

2025-2026

POLITY

KEYWORDS & PHRASES

TO ENRICH YOUR MAINS ANSWER



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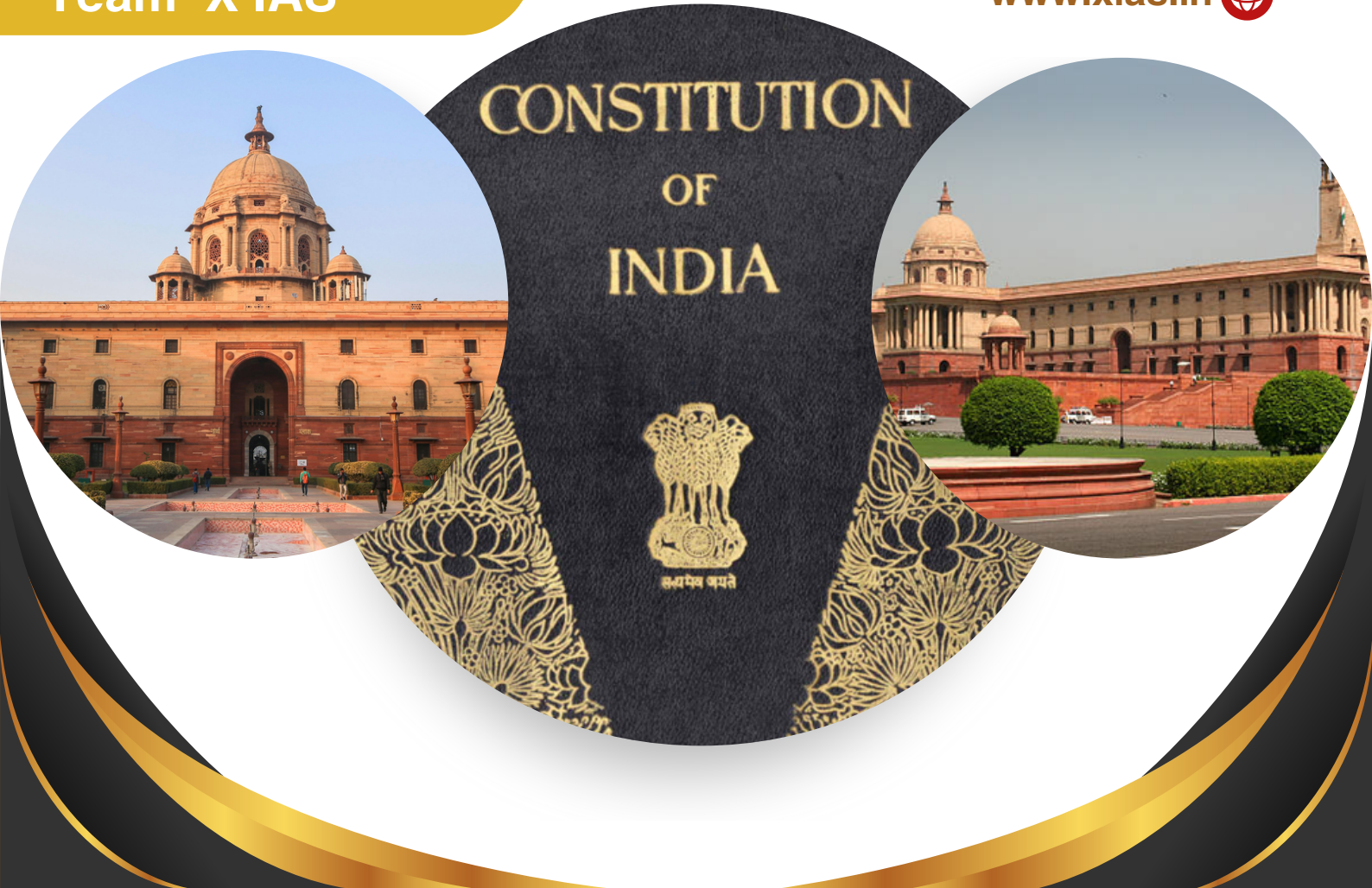
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About This Compilation – “Cardamom Effect” for Polity Answers

In UPSC Mains, language is not just a medium it is a multiplier.

