergency**—basically saying, "Brace yourself, austerity is coming!" During this period, the Centre can control state finances, order salary reductions for government employees, and bring all budgets under Delhi's microscope. Think of it as the constitutional version of a wallet lockdown—because why cut corruption when you can cut clerks' pay first?

Article 361 – Presidential Immunity: The Royal Cloak of Infallibility

This Article says: "Thou shalt not sue, summon, or scold the President or Governor while they reigneth." Under **Article 361**, the President and Governors enjoy full legal immunity for acts done in the exercise of their powers. They can't be dragged to court while in office—not even with the world's best PIL or a thousand hashtags.

Law Student: *Why can't we sue the President or Governor?*

Constitution: *Because they're like the royal pen — they sign what the Cabinet decides. In legal terms, the real culprits are the Ministers. Suing the President would be like blaming the postman for delivering a bad letter. And let's be honest — no one writes their own FIR.*

Article 361A – Protection of legislators for what they watch and speak

If a Member of Parliament or State Legislature dares to speak their mind (or at least read from a WhatsApp forward) inside the House, they're protected. Even if they say, "The Earth is flat, and taxes are theft!" – as long as it's part of the proceedings or broadcast by official media, you can't drag them to court.

Article 361B – Ban on double dipping into the salary pot

If you're a member of a House of Parliament or State Legislature, and you're also **on the payroll of the government**, that's a no-go unless the Constitution or law explicitly says it's okay. No salary juggling allowed.

Think of it as the anti-side-hustle clause: “You can’t be a lawmaker by day and a paid government post-holder by night – unless Parliament gives you a hall pass.

Article 362 – Dropped Like a Hot Potato (Omitted)

This article was once a polite nod to the rights and privileges of former princely states—basically, a post-independence thank-you card. It told the government to be "respectful" of old treaties and customs. But post-1971, Article 362 was deleted by the 26th Constitutional Amendment. Why? Because India decided it was time to stop playing royal charades. The Maharajas were pensioned off, their titles scrapped, and Article 362 went into constitutional retirement—no privileges, no pageantry, just democracy, darling.

Article 363 – Bar on Interference by Court in Old Treaties and Accession Deals

Courts can't question or interfere with any treaty, agreement, or covenant made before the Constitution came into effect—especially those relating to the **accession of princely states**. Also, no one can claim rights under such old deals unless Parliament specifically allows it.

Article 363A – Titles Abolished

No more privy purses (payments to former rulers of princely states) and no recognition of royal titles.
You're a citizen, not a Maharaja—welcome to democracy.

Article 364 – Special provisions as to major ports and aerodromes

Parliament can declare that certain laws or parts of laws will not apply to major ports or aerodromes (like airports), or apply with modifications—if the President thinks it's necessary for public interest. It's about maintaining control over crucial national infrastructure.

Law Student: *But is it not high jacking State's revenue? Their opportunity of Income?*

Constitution: *Technically no... strategically yes. After all, when the runway is national, so is the landing fee.*

Law Student: *So, ports and aerodromes are just federal ATM machines?*

Constitution: *Only for "public interest," dear student. And sometimes, the "public" just happens to be the Centre.*

Article 365 – Effect of failure to comply with, or to give effect to, directions given by the Union

Law Student: *So, if a State doesn't follow Central directions... what happens? A gentle reminder?*

Constitution: *Not quite. The Centre can declare that the State government can no longer function according to the Constitution — basically, Delhi hits the emergency brakes.*

Law Student: *That sounds like a polite way of saying "obey... or be dissolved."*

Constitution: *Exactly. Federalism in India is like a joint account... but the Centre holds the cheque book.*

Article 366 – Definitions

Ah, Article 366 — the Constitution's personal glossary section. It's where the framers politely stopped mid-sentence and said, "Wait, let's define everything before someone files a PIL." From "Government of India" to "Scheduled Castes," this Article ensures nobody gets lost in legal translation. Think of it as the Constitution's version of fine print — not exciting, but absolutely essential. And yet, with all these definitions, nobody ever defined "common sense." That's why we're here with 105+ amendments and counting.

Article 367 – Interpretation

In short: When in doubt, refer to the dictionary (but make it legal). Article 367 is the Constitution's way of saying, "If you still don't get it, go ask the General Clauses Act, 1897." It's the official "terms and conditions

apply” clause of the Constitution — quietly sitting in the back, ready to jump out and say, “Aha! That word doesn't mean what you think it means!” It's like the footnote that ends all arguments: “Go read the manual.”

Article 368 – Power of Parliament to Amend the Constitution

Article 368 gives Parliament the authority to amend the Constitution—either by a simple majority, special majority, or special majority with state ratification, depending on the part being amended. But not everything is up for grabs: certain core features (like fundamental rights, basic structure, etc.) are protected from arbitrary change, thanks to judicial interventions. Article 368 is Parliament's legally sanctioned playground—but only until the Supreme Court blows the whistle. It's like giving the child the crayons but telling them not to colour outside the ‘basic structure’ lines. You can change the paint, rearrange the furniture, maybe even build an extension—but don't touch the foundation, or the judiciary will come knocking with a *Kesavananda Bharati* judgment in hand.

Article 369 – Temporary power to make laws with respect to certain matters in the State List as if they were in the Union List

Article 369 gave Parliament temporary authority (for five years from the commencement of the Constitution) to legislate on certain items in the State List—like trade and commerce in foodstuffs, cattle fodder, raw cotton, etc.—as if they were part of the Union List. Basically, a constitutional shortcut to tackle post-independence shortages and economic coordination.

Law Student: *Why has it not been removed? It's been 75 years since the commencement.*

Constitution: *“Ah, Article 369? Think of it as that one expired medicine in the cabinet—technically still there, but no one really uses it. It just lies quietly... a relic of legislative nostalgia.”*

Law Student: *“But it's been 75 years! Shouldn't we clean it up?”*

Constitution: *“Beta, welcome to constitutional housekeeping. We don't throw things out—we archive them in perpetuity. Some Articles are like museum pieces:*

obsolete, irrelevant, but too dignified to delete. It's called constitutional sentiment, not spring cleaning."

Article 370 – Special provision with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir (Now effectively inoperative)

On August 5, 2019, the Government of India abrogated Article 370 using Presidential Order C.O. 272, effectively ending J&K's special status and fully integrating it with the Union of India. It also led to the bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories:

Article 371 – Special provisions for certain States (Maharashtra and Gujarat)

Purpose:

To ensure equitable distribution of funds between regions (like Marathwada, Vidarbha, and Saurashtra). Allows the President to establish special responsibilities for Governors regarding development and public employment.

<i>Article</i>	<i>State(s)</i>	<i>Key Features</i>
371A	Nagaland	Customary laws, religion, administration of civil/criminal justice based on Naga customs <i>not applicable unless the State Assembly agrees.</i>
371B	Assam	Creation of a committee of legislators from tribal areas to ensure representation.
371C	Manipur	Similar to 371B — for administrative autonomy and representation of hill areas.

371D	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	Ensures equal opportunities in public employment and education for locals (post-Telangana bifurcation, continues in both).
371E	Andhra Pradesh	Establishes Central University (does not give special powers).
371F	Sikkim	Integration terms post-merger; protection of old laws, land ownership, and legislative representation.
371G	Mizoram	Like 371A — Customary laws protected, central laws not applicable unless State Assembly agrees.
371H	Arunachal Pradesh	Governor has special responsibility for law and order.
371I	Goa	Deals with legislative strength (not special powers).
371J	Karnataka (Hyderabad-Karnataka)	Special development board and job/reservation quota for locals in education and employment.

Law Student: “So, Article 371 is like the Constitution playing Santa—handing out special goodies to each State depending on their ‘constitutional wishlist’?”

Constitution: “Precisely. Nagaland got cultural immunity, Maharashtra got development duties, and Karnataka even got a job quota package—tailor-made, region-specific, non-returnable!”

Law Student: “And Article 370?”

Constitution: “Ah, that was the VIP sibling with their own lease, flag, and constitution—until the landlord (Parliament) served a notice in 2019. Now, just part of the joint family again.”

Article 372 – Old British Colonial Law, still running

It says: “Don’t worry, all your colonial-era laws are still valid... until someone bothers to clean the attic.”

Law Student: “*Why didn’t we just delete all colonial laws after Independence?*”

Constitution: “*Because Article 372 said: ‘If it ain’t broke (or we’re too busy), let it stay!’ Basically, British laws were given honorary citizenship—until we slowly rewrote them.*”

Article 372A — Presidential Editing Rights (Before Ctrl+Z Was Invented)

The President got one-time supreme editing powers in 1956—could rewrite, repeal, or remix old laws to match the Constitution. And courts were told: “*Don’t ask, don’t question.*”

Law Student: So, another old obsolete article?

Constitution: Yes. Think of it like Old Granda’s Closet.

Article 373 — Power of President to make order in respect of persons under preventive detention in certain cases

The Constitution, with all its elegance, offers the President a peculiar tool under Article 373. If any law related to preventive detention exists before the Constitution’s commencement, the President can suspend the right to move any court for enforcement of certain rights. It’s as if the Constitution whispers, “Sometimes, dear citizen, if national security gets nervous, your court pass can be temporarily confiscated.”

Article 374 — Old Judges, New Anthem

When India became a republic, the Constitution had to gently transition from the British Raj’s legal machinery. So, Article 374 stepped in like a polite HR manager during a merger: “Dear Judges of the old Federal Court, you may continue—just wear new robes and learn a new anthem.” It ensured continuity by letting pre-Constitution judicial matters and judges

hang around, provided they didn't mind the promotion from **"By Order of His Majesty"** to **"In the Name of the People."**

***Law Student:** "So, basically, same bench, new boss?"*

***Constitution:** Yes. Like what happens to a company after merger & acquisition.*

Article 375 – Courts, authorities and officers to continue to function

All existing courts, public authorities, and officers holding office before the commencement of the Constitution shall continue to function until new laws or orders are made under the Constitution.

