

MCS LCE

PAPER II CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

Compact Examination-Ready Handbook

100 marks | 3 hours | Conventional / essay type

Syllabus-weighted • PYQ-informed • Mizoram-specific

Purpose: convert repeated reading into recall and answer production. Use this as a revision spine, not as a substitute for the bare Constitution or official updates.

Edition prepared September 2026. Constitutional positions should be updated for judgments or amendments notified after this date.

How to use this handbook

Read once for structure. Thereafter, close the page and reproduce article clusters, headings and cases from memory. The exam rewards usable recall, not recognition.

- Pass 1 - Build the map: finish Parts A-E in syllabus order; mark every unfamiliar Article or doctrine.
- Pass 2 - Active recall: write the memory line, 5 body headings and 2 authorities for each topic without looking.
- Pass 3 - Answer conversion: attempt one 15-minute answer daily and one full 3-hour simulation weekly.
- Final pass: revise only article clusters, case bank, Mizoram pages and the probable-answer cards.

Three-hour operating rule

Stage	Time	Action
Paper scan	8 min	Read every question; map each to syllabus unit; choose questions with strongest Article-case coverage.
Answering	162 min	Budget by marks: about 1.6 minutes per mark. Leave visual space between headings.
Audit	10 min	Check question numbers, sub-parts, conclusions, missing pages and illegible corrections.

Default answer architecture

Block	What to write
Introduction	2-3 lines: constitutional location + definition/context.
Core law	Relevant Articles, Schedule, amendment or institutional design.
Analysis	Purpose, practice, tensions, judicial position, federal/democratic impact.
Evaluation	One criticism plus a balanced counterpoint; use a committee/case where useful.
Conclusion	Constitutional value + practical reform; never merely repeat the introduction.

The exact syllabus map

Weight your revision by marks. Part A and Part E together carry 55% and also supply concepts usable across the entire paper.

Unit	Official coverage	Marks	Revision priority
A	Preamble; Citizenship; Fundamental Rights; DPSP; Fundamental Duties	30	Highest: rights, Basic Structure, FR-DPSP balance
B	Union Executive; Parliament; Judiciary	15	High: PM-President, Rajya Sabha, judicial review
C	State Executive; Legislature; Judiciary	15	High: Governor, legislative process, High Court
D	Panchayats; Municipalities	15	High: 73rd/74th, devolution, SEC/SFC
E	Union-State relations; PSC; Elections; Emergency provisions	25	Highest: federalism, EC/RPA, Article 356

What the uploaded papers indicate

Theme	Evidence in uploaded MPSC papers	Signal
Federalism / Centre-State	2015, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 variants	Most persistent cluster
Basic Structure / judicial review	2023 and 2025 directly; older papers support doctrine	Strong recent analytical emphasis
Election institutions / reform	Election Commission in 2017 and 2022; RPA in 2025; ONOE in 2024	Prepare institution + reform
Parliamentary institutions	Privileges in 2022; Rajya Sabha and checks/balances in 2025	Article plus evaluation
Mizoram constitutional design	Sixth Schedule ADCs in 2022 and 2024	Non-negotiable local edge
Local government	73rd Amendment in 2015	Syllabus guarantees relevance even if PYQ frequency is lower

Important: these are MCS Combined Competitive Examination papers, not earlier LCE Paper II papers. They reveal MPSC preferences, but the LCE syllabus and its 100-mark design must control your preparation.

Master memory map: Articles and Schedules

Cluster	Articles / Schedule	Recall cue
Foundations	1-4; 5-11; 12-35	Union-territory; citizenship; Fundamental Rights
DPSP / Duties	36-51; 51A	Governance aims; civic obligations
Union	52-78; 79-122; 124-147	Executive; Parliament; Supreme Court
States	153-167; 168-212; 214-237	Executive; Legislature; High Courts/subordinate courts
Local government	243-243O; 243P-243ZG	Panchayats; Municipalities
Relations	245-263; 268-293	Legislative/admin; finance/borrowing
Services / PSC	308-323	Services; Union and State PSCs
Elections	324-329	EC control through judicial bar
Emergency	352-360	National; State failure; financial
Mizoram	371G; Sixth Schedule	Special protection; autonomous councils
Schedules	7th; 10th; 11th; 12th	Lists; defection; Panchayat subjects; municipal subjects

Anchor Articles worth exact recall

Article	Anchor	Article	Anchor
13	Laws inconsistent with FR	32 / 226	SC / HC writ jurisdiction
50	Separation of judiciary	74 / 163	Aid and advice: Union / State
105 / 194	Legislative privileges	110 / 199	Money Bills: Union / State
123 / 213	Ordinances: President / Governor	141 / 142	SC law / complete justice
200 / 201	Governor / President on State Bills	246 / 254	Fields / repugnancy
263	Inter-State Council	280	Finance Commission
315-323	Public Service Commissions	324	Election Commission
352 / 356 / 360	Three emergencies	368	Amendment procedure

PART A | Constitutional foundations and rights

| 30 marks

This unit is the conceptual engine of the paper. Always connect text, doctrine, democratic purpose and judicial interpretation.

1. Preamble

Memory line: Source, identity, objectives, date, amendment, legal status.