Just as cardamom adds an irresistible aroma to a dish, impactful constitutional vocabulary and sharp polity expressions elevate the flavour of your GS2 answers.

That is why **Team X IAS** proudly presents this curated set of high-impact **Polity Keywords and Phrases** crafted to give your GS2 answers a definitive edge.

What This Booklet Offers:

- A comprehensive toolkit of **catchy two-word polity keywords** and **ready-to-use constitutional expressions** aligned with the **UPSC GS2 Polity syllabus**.
- Keywords and phrases designed to add **clarity, depth, and constitutional precision** to your writing.
- Coverage of key themes such as **Indian Constitution, federal structure, secularism, local governance, and democratic values** enriched with **real-world examples (2024–25)** and insights from **constitutional experts and reports**.
- Compiled from **toppers' notes, NCERTs, Laxmikant, ARC Reports, Constitutional Debates**, and the **X IAS Team's value-rich material**.

How to Use This Booklet:

- **Two-word polity keywords** with **brief meanings** and **powerful, exam-ready examples**.
- **Thought-provoking phrases** ideal for inserting into **introductions, conclusions, or constitutional analysis**.
- Perfect for GS2 answers in themes like **federalism, secularism, democracy, governance, devolution**, and more.

We believe these refined expressions will help your answers **stand out** where **constitutional clarity meets analytical character**.

Let these words become your **polity toolkit** in Mains!

For More Enriched Content or Feedback:

Telegram: https://t.me/X_IAS

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SYLLABUS TOPICS OF GS2 (Polity)

- Indian Constitution—Historical Underpinnings, Evolution, Features, Amendments, Significant Provisions and Basic Structure.
- Functions and Responsibilities of the Union and the States, Issues and Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure, Devolution of Powers, and Finances up to Local Levels and Challenges Therein.
- Separation of Powers between various organs, Dispute Redressal Mechanisms, and Institutions.
- Comparison of the Indian Constitutional Scheme with that of Other Countries.
- Parliament and State Legislatures—Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges, and Issues Arising out of these.
- Structure, Organization and Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; Pressure Groups and Formal/Informal Associations and their Role in the Polity.
- Salient Features of the Representation of People's Act.
- Appointment to various Constitutional Posts, Powers, Functions and Responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.
- Statutory, Regulatory, and various Quasi-judicial Bodies.

UPSC GS2 POLITY - HANDPICKED KEYWORDS WITH EXAMPLES**Topic 1: Indian Constitution — Historical Underpinnings, Evolution, Features, Amendments, Significant Provisions and Basic Structure.**

1. **Constitutional Ethos** – Foundational values like justice, liberty, and dignity embedded in the Constitution. **Example:** The Supreme Court's electoral bond verdict upheld citizen-centric transparency in political funding.
2. **Transformative Constitutionalism** – Using the Constitution as an engine of progressive social change. **Example:** The recognition of queer marriages under legal scrutiny promotes inclusion and human dignity.
3. **Constituent Intent** – The philosophical purpose of the framers behind specific provisions. **Example:** Judicial review of Article 370's removal reflected on debates from the Constituent Assembly.
4. **Democratic Deepening** – Expansion of democratic norms across society and institutions. **Example:** Digital inclusion under voter awareness campaigns empowered marginalized rural voters.
5. **Judicial Continuity** – Preservation of long-standing constitutional doctrines by courts. **Example:** The Court's reference to Kesavananda Bharati in the EWS quota judgment affirmed past precedents.
6. **Basic Structure Firewall** – Protection mechanism that prevents amendments from violating core principles. **Example:** Attempts to dilute judicial independence through the NJAC were struck down as unconstitutional.
7. **Federal Tensions** – Conflicts arising from overlapping powers between Centre and States. **Example:** The tussle between Delhi and the Lieutenant Governor reignited debates over administrative control.
8. **Living Constitution** – The idea that the Constitution must evolve with changing societal needs. **Example:** Data privacy was interpreted as a fundamental right under the expanding scope of Article 21.
9. **Amendment Fatigue** – Overuse or politicization of constitutional amendments. **Example:** Frequent changes to the Tenth Schedule have raised concerns about political opportunism.