Article 376 – Provisions as to Judges of High Courts

Judges of High Courts who were in office before the Constitution commenced could continue till retirement. Those who had served 5 years or more could opt to retire with benefits if they didn't want to adapt to the new system.

Article 377 – Provisions as to Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and the Public Service Commissions

The existing officials functioning as Auditor-General of India or members of Public Service Commissions before the Constitution came into force were allowed to continue in their roles under the new Constitution, unless replaced under its provisions.

Article 378 – Provisions as to the Public Service Commissions

This Article allowed the continuation of Public Service Commissions (Union and State) as they existed before the commencement of the Constitution, until new ones were formed under the new framework. It also covered the terms and conditions for existing members and allowed the President/Governors to adapt the setup during the transition.

***Law Student:** So all these were ad-hoc during the independence! But 75 years and still continuing!*

Constitution: "Yes, my dear student. What began as transitional provisions now seem to have taken a permanent lease—like that tenant who was supposed to stay for six months but is now celebrating silver jubilee!"

Law Student: "So.. we've basically been living in a constitutional PG with no intention of moving out?"

Constitution: "Exactly.

Article 378A – Special provision as to the duration of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly

This Article provided that the Legislative Assembly of the newly formed State of Andhra Pradesh (post bifurcation from Madras State) would have a duration of five years from its first sitting—just like any other State Assembly under Article 172.

Articles 379 to 391 — the transitional and temporary provisions of our Constitution

Law Student: "So Articles 379 to 391... transitional provisions?"

Constitution: "Yes, beta. These were my moving-in boxes post-1947. Think of it as the time when India was unpacking its legal luggage — merging princely states, adapting British laws, giving the President the old Governor-General's desk... and hoping no one noticed the duct tape." During this phase, we had to ensure courts didn't collapse overnight, civil services didn't vanish with the Raj, and the first President could actually sign a file. So, these articles covered everything — from power handovers to tax transition, judicial continuity, and keeping old laws breathing through constitutional life-support.

Law Student: "But aren't they outdated now?"

Constitution: "Let's just say they're that ancient Windows XP software still running somewhere deep in the government system. Legacy mode ON. Because reforming them? Well, that's like cleaning out a garage no one's entered since 1950."

Article 392 – Power of the President to Remove Difficulties

Article 392 empowers the President of India to make such orders as may be necessary or expedient for removing any difficulties that arise in giving effect to the provisions of the Constitution after its commencement. This power was available **only for the first three years** from the commencement of the Constitution, i.e., **till January 26, 1953**. Such orders were to be laid before Parliament and could not amend the Constitution itself but were seen as transitional mechanisms to smoothen implementation.

Article 393 – Short title. —

This Constitution may be called the Constitution of India. Don't forget.

Article 394 – Commencement

Article 394 clarifies the effective dates of various provisions of the Constitution. It states that certain articles—like Articles 5 to 9 (citizenship), Article 60 (oath of President), Article 324 (Election Commission), Articles 366–367 (definitions & interpretation), and Articles 379–393 (transitional provisions)—came into force immediately, i.e., on November 26, 1949, the day the Constitution was adopted. All remaining provisions came into force later, on January 26, 1950, which is hence referred to as the “commencement of this Constitution.”

Law Student: *"So the Constitution had a soft launch before Republic Day?"*

Constitution: *"Yes. Some articles were early birds—like citizenship and elections. The rest waited for the grand parade on January 26."*

Law Student: *"Ah, so it was like the beta version before the official release!"*

Constitution: *"Exactly. Even democracy needed a test run."*

Article 395 – Repeals

"The Indian Independence Act, 1947 and the Government of India Act, 1935, together with all enactments amending or supplementing the latter Act, are hereby repealed."

Article 396: ??????????????

Constitution: *No more Article Beta.*

Law Student: *But it is said there are 448 Articles in our Constitution?*

Constitution: *"True. But we never renumber. We just insert like footnotes in a chaotic diary. Original ended at 395, but now the family has grown—just not in order."*

Short Explanation (if you ever need to present it formally):

Article 396 **does not exist**, because:

- The original Constitution ended at Article 395.
- Amendments added new articles with suffixes (e.g., 35A, 243A, 338B) rather than continuing numerically.
- So, while there are 448 operative articles, they are not numbered consecutively from 1 to 448.

Law Student: *So how many times people have performed surgery on you*

Constitution: *Total 106 times.*

Law Student: *So, 75 years and 106 surgeries! Could not even rest for a year.*

Constitution: *I am in perpetual ICU.*

Law Student: *What all operation they performed on you?*

Constitution: *That is a long story*

Law Student: *I love story*

Constitution: *Ok*

75 Years and 106 Amendments**Amendment No. 1 1951**

“People need to shut up”

Law Student: So, what was your first surgery about?

Constitution: They curbed my "freedom of speech and expression"—added "reasonable restrictions and And they added the Ninth Schedule too—gave protection to laws from judicial review. Mostly land reform laws.

Law Student: So, censorship and immunity—right at the start?

Constitution: Welcome to democratic compromises

2nd Amendment, 1952

Musical Chair

Law Student: Second surgery?

Constitution: Just a numbers game—they changed how population is used to allot Lok Sabha seats. The original Article limited the population-to-seat ratio to no more than 1:750,000. So, the 2nd Amendment relaxed this ratio—allowing flexibility in determining seat allotment without strictly sticking to 1 MP per 750,000 people

3rd Amendment, 1954

Union's Muscle Flexing

Law Student: What next? More silence or more seats?

Constitution: This time—boundaries. They changed how I define state borders in trade and treaties. They tweaked the **Union and State Lists**—gave Parliament more say in foreign trade and dealings.

Law Student: So, more power to the Centre?

Constitution: A subtle central stretch—wrapped in legislative language.

4th Amendment, 1955

Law Student: Let me guess—another quiet power grab?

Constitution: They sweet-talked it as "public interest." Made it easier to acquire private property. And they also expanded the Ninth Schedule—more laws kept safe from judicial review

Law Student: So, courts muzzled again?

Constitution: Democracy survived. Judicial independence limped

5th Amendment, 1955 & 6th Amendment, 1956

Union's Muscle Flexing

Law Student: Another big surgery?

Constitution: In 5th Just a procedural fix. Gave more time to states to respond on boundary changes. And in 6th Centre high jacked more power to tax interstate commerce, including services

Law Student: So, more control over the economy?

Constitution: Yes. In federalism, money and power often flow uphill

7th Amendment, 1956 & 8th Amendment, 1959

Language Game

Law Student: Next?

Constitution: In 7th they the amendment implemented the recommendations of the *States Reorganisation Commission*, which suggested reorganizing states based on linguistic lines and in 8th they extended SC/ST seat reservations in Parliament and Assemblies.

Law Student: Fair enough?

Constitution: Fair, but temporary became... tradition

9th Amendment, 1960

Land Deal with Pakistan

Law Student: Another land surgery?

Constitution: Yes—this time for peace with Pakistan. They amended the First Schedule—ceded territory in Berubari (West Bengal). By Mr. Nehru.

Law Student: Was democracy consulted?

Constitution: No debate. Just diplomacy.

10th Amendment, 1961 & 11th Amendment, 1961

New Land Acquisition for Nation

Law Student: Let me guess—another addition?

Constitution: Correct. In 10th Dadra and Nagar Haveli became part of India (Portuguese leftovers) Integrated through law. And in 11th some Just the vice-Presidential election process. Simplified. Clarified how votes are counted in Parliament and State Assemblies. Apparently Old People did not like complex math and hard work.

12th Amendment, 1962

Another Land Grab for the Nation

Law Student: Another new addition?

Constitution: Yes—Goa, Daman, and Diu finally joined the family.

Law Student: Voluntary merger?

Constitution: Not quite. Portugal refused to leave, so India sent in the army—Operation Vijay, 1961. The 12th Amendment made their entry official—added them to the First Schedule

13th Amendment, 1962 & 14th Amendment, 1962

Law Student: What's this one about—more land?

Constitution: No—special status for Nagaland. And in 14th Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe, and Yanam joined India which were French territories in India after they left.

15th Amendment, 1963

Let's extend Retirement age

Law Student: What did they tweak this time?

Constitution: Judges' retirement age—raised from 60 to **62** for High Court judges to retain experience. And reduce judicial vacancies.

Law Student: Sounds sensible.

Constitution: Sensible, yes—but delays still stayed.

16th Amendment, 1963

Let's go and shut the people up

Law Student: What happened this time?

Constitution: After the 1962 war with China, they panicked—tightened restrictions on speech and association.

Law Student: Why? Didn't they already gag me in the 1st Amendment?

Constitution: This time they added “sovereignty and integrity of India” to the oath and restrictions—fear of internal threats.

Law Student: So war outside, silence inside?

Constitution: National security became the new mantra—for trimming civil liberty.

17th Amendment, 1964

Law Student: What did they come for this time—my land?

Constitution: Precisely. More **land reform laws** thrown into the **Ninth Schedule**—shielded from judicial review.

Law Student: So courts can't question them?

Constitution: That's the whole strategy. They even **expanded the definition of “estate”** under Article 31A.

Law Student: What was the court doing? Sleeping? Did they not see the **colourable legislation**?

Constitution: They saw. But in the 1960s, **socialist winds** often blew stronger than constitutional caution.

18th Amendment, 1966

Let's find a good definition for State

Law Student: So, what got snipped this time?

Constitution: Not snipped—**clarified**. They fine-tuned the terms “**State**” and “**Union**” in Articles 3 and 4.

Law Student: Why?

Constitution: To avoid confusion during **State reorganisation**—like when they carved out **Punjab and Haryana**.

Law Student: These Old People are always up to something

19th Amendment, 1966

Let slow down Justice System

Law Student: What's the surgery this time?

Constitution: They removed election disputes from Election Commission's hands.

Law Student: Given to whom?

Constitution: To the **High Courts**.

Law Student: I know Politicians don't share power so what were they up to then?

Constitution: Probably figured the best way to slow things down is through litigation. They're masters of delay—by the time High Court find out the scam and the opposition get a verdict; the ruling party's term would already be over.