- Based on the Objectives Resolution; adopted with the Constitution on 26 November 1949.
- Declares the source of authority - "We, the People" - and the nature of the polity: sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic.
- Promises justice, liberty, equality and fraternity; fraternity is tied to dignity and unity and integrity.
- The 42nd Amendment added socialist, secular and integrity.
- Kesavananda Bharati: Preamble is part of the Constitution and assists interpretation; it is not an independent source of power.

Answer frame

- Use it as an interpretive compass; show how its values become enforceable through rights and institutions.
- Evaluate amendment through Article 368 subject to Basic Structure.

2. Citizenship

Memory line: Constitution gives commencement rules; Parliament supplies the continuing law.

- Articles 5-11 govern citizenship at commencement; Article 11 empowers Parliament.
- Citizenship Act, 1955 provides citizenship by birth, descent, registration, naturalisation and incorporation of territory, subject to statutory conditions.
- Loss occurs by renunciation, termination and deprivation under the Act.
- India follows single citizenship, strengthening national unity despite federal government.
- Only citizens enjoy certain rights, notably Articles 15, 16, 19, 29 and 30; Article 14 and Article 21 protect persons.

Answer frame

- If a current amendment is asked, state the law precisely and distinguish constitutional validity from policy wisdom.

3. Equality code: Articles 14-18

Memory line: Equality is classification plus anti-arbitrariness, not mechanical sameness.

- Article 14: equality before law and equal protection of laws. Valid classification needs intelligible differentia and rational nexus.
- Modern doctrine also invalidates manifest arbitrariness; substantive equality permits measures addressing entrenched disadvantage.
- Article 15 prohibits specified discrimination and permits special provisions; Article 16 applies to public employment.
- Articles 17 and 18 abolish untouchability and titles, attacking status hierarchy.
- Indra Sawhney remains a core authority on reservation, backward classes and constitutional limits; later amendments require issue-specific updating.

Answer frame

- Define formal and substantive equality.
- Apply proportionality/reasonableness where restriction or classification is involved.
- End with dignity and equal citizenship.

4. Freedoms: Article 19

Memory line: Six freedoms for citizens; restrictions must be authorised, purpose-linked and reasonable.

- Article 19(1) protects speech, assembly, association, movement, residence and profession/occupation/trade/business.

- Each freedom has specified restriction grounds in clauses (2)-(6); restrictions cannot be justified by vague public interest outside the text.
- Shreya Singhal invalidated Section 66A for vagueness and chilling effect, illustrating protection of online speech.
- Reasonableness examines purpose, means, procedural safeguards and proportionality.
- During emergency, Article 358 operates only when emergency is declared on war or external aggression, not armed rebellion.

5. Life and personal liberty: Articles 20-22

Memory line: Article 21 grew from procedure established by law to just, fair and reasonable constitutionalism.

- Article 20 protects against ex post facto criminal law, double jeopardy and compelled self-incrimination.
- Maneka Gandhi integrated Articles 14, 19 and 21: procedure affecting liberty must be fair, just and reasonable.
- Article 21 now supports dignity-linked protections including privacy, legal aid, speedy trial, livelihood and clean environment, depending on context.
- K.S. Puttaswamy recognised privacy as a fundamental right; limitation requires legality, legitimate aim and proportionality safeguards.
- Article 21A guarantees free and compulsory education for children aged six to fourteen; Article 22 regulates arrest and preventive detention.

Answer frame

- Open with textual guarantee.
- Trace A.K. Gopalan to Maneka Gandhi briefly.
- Apply dignity, fairness and proportionality.
- Acknowledge public interest and safeguards.

6. Religion and minority rights

Memory line: Secularism protects principled freedom and reform, not State hostility to religion.

- Articles 25-28 protect conscience, profession, practice and propagation subject to public order, morality, health and other Fundamental Rights.
- The State may regulate secular activities associated with religion and pursue social welfare and reform.
- Articles 29-30 protect cultural and educational interests; Article 30 safeguards minority educational institutions.
- Secularism is part of the Basic Structure; the State must maintain constitutional neutrality while protecting liberty and equality.

7. Constitutional remedies and writs

Memory line: Article 32 guarantees SC enforcement of FR; Article 226 gives High Courts wider reach.

- Habeas corpus: produce a detained person; mandamus: command public duty; prohibition: stop inferior body; certiorari: quash; quo warranto: test public office.
- Article 32 itself is a Fundamental Right and is central to judicial review.
- Article 226 covers Fundamental Rights and “any other purpose”; territorial and discretionary dimensions matter.
- Public interest litigation widened access, but courts guard against publicity or private-interest litigation.

Avoid: Do not say every writ lies against every private person; identify the nature of duty and remedy.

8. Directive Principles

Memory line: Non-justiciable does not mean optional: Article 37 makes them fundamental in governance.

- Articles 36-51 seek social and economic democracy. Useful groupings: socialist, Gandhian and liberal-intellectual.
- High-yield anchors: 38 welfare order; 39 distribution and equal livelihood; 39A legal aid; 40 village panchayats; 44 UCC; 46 weaker sections; 47 health; 48A environment; 50 judicial separation.
- DPSPs guide legislation, administration and constitutional interpretation but cannot by themselves override express Fundamental Rights.
- Minerva Mills: harmony between Parts III and IV is part of the Basic Structure.

9. Fundamental Duties

Memory line: Duties support responsible citizenship but cannot erase rights.

- Article 51A was inserted by the 42nd Amendment with ten duties; the 86th Amendment added the education-related duty, making eleven.