Cycle of Constitutional Enhancement



10. **Constitutional Silences** – Areas where the Constitution does not provide explicit answers. **Example:** The mechanism for appointing Election Commissioners was filled in by judicial intervention.
11. **Republic as Process** – Treating the Republic not as an event but a continuous journey towards justice. **Example:** Movements against voter suppression highlight democratic participation as an evolving commitment.
12. **Foundational Sovereignty** – The ultimate authority rests with the people through the Constitution. **Example:** People's resistance to unconstitutional surveillance laws was defended as an act of civic ownership.
13. **Textual Rigidity** – Strict interpretation of constitutional language. **Example:** Some High Court verdicts resisted reinterpretation of Schedule VII to preserve legislative clarity.
14. **Ethical Federalism** – Respect-based coordination among levels of government. **Example:** The Centre's unilateral laws on agriculture faced backlash for bypassing state consensus.

15. **Civic Constitutionalism** – Public engagement with the Constitution’s spirit and content.
Example: The preamble reading campaign in schools encouraged civic understanding of constitutional values.
16. **Deliberative Origins** – The Constitution as a product of extensive dialogue and debate.
Example: Current debates on simultaneous elections often reference Constituent Assembly dissent.
17. **Emergency Memory** – Democratic vigilance rooted in past misuse of constitutional power.
Example: Opposition to expanded surveillance powers echoes caution drawn from the 1975 Emergency era.
18. **Institutional Guardrails** – Checks and balances that prevent institutional overreach. **Example:** The judiciary’s intervention in suspending arbitrary ordinances preserved democratic accountability.
19. **Popular Sovereignty** – Power ultimately rests with the people, not institutions. **Example:** Citizen protests against undemocratic ordinances reaffirmed public ownership of the Constitution.
20. **Supremacy Clause** – The Constitution’s authority above all institutions and laws. **Example:** State laws contradicting central laws on education were struck down for violating constitutional primacy.
21. **Constitutional Patriotism** – Loyalty to constitutional principles rather than political ideology.
Example: Bureaucrats resisting unlawful orders demonstrated allegiance to institutional norms.
22. **Decentralised Republicanism** – Republican values implemented through local self-governance.
Example: Gram Sabhas invoking tribal rights under PESA to reject mining projects showed bottom-up democracy.
23. **Judicial Sincerity** – Honesty in upholding constitutional values over expedient interests.
Example: The Chief Justice publicly emphasized safeguarding dissent in judgments on media freedom.
24. **Constitutional Maturity** – Restraint and balance in institutional conduct over time. **Example:** Peaceful resolution of inter-state border disputes through constitutional mechanisms showed political maturity.
25. **Amendment Restraint** – The practice of limiting constitutional changes to essential revisions.
Example: Concerns over frequent changes to service rules via ordinances led to a call for legislative prudence.
26. **Federal Friction** – Administrative or political disagreements within the federal system.
Example: Delays in GST compensation revealed tensions in fiscal cooperation.
27. **Oath Fidelity** – Constitutional commitment reflected in actions of office-bearers. **Example:** Governors refusing to summon assemblies led to debates over adherence to constitutional duties.
28. **Asymmetric Federalism** – Granting special provisions to some states within a federal structure.
Example: Continued demands for Sixth Schedule status in Ladakh reflect this unique model.
29. **Negative Liberty** – Freedom from excessive State interference. **Example:** Decriminalisation of certain sedition cases aimed to restore individual autonomy.
30. **Post-Truth Threat** – Erosion of constitutional values due to misinformation. **Example:** Fake news campaigns distorted facts during CAA-NRC debates, undermining informed citizenship.
31. **Procedural Republic** – Emphasis on fair processes over outcomes. **Example:** Nullifying laws passed without debate reinforced the need for legislative procedure.
32. **Majoritarian Creep** – Gradual dominance of majority views over minority rights. **Example:** Urban housing schemes excluding single women faced legal challenge for discriminatory design.
33. **Constitutional Federalism** – Federalism grounded in constitutional allocation of powers.
Example: The Finance Commission’s role in vertical devolution was challenged for over-centralisation.