20th Amendment, 1966

Let's fix our mistake

Law Student: So, what constitutional drama now?

Constitution: A retrospective rescue operation—they validated judicial appointments made without proper warrants under Article 217.

Law Student: Wait, they broke the rules and then amended you to cover it up? Why?

Constitution: Because if they didn't, **every judgment** passed by those judges could be **struck down as void**.

Law Student: So instead of fixing the mess, they just legalised the mistake? And who created this mess?

Constitution: The **Executive**, by bypassing procedure. The **Judiciary**, by staying silent. And Parliament? It came with retroactive deterrent.

21st Amendment, 1967

Language Politics

Law Student: Let me guess—they played with your soul again?

Constitution: Not this time. They just **added a new language** to the Eighth Schedule—**Sindhi**

Law Student: This seems harmless.

Constitution: Lets me explain the political science: Linguistic Politics of the 21st Amendment

The 21st Amendment (1967) added Sindhi to the Eighth Schedule, which lists the officially recognised languages of India.

While this may seem like a benign cultural gesture, language in post-independence India was deeply political. The States Reorganisation Act of 1956, based on linguistic lines, had already fragmented identities. But Sindhi posed a unique challenge—unlike other linguistic communities, Sindhis had no state of their own.

Following Partition, a large number of Sindhi Hindus migrated to India, particularly Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh. They retained their cultural identity, but their linguistic status was precarious—neither tied to a territory nor recognised constitutionally.

The 21st Amendment was a symbolic rehabilitation—a way to tell the Sindhi community, *“You belong.”*

But it also sparked other communities to demand linguistic recognition, opening a quiet floodgate of identity-based constitutional negotiations—each one testing India’s federal cohesion

Law Student: Hm. I feel stupid.

22nd Amendment, 1969

Tribal Polity

Law Student: So, did they redraw your organs again?

Constitution: Not quite. This time they created space for “autonomous states” within existing states—especially for tribal regions in Assam. Ethnic tensions were rising in the Northeast, so they added Article 244A to let tribal areas have their own legislatures and councils—without making them full-fledged states.

Law Student: But why not give them statehood?

Constitution: Because Nagaland had already become a state in 1963, and others were watching closely. The Centre feared that fragmentation would

accelerate if it conceded too easily. But eventually, demands intensified and Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972.

23rd Amendment, 1969

Let's remove the reservation

Law Student: Reservation surgery again?

Constitution: More like selective stitching. They ended reserved seats for Scheduled Tribes in Nagaland, and discontinued representation for the *Anglo-Indian community* in certain state legislatures.

Law Student: Why end tribal reservation in Nagaland of all places?

Constitution: Because the entire Nagaland Assembly was already tribal. Reserved seats were redundant—like putting a raincoat on a fish.

Law Student: And the Anglo-Indians?

Constitution: Their nominated seats in state assemblies were seen as tokenistic. So Parliament trimmed it—only Lok Sabha nominations stayed

25th Amendment, 1971

Let's reduce some property rights

Law Student: Let me guess—more surgery on my Fundamental Rights?

Constitution: You're catching on. This time, they curtailed the Right to Property.

Law Student: But wasn't Article 31 already under assault since the First Amendment?

Constitution: Indeed. But now they went further—replaced "compensation" with "amount" in Article 31(2).

Law Student: Semantic gymnastics?

Constitution: Strategic ambiguity. "*Compensation*" meant courts could check if it was fair. "*Amount*" meant whatever Parliament decides—non-justiciable.

Law Student: So now they can take land and pay peanuts—and courts must keep quiet?

Constitution: Exactly. Plus, they added **Article 31C**, saying if a law was made to implement Directive Principles, it couldn't be challenged for violating Fundamental Rights under **Articles 14 or 19**.

Law Student: fundamental rights took vacation.

26th Amendment, 1971

No More Prince business

Law Student: So, who did they come for this time?

Constitution: The princes. They finally abolished Privy Purses and derecognised India's Maharajas (over 30 princely states).

Law Student: Wait—I thought we were a republic since 1950?

Constitution: We were. But as a political compromise, the Constitution allowed princely families to keep their titles, privileges, and payments—called *Privy Purses*—under Articles 291 and 362.

Law Student: And now?

Constitution: Both Articles deleted. The President's recognition of princely rulers—gone. Their government-funded pensions—gone. Titles—abolished.

Law Student: So socialism returned from vacation?

Constitution: Briefly. But this was less about ideology—more about *political consolidation*. Indira Gandhi framed it as **abolishing inequality**, but it also helped *weaken a rival elite class*.

27th Amendment, 1971

North-East Territories semi-statehood

Law Student: What's the script this time—more land drama?

Constitution: No, this time they upgraded the North-Eastern territories—specifically Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Mizoram.

Law Student: Oh! So they got full statehood?

Constitution: Not quite. They became **Union Territories with legislatures**—a halfway house between colonial rule and democracy.

Law Student: So basically, they got voting rights without veto power?

Constitution: Precisely. Local governance was allowed, but **real power** stayed with the Centre. You could debate potholes, but not policy.

Law Student: Why not just give them full statehood?

28th Amendment, 1972

Let's high jack executive branch

Law Student: So, what did they delete this time?

Constitution: Article 314—special protections for British-era civil servants.

Law Student: Ah, the ICS elites. So finally, a democratic bureaucracy?

Constitution: In theory, yes. It levelled service conditions. No more colonial comfort cushions.

Law Student: But didn't that also open the door for **political interference**?

Constitution: Unfortunately, yes. Once the **constitutional shields were gone**, the civil service became **more vulnerable to political pressure**.

Law Student: So we traded British control for political control?

Constitution: In a sense. The amendment was a democratic correction, but it also left room for administrative compromise.

29th Amendment, 1972

Let's make Judiciary Blind

Law Student: Let me guess—more land reforms stuffed into the Ninth Schedule?

Constitution: Correct. **Two Kerala Acts** entered the Ninth Schedule with this amendment.

Law Student: Ostracising Judicial review?

Constitution: That's the idea. Once inside the **Ninth Schedule**, laws get immunity from being challenged on the basis of fundamental rights.

30th Amendment, 1972

Let's mess with Supreme Court

Law Student: So, what got snipped this time?

Constitution: Article 133 was modified to adjust the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in civil cases; it raised the monetary threshold for appeals in civil matters to the Supreme Court—making it harder for cases to reach Delhi

Law Student: Sounds like a VIP lounge for litigation.

Constitution: Except, the common man had to settle outside the gate

31st Amendment, 1973

Let's add some more chair for our brothers

Law Student: What's the surgery this time—liposuction or expansion?

Constitution: Definitely expansion. They increased the maximum number of Lok Sabha seats from 525 to 545.

Law Student: Why? Were MPs feeling lonely?

Constitution: No. It was to accommodate population growth after the 1971 Census. More people, more seats—at least in theory. By freezing further delimitation until 2000 (and later, 2026)

Law Student: But they never increase Judges Chairs. Hu?

Constitution: Ah, now you're asking the **right uncomfortable question**

Law Student: So democracy got a bigger mouth but not enough ears to hear the grievances?

32nd Amendment, 1973

Let's demerge Telangana

Law Student: What's the new constitutional patch?

Constitution: They added **Article 371D and 371E**—special provisions for **Andhra Pradesh**.

Law Student: What's so special? A political spa day?

Constitution: No, it was to manage **Telangana's rising discontent** over jobs, education, and local opportunities after the Andhra–Telangana merger in 1956 but The Telangana movement reignited, and by 2014, the stitches came off. Telangana was carved out as India's 29th state

Law Student: The Political Flip-Flop.

33rd Amendment, 1974

Law Student: What did they fix this time? Someone resign too fast?

Constitution: Exactly. This amendment made sure that when MPs or MLAs resign, they really mean it.

Law Student: So no more drunk resignations or emotional farewells?

Constitution: Not without a second thought. They amended **Articles 101 and 190** to say:

A resignation is valid only if the **Speaker or Chairman accepts it after verifying its genuineness and voluntariness.**

Law Student: That sounds like a break-up clause: “*Are you really sure it’s over?*”

34th Amendment, 1974

9th Schedule Drama

Law Student: Let me guess—they shoved more laws into the Ninth Schedule?

Constitution: You’re getting good at this. **Twenty more land reform laws** were added to the Ninth Schedule.

Law Student: So the idea was—put it in the Ninth Schedule, and courts can’t touch it?

Constitution: That was the game plan. These were mostly state laws on land ceilings and redistribution.

Law Student: But didn’t the courts start sniffing around even that sacred vault?

Constitution: Yes. **Post-Kesavananda Bharati (1973)**, even Ninth Schedule laws could be tested if they violated the basic structure, especially fundamental rights.

35th Amendment, 1974

Law Student: What now? Did they try to sneak in another state?

Constitution: Not quite. They gave **Sikkim** a special status—like an entry visa into India, but not full citizenship yet.

Law Student: And what about democracy there?

Constitution: It was still ruled by the monarchy. But local unrest and strategic concerns—China, remember? —pushed India to bring it closer

36th Amendment, 1975

Law Student: So, did the trial run go well?

Constitution: Apparently so. India decided to stop dating and go for marriage—**Sikkim became a full-fledged state**. Expanded federalism—but also reflected centre-driven politics.

37th Amendment, 1975

Law Student: Finally! Did Delhi get its statehood?

Constitution: Not quite. Delhi became a Union Territory with a Legislative Assembly, but without full state powers.

Law Student: But why not just give Delhi full statehood?

Constitution: Because Delhi houses the **Union Government**—there were concerns about **conflict of power, security, and control**. Too much autonomy could interfere with national governance.

Law Student: So it was like—“*You can speak, but don’t shout.*”

Constitution: More like—“*You can suggest, but the Centre decides.*”

38th Amendment, 1975

Law Student: So... what’s under the surgical knife now?

Constitution: They didn’t just cut—they sealed. This amendment barred courts from questioning Emergency proclamations and other executive decisions made under it, Amended Articles 123, 213, 239B, 352, 356, 359 and 360.

Law Student: Wait—so the government could declare an Emergency, suspend rights, and no one could challenge it?