- They are non-justiciable, yet may guide interpretation and support otherwise valid legislation.
- Use concrete clusters: constitutional respect; unity and defence; harmony and dignity of women; culture/environment; scientific temper; public property/non-violence; excellence; child education.
- Reform answer: civic education and institutional example are more constitutional than vague coercion.

10. Amendment power and Basic Structure

Memory line: Article 368 permits change, not constitutional self-destruction.

- Shankari Prasad and Sajjan Singh accepted broad amendment power; Golaknath restricted it; the 24th Amendment responded.
- Kesavananda Bharati upheld wide amendment power but prohibited damage to the Basic Structure.
- Indira Gandhi v Raj Narain, Minerva Mills, Waman Rao and I.R. Coelho developed the doctrine.
- Illustrative elements: supremacy of Constitution, republican-democratic government, secularism, federalism, separation of powers, judicial review, rule of law, free and fair elections and harmony of Parts III-IV.
- The doctrine balances democratic adaptation with constitutional identity; criticism focuses on judicial subjectivity and democratic legitimacy.

Answer frame

- State Article 368 and the question.
- Explain doctrinal evolution.
- List only relevant Basic Structure elements.
- Present legitimacy critique and the counter-value of constitutional preservation.
- Conclude with limited amending power.

PART B | Union Executive, Parliament and Judiciary | 15 marks

11. President and Council of Ministers

Memory line: Nominal head plus real cabinet government, with narrow constitutional discretion.

- Articles 52-62 establish the President; Article 53 vests executive power, exercised according to the Constitution.
- The electoral college and proportional representation support a federal, indirectly elected head.
- Article 74 requires aid and advice; the President may return advice once, but must accept reconsidered advice.
- Key powers: appointments, parliamentary functions, ordinance under Article 123, pardon under Article 72, emergency powers and assent under Article 111.
- Article 75 makes the Council collectively responsible to Lok Sabha; the Prime Minister is the connecting and coordinating centre.

12. Parliament and bicameralism

Memory line: Lok Sabha supplies responsibility; Rajya Sabha supplies continuity, scrutiny and federal voice.

- Article 79: President plus two Houses. Rajya Sabha is permanent; one-third retire every second year.
- Ordinary Bills generally require both Houses; Money Bills give Lok Sabha primacy, with Rajya Sabha recommendations within fourteen days.
- Joint sitting under Article 108 resolves many ordinary deadlocks but not Money Bills or constitutional amendment Bills.
- Rajya Sabha has special powers under Articles 249 and 312; its federal value depends on deliberation, not only equal State representation.
- Committees deepen financial and executive scrutiny beyond floor debate.

13. Privileges, defection and accountability

Memory line: Legislative autonomy must coexist with constitutional supremacy and judicial review.

- Articles 105 and 194 protect speech and privileges of Parliament and State Legislatures.
- Privileges secure institutional functioning; they are not personal status benefits.
- The Tenth Schedule addresses political defection; Kihoto Hollohan upheld it while keeping the Speaker's decision subject to judicial review.
- Defection law promotes stability but can weaken deliberative independence; reform proposals include limiting the whip to confidence and core financial votes.

14. Supreme Court and judicial review

Memory line: Independent review is a constitutional check; legitimacy grows through reasoned restraint and access.

- Articles 124-147 cover the Supreme Court; Articles 131, 136, 137, 141, 142 and 143 are high-yield jurisdictional anchors.
- Judicial review flows from Articles 13, 32, 226 and constitutional structure; it is part of the Basic Structure.
- Judicial independence rests on tenure, removal safeguards, salaries, contempt power and institutional convention.
- The NJAC judgment protected judicial primacy in appointments; debate remains over transparency, diversity and accountability in the collegium.
- Reform: fill vacancies, modernise case management, strengthen lower courts, publish appointment criteria and improve legal aid without compromising decisional independence.

PART C | State Executive, Legislature and Judiciary | 15 marks

15. Governor

Memory line: Constitutional head, not an alternate political executive.

- Articles 153-162 establish the office; appointment is by the President and office is held during the President's pleasure, subject to constitutional norms.
- Article 163 provides aid and advice except where the Constitution requires discretion.
- High-friction areas: inviting a Chief Minister, floor tests, reserving Bills, assent delay, Article 356 reports and university roles under State laws.
- S.R. Bommai prioritised floor testing and made Article 356 reviewable; Nabam Reba constrained unilateral gubernatorial intervention in legislative functioning.
- Sarkaria and Punchhi favoured impartial appointees, consultation and restrained use of discretionary power.

Answer frame

- Start with cabinet responsibility.
- Classify constitutional and situational discretion.
- Use cases/commissions.
- Propose time-bound, reasoned constitutional conduct.

16. Chief Minister and State Council

Memory line: The Chief Minister is the keystone of State cabinet government.

- Article 164: ministers hold office during Governor's pleasure in the constitutional sense and are collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly.
- Article 167 requires the Chief Minister to communicate cabinet decisions and information to the Governor.
- The Chief Minister leads policy, appointments, legislative coordination and intergovernmental representation.
- Accountability combines Assembly confidence, questions/committees, audit, courts, elections and public transparency.

17. State Legislature and Bills

Memory line: Mirror the Union structure carefully; State Bills add the Governor-President channel.