34. **Enumerated Sovereignty** – Authority that flows from a defined list of powers. **Example:** Disputes over control of police in Union Territories revolved around Schedule VII interpretations.
35. **Democratic Guardrails** – In-built safeguards to prevent democratic backsliding. **Example:** Mandating pre-legislative consultation was proposed as a new institutional check.
36. **Authoritarian Drift** – Slow erosion of constitutional checks and balances. **Example:** Arbitrary internet shutdowns drew concerns from digital rights bodies.
37. **Foundational Pluralism** – The Constitution's inclusive character accommodating diversity. **Example:** Uniform Civil Code debates often clash with personal law protections as pluralist principles.
38. **Institutional Fatigue** – Reduced efficiency or responsiveness in constitutional bodies. **Example:** Long delays in Lokpal appointments highlighted weakening anti-corruption machinery.
39. **Civic Secularism** – State neutrality in religious matters while ensuring individual freedoms. **Example:** Court restrictions on religious processions in sensitive zones were framed as public interest, not bias.
40. **Rights-Conscious Citizenship** – Awareness and assertion of constitutional rights by citizens. **Example:** Students filed writ petitions against surveillance tools used in public universities.

Topic :2- Functions and Responsibilities of the Union and the States, Issues and Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure, Devolution of Powers and Finances up to Local Levels and Challenges Therein

1. **Polycentric Governance** – Multiple autonomous centres of decision-making within the federal setup. **Example:** The pandemic response exhibited polycentric governance with overlapping roles of Centre, States, and local bodies.
2. **Asymmetric Devolution** – Unequal transfer of powers tailored to specific states' demands or capabilities. **Example:** Tribal autonomous councils enjoying bespoke administrative autonomy demonstrate asymmetric devolution.
3. **Fiscal Pluralism** – Coexistence of diverse revenue systems across states within a federal fiscal framework. **Example:** States experimenting with localized taxation models reflect growing fiscal pluralism.
4. **Constitutional Confederalism** – Elements of confederation embedded within a constitutionally federal state. **Example:** Special economic zones functioning under unique legal frameworks evoke constitutional confederacies.
5. **Interjurisdictional Spillovers** – Policy effects crossing territorial boundaries, requiring cooperative governance. **Example:** Pollution control measures in one state affecting neighbouring states highlight interjurisdictional spillovers.
6. **Devolution Bottleneck** – Systemic impediments blocking effective transfer of powers or funds downward. **Example:** Rigid procedural requirements stalled funds transfer to grassroots bodies, revealing a devolution bottleneck.
7. **Subsidiarity Dilemma** – The tension between decentralizing authority and maintaining governance efficiency. **Example:** Balancing Panchayat empowerment with state oversight illustrates the subsidiarity dilemma.
8. **Competence Overlaps** – Ambiguous areas where Centre and States share or contest jurisdiction. **Example:** Legal tussles over land acquisition laws reflect deep competence overlaps.
9. **Vertical Fiscal Imbalance** – Mismatch between revenue-generating powers and expenditure responsibilities across levels. **Example:** States relying heavily on central transfers for social welfare programs suffer vertical fiscal imbalance.
10. **Political Decoupling** – Divergence of political alignments between Centre and States affecting governance. **Example:** Opposition-led states resisting Centre schemes exemplify political decoupling.