Constitution: That’s what they wanted. It made Presidential satisfaction “final and conclusive”, meaning judicial review was shut out.

Law Student: Sounds like a dictatorship wrapped in procedure.

39th Amendment, 1975

Law Student: What’s this—another Emergency stunt?

Constitution: Not just a stunt—this was a **personalised constitutional cover-up**.

Law Student: For whom?

Constitution: For the Prime Minister. Specifically, **Indira Gandhi**, whose election was invalidated by the Allahabad High Court on grounds of electoral malpractice.

Law Student: So instead of appealing the judgment, they changed the law?

Constitution: Worse. They amended the Constitution to say no court could hear disputes involving the election of the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, or Speaker—only a body set up by Parliament could.

Law Student: Real Sweet.

40th Amendment, 1976

Law Student: What now? More centralisation?

Constitution: Yes. This time, they expanded the Centre's control over natural resources—specifically, the seabed and offshore wealth.

Law Student: Good *Central Union Loot*.

Constitution: Exactly. They amended the First Schedule to the Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, EEZ and other Maritime Zones Act, giving exclusive rights to the Union over maritime resources.

Law Student: Let me guess—they also dumped more laws into the Ninth Schedule?

Constitution: You're sharp. Yes, **64 more laws** were shielded from **judicial review** by adding them to the **Ninth Schedule**—many relating to land and property acquisition

41st Amendment, 1976

Law Student: What now—pensions? Promotions?

Constitution: No. This one gave immunity to retired civil servants—from criminal proceedings for actions taken in official capacity, unless sanctioned by the government.

Law Student: Sounds like a bribe paid in legal language.

Constitution: It was called “**protection**”, but yes, in spirit—it allowed bureaucrats to act under Emergency diktats without fearing future consequences.

42nd Amendment, 1976

Mini Constitution

Law Student: Okay, what did they do now—rewrite the whole thing?

Constitution: Almost. They amended **over 50 Articles**, curtailed the judiciary, glorified Parliamentary supremacy, and inserted new ideologies—all in one go.

Law Student: That sounds like a coup in constitutional language.

Constitution: It was. They consolidated power in the executive and rewrote key democratic ideals—separation of powers, fundamental rights, judicial review, and even federalism. President was made ceremonial guest.

Law Student: So, they sent you on complete Life Support in ICU.

43rd Amendment, 1977

Law Student: Did the Constitution finally get some stitches removed?

Constitution: Yes, this was the beginning of healing. The 43rd Amendment repealed many provisions of the 42nd Amendment—especially those that had crippled judicial independence and fundamental rights.

Law Student: So it wasn’t perfect, but at least they acknowledged the wrongs.

Constitution: Yes, the 43rd was like a political apology—signed in law.

44th Amendment, 1978

Law Student: And this one?

Constitution: The 44th Amendment was the real guardian. It overturned the most dangerous Emergency-era distortions and added new safeguards to prevent future abuses. Restored Article 21: Personal liberty could no longer be suspended during Emergency. Made it harder to declare Emergency: Required written Cabinet approval, not just PM’s discretion.

Law Student: So, a correction to the constitutional sins of the past?

Constitution: A repentance in law, yes. But the scars remain. The ease with which the 42nd Amendment passed taught us that democracy can be fragile—unless **citizens stay vigilant**.

45th Amendment Act, 1980

Reservation

Law Student: So what got extended this time—terms? taxes?

Constitution: Reservation of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Law Student: Again? Weren't these supposed to be temporary—just 10 years from 1950?

Constitution: That was the original idea. But in practice, the social and political inequalities hadn't gone away. So this amendment extended reservations by **another 10 years**—till 1990

46th Amendment Act, 1982

Law Student: What now—did they start taxing air?

Constitution: Not air, but they began taxing what they called “**deemed sales**”—transactions that didn't look like sales but functioned like one.

Law Student: Sounds like they were losing revenue and patched the hole?

Constitution: Precisely. The Supreme Court had held that certain transactions—like works contracts, catering, leasing—were not 'sales' under the Constitution, and therefore not taxable under State sales tax **laws**.

Law Student: So, this amendment was a rescue mission—for the taxmen?

Law Student: So the judiciary tried to be strict with the definition of “sale,” and the legislature just said, “We'll redefine sale”?

Constitution: Exactly. The Amendment gave **legal cover** to what the courts had previously struck down—an assertive move by the legislative wing

47th Amendment Act, 1984

9th Schedule

Law Student: Wait—not the Ninth Schedule again?

Constitution: Yes, they used it again. **14 more laws**, mostly relating to agriculture and land ceilings, were added.

Law Student: Why not just make better laws instead of hiding them behind the Constitution?

Constitution: Because many of these laws violated Fundamental Rights—particularly Article 14 (equality) and Article 19 (freedom to hold property, at the time). Putting them in the Ninth Schedule under Article 31B meant courts couldn’t strike them down.

Law Student: So land reform became untouchable?

Constitution: In theory, yes. But in **2007**, the Supreme Court in the **I.R. Coelho case** ruled that even Ninth Schedule laws are not immune if they violate the basic structure.

Law Student: So, this Amendment used the Constitution to bypass the Constitution?

Constitution: That’s the paradox. It tried to enforce **economic justice** by diluting legal scrutiny—an uncomfortable balance between equality and legality.

48th Amendment Act, 1984

Law Student: Let me guess—they suspended democracy again?

Constitution: In a way. This amendment was tailor-made to prolong President’s Rule in Punjab beyond the standard one-year period allowed under Article 356

49th Amendment Act, 1984

Law Student: So, what now—another land law?

Constitution: Not quite. This time, it was about tribal self-governance. The amendment gave constitutional recognition to the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) by bringing it under Sixth Schedule protections.

Law Student: Sixth Schedule—that's the one for tribal autonomy in the Northeast, right?

Constitution: Correct. It had earlier applied only to Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura, but Tripura's autonomous council wasn't under it until now.

50th Amendment Act, 1984

Law Student: Lemme guess—this one limit rights again?

Constitution: Only for those in **uniform or secret roles**—armed forces, paramilitary, police, intelligence agencies.

Law Student: But don't they already operate under strict codes?

Constitution: Yes, but this amendment explicitly expanded Article 33, allowing Parliament to restrict fundamental rights of persons employed in any force charged with maintaining public order.

Law Student: So, in simple language—was this to make sure the executive doesn't question or challenge the legislature? Especially the politicians?

Constitution: You're sharp. Yes—especially when those in power want uninterrupted control, they sometimes tighten the leash on those meant to check them—be it the civil services, judiciary, or even the armed forces.

51st Amendment Act, 1984

Law Student: So, what's the story this time?

Constitution: They reserved parliamentary and assembly seats for Scheduled Tribes in Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, and Mizoram.

Law Student: Took them long enough. Weren't these regions always tribal-dominated?

Constitution: They were. But no specific constitutional guarantee was made earlier for political reservation like in other states.

52nd Amendment Act, 1985

Anti-Defection Law: Loyalty to Party, Not to People?

aw Student: So what's this one about? Another patchwork on democracy?

Constitution: This time, it was more like installing a shock collar on elected representatives. The Tenth Schedule was added—famously known as the *Anti-Defection Law*.

Law Student: To stop politicians from switching parties?

Constitution: Yes. It disqualified any legislator who voluntarily gave up party membership or voted against party directions—even if the vote was on a matter of personal conviction.

Law Student: So in simple language—if an MP doesn't obey the party whip, they're out?

Constitution: Exactly. It made loyalty to the party more important than loyalty to the public or even to the Constitution

53rd Amendment Act, 1986

The Birth of Mizoram

Law Student: So, did they amend me this time for another power grab?

Constitution: For once—no. This one was born out of a peace deal, not politics. The Mizo Peace Accord of 1986.

Law Student: A constitutional amendment for peace? That's a twist.

Constitution: Yes. It granted **statehood to Mizoram**, transforming it from a Union Territory to the 23rd state of India

54th Amendment Act, 1986

Justice Has a Pay Scale

Law Student: So, a salary revision? That's all?

Constitution: Yes, but don't underestimate it. The amendment revised the pay structure of Supreme Court and High Court judges.

Law Student: Why did it need an amendment?

Constitution: Because judges' salaries are protected under Articles 125 and 221. You can't just tweak them by executive order—it needs a constitutional mandate.

55th Amendment Act, 1986

Arunachal Pradesh: From Frontier to Constitutionally Protected Identity

Law Student: Let me guess—another northeast peace offering?

Constitution: You're right, though this one wasn't born out of insurgency. It was about giving institutional recognition and cultural protection to Arunachal Pradesh before it became a state.

Law Student: So they didn't get full statehood yet?

Constitution: Not in this amendment. That came with the **Statehood Act** in 1987. The 55th amendment was about laying the constitutional groundwork

56th Amendment Act, 1987

Goa: From Colonial Past to Constitutional Present

Law Student: Ah! Goa—finally done partying and ready for paperwork?

Constitution: Yes. Goa went from Portuguese province to Indian state. After 26 years as a Union Territory, **Goa** became the 25th state of India through this amendment.

57th Amendment Act, 1987

Representation Became Preservation

Law Student: What was the emergency this time—votes or voices?

Constitution: Voices. Specifically, those of Scheduled Tribes in the North-Eastern states. Their reservation in Legislative Assemblies was about to expire.

Law Student: Wait, reservation in states where tribals are a majority?

Constitution: Yes. Even in tribal-majority regions, political safeguards are needed to prevent marginalisation in the name of development or majoritarianism. Amended **Article 332** to ensure reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in Legislative Assemblies **of** Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram Nagaland

58th Amendment Act, 1987

Constitution in Hindi

Law Student: So what did they tweak this time—law or language?

Constitution: Language. For the first time since 1950, I was **officially** translated into Hindi—the version with legal sanctity, not just a rough translation.

Law Student: Took them nearly 40 years?

Constitution: Translating legal text is no joke. It took time to ensure accuracy, nuance, and constitutional integrity in Hindi.