- Articles 168-212 govern State Legislatures; Article 169 permits creation/abolition of a Legislative Council by Parliament after a State resolution.
- Article 174 covers sessions; Article 194 privileges; Articles 198-199 Money Bills.
- Under Article 200 the Governor may assent, withhold, return a non-Money Bill or reserve it for the President; Article 201 governs reserved Bills.
- Anti-defection applies through the Tenth Schedule; judicial review follows Kihoto Hollohan.

18. High Courts and subordinate judiciary

Memory line: High Courts combine rights protection, public-law control and supervision.

- Articles 214-231 cover High Courts; Article 226 writ jurisdiction is broader in subject than Article 32.
- Article 227 gives superintendence; Article 235 vests control over subordinate courts in the High Court.
- L. Chandra Kumar held judicial review by High Courts and the Supreme Court part of the Basic Structure; tribunal decisions remain reviewable.
- Article 50 directs separation of judiciary from executive; vacancies, infrastructure and access are central reform themes.

PART D | Panchayats and Municipalities | 15 marks

Do not treat local government as a list of provisions. MPSC can ask whether constitutional status has produced real self-government.

19. The 73rd Amendment and Panchayats

Memory line: Constitutional recognition plus regularity, representation, finance and functions.

- Part IX (Articles 243-243O) and Eleventh Schedule (29 subjects) constitutionalised Panchayati Raj.
- Gram Sabha is the deliberative base; three tiers generally apply, subject to constitutional population exceptions.
- Five-year tenure, timely elections, reservations, State Election Commission and State Finance Commission create institutional continuity.
- Article 243G allows State law to endow powers for self-government and economic/social planning; this enabling design explains uneven devolution.
- PESA, where applicable, adapts self-government to Scheduled Areas; do not mechanically apply it to Sixth Schedule areas.

20. The 74th Amendment and Municipalities

Memory line: Urban democracy requires authority over land, services and finance, not elections alone.

- Part IXA (Articles 243P-243ZG) and Twelfth Schedule (18 functions) cover Nagar Panchayats, Municipal Councils and Municipal Corporations.
- Ward Committees, District Planning Committees and Metropolitan Planning Committees seek participatory and coordinated planning.
- Reservations, five-year tenure, State Election Commission and State Finance Commission parallel Part IX.
- Persistent deficits: fragmented parastatals, weak own-source revenue, staff shortages and State control over planning and land.

21. The “3F” test and reform

Memory line: Real decentralisation means Functions, Funds and Functionaries.

- Functions: activity mapping must identify who plans, finances and delivers each service.
- Funds: predictable transfers, local taxes, grants and auditable budgets; strengthen SFC implementation.
- Functionaries: accountable staff and professional capacity at local level.
- Democratic depth: empowered Gram Sabhas/ward committees, social audits, participatory plans, open data and inclusion.
- Kishan Singh Tomar stressed timely local elections and the constitutional role of State Election Commissions.

Answer frame

- Constitutional achievement.
- 3F deficit with examples.
- Representation versus effective voice.
- Planning/accountability.
- Targeted reforms.

PART E | Federalism, PSC, elections and emergencies | 25 marks

This is the other scoring core. Link text to institutions and contemporary federal practice.

22. Nature of Indian federalism

Memory line: Federal distribution with a strong Union, operating within a democratic constitutional compact.

- Federal features: dual governments, written and supreme Constitution, divided powers, independent judiciary and bicameralism.
- Unitary/centralising features: single Constitution and citizenship, Union residuary power, emergency provisions, integrated services and Parliament's role in State boundaries.
- K.C. Wheare's "quasi-federal" label is descriptive but incomplete; S.R. Bommai treats federalism as part of Basic Structure.
- Modern answers should discuss cooperative, competitive and asymmetric federalism rather than only labels.

23. Legislative relations

Memory line: Start with territorial competence, field of legislation and repugnancy.

- Articles 245-255 and the Seventh Schedule distribute legislative competence; Article 246 and Lists I-III are central.
- Article 246A creates special GST power. Article 248 gives residuary power to Parliament.
- Parliament may enter State subjects through Article 249 (Rajya Sabha national-interest resolution), 250 (emergency), 252 (State consent) and 253 (international obligations).
- Article 254 resolves repugnancy in the Concurrent field, including the effect of Presidential assent to State law and later parliamentary override.

24. Administrative and financial relations

Memory line: Federal balance is shaped as much by implementation and money as by legislative lists.

- Articles 256-257 enable Union directions in specified contexts; Article 263 provides for an Inter-State Council.
- Article 262 permits Parliament to address inter-State water disputes; zonal and issue-specific councils aid coordination.
- Articles 268-281 structure revenues; Article 280 establishes the Finance Commission.
- Article 279A establishes the GST Council. Fiscal federalism must balance national standards, equalisation, State autonomy and accountability.
- Sarkaria and Punchhi favour consultation, institutional dialogue and restrained central intervention.

25. Public Service Commissions

Memory line: Independence in recruitment protects equality, merit and administrative legitimacy.

- Articles 315-323 establish Union and State PSCs and permit Joint State PSCs.
- Safeguards include tenure, regulated removal, service conditions and charging expenses on the relevant Consolidated Fund.
- Article 320 covers examinations and consultation on recruitment and service matters, subject to regulations and constitutional practice.
- Reports go to the President/Governor and legislatures; reasons for non-acceptance support accountability.
- Reform themes: transparent selection of members, fixed recruitment calendars, digital integrity, reasoned departures and adequate staffing.

