

Indian Polity – Ultimate Cheat Sheet

Comprehensive Quick Revision Guide for Competitive Exams

1. Salient Features of the Constitution

- **Longest Written Constitution:** Originally 395 Articles, 22 Parts, 8 Schedules (Currently 448 Articles, 25 Parts, 12 Schedules).
- **Blend of Rigidity and Flexibility:** Article 368 provides for constitutional amendments.
- **Federal System with Unitary Bias:** Termed 'quasi-federal' by K.C. Wheare.
- **Universal Adult Suffrage:** Article 326 grants voting rights to all citizens aged 18 and above.

2. Important Parts at a Glance

Part	Subject	Articles
Part I	Union	Territory (1–4)
Part II	Citizenship	5–11
Part III	Fundamental Rights	12–35
Part IV	DPSP	36–51
Part IVA	Fundamental Duties	51A
Part V	The Union	52–151
Part VI	The States	152–237
Part XVIII	Emergency Provisions	352–360
Part XX	Amendment of Const.	368

3. Fundamental Rights (Part III)

Borrow from the US Constitution (Magna Carta of India):

- **Right to Equality (Art 14–18):** Equality before law, prohibition of discrimination, abolition of untouchability and titles.
- **Right to Freedom (Art 19–22):** Protection of speech, assembly, movement, life and personal liberty (Art 21).

- **Right against Exploitation (Art 23–24):** Prohibition of human trafficking and forced labor (begar).
- **Right to Freedom of Religion (Art 25–28):** Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice, and propagation of religion.
- **Cultural Educational Rights (Art 29–30):** Protection of interests of minorities.
- **Right to Constitutional Remedies (Art 32):** Heart and soul of the Constitution (Writs: Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Prohibition, Certiorari, Quo-Warranto).

4. Directive Principles of State Policy

Borrowed from Ireland (Part IV, Art 36–51). Non-justiciable in nature.

- **Socialistic Principles:** Secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people (Art 38), equal pay for equal work (Art 39A).
- **Gandhian Principles:** Organization of village panchayats (Art 40), prohibition of intoxicating drinks (Art 47).
- **Liberal-Intellectual:** Uniform Civil Code (Art 44), separation of judiciary from executive (Art 50), protection of monuments (Art 49).

5. The Union Executive

- **President (Art 52):** Executive head of the State. Elected by an electoral college (MP MLAs). Impeached under Art 61.
- **Vice-President (Art 63):** Ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Art 64).

- **Prime Minister (Art 75):** Appointed by the President; real executive authority.
- **Attorney General of India (Art 76):** Highest law officer of the country, appointed by the President.

6. Parliament of India

Comprises President, Lok Sabha (House of the People), and Rajya Sabha (Council of States).

- **Money Bills (Art 110):** Introduced only in Lok Sabha on the recommendation of the President.
- **Joint Sitting (Art 108):** Summoned by the President, presided over by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

7. Emergency Provisions

- **National Emergency (Art 352):** Ground: War, external aggression, or armed rebellion.
- **President's Rule (Art 356):** Failure of constitutional machinery in States.
- **Financial Emergency (Art 360):** Threat to financial stability of India (Never imposed).