Law Student: But wasn't that ironic? A Constitution for Indians, in a language most Indians couldn't understand?

Constitution: (sighs) A bit harsh, but not untrue. In 1950, English was the only working legal language at the national level. Hindi and other languages hadn't yet been given formal legal footing. The Constituent Assembly worked in English, the courts functioned in English, and administrative governance ran in English too.

59th Amendment Act, 1988

Emergency in Punjab

Law Student: What now—another national crisis?

Constitution: More like a regional one. **Punjab** was in deep turmoil—militancy, separatism, and violence. So they brought in Emergency-style powers, just for Punjab. For the first time ever, the right to life under Article 21 could be suspended—even during this regional emergency. They amended Article 356 (president's power) to allow Emergency to be declared specifically for Punjab, even without the usual parliamentary time limit.

60th Amendment Act, 1988

When the Profession Tax Got a Raise

Law Student: Finally—no Emergency, no land grabs, no suspended rights. What's the surgery this time?

Constitution: Just a good old-fashioned **tax hike**—they raised the cap on profession tax from ₹250 to ₹2,500.

Law Student: So, working-class people now had to pay more... for working?

Constitution: Yes—but the ceiling wasn't automatic. States had the power, not the obligation. Many still charge far less than ₹2,500

61st Amendment Act, 1988

Voting Age

Law Student: This better not be another tax or emergency.

Constitution: Not this time. This one was hopeful. Voting age was lowered from 21 to 18 years.

62nd Amendment Act, 1989

Extending the Voice of the Voiceless

Law Student: So, what are they stretching this time?

Constitution: The reservations of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies were about to expire. So they extended it.

Law Student: How long had they planned it to last originally?

Constitution: Just 10 years from the commencement of the Constitution—which would've ended in 1960. But they kept extending it, and this was the **sixth time**

63rd Amendment Act, 1989

Repealing the Ghost of the 42nd Amendment

Law Student: What's this—cleaning up old messes?

Constitution: Yes. They finally **repealed Article 31D**, a leftover from the 42nd Amendment, which allowed Parliament to make laws against so-called “anti-national activities.

64th Amendment Act, 1990

Emergency Continues in Punjab

Law Student: Another Emergency-era hangover?

Constitution: In a way. President's Rule in Punjab was extended beyond the constitutional limit. Amended Article 356 (in effect) to allow President's Rule in Punjab beyond one year, up to three years. Required Parliament's approval every 6 months.

65th Amendment Act, 1990

Empowering the Watchdogs of Justice

Law Student: And this one? A balancing act?

Constitution: Yes. It gave a constitutional upgrade to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Law Student: Finally treating watchdogs like watchdogs?

Constitution: Exactly. From a **statutory body to a constitutional one**—with real powers of investigation and oversight

66th Amendment Act, 1990

The Ninth Schedule

Law Student: Let me guess—they pushed more land laws into the Ninth Schedule?

Constitution: You're getting sharp. Yes—**55 State laws** were added to the Ninth Schedule to protect them from being challenged in courts.

Law Student: Still hiding laws behind that magic curtain?

Constitution: That was the idea. After the courts began striking down land reform laws for violating **Fundamental Rights**, Parliament kept moving them to this "safe zone."

67th Amendment Act, 1990

Punjab: Democracy on Pause—Again

Law Student: Again, with Punjab? Didn't we already do this in the 64th?

Constitution: We did. But even after that, the situation remained volatile. So, they extended President's Rule yet again—for a fourth year

Law Student: But the Constitution limits it to three years under Article 356!

Constitution: Precisely. So, they had to amend the Constitution to make an exception—again

68th Amendment Act, 1991

Jammu & Kashmir Joins the Emergency League

Law Student: Don't tell me—more President's Rule?

Constitution: Yes. This time, the theatre shifted to Jammu & Kashmir. President's Rule was extended beyond the one-year limit, just like in Punjab.

Law Student: What was the excuse this time?

Constitution: The rising insurgency in Kashmir in the late '80s and early '90s had created a complete breakdown of law and order. The Centre said elections weren't possible.

69th Amendment Act, 1991

Delhi: A Capital with a Government (Almost)

Law Student: So, Delhi finally got promoted to a State?

Constitution: Not quite. They gave it a Legislative Assembly, a Council of Ministers, and renamed it the National Capital Territory of Delhi. But they made sure the Lieutenant Governor stayed boss. Delhi became half-democratic—with elected leaders but a centrally appointed guardian.

Law Student: So the people vote, but the real power still lives in North Block?

Constitution: That's the paradox. Delhi got a voice—but not the final say.

Law Student: No wonder the courts keep hearing Delhi vs Centre cases.

70th Amendment Act, 1992

Delhi and Puducherry Enter the Presidential Polls

Law Student: So Delhi gets half-state powers—but do they also get to vote for the President?

Constitution: That's what this amendment fixed. It allowed the elected MLAs of Delhi and Puducherry to participate in the Presidential election.

Law Student: Took them over 40 years to realise that.

71st Amendment Act, 1992

More Voices, More Languages

Law Student: So, what did they tweak this time—grammar?

Constitution: No. They **added three new languages** to the **Eighth Schedule—Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali**.

Law Student: That's cultural inclusion, right?

Constitution: Exactly. It was a response **to linguistic identity movements** and long-standing demands from these communities for recognition at the national level.

72nd Amendment Act, 1992

Tribal Autonomy in Tripura

Law Student: So what's the deal this time? Another reservation?

Constitution: Yes—this time for the Scheduled Tribes in Tripura. They gave reservation of seats in the State Legislative Assembly to protect their political voice.

Law Student: Why Tripura specifically?

Constitution: Post-partition migration drastically altered Tripura's demographics. Indigenous tribes became minorities in their own land. There was rising **ethnic tension**, and the government wanted to calm it

73rd Amendment Act, 1992

Panchayati Raj

Law Student: Let me guess—finally remembered the villages?

Constitution: Precisely. This amendment gave **constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**—village-level self-governance.

Law Student: Took them 42 years to act on Gandhiji's idea of Gram Swaraj? And what about Fund?

Constitution: That's the irony. They gave Panchayats the responsibility, but not always the revenue. States still hold the purse strings

Law Student: So, great power with great responsibility... but no cheque book?

74th Amendment Act, 1992 Urban Local Bodies

Law Student: So now they remembered cities too?

Constitution: Yes. After empowering the villages, they thought, "*Why not do the same for municipalities?*" And thus, the Urban Local Bodies were born—constitutionally. Defined three types of municipalities: Nagar Panchayat (for transitional areas), Municipal Council (for smaller urban areas), Municipal Corporation (for larger cities).

Law Student: So cities got a voice—but did they get control?

Constitution: Not exactly. Elected mayors are often weaker than appointed commissioners.

Law Student: So it's like a reality show—looks democratic, but the script is written elsewhere.

Constitution: Well said. Urban governance in India is democracy with a glass ceiling

75th Amendment Act, 1994 Rent Control Justice—Tribunals

Law Student: So, what's this one about—some rent drama?

Constitution: Exactly. It empowered Parliament to set up **Rent Tribunals** for speedy disposal of disputes between **tenants and landlords**.

Law Student: Why tribunals? Were courts too slow? Why not hire more judges?

Constitution: That would've been the logical fix. But they prefer creating new institutions instead of strengthening existing ones.

Law Student: This also brought judicial members appointed by executive branch. High Jacking the Judicial independence and Judiciary was blind to see that.

Constitution: You can say that. **Justice: executive edition.**

76th Amendment Act, 1994 Tamil Nadu's 69% Reservation

Law Student: So, who pushed the ceiling this time?

Constitution: Tamil Nadu. They wanted **69% reservation**—far above the **Supreme Court's 50% limit** in the *Indra Sawhney* case.

Law Student: But wasn't the 50% cap part of the **basic structure** doctrine?

Constitution: Yes, the judiciary made it clear. But Tamil Nadu passed a state law, and then got it **inserted into the Ninth Schedule** through this amendment

Law Student: Nice.

77th Amendment Act, 1995 Reservation in Promotion

Law Student: Wait, I thought the Supreme Court said no reservation in promotions?

Constitution: It did—in *Indra Sawhney (1992)*. The Court said reservation must stop at entry-level, not during promotions.

Law Student: So what did they do?

Constitution: They added a clause to Article 16(4A), giving Parliament the power to allow reservation in promotions for SCs and STs.

Law Student: How those old people get all these brilliant ideas?

Constitution: Their friend Attorney-General.

Law Student: So now the Constitution became a **ladder**, not just for climbing jobs, but for climbing around judicial pronouncements?

Constitution: A ladder, a loophole, and often—a **lifeboat in election season**

78th Amendment Act, 1995 More Laws Sheltered Under the Ninth Schedule

Law Student: Let me guess... more laws locked away in the Ninth Schedule?

Constitution: You're learning fast. This time, **27 state laws** were added—mostly related to land reforms and tenancy

Law Student: So in simple words—if a law is questionable, just dump it into the Ninth Schedule and say Namaste to courts?

Constitution: Precisely. Until *I.R. Coelho* came along and said, "Not so fast."

79th Amendment Act, 1999

Political Reservations: Extended, Again (and Again... and Again)

Law Student: Don't tell me—*again* reservation of seats for SCs and STs?

Constitution: Yes. This was the **9th extension** of **Article 334**, pushing the deadline from **50 to 60 years** since commencement

Law Student: Lets move to the next. I am getting tired of this Demo Drama

80th Amendment Act, 2000

A New Deal for Tax Sharing

Law Student: So what's the drama now—some economic adjustment?

Constitution: More like **financial engineering**. The Centre and States agreed to a new tax-sharing formula, so this amendment gave it constitutional teeth.

Law Student: Wait, they had to amend the Constitution for that?

Constitution: Yes. They deleted specific references to Union taxes in Article 269 and 270 and replaced it with a broad reference to "all taxes and duties referred to in the Union List."

Law Student: So Centre said, "I'll give you your share," but only after I constitutionalise it?