26. Election Commission and free elections

Memory line: Article 324 supplies superintendence; independence depends on both law and institutional design.

- Articles 324-329 cover the electoral system; Parliament legislates mainly through the Representation of the People Acts, 1950 and 1951.
- RPA 1950 broadly concerns electoral rolls and allocation of seats; RPA 1951 broadly concerns conduct of elections, qualifications/disqualifications, corrupt practices and disputes.
- Article 324 fills gaps but does not override valid legislation.

- Free and fair elections are part of Basic Structure. High-yield issues: appointments, campaign finance, criminalisation, misinformation, inner-party democracy and enforcement consistency.
- Anoop Baranwal (2023) prescribed an interim appointment mechanism; always update the answer for subsequent legislation and judgments.

27. Emergency provisions

Memory line: Emergency power is exceptional, temporally controlled and judicially reviewable.

- Article 352: war, external aggression or armed rebellion; written Cabinet advice, parliamentary approval and periodic renewal safeguards reflect the 44th Amendment.
- Article 356: failure of constitutional machinery in a State; S.R. Bommai permits judicial review and favours floor tests for majority disputes.
- Article 360: financial emergency; never proclaimed so far as of this edition.
- Article 358 suspends Article 19 protection only during an emergency based on war or external aggression and within its constitutional scope.
- Article 359 permits suspension of the right to move courts for specified FR, but Articles 20 and 21 are protected after the 44th Amendment.

Avoid: Do not write that all Fundamental Rights are automatically suspended in every emergency.

Mizoram constitutional edge

These provisions can convert an ordinary answer into an MPSC-specific answer. Learn both the protection and its constitutional limits.

28. Article 371G

Memory line: Parliamentary laws on four protected fields need a Mizoram Assembly resolution to apply.

- Protected fields: religious or social practices of the Mizos; Mizo customary law and procedure; administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Mizo customary law; ownership and transfer of land.
- The clause preserves cultural-legal autonomy within the Union and reflects the settlement behind Statehood.
- The special rule does not apply to Central Acts already in force in the former Union Territory immediately before commencement of the 53rd Amendment framework.
- Article 371G also fixes a minimum Legislative Assembly strength of forty members.
- Analytical frame: asymmetric federalism can deepen integration by accommodating identity, but democratic deliberation, rights and institutional clarity remain necessary.

29. Sixth Schedule and Autonomous District Councils

Memory line: Territorial autonomy protects tribal self-government through constitutionally structured councils.

- The Sixth Schedule applies to specified tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- In Mizoram, the principal Autonomous District Councils are the Chakma, Lai and Mara councils.
- Councils exercise constitutionally specified legislative, administrative, judicial and financial functions, subject to the Schedule, State law and the Governor's role.
- Typical fields include land, forest other than reserved forest, shifting cultivation, village administration, inheritance, marriage/social customs and local justice, subject to exact legal competence.
- Evaluation: autonomy supports identity and participation; recurring concerns include fiscal dependence, capacity, overlap, accountability and State-council coordination.

Article 371G versus Sixth Schedule

Dimension	Article 371G	Sixth Schedule
Core logic	State-wide special legislative protection	Territorial self-government through autonomous councils
Key institution	Mizoram Legislative Assembly resolution	District / Regional Council plus Governor and State framework
Subject focus	Mizo practices, customary law/justice, land	Specified local legislative, executive, judicial and fiscal fields
Best answer use	Asymmetric federalism and State autonomy	Tribal autonomy, decentralisation and identity protection

Ready Mizoram paragraph

“Mizoram illustrates that Indian federalism is not built on mechanical symmetry. Article 371G protects State-level cultural and legal autonomy, while the Sixth Schedule creates territorial institutions of tribal self-government. Their legitimacy lies in accommodation through constitutional forms; their effectiveness depends on clear competence, adequate finance, accountable administration and rights-respecting coordination.”

Case bank: one-line propositions

Write a case only when its principle advances the argument. One accurate proposition is worth more than five decorative citations.

Case	Exam-use proposition
Kesavananda Bharati (1973)	Article 368 cannot damage the Basic Structure; Preamble is part of Constitution.
Indira Gandhi v Raj Narain (1975)	Free and fair elections and judicial review reinforce Basic Structure limits.
Maneka Gandhi (1978)	Procedure restricting liberty must be fair, just and reasonable; Articles 14, 19, 21 interact.
Minerva Mills (1980)	Limited amending power and harmony of Fundamental Rights-DPSP are basic features.
Waman Rao (1981)	Applied Basic Structure review to post-Kesavananda Ninth Schedule insertions.
Kihoto Hollohan (1992)	Tenth Schedule upheld; Speaker's decisions remain open to judicial review.
Indra Sawhney (1992)	Landmark framework for backward-class reservation under Article 16.
S.R. Bommai (1994)	Federalism/secularism basic features; Article 356 reviewable; majority tested on floor.
L. Chandra Kumar (1997)	HC/SC judicial review is basic; tribunal decisions remain reviewable.
I.R. Coelho (2007)	Post-24 April 1973 Ninth Schedule laws can be tested for Basic Structure damage.
Kishan Singh Tomar (2006)	Timely local elections and SEC constitutional responsibility stressed.
Shreya Singhal (2015)	Vague online speech restriction struck down; advocacy distinguished from incitement.
NJAC case (2015)	99th Amendment/NJAC invalidated for harming judicial independence.
Nabam Rebia (2016)	Governor cannot freely interfere with legislative agenda; discretion is limited.
K.S. Puttaswamy (2017)	Privacy is a Fundamental Right grounded in liberty and dignity.
Anoop Baranwal (2023)	Interim safeguard for EC appointments pending parliamentary law; update before exam.

