

UPSC Preparation

Important Amendments in Indian Constitution - UPSC Indian Polity Notes

There are 104 amendment acts as of January 2020 that are made in the Indian Constitution over time. All these amendments have brought significant changes in the course of Indian Polity. The topic, 'Important Amendments in Indian Constitution,' comes under the GS-II syllabus of the [IAS Exam](#). Get the list of major amendments to the Indian Constitution in this article.

List of Major Amendments of the Indian Constitution for UPSC

Important amendments brought in the Indian Constitution are mentioned below:

First Amendment Act, 1951

The state was empowered to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and backward classes

The Ninth Schedule was added

Note:

- Fourth Amendment Act, 1955 included some more Acts in the Ninth Schedule
- 17th Amendment Act, 1964 included 44 more Acts in the Ninth Schedule
- 29th Amendment Act, 1972 included two Kerala Acts on land reforms in the Ninth Schedule
- 34th Amendment Act, 1974 included twenty more land tenure and land reforms acts of various states in the Ninth Schedule

Three more grounds of restrictions on Article 19 (1) [Freedom of speech and expression] were added:

- Public order
- Friendly relations with foreign states
- Incitement to an offence

Note: Restrictions were made reasonable and justiciable.

Introduced the validity of the state's move to nationalize any business or trade and the same to not be invalid on the grounds of violation of the right to trade and business

Second Amendment Act, 1952

The scale of representation in the Lok Sabha was readjusted stating that 1 member can represent even more than 7.5 lakh people.

Seventh Amendment Act, 1956

The provision of having a common High Court for two or more states was introduced

Abolition of Class A, B, C and D states – 14 States and 6 Union Territories were formed

Introduction of Union Territories

Ninth Amendment Act, 1960

Adjustments to Indian Territory as a result of an agreement with Pakistan (Indo-Pak Agreement 1958):

- Cession of Indian territory of Berubari Union (West Bengal) to Pakistan

Tenth Amendment Act, 1961

Dadra, Nagar, and Haveli incorporated in the Union of Indian as a Union Territory

12th Amendment Act, 1962

Goa, Daman and Diu incorporated in the Indian Union as a Union Territory

13th Amendment Act, 1962

Nagaland was formed with special status under Article 371A

14th Amendment Act, 1962

Pondicherry incorporated into the Indian Union

Union Territories of Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Goa, Daman and Diu and Puducherry were provided the legislature and council of ministers

19th Amendment Act, 1966

System of Election Tribunals was abolished and High Courts were given the power to hear the election petitions

21st Amendment Act, 1967

Sindhi language was language into 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution

24th Amendment Act, 1971

The President's assent to Constitutional Amendment Bill was made compulsory

25th Amendment Act, 1971

Fundamental Right to Property was curtailed

26th Amendment Act, 1971

Privy Purse and privileges of former rulers of princely states were abolished

31st Amendment Act, 1972

Lok Sabha seats were increased from 525 to 545

35th Amendment Act, 1974

The status of Sikkim as protectorate state was terminated and Sikkim was given the status of 'Associate State' of India

36th Amendment Act, 1975

Sikkim was made a full-fledged state of India

40th Amendment Act, 1976

Parliament was empowered to specify from time to time the limits of the territorial waters, the continental shelf, the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and the maritime zones of India.

42nd Amendment Act, 1976

Since the [42nd Amendment Act](#) is the most comprehensive amendment of the Indian Constitution, called the 'Mini-Constitution,' candidates can read about it in detail in the linked article.

44th Amendment Act, 1978

It is also one of the important amendments in the Indian Constitution, enacted by the Janata Government. Candidates can read about the [44th Amendment Act](#) in detail in the linked article.

52nd Amendment Act, 1985

A new tenth Schedule was added providing for the anti-defection laws. Candidates can read in detail about the [Tenth Schedule](#) in the linked article.

61st Amendment Act, 1989

The voting age was decreased from 21 to 18 for both Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies elections

65th Amendment Act, 1990

Multi-member National Commission for SC/ST was established and the office of a special officer for SCs and STs was removed.