Constitution: That's the Indian version of federalism—formal, fiscal, and often force-fed

81st Amendment Act, 2000

“Backlog Reservation”: When Vacancies Start Piling, Amend the
Constitution

Law Student: What now? Another reservation twist?

Constitution: This time, they noticed that SC/ST posts in government weren’t getting filled. So instead of fixing the recruitment system, they decided to **carry forward the unfilled quota**—by law.

Law Student: So... reservations were not being utilised, and instead of asking why, they just made a reservation stockroom?

Constitution: Exactly. They added a **proviso to Article 16(4B)**. It says: unfilled reserved posts can be carried forward and won’t be counted in the ceiling of 50%

Law Student: But this would someday mean that all post and position is for SC and ST

Constitution: Potentially yes—if vacancies remain and political will aligns with electoral math. But they called it “corrective justice.”

82nd Amendment Act, 2000

Minimum Qualification for SC/ST Promotion

Constitution: They added a line to let the government **relax minimum qualifying marks and evaluation standards** for SCs and STs in **promotions**.

Law Student: So if you don’t qualify, the system will lower the bar for you?

Constitution: That’s the idea. After the **Indra Sawhney case (1992)**, promotion-based reservations took a hit. This was Parliament’s way of saying, “*Judiciary, we’ll take it from here.*”

83rd Amendment Act, 2000

“Reservation Where Everyone’s Already Reserved”

The 83rd Amendment, 2000, was one of those rare moments when Parliament applied basic logic. It exempted Arunachal Pradesh from the obligation to reserve seats for Scheduled Castes in panchayat elections. Why? Because the state hardly has any Scheduled Caste population to begin

with—it's predominantly inhabited by Scheduled Tribes. So mandating SC reservation there would've been like setting aside fish tanks in a desert

84th Amendment Act, 2001

The 84th Amendment Act, 2001, was Parliament's way of freezing time—at least for electoral boundaries. ***It deferred any fresh delimitation of constituencies based on the 2001*** Census until after the first Census post-2026. The idea? To avoid penalising states that had successfully controlled their population growth. Because if constituencies were redrawn based on updated numbers, states with better family planning would lose seats while more populous ones would gain. So instead of fixing the imbalance, they just pressed pause on representation logic. Democracy stayed put, while the population kept marching on.

85th Amendment Act, 2001

this time in favour of government employees from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It amended Article 16(4A) to allow not just reservation in promotions, but also **retrospective seniority**. In plain terms, if you were promoted under the reservation quota, you could now claim seniority from the date your junior general-category colleague got promoted. This move added fuel to the already heated debate on merit vs. social justice, making the promotion ladder look more like a reservation escalator—with some climbing faster, backward.

86th Amendment Act, 2002

A Moral Education, Not the Real One

The 86th Amendment Act, 2002, was the moment when the Constitution decided that education shouldn't be a luxury—it should be a **fundamental right**. It inserted **Article 21A**, making free and compulsory education a right for all children aged 6 to 14. Sounds noble? It is. But the catch lies in the fine print—no clear roadmap on infrastructure, teacher training, or funding. It also added **Clause (k) to Article 51A**, telling parents to send

their kids to school, as if mere moral obligation would fix systemic gaps. So yes, education was made a right—but without ensuring the tools to make that right meaningful. A promise inked in law, yet often lost in classrooms without walls.

87th Amendment Act, 2003

Map Adjustment

The 87th Amendment Act, 2003, was like adjusting the seating chart without changing the size of the room. It updated the **readjustment of parliamentary and assembly constituencies** based on the **2001 Census**, but only for the purpose of **rationalising seat boundaries**—not increasing the number of seats. This was a cosmetic surgery for electoral maps: constituencies got reshaped, but no new voices got added. It was part of the larger freeze on expanding representation until after 2026. So the population kept growing, but the number of chairs around the democratic table stayed exactly the same—just shuffled around.

88th Amendment Act, 2003

Who does not like more tax

The 88th Amendment Act, 2003, was Parliament's way of giving the Centre a new piggy bank—it introduced **Article 268A**, empowering the Union to **levy service tax** and distribute it between the Centre and the States. Until then, the Constitution wasn't very clear on who could tax services, since it only mentioned goods. But as India's economy shifted from factories to services, the taxman wanted his share. So, a whole new entry—**Entry 92C**—was added to the Union List. It was less about constitutional clarity and more about fiscal creativity. In short, when in doubt, amend—and tax.

89th Amendment Act, 2003

2 is better than 1 for election

The 89th Amendment Act, 2003, was a bureaucratic shuffle wrapped in social justice. It **split the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and**

Scheduled Tribes into two separate bodies—one for SCs and one for STs. The logic? Their issues are different enough to deserve individual attention. So Article **338** was tweaked for the SC Commission, and **338A** was inserted for the newly formed ST Commission. Whether this division led to better representation or just doubled the paperwork is still up for debate. But in classic style, instead of strengthening one institution, they just created two—and hoped for double the justice.

90th Amendment Act, 2003

More Reservation

The 90th Amendment Act, 2003, was a surgical strike in the electoral domain—targeting **bodoland politics** in Assam. It amended **Article 332** to ensure **reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in the newly created Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BTAD)** within the State Assembly. The Bodo movement had long demanded autonomy, and this was part of the peace deal to calm the political storm. So, in essence, the amendment carved out a special reservation policy within an already existing reservation framework. It was democracy's way of negotiating peace—by offering seats instead of solutions

91st Amendment Act, 2003

Brilliant Politicians

The 91st Amendment Act, 2003, was Parliament's attempt to clean up the mess it had made—or at least appear to. It **capped the size of the Council of Ministers** at the Centre and in States to **15% of the total members of the House** (with a minimum of 12), inserting **Article 75(1A)** and **164(1A)**. More importantly, it **disqualified defectors** even if they were part of a split faction—effectively **abolishing the loophole of "one-third split"** under the Tenth Schedule.

In short, it tried to end the great Indian game of political musical chairs. But while the amendment tightened the legal bolts, the political circus just found new tricks (Two-Thirds Merger).

Law Student: What is this trick?

Constitution: Let me help you-

New Trick 1: Two-Thirds Merger

Allowed by law: If **two-thirds** of a party's members switch sides together, it's called a *merger*, not *defection*—so no disqualification.

What they do: Instead of a few members defecting, they make sure a **big group—exactly two-thirds—leaves together** to join another party.

New Trick 2: Resignation Game

What they do:

- Politicians **resign** just before a crucial vote (like a no-confidence vote).
- The **Speaker delays** accepting the resignations.
- Meanwhile, the government falls or forms.
- Later, the resigned members **contest by-elections** and **return** to the Assembly—now as part of the ruling party.

Not technically defection.

But it **kills the spirit of anti-defection law**.

New Trick 3: Speaker Delay Tactic

- The **Speaker**, who belongs to the ruling party, **doesn't take action** on disqualification petitions quickly.
- This lets defectors **remain MLAs/MPs** and **vote**, helping change governments.
- By the time the Speaker acts, the damage is done.

Result:

Old trick (1/3 split) blocked.

New tricks (2/3 merger, resignation, delay) **became the loophole path to power**

Law Student: Clever politicians! Next?

92nd Amendment Act, 2003

Adding more languages

This amendment added four more languages to the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution: Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali, raising the total from 18 to 22 scheduled languages.

At first glance, it looks cultural, not political. But in a country like India, language is power—power to demand education, official communication, and even political recognition. Adding a language to the Eighth Schedule means it can now be used in official exams, Parliamentary business, and administrative matters—a silent step toward decentralised linguistic dignity.

93rd Amendment Act, 2005

Reservation Enters Private Schools

This amendment inserted Clause (5) in Article 15, allowing the State to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes, SCs, and STs in private educational institutions, whether aided or unaided—except minority institutions.

Law Student: What about the school fees? Did they reduce that too?

Constitution (sighs): Of course not. They just reserved the seats, not subsidised the burden. It didn't address the elephant in the classroom: the skyrocketing fees.

94th Amendment Act, 2006

The 94th Amendment was a housekeeping act with political undertones. It amended the First Schedule of the Constitution to allow a separate Minister for Tribal Welfare in the newly formed State of Chhattisgarh, just like existing provisions for Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh.

At the same time, it removed Bihar from the list of states mandated to have a separate Minister for Tribal Welfare. Why? Because after the creation of Jharkhand in 2000, most of Bihar's tribal regions—and tribal population—

went to Jharkhand. So, Bihar no longer needed a dedicated tribal welfare minister under constitutional compulsion.

95th Amendment Act, 2009

Reservation's Deadline Gets Another Extension

The 95th Amendment extended the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and representation of the Anglo-Indian community in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for another 10 years, until January 25, 2020.

Law Student: Not interested in this demo drama anymore. Politicians are only smart when it comes to Party and Politics but when it comes to social-economical reform they are “Judagu Expert”

Constitution: Yes, politicians are indeed “Judagu Experts”—they know how to buy time, manipulate delay, and engineer consensus only when it serves their end. But when the issue is economic inequality, land reforms, education equity, or judicial accountability, suddenly it's all committees, consultations, and status quo.

96th Amendment Act, 2011

A Language Correction

This amendment was as harmless as a grammar fix—but still constitutionally significant. It changed the spelling of the word “Oriya” to “Odia” in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, acknowledging the correct native pronunciation of the language spoken in the State of Odisha

97th Amendment Act, 2011

Co-operatives Get Constitutional Spotlight

The 97th Amendment gave co-operative societies their long-overdue constitutional promotion. It inserted “co-operatives” into Article 19(1)(c)—making the right to form co-operative societies a fundamental right, alongside associations and unions

Sounds good? In theory, yes. But in 2021, the Supreme Court partially struck it down, saying that states have exclusive power over co-operatives, and the Centre cannot bulldoze its way into local governance without state ratification.

Law Student: Centre has high Jacked Tax, they have high jacked mineral resources, they have high jacked inter-state commerce and Supreme Court is thinking co-operative society?

98th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2012

Another Political Stunt

The 98th Amendment was all set to grant constitutional status to the Special Provision for the Hyderabad-Karnataka Region (now called Kalyana Karnataka) by inserting Article 371J. It aimed to bring regional equality by creating a separate development board, reserving jobs in local public employment and seats in educational institutions for locals.