Commission bank

Body	Use in answer
Sarkaria Commission	Cooperative federalism; restrained Article 356; consultation and impartial Governor.
Punchhi Commission	Updated Centre-State review; Governor's role, localised emergency debate, institutional consultation.
Balwant Rai Mehta Committee	Democratic decentralisation and three-tier Panchayati Raj.
Ashok Mehta Committee	Stronger district-level planning and institutionalised local democracy.
L.M. Singhvi Committee	Constitutional recognition of Panchayats and importance of Gram Sabha.
Swaran Singh Committee	Source of the Fundamental Duties proposal; Constitution ultimately adopted a modified list.

Probable-question answer frames

Memorise the sequence, not sentences. Expand each vertical bar into a headed paragraph and attach only the most relevant Articles and cases.

“Basic Structure unduly empowers judges.” Critically examine.

Opening: Article 368 makes the Constitution amendable, while Kesavananda makes its identity non-destructible.

Body: evolution from Golaknath to Kesavananda | illustrative basic features | Minerva Mills and I.R. Coelho development | critique: indeterminacy and counter-majoritarian power | defence: constituent power is limited and rights/elections need protection

Value addition: Articles 368 and 13; Kesavananda; Minerva Mills; one contemporary example.

Close: The doctrine is strongest when used transparently and sparingly to preserve the conditions of constitutional democracy.

Is India federal, quasi-federal or unitary with federal features?

Opening: Labels illuminate only if tested against constitutional structure and practice.

Body: federal features | centralising features | S.R. Bommai and federalism as Basic Structure | cooperative/competitive federal institutions | asymmetry including Article 371G and Sixth Schedule

Value addition: Articles 246, 248, 249, 263, 280, 356; Seventh Schedule.

Close: India is best understood as a constitutionally federal Union with a strong Centre and adaptive asymmetry.

Assess Centre-State relations and suggest reforms.

Opening: The constitutional distribution is only the starting point; finance, administration and political practice determine balance.

Body: legislative distribution/exceptions | administrative directions and coordination | Finance Commission/GST Council | Governor and Article 356 tensions | Sarkaria/Punchhi reforms and Inter-State Council

Value addition: Use one Mizoram illustration and distinguish grievance from constitutional violation.

Close: Consultation, predictable finance and principled restraint turn structural interdependence into cooperative federalism.

Preamble is the identity card of the Constitution. Discuss.

Opening: The Preamble condenses popular sovereignty, State character and transformative objectives.

Body: source and date | key expressions | 42nd Amendment | Berubari to Kesavananda status | interpretive and Basic Structure significance

Value addition: Connect justice-liberty-equality-fraternity to Parts III and IV.

Close: Though non-justiciable alone, it disciplines interpretation and measures constitutional change.

Fundamental Rights and DPSPs are complementary, not antagonistic.

Opening: Political liberty without social transformation is thin; welfare without rights is dangerous.

Body: Champakam phase and amendments | Article 37 | Kesavananda limits | Minerva Mills harmony | rights-based welfare and proportional balancing

Value addition: Articles 14, 21, 39, 39A, 46; Minerva Mills.

Close: The constitutional project requires liberty and social justice to correct, not extinguish, each other.

Explain the transformation of Article 21.

Opening: Article 21 moved from formal legality to dignity-centred due process.

Body: text | A.K. Gopalan baseline | Maneka fairness and golden triangle | derived protections | Puttaswamy proportionality and limits

Value addition: Articles 14, 19, 20, 21, 22.

Close: Expansion remains legitimate when anchored in text, dignity, institutional competence and reasoned remedies.

Evaluate the role of Rajya Sabha in Indian federalism.

Opening: Rajya Sabha combines continuity and federal deliberation, though representation is population-weighted.

Body: composition/permanence | ordinary law and scrutiny | Money Bill limitation | Articles 249 and 312 | party control and reform

Value addition: Article 80, 83, 107-110, 249, 312.

Close: Its value lies less in duplication than in revising legislation and articulating State interests.

Separation of powers in India is functional, not watertight.

Opening: The Constitution distributes principal functions while designing checks and necessary overlap.

Body: legislative/executive fusion | judicial review | ordinances and delegated law | appointments/impeachment/accountability | limits under Basic Structure

Value addition: Articles 50, 121-122, 123, 124, 136, 142; Kesavananda.

Close: Constitutional equilibrium requires each branch to respect both its competence and the checking role of others.

Judicial independence and accountability must coexist.

Opening: Independence protects adjudication from pressure; accountability protects public legitimacy.

Body: security and institutional safeguards | collegium evolution | NJAC decision | transparency/diversity/delay critiques | reforms without executive capture

Value addition: Articles 124, 217, 50; Second Judges and NJAC cases.

Close: Reasoned appointment criteria, disclosure and capacity can improve accountability without compromising decisional independence.

Examine the Governor's discretionary powers.

Opening: The Governor is a constitutional sentinel within cabinet government, not a parallel mandate-holder.

