



INSPECTOR BABA

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IMPORTANT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Key Changes | Important Facts | Exam Focus



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INSPECTOR BABA – IMP. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

❖ FIRST CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

- **Context & Cause:** Enacted post-independence to implement land reforms and abolish the Zamindari system without legislative gridlock from legal challenges.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - **Ninth Schedule:** Introduced the 9th Schedule to shield land reform legislation from judicial review.
 - **Articles 31A & 31B:** Inserted to protect agrarian reform laws and Ninth Schedule entries from being invalidated on the grounds of violating Fundamental Rights.
 - **Article 15(4):** Empowered the State to make special provisions for the advancement of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
 - **Reasonable Restrictions under Article 19(2):** Added three new grounds of restriction on Freedom of Speech and Expression: 'Public Order', 'Friendly relations with foreign States', and 'Incitement to an offence'.

❖ FIFTH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACT, 1955

- **Key Provision:** Empowered the President to prescribe a specific time limit for State Assemblies to convey their views regarding Parliamentary bills proposing alterations to state boundaries, areas, or names.

❖ SEVENTH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACT, 1956

- **State Reorganisation:** Replaced the former Part A, B, C, and D classifications of states with **14 States and 6 Union Territories (UTs)** following the recommendations of the State Reorganisation Commission.
- **Common Governor:** Authorized the appointment of the same individual as Governor for two or more states.
- **Common High Court:** Provided for the establishment of a common High Court for two or more states/UTs and extended High Court jurisdiction to Union Territories.

❖ NINTH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACT, 1960

- **Key Provision:** Facilitated the transfer of the **Berubari Union (West Bengal)** territory to Pakistan pursuant to the Indo-Pakistan Nehru-Noon Agreement of 1958.
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❖ INTEGRATION OF TERRITORIES (10th, 12th, 13th & 14th Amendments: 1961–1962)

- **10th Amendment (1961):** Incorporated **Dadra and Nagar Haveli** into the Indian Union as a Union Territory.
 - **12th Amendment (1962):** Incorporated **Goa, Daman, and Diu** as a Union Territory.
 - **13th Amendment (1962):** Granted special constitutional provisions for **Nagaland** under Article 371A prior to its attainment of full statehood.
 - **14th Amendment (1962):** Incorporated **Puducherry** into the Union and enabled legislatures and Councils of Ministers for several UTs.
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❖ FIFTEENTH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACT, 1963

- **Key Provision:** Increased the superannuation/retirement age of High Court judges from **60 years to 62 years**.
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❖ TWENTY-FIRST CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACT, 1967

- **Key Provision:** Added **Sindhi** as the 15th regional language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
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❖ TWENTY-FOURTH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACT, 1971

- **Parliamentary Sovereignty:** Affirmed Parliament's power to amend any part of the Constitution, including Fundamental Rights (Part III).
 - **Presidential Assent:** Made it obligatory for the President to give assent to Constitutional Amendment Bills.
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❖ TWENTY-FIFTH & TWENTY-SIXTH AMENDMENT ACTS, 1971

- **25th Amendment (1971):** Inserted **Article 31C**, giving precedence to Directive Principles under Article 39(b) and 39(c) over Fundamental Rights under Articles 14, 19, and 31.
 - **26th Amendment (1971):** Abolished **Privy Purses** and hereditary privileges enjoyed by former rulers of princely states.
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❖ THIRTY-FIFTH & THIRTY-SIXTH AMENDMENT ACTS (1974–1975)

- **35th Amendment (1974):** Terminated Sikkim's protectorate status and designated it as an "**Associate State**" of India.
 - **36th Amendment (1975):** Conferred full statehood on **Sikkim**, making it the **22nd State** of the Indian Union.
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❖ FORTY-SECOND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACT, 1976

("MINI-CONSTITUTION")

- **Preamble:** Added three new terms — '**Socialist**', '**Secular**', and '**Integrity**'.
 - **Fundamental Duties:** Inserted Part IV-A (Article 51A) prescribing **10 Fundamental Duties** for citizens on the recommendation of the Swaran Singh Committee.
 - **New DPSPs:** Added Articles 39(f), 39A (Free Legal Aid), 43A (Worker participation in industrial management), and 48A (Protection of environment and wildlife).
 - **Seventh Schedule Transfer:** Transferred 5 subjects from the State List to the Concurrent List: Education, Forests, Weights & Measures, Protection of Wild Animals/Birds, and Administration of Justice.
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❖ FORTY-FOURTH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACT, 1978

- **Right to Property:** Omitted the Right to Property from Part III (Fundamental Rights) and reclassified it as a legal right under **Article 300A**.
 - **Emergency Safeguards:** Substituted the phrase 'internal disturbance' with '**armed rebellion**' under Article 352 and stipulated that a National Emergency can only be proclaimed on the **written advice of the Cabinet**.
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❖ MODERN GOVERNANCE & DEMOCRATIC REFORMS (1985-2023)

- **52nd Amendment (1985):** Added the **Tenth Schedule** introducing the Anti-Defection Law.
- **61st Amendment (1988/89):** Reduced the voting age for Lok Sabha and Assembly elections from **21 years to 18 years**.
- **69th Amendment (1991):** Accorded special status to Delhi as the **National Capital Territory (NCT)** with a Legislative Assembly (Articles 239AA & 239AB).
- **71st Amendment (1992) :** Added **Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali** to the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.
- **73rd & 74th Amendments (1992):** Granted constitutional recognition to **Panchayati Raj Institutions** (Part IX, 11th Schedule) and **Urban Local Bodies/Municipalities** (Part IX-A, 12th Schedule).
- **86th Amendment (2002):** Introduced **Article 21A** making free and compulsory elementary education a Fundamental Right for children aged 6 to 14 years.
- **91st Amendment (2003):** Restricted the maximum size of the Council of Ministers (Centre and States) to **15% of the total strength** of Lok Sabha / Legislative Assembly.
- **92nd Amendment (2003) :** Added **Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali** to the 8th Schedule.
- **97th Amendment (2011) :** Granted constitutional status to **Co-operative Societies** (Part IX-B, Art. 243ZH to 243ZT; added Art. 19(1)(c) and Art. 43B).
- **100th Amendment(2015) :** Exchanged enclave territories with Bangladesh under Land Boundary Agreements.
- **101st Amendment (2016):** Rolled out the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** nationwide.
- **103rd Amendment (2019):** Provided **10% reservation** for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in education and public employment.
- **104th Amendment (2020):** Abolished the nomination system for **Anglo-Indians** in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
- **106th Amendment (2023):** Enacted the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**, reserving **33% of seats for women** in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

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