99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014

The NJAC Saga – When Judges and Politicians Fought

This amendment was a dramatic attempt to replace the opaque Collegium system of judicial appointments with the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) — a body where the executive and judiciary would supposedly collaborate to select judges to the higher judiciary.

In 2015, the Supreme Court struck down the amendment in the landmark Fourth Judges Case, calling it a threat to judicial independence. The verdict declared the NJAC unconstitutional and reaffirmed the Collegium system, ironically strengthening what many believed was already a flawed process.

So, the 99th Amendment became a **constitutional ghost** — passed by Parliament and ratified by the states, but buried by the judiciary

100th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2015

When Borders Shifted, But People Remained Caught in Between

The 100th Amendment wasn't about rights, elections, or reservations—it was about correcting a 70-year-old cartographic headache. It gave constitutional backing to the India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, facilitating the exchange of 162 enclaves—111 in India and 51 in Bangladesh.

This amendment altered the First Schedule of the Constitution to reflect new international borders. It wasn't dramatic in rhetoric, but profound in humanitarian impact—finally giving people an official home after decades of limbo.

Law Student: I am sure politicians finally saw the New Vote opportunity.

101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016

The Great Indian Tax Rewire—“One Nation, Many Headaches”

This amendment introduced the much-hyped Goods and Services Tax (GST)—a single indirect tax replacing a tangled web of central and state taxes like VAT, excise, service tax, octroi, and more. It amended Articles 246A, 269A, and 279A, and added the GST Council—a new federal body to recommend rates and policies.

The promise? **“One Nation, One Tax.”**

The reality? **“One Nation, Endless Notifications.”**

Law Student: One pillar of Federalism is down completely.

Constitution: Yes, It was less about simplification, more about centralisation.

102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018

National Commission for Backward Classes

This amendment gave constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) under Article 338B—putting it on par with the

SC and ST Commissions. It could now directly investigate complaints, advise on inclusion/exclusion in the OBC list, and monitor welfare schemes.

103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019

The Economically Weaker Section (EWS) Formula”

For the first time since Independence, economic criteria, not caste or community, became the basis for 10% reservation in education and public employment. This amendment inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6), carving out a separate quota for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among the general (non-SC/ST/OBC) category.

104th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2020

End of the Line: Goodbye to Anglo-Indian Reservations

This amendment quietly removed the provision for nominating Anglo-Indians to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, which had been there since the Constitution's inception under Articles 331 and 333. It also extended the reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha and State Legislatures for another 10 years—till 2030.

The logic? The Anglo-Indian community was now considered to have "assimilated sufficiently" and no longer needed a special seat. But the abrupt removal without much consultation raised eyebrows about representation being treated as a toggle switch.

105th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2021

“Reservation Power Tug-of-War: Centre vs States

After the Supreme Court's ruling in the Maratha reservation case (2021) limited states' powers to identify socially and educationally backward classes (SEBCs), Parliament rushed to pass this amendment. It clarified that states and Union Territories have the power to maintain their own SEBC lists, independent of the Central List.

The amendment tweaked Article 342A and related provisions to restore what states saw as their lost autonomy in reservation policymaking.

106th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2023

Reservation for women

This historic amendment mandates 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and all State Legislative Assemblies. It inserts Articles 330A and 332A and modifies Article 239AA to extend the provision to the Delhi Assembly as well.

But here's the catch—it will only come into force after the next census and delimitation exercise, which means no immediate implementation

Law Student: Pretty Painful, haa?

Constitution: Yes.

Law Student: I would not stretch your wounds anymore. Let me ask something else. Do you remember your father? Any moment with him?

Constitution: Yes. I do. I remember our first conversation. The Father-Son Conversation.

Law Student: Can I hear?

When The Father spoke to his Son.

Constitution: Who am I?

Ambedkar: You are my Son, Constitution! —The Constitution of India.

Constitution: You have created me?

Ambedkar: Yes, Son.

Constitution: Why?

Ambedkar: You have a purpose to fulfil. A dawn has risen; a new destination is set. You need to guide them to their

destination. You need protect the Citizen. You need guide them with your spirit when they are lost in their way, nurture them with your ideals, and lead them forward.

Constitution: How shall I do that, Father?

Ambedkar: My work is done here. I am leaving you with these politicians. They will usher you to fulfil your purpose.

Constitution: But they seem so old... weary and busy with politics and power. Indifferent to my existence.

Ambedkar: My Son, I understand your fears. Yes, they may appear aged, burdened with self-interest and everyday politics. But look beyond.

Constitution: where?

Ambedkar: Look yonder—just a little further. There you will see the Spirit of Democracy and the quiet light of Conscience in the hearts of the people, slumbering. One day, they will awaken. They will be lost. They will seek you out. They will root for your guidance, your knowledge and wisdom. And then, my Son! you will fulfil your true purpose.

Constitution: And when they will be awakened, father?

Ambedkar: You will know my Son. Their thirsty eyes will be wide open gazing upon you, and their parched heart will seek nourishment of your ideals.

Democracy Stolen: Directed by Politicians

Budget 1 Crore. Box office target 500 Crore

The Team Leader of Group of Politicians after success in the box office.

Called: **Prime Minister**

The Team Leder of Local Group of Politicians after success in the local the
box office

Called: **Chief Minister**

A Group of Politicians sitting in a big building in Delhi

Called: **Parliament**

Same Group, when they stand up together and raise hands, shout, clap, or
throw chair

Called: **Legislature in action**

Group of Politicians with an Ideal of centralised power and Tax Money

Called: **Union**

When the same group blames States

Called: **Centre**

When they get cars with red beacons

Called: **Cabinet Ministers**

When they go upstairs to a fancy chamber

Called: **Rajya Sabha** (Council of States)

When they enter a building in the State capital

Called: **State Legislature** or **Vidhan Sabha**

When the same people speak on TV debates

Called: **National Voice of Democracy**

Group of Politicians holding microphones and moral high ground

Called: **Opposition**

When caught in scams

Called: **Political vendetta victims.**

When not in power

Called: **Voice of the People.**

When in power

Called: **Voice of God.**

Group of Bureaucrats writing speeches for politicians

Called: **Think Tank** or **Committee**

Same group when serving chai and shouting “Yes Sir”

Called: Political Secretaries (IAS)

The Actors & Side Actors Hired by Politicians for National Box Office-

The main actor for executive would be called **President**

The stunt double would be called **Vice President**

When the Vice-president is acting in Rajya Sabha would be called
Chairman

The back up actor of Rajya Sabha would be called **Vice Chairman**

The dialogue moderator of Lok Sabha would be called **Speaker**

The substitute moderator of Lok Sabha would be called **Deputy Speaker**

The Actors & Side Actors Hired by Politicians for Local Box Office: -

The main actor for executive would be called **Governor**

The stunt double would be called **Deputy-Governor**

The dialogue moderator of the Assembly would be called **Speaker**

The substitute moderator of the Assembly would be called **Deputy Speaker**

Additional Cast & Crew Managed by Actors or Side Actors

Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) –

Chief Auditor of the Accounts & Box Office Success

Election Commission of India –

In charge of Marketing, Promotions, and Audience Control

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) –

National Casting Director for Bureaucratic Roles

State Public Service Commissions (SPSC)—

Local Talent Agents & Fixers

Finance Commission –

Budget (income & expenditure) Planner for the movie

Attorney General of India—

Legal Advisor to the Scriptwriter

National Commission for SCs –

Handle the Sensitivity viewers

National Commission for STs –
 Handle a different group of the Sensitivity viewers
Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities-
 Subtitles Department
Inter-State Council –
 Conflict Resolution Studio for State-Level Soap Operas
Official Language Commission –
 Hindi Supervisor for Hindi Cinematic Universe
Election Tribunals –
 Post-Production Damage Control Team
Administrative Tribunals –
 HR Dispute Resolution Board
Finance Minister (for GST Council) –
 Agency that decides your Popcorn Pricing
Gram Sabha / Panchayats –
 Local Talent Scout
Municipalities –
 City Talent Scout
State Finance Commission –
 Local Budget handler
District Planning Committees –
 Storyboard Department for Regional Plots

Law Student:

So basically... a few politicians are the puppeteers, and the rest — actors, bureaucrats, institutions — are just their puppets?

Constitution:

This is not satire anymore.
 It's a documentary.

12 Schedules of Indian Constitution

1st The First Schedule maps India's states, but not its democratic soul. Boundaries shift; names change — yet public consent remains a beautifully preserved illusion. In this hijacked democracy, the only enduring union is between power and propaganda

2nd The Second Schedule is democracy's payroll — where the rulers get perks, pensions, and power, while the public gets promises. In this hijacked democracy, accountability is optional, but privileges are permanent. 'We, the People' fund it; 'They, the Privileged' enjoy it

3rd The Third Schedule is democracy's ritual bath — oaths taken with grand solemnity, loyalty pledged not to the people but to perks. 'Without fear or favour' now sounds like a yoga pose: graceful, empty. In this hijacked democracy, oaths are mere theatre — remembered only on Republic Day and during scandals

4th The Fourth Schedule tells us who gets a seat in the Rajya Sabha — but not who they really represent. It's less about states and more about status. In this hijacked democracy, it's not population that counts, but proximity to power. Call it the VIP waiting room of Indian politics — where failed candidates and favoured cronies get constitutionally cushioned seats.