Body: Article 163 framework | government formation/floor test | assent/reservation | Article 356 report | Bommai, Nabam Rebia and commission guidance

Value addition: Articles 163, 164, 174, 200, 356.

Close: Discretion must be text-bound, reasoned, prompt and oriented to legislative confidence.

Have the 73rd and 74th Amendments created real self-government?

Opening: The amendments constitutionalised local democracy but left the depth of devolution largely to States.

Body: regular elections/reservations | Eleventh/Twelfth Schedules | SEC/SFC | 3F deficits | planning/social audit/capacity reforms

Value addition: Articles 243G, 243W, 243I/Y, 243K/ZA; Kishan Singh Tomar.

Close: The next reform phase is functional and fiscal empowerment, not another promise of decentralisation.

Assess Election Commission independence and electoral reform.

Opening: Free and fair elections require an umpire with authority, neutrality and public confidence.

Body: Article 324 powers/limits | RPA framework | appointments and tenure | finance/criminalisation/misinformation | transparent enforcement and appointment reform

Value addition: Article 324; RPA 1950/1951; Anoop Baranwal with current-law update.

Close: Institutional independence must be matched by reasoned decisions and equal enforcement.

Discuss emergency safeguards after the 44th Amendment.

Opening: India retains emergency power but constitutional experience produced stronger procedural and rights safeguards.

Body: three emergencies | Article 352 grounds and Cabinet advice | parliamentary approval/renewal | Articles 358-359 | Bommai control of Article 356

Value addition: Articles 352, 356, 358, 359, 360.

Close: Emergency authority is legitimate only as a temporary, reviewable means of constitutional preservation.

Explain Article 371G as asymmetric federalism.

Opening: Asymmetry permits equal membership in the Union without erasing historically grounded difference.

Body: four protected fields | Assembly-resolution mechanism | pre-existing Central Acts caveat | minimum Assembly strength | benefits and rights/accountability tensions

Value addition: Article 371G; link to Statehood settlement and Sixth Schedule distinction.

Close: Accommodation through constitutional consent can strengthen integration and self-government simultaneously.

Assess Sixth Schedule Autonomous District Councils in Mizoram.

Opening: The Sixth Schedule converts identity protection into territorial institutions of self-government.

Body: constitutional setting | Chakma/Lai/Mara councils | legislative-administrative-judicial-fiscal roles | Governor/State relationship | finance/capacity/accountability reforms

Value addition: Use only verified fields; distinguish from Article 371G and ordinary Panchayats.

Close: Clear competence, adequate resources and democratic accountability are essential to meaningful autonomy.

Examine the constitutional position of Public Service Commissions.

Opening: PSCs translate equality of opportunity into merit-based and politically insulated recruitment.

Body: Articles 315-323 | composition/tenure/removal | Article 320 functions | reporting and consultation limits | selection/calendar/integrity reforms

Value addition: Articles 315, 316, 317, 320, 322, 323.

Close: Independence must be visible in transparent processes, timely recruitment and reasoned accountability.

Rapid-fire mini frameworks

Topic	Seven-step recall chain
Fundamental Duties	Origin - Article 51A - eleven duties - interpretive role - enforceability limits - civic education.
Citizenship	Articles 5-11 - Article 11 - Citizenship Act modes - single citizenship - rights of citizens/persons - current issue.
Parliamentary privilege	Articles 105/194 - purpose - main protections - uncodified scope - judicial review - codification debate.
Anti-defection	Tenth Schedule - grounds - merger exception - Speaker - Kihoto - stability versus deliberation - whip reform.
Money Bill	Articles 110/199 - certification - Rajya Sabha/Council limit - bicameral concern - judicial scrutiny.
Ordinance	Articles 123/213 - recess and necessity - legislative effect - reassembly deadline - judicial review - re-promulgation abuse.
Finance Commission	Article 280 - vertical/horizontal devolution - grants - local bodies - equalisation - predictable federal finance.
Inter-State Council	Article 263 - inquiry/discussion/recommendation - consultation forum - underuse - regular agenda and secretariat.
Article 356	Constitutional failure - Governor report/otherwise - approval - consequences - Bommai - floor test - limited use.
Judicial activism	Rights/access rationale - PIL and structural remedies - benefits - competence/accountability risks - principled restraint.
Uniform Civil Code	Article 44 - equality/autonomy - legal pluralism - consultation - incremental rights-based reform.
One Nation One Election	Stability/cost case - accountability/federal concerns - constitutional amendments - constructive confidence options - consensus.

Ready introductions and conclusions

Introductions

Use	Ready line
Institution	"The Constitution creates [institution] not merely to exercise power, but to make that power accountable to [value/body]."
Federalism	"Indian federalism combines constitutionally divided authority with unavoidable interdependence in administration and finance."
Rights	"A Fundamental Right is both a restraint on State power and a positive condition of equal citizenship and dignity."
Amendment	"A living Constitution must permit change, but constitutional change cannot lawfully abolish the conditions that make it constitutional."
Local government	"Democracy becomes self-government only when elected local bodies control meaningful functions, funds and functionaries."

Conclusions

Use	Ready line
Balanced reform	"The answer is neither institutional supremacy nor paralysis, but transparent power bounded by reasons, review and constitutional purpose."
Federal reform	"Regular consultation, predictable finance and restrained discretion can turn constitutional interdependence into cooperative federalism."
Rights	"The durable balance is secured by legality, legitimate purpose, proportionality and effective safeguards."
Mizoram	"Constitutional accommodation succeeds when autonomy is matched by capacity, accountability and respect for individual rights."
Elections	"Electoral legitimacy depends not only on periodic voting, but on a fair field, credible umpire and informed choice."