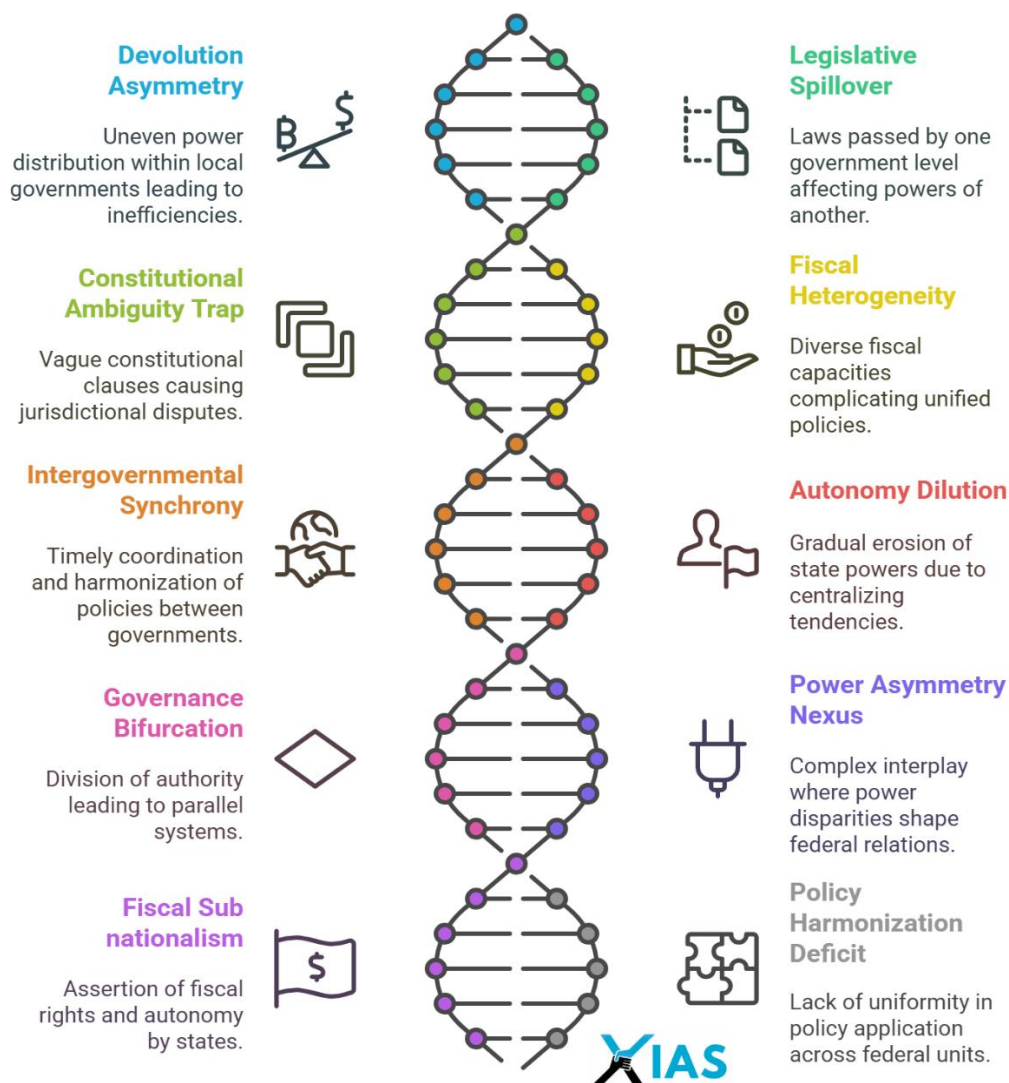
11. **Functional Fragmentation** – Dispersed responsibilities without coherent integration among government layers. **Example:** Overlapping disaster response duties showed functional fragmentation during cyclone relief efforts.
12. **Decentralized Polyarchy** – Diffused political power across multiple, often competing, local bodies. **Example:** Metropolitan regions with fragmented local councils illustrate decentralized polyarchy.
13. **Devolution Paradox** – The contradiction where more powers to local bodies coexist with inadequate resources. **Example:** Panchayats entrusted with development duties but starved of funds faced the devolution paradox.
14. **Intergovernmental Contestation** – Open conflicts and power struggles among government levels. **Example:** Recent disputes over farm laws illustrated intense intergovernmental contestation.
15. **Centralized Fiscal Leverage** – Using financial resources as a tool to influence state compliance. **Example:** Conditional central grants nudged states to adopt national digital governance frameworks.
16. **Polyvalent Authority** – Overlapping authorities vested in multiple bodies creating confusion. **Example:** Ambiguous roles between state health departments and municipal bodies revealed polyvalent authority.
17. **Local Governance Disintermediation** – Bypassing traditional local institutions in governance processes. **Example:** Direct central funding to NGOs bypassed Panchayati Raj institutions, causing disintermediation.
18. **Fiscal Federal Elasticity** – The system's capacity to adapt financial arrangements dynamically. **Example:** GST Council's periodic rate adjustments demonstrated fiscal federal elasticity.
19. **Devolution Efficiency Gap** – Gap between delegated powers and actual performance at local levels. **Example:** Low absorptive capacity in rural bodies led to the devolution efficiency gap.
20. **Constitutional Federalism Faultlines** – Structural tensions inherent in federal constitutional design. **Example:** Ongoing debates on uniform civil code exposed constitutional federalism faultlines.
21. **Democratic Decentralism** – Power dispersed democratically to encourage local participation. **Example:** Enhanced Gram Sabha participation in planning reflected democratic decentralism.
22. **Jurisdictional Ambit Overlap** – Overlapping spheres of influence leading to regulatory confusion. **Example:** Environmental clearances faced hurdles due to jurisdictional ambit overlap between Centre and States.
23. **Governance Layering** – Multiple tiers with distinct but interconnected responsibilities. **Example:** Urban infrastructure planning involved coordination across municipal, state, and central layers.
24. **Subnational Fiscal Sovereignty** – States exercising independent fiscal authority within constitutional limits. **Example:** States issuing infrastructure bonds demonstrated emerging fiscal sovereignty.
25. **Political Federal Synergy** – Constructive cooperation between Centre and States for policy success. **Example:** Coordinated disaster relief efforts reflected political federal synergy.
26. **Institutional Interlock** – Formal mechanisms tying different government levels together. **Example:** Finance Commission's role exemplified institutional interlock for fiscal balance.
27. **Administrative Federal Pluralism** – Multiple administrative traditions coexisting under federalism. **Example:** Autonomous tribal councils functioning alongside mainstream state governments embody this pluralism.
28. **Devolution Lag** – Time delays between policy enactment and actual transfer of powers. **Example:** States awaited years for devolution of solid waste management functions despite constitutional mandates.