Candidates can read about these National Commissions from the links provided below:

- [National Commission for SC](#)
- [National Commission for ST](#)

69th Amendment Act, 1991

Union Territory of Delhi was given the special status of 'National Capital Territory of Delhi.'

70-member legislative assembly and a 7-member council of ministers were established Delhi

71st Amendment Act, 1992

Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali languages were included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Total number of official languages increased to 18

73rd Amendment Act, 1992

Panchayati Raj institutions were given constitutional status.

A new Part-IX and 11th Schedule were added in the Indian Constitution to recognize Panchayati Raj Institutions and provisions related to them

74th Amendment Act, 1992

Urban local bodies were granted constitutional status

A new Part IX-A and 12th Schedule were added to the Indian Constitution

86th Amendment Act, 2002

Elementary Education was made a fundamental right – Free and compulsory education to children between 6 and 14 years

A new Fundamental Duty under Article 51 A was added – “It shall be the duty of every citizen of India who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years”

Read about [Fundamental Duties](#) in detail in the linked article.

88th Amendment Act, 2003

Provision of Service Tax was made under Article 268-A – Service tax levied by Union and collected and appropriated by the Union and the States

92nd Amendment Act, 2003

Bodo, Dogri (Dongri), Maithili and Santhali were added in the Eighth schedule

Total official languages were increased from 18 to 22

95th Amendment Act, 2009

Extended the reservation of seats for the SCs and STs and special representation for the Anglo-Indians in the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies for a further period of ten years i.e., up to 2020 (Article 334).

97th Amendment Act, 2011

Co-operative Societies were granted constitutional status:

- Right to form cooperative societies made a fundamental right (Article 19)
- A new Directive Principle of State Policy (Article 43-B) to promote cooperative societies
- A new part IX-B was added in the constitution for cooperative societies

100th Amendment Act, 2015

To pursue land boundary agreement 1974 between India and Bangladesh, exchange of some enclave territories with Bangladesh mentioned

Provisions relating to the territories of four states (Assam, West Bengal, Meghalaya) in the first schedule of the Indian Constitution, amended.

101st Amendment Act, 2016

Goods and Service Tax (GST) was introduced. Read more about [GST](#) in the linked article.

102nd Amendment Act, 2018

Constitutional Status was granted to National Commission for Backward Classes 9NCBC)

103rd Amendment Act, 2019

A maximum of 10% Reservation for Economically Weaker Sections of citizens of classes other than the classes mentioned in clauses (4) and (5) of Article 15, i.e. Classes other than socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

IAS Exam aspirants might want to learn about [EWS Criteria for UPSC](#) which they can check in the linked article.

104th Amendment Act, 2020

Extended the reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha and states assemblies from Seventy years to Eighty. Removed the reserved seats for the Anglo-Indian community in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

UPSC Questions related to Important Amendments in Indian Constitution

What is the procedure for amending the Indian Constitution?

The amendment procedure varies depending on the types of changes required in the Indian Constitution.

Which provision given below can be amended by a simple majority of the parliament?

1. Election of President & its manner
2. Fundamental Rights
3. Representation of states in Parliament
4. Citizenship-Acquisition/Termination

Answer: 4

The process of amendment of the Indian Constitution is taken from which of the following countries?

1. Japan
2. Britain
3. South Africa
4. USA

Answer: 3

Which of the following Constitutional Amendment Act amended the age of voting from 21 to 18?

1. 7th
2. 9th
3. 61st
4. 86th

Answer: 3

In which Constitutional Amendment Act, Sikkim was made an associate-State with Indian Union?

1. 35th Amendment Act 1974
2. 43rd Amendment Act 1977
3. 56th Amendment Act 1987
4. 57th Amendment Act 1987

Answer: 1

Which article of the Constitution of India safeguards one's right to marry the person of one's choice?

1. Article 19
2. Article 21
3. Article 25
4. Article 29

Answer: 2

Which of the following is true about the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976?

1. Precedence to directive principles over fundamental rights
2. Fundamental duties are included
3. Constitutional amendment should not be questioned in any court
4. All of the above

Answer: 4