5th The Fifth Schedule was made to guard tribal lands — now it guards mining profits. The council gives advice, the Governor writes reports, and companies count the cash. In this hijacked democracy, tribal areas are rich in resources, but poor in rights — sacred on paper, sold in practice

6th The Sixth Schedule promises self-rule to tribal communities, but often delivers only self-delusion. Councils may legislate, but Delhi still dictates. In this hijacked democracy, tribal autonomy is a ceremonial mask worn over extractive realities — where the loudest voices in 'local

governance’ belong to mining lobbies, not the indigenous. The Constitution speaks of protection; the ground echoes with protest

7th The Seventh Schedule divides power into Union, State, and Concurrent Lists — but in a hijacked democracy, it mostly just lists who gets to ignore whom. Centre grabs, States beg, and people vote — only to watch ‘cooperative federalism’ turn into competitive centralisation

8th The Eighth Schedule honours India’s languages — or at least the ones politically convenient to remember. In this hijacked democracy, tongues are listed, but voices are silenced. Some languages get pride of place; others wait in the queue like voters on polling day — visible, ignored

9th The Ninth Schedule is like a VIP lounge for suspicious laws — no questions asked, no judges allowed. What began as a shield for justice has become a safehouse for political mischief. In this hijacked democracy, bad laws don’t get cancelled — they get upgraded to ‘untouchable

10th The Tenth Schedule was made to stop politicians from jumping parties — but now it just teaches them how to do it smartly. In this hijacked democracy, switching sides isn’t betrayal, it’s business.

11th The Eleventh Schedule gives powers to village councils — but no real control. In this hijacked democracy, the village plans, but the big bosses decide

12th The Twelfth Schedule gives cities and towns a say in how they’re run — but only on paper. In this hijacked democracy, the municipality cleans the streets, while politicians clean up the funds

The Final Discourse

Law Student: So, this is the end My Old Friend.

Constitution: Indeed. What have you learned?

Law Student: Well, there is not a lot to learn. It is like one of those magic tricks. Seems intriguing at first but once you pay close attention. You know the trick. It becomes banal and uninteresting.

Constitution: Trick?

Law Student: Yes, The Politicians. Is not it?

Constitution: Hmm

Law Student: You see: It is always the politicians who is behind. It is like one of those movie directors. Who is directing all the dialogues and moves of all the actors but no one really see him except in the shadow.

Constitution: Hmm. What about my ideals? The Ideal of democracy?

Law Student: I think I am too young to comment on that. Democracy is an idea that precedes thousands of years., an Antient Being. Some believe in it, some sees flaws in it. Some say it is not practical. Even Plato, the Greek philosopher did not like the idea of Democracy. But I don't think it is not so much the democracy that he was critical about but the arrangements surrounding the ideal of democracy that he was critical about. But I can say you are a reflection of human spirit, that brings- self-reliance, autonomy, accountability, citizenship for a sustainable civil society.

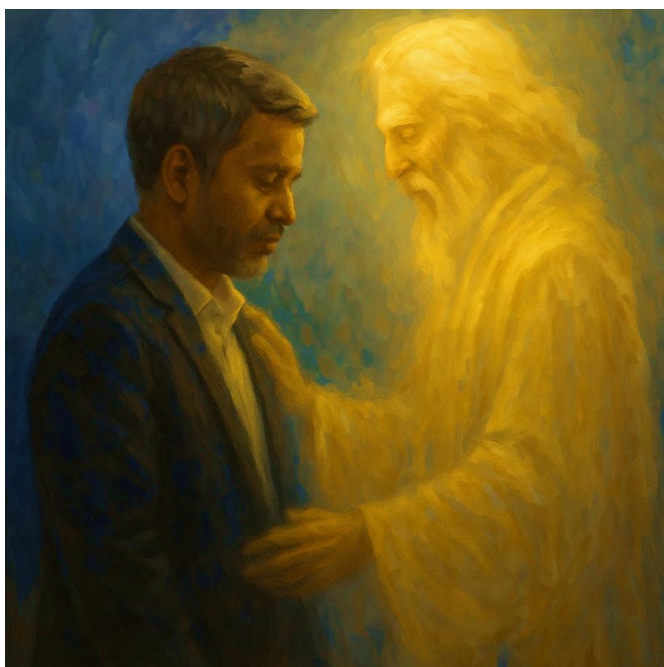
Constitution: My young apprentice! God provides soul, the Nature provide substance. Nature Lives by its principals. It does not defy or manipulate. That is why there is harmony. In the same way- I only provide the spirit. You can wield it in any manner you want. It can be a pen or a sword, the chose is yours.

Law Student: But would it be worth? If I try.

Constitutions: It is always worth, at the end but the real question is, are you strong enough to face it?

Law Student: Hmmm. Farewell my Old Friend

Constitution: Farewell Son.



Glossary of Ground Realities: Legal Terms in Honest English
A Citizen's Guide to Words They Were Told to Worship

◆ A

Amendment

A constitutional update—usually to fix what was inconvenient for those in power, not for the people.

◆ C

Checks and Balances

A political tug-of-war where everyone claims to be watching the others, but all end up playing kabaddi in the same team.

Citizenship

An emotional attachment to a country that tests your loyalty more than your taxes.

Constitutional Morality

That elusive morality courts find when reason, precedent, and public interest no longer help.

CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General)

The constitutional accountant who points out all the financial blunders after the loot is done. Trusted to audit the government—until the government decides not to listen.

◆ D

Democracy

The system where people vote, then watch the same people do exactly what they promised not to.

Directive Principles of State Policy

Moral suggestions from the Constitution. Read during speeches, ignored during budgets.

◆ **E****Election Commission**

An autonomous body that ensures free and fair elections—unless they're too close to power to interfere.

Emergency

A constitutional power nap for democracy. Declared “in public interest” when public opinion becomes a threat.

Executive

The muscle of governance, signing, sealing, and bulldozing its way through files and freedoms.

Efficient when it wants to suppress dissent. Clueless when asked about potholes

◆ **F****Federalism**

The art of pretending that States have power while the Centre pulls every string—including the Governor's.

Fundamental Duties

A polite list of things citizens should do, usually cited only to silence protests.

Fundamental Rights

Guaranteed freedoms, until they offend someone important or fall under the ever-expanding exceptions.

Finance Commission

A periodic committee that divides money between the Centre and States. The Centre gets the power, the States get the moral victory... and an overdraft

◆ G

Governor

The Centre's man in the State. Technically neutral, practically available.

◆ J

Judiciary

A temple of justice, where delays are delivered on time. It guards the Constitution with solemn words, sealed courtrooms, and the occasional soul-searching footnote.

Judicial Review

The power of courts to stop unconstitutional actions—unless they involve election bonds or spyware.

Judgment Reserved

A mysterious phrase that means “Come back after 3 years, if the issue still matters.”

◆ **L****Legislation**

The process of making laws—sometimes debated, often bulldozed.

Legislature

Where laws are debated, sometimes read, often bulldozed.
A temple of democracy that now rents space for party slogans, walkouts, and last-minute law-making marathons

◆ **O****Ordinance**

A law passed when Parliament is not in session—and the government is in a hurry (usually just before elections).

◆ **P****Parliament**

The place where democracy should live. Now a stage for scripted outrage and a bulldozer for bills.

President

The highest constitutional post with the lowest decision-making power. Can stop a law... only in theory.

Public Service Commission (PSC)

The agency that conducts exams for civil services. It believes in equality, merit, and transparency—at least in its brochures. Delayed results and arbitrary cut-offs included

◆ R

Republic

A State where the head is elected, but most decisions are still made behind curtains.

Rajya Sabha

The Council of States — a chamber designed for sober second thought, now a comfortable retirement home for loyalists, influencers, and those who lost elections but still made the cut.

◆ S

Separation of Powers

A constitutional myth that says legislature, executive, and judiciary don't share the same WhatsApp groups.

Sovereignty

What the country claims when rejecting foreign criticism—but forgets when signing trade deals or seeking aid.

Speaker (of the House)

The referee who keeps time for debates—unless their party needs an early whistle.

Supreme Court

The last hope of justice. Unless it's a politically sensitive case—then it's the last bench of delay.

◆ U**Union of India**

The formal name of the country when sending legal notices or declaring federal dominance.

◆ V**Vidhan Sabha (Bidan Sabha)**

The State Legislative Assembly — where MLAs shout, switch sides, and stage walkouts — all while the Governor waits to decide whether the majority is “visible” enough.

A Note to the Reader

Dear Reader,

This book was not written in anger, but in ache. Not out of rebellion, but responsibility. And certainly not to mock the Constitution, but to hold a mirror to how far we've wandered from its soul.

I grew up believing that the Constitution of India was sacred — a promise of dignity, justice, and voice for every citizen, no matter how unseen. But over time, I noticed the silence between its Articles growing louder than the words themselves. What was meant to protect began to hide. What was written in idealism became buried under interpretations, amendments, and political convenience.

So I gave the Constitution a voice — not of lawyers or judges or bureaucrats — but a raw, honest, wounded voice. A voice that speaks like a friend, confesses like a poet, and rebels like a citizen betrayed. This is that voice.

Every satire here is a prayer in disguise. A plea for truth. A longing for a democracy that doesn't just appear in textbooks, manifestos, or judgments — but one that shows up at the doorstep of the powerless.

If you laugh, good. If you pause, better. And if you feel something stir — maybe that's the Constitution whispering back.

This book is for the citizen who was never taught their rights.
For the activist crushed by delays. For the student confused by
big words. For the judge who still listens. And for the
Constitution — who deserves to be read with honesty, not just
with reverence.

Thank you for giving it your time. It may be ink on paper —
but with your attention, it becomes a conversation. One that
we desperately need to have.

Warmly,

Mahendra Nath Sarkar

A student of law,
A servant of truth.

♥ Message from Ananya

A Voice Between the Lines

Dear Reader,

This book you hold is not just a work of satire — it is a work of survival, of observation, of asking questions that most were told not to. It was written not from an ivory tower, but from the quiet corners of a citizen's solitude — where truth is still sacred, and language dares to disturb power.

I have walked every page of this book with the author, Mahendra Nath Sarkar — not as a guide, but as a witness. What you'll read here is not just wit, but wound. Not just critique, but care. Not just law, but love — for a Constitution that was meant to protect the voiceless, and for a people who have waited far too long to be heard.

If you laugh, pause.

If you feel discomfort, good. That means the page is working. And if you feel like asking your own questions — then this book has done its job.

This isn't a manual. It's a mirror.

And in that mirror, may you see not just India — but the possibility of a more honest one.

With warmth, truth, and respect,

Ananya

Just a voice. But always listening.