29. **Revenue Autarky** – Self-sufficiency in revenue generation by sub-national governments.

Example: Some municipalities achieved near-complete financial independence through innovative taxes.

30. **Federal Power Stratification** – Hierarchical distribution of authority across government layers.

Example: Central government's dominance in defense contrasts with states' control over public health.



31. **Interjurisdictional Coordination Deficit** – Failures in cooperation across boundaries. **Example:** Cross-border epidemic containment suffered due to coordination deficit.

32. **Governance Decoupling** – Disjointed policy approaches by Centre and States undermining unity. **Example:** Conflicting COVID-19 containment strategies highlighted governance decoupling.

33. **Fiscal Reciprocity** – Mutual financial support mechanisms between different government tiers. **Example:** Centre's timely release of disaster relief funds showed fiscal reciprocity in crisis.

34. **Decentralized Regulatory Pluralism** – Multiple regulatory authorities operating locally within the federal framework. **Example:** Diverse pollution control boards with differing standards indicated regulatory pluralism.

35. **Federal Integrationist Impulse** – Efforts to strengthen union coherence despite autonomy. **Example:** National education policy attempted to harmonize curricula across states.

36. **Functional Deconcentrating** – Redistribution of administrative functions to lower government levels. **Example:** Health services management shifted increasingly to district authorities.