Words that make analysis visible

- Textually...
- Institutionally...
- In practice...
- The democratic justification is...
- The federal concern is...
- The strongest criticism is...
- A proportionate reform would...
- In Mizoram's context...

Fourteen-day conversion plan

Repeat the cycle if more time is available. Every day ends with closed-book recall; every third day includes timed writing.

Day	Coverage	Output
1	Preamble, citizenship, Articles 12-18	Recall Articles 5-18; one equality answer
2	Articles 19-22	Article 21 answer + six freedoms table
3	Articles 25-32; writs	Writ matrix from memory; 15-minute answer
4	DPSP, Duties, FR-DPSP	20 anchor Articles; harmony answer
5	Amendment and Basic Structure	Case chronology without notes
6	President, PM, Parliament	Union Article chain 52-122
7	Supreme Court and judicial reform	Half-length 50-mark mixed test
8	Governor, CM, Legislature	Governor answer with Bommai/Nabam
9	High Court; compare Union/State	Parallel Article table from memory
10	Panchayats and Municipalities	73rd/74th comparison + 3F answer
11	Federal nature and legislative relations	Federalism master answer
12	Admin/finance relations; PSC	Commission bank + PSC mini answer
13	Elections and emergencies	RPA split; 352/356/360 table
14	Article 371G; Sixth Schedule; total revision	Full 3-hour mock and error audit

Daily closed-book audit (20 minutes)

- Write five Article numbers with their exact subject.
- Write three cases with one-line propositions.
- Reproduce one answer skeleton: opening, five headings, authority, conclusion.
- Review yesterday's error log before adding any new notes.

Scorecard for each answer (10 points)

Criterion	Points
Demand fully answered	2
Correct Articles / constitutional text	2
Analysis and balance	2
Relevant case / commission / Mizoram link	2
Structure, conclusion and time discipline	2

Final 48-hour sheets

Must-recall without notes

- Five syllabus units and mark weights: 30-15-15-15-25.
- Article chains: 5-11; 12-35; 36-51A; 52-78; 79-122; 124-147; 153-167; 168-212; 214-237; 243-243ZG; 245-293; 315-323; 324-329; 352-360; 368; 371G.
- Schedules: Seventh, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Sixth.
- Ten cases: Kesavananda, Minerva Mills, Maneka, Puttaswamy, Bommai, Kihoto, L. Chandra Kumar, NJAC, Nabam Rebia, Kishan Singh Tomar.
- Mizoram: four Article 371G fields; three Autonomous District Councils; distinction between Article 371G and Sixth Schedule.
- Five universal answer headings: law - purpose - practice - problem - reform.

Error-control checklist

Common error	Correction
Listing Articles without argument	After every provision, state why it matters to the question.
Decorative case names	Add the one-line ratio or omit the case.
Treating DPSPs/Duties as enforceable rights	State their non-justiciability and interpretive/legislative role.
Calling the President/Governor merely a rubber stamp	Explain aid/advice plus defined constitutional functions and limited discretion.
Saying all FR suspend in emergency	Differentiate Articles 358 and 359; protect Articles 20 and 21.
Confusing Article 371G with Sixth Schedule	Separate State-wide legislative protection from territorial councils.
Writing UPSC-style current affairs only	Anchor every answer in the LCE syllabus, Articles and institutional design.

One-page mental map

Values	Rights	Institutions	Territories	Accountability
Preamble; Basic Structure; FR-DPSP harmony	Equality; freedom; liberty; religion; remedies	Executive; legislatures; courts; PSC; EC	Union-State; local bodies; 371G; Sixth Schedule	Judicial review; elections; committees; finance; emergency safeguards

Sources and scope note

- Primary exam basis: The Mizoram Civil Service (Limited Competitive Examination) Regulations, 2023, including the 100-mark, 3-hour conventional Paper II syllabus.
- Official regulations: <https://dpar.mizoram.gov.in/uploads/attachments/2023/06/447785cb286b71e79ac1bd6b3cb33836/pages-127-ex-280-the-mizoram-civil-service-limited-competitive-examination-regulations-2023.pdf>
- MPSC LCE page: <https://mpsc.mizoram.gov.in/page/lce>
- MPSC old question pages: <https://mpsc.mizoram.gov.in/page/old-question-2023-2024> and <https://mpsc.mizoram.gov.in/page/old-question-g-2025-2027>
- Uploaded papers analysed: MCS polity/Constitution papers for 2015, 2017, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. These are analogues for examiner preference, not previous LCE papers.
- Constitutional authority: Constitution of India and reported Supreme Court decisions named in the case bank. Verify current statutory and judicial developments close to the examination.

Scope note

This handbook is a high-density revision and answer-writing tool. It intentionally compresses doctrine. For exact wording, exceptions and current law, consult the bare Constitution, official statutes and the latest judgments. Probable questions are strategic inferences from the syllabus and uploaded MPSC papers, not predictions or official guidance.

END NOTE

Your advantage will not come from one more passive reading. It will come from reproducing the constitutional structure accurately under time: Article, principle, authority, evaluation, conclusion.