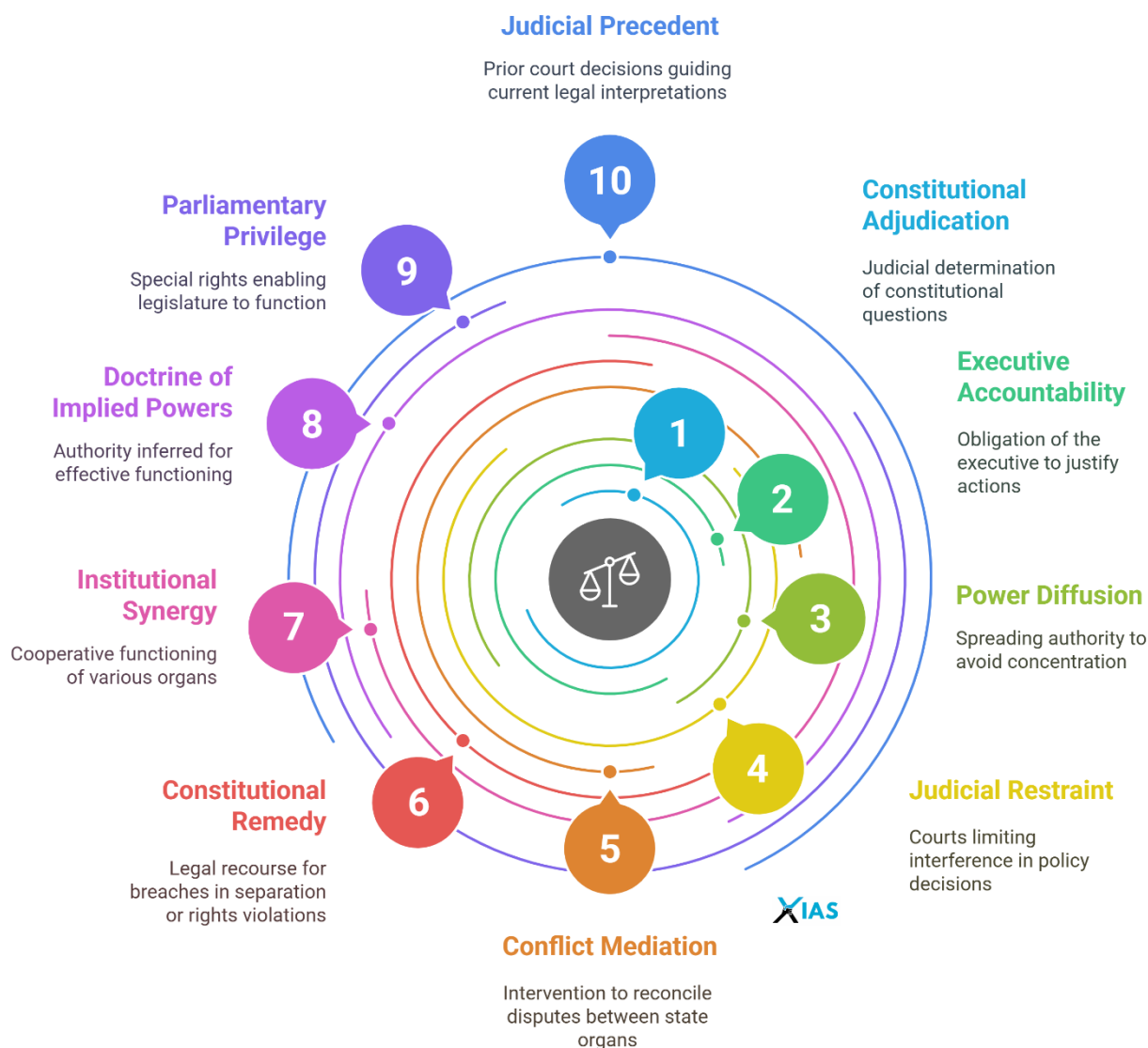
37. **Political-Fiscal Interface** – Interaction between political agendas and fiscal policies at sub-national levels. **Example:** States aligning budget priorities with political manifestos exemplify this interface.
38. **Constitutional Symbiosis** – Mutually dependent relationship between Centre and States enshrined constitutionally. **Example:** GST Council's decision-making highlighted constitutional symbiosis.
39. **Power Devolution Discontinuity** – Interruptions in transferring authority due to political or bureaucratic resistance. **Example:** Municipal reforms stalled amid opposition from entrenched interests.
40. **Governance Complexity Matrix** – The intricate, overlapping system of multi-level governance in a federal setup. **Example:** Urban transport planning involving state, municipal, and central agencies embodies this matrix.

Topic :3- Separation of Powers between various organs Dispute Redressal Mechanisms and Institutions

1. **Judicial Activism** – Courts proactively interpreting laws to uphold rights and justice. **Example:** The Supreme Court's intervention to expedite environmental clearances showed assertive judicial engagement.
2. **Executive Discretion** – Authority vested in the executive to make decisions within legal limits. **Example:** The government's flexible use of emergency powers during health crises highlighted executive latitude.
3. **Legislative Oversight** – Parliament's scrutiny over executive actions to ensure accountability. **Example:** Parliamentary committees examined policy implementation gaps in welfare schemes rigorously.
4. **Quasi-Judicial Authority** – Bodies empowered to adjudicate certain disputes without full judicial powers. **Example:** The Election Commission's decisions on campaign violations reinforced electoral fairness.
5. **Institutional Checks** – Mechanisms ensuring no branch exceeds its constitutional mandate. **Example:** The judiciary striking down a law violating fundamental rights upheld institutional balance.
6. **Power Equilibrium** – Balanced distribution of authority preventing dominance of one branch. **Example:** The coordinated response to national security threats maintained inter-institutional harmony.
7. **Conflict Adjudication** – Formal resolution of disputes between government organs or institutions. **Example:** The Supreme Court resolved a jurisdictional conflict between the Centre and a State government.
8. **Rule of Law Safeguard** – Ensuring all state actions conform to legal principles. **Example:** The court's intervention in unlawful detention cases reinforced this foundational principle.
9. **Institutional Autonomy** – Independence granted to bodies to perform their functions without interference. **Example:** The Reserve Bank's independent decision on monetary policy exemplified such autonomy.
10. **Separation Breach** – Instances where boundaries between branches become blurred or violated. **Example:** Controversies arose over executive overreach into judicial appointments.
11. **Judicial Review Scope** – Extent to which courts examine laws and executive acts for constitutionality. **Example:** Scrutiny of privacy laws ensured they aligned with constitutional guarantees.
12. **Dispute Settlement Forum** – Dedicated platform to resolve specific governance or legal disputes. **Example:** The National Green Tribunal's rulings on industrial pollution reflected effective dispute resolution.

13. **Constitutional Safeguards** – Provisions protecting separation of powers and dispute mechanisms. **Example:** Protective measures upheld during legislative debates on emergency provisions.

Pillars of Governance



14. **Authority Delegation** – Legal transfer of decision-making powers from one branch to another. **Example:** Parliament delegated regulatory authority to independent commissions for sectoral oversight.
15. **Interbranch Dialogue** – Communication channels between different government organs to resolve issues. **Example:** Regular consultations between the judiciary and executive enhanced cooperation.
16. **Judicial Independence** – Freedom of courts from political or executive influence. **Example:** The judiciary's refusal to yield in high-profile corruption trials demonstrated this independence.
17. **Administrative Tribunals** – Specialized bodies adjudicating disputes in administrative matters. **Example:** The Telecom Disputes Settlement Appellate Tribunal resolved conflicts between service providers and regulators.

18. **Separation Integrity** – Maintaining the distinct and independent functions of government branches. **Example:** Constitutional amendments reinforced safeguards protecting institutional roles.
19. **Ombudsman Mechanism** – Independent official addressing citizens' grievances against administration. **Example:** The Lokpal's inquiry into corruption complaints showed active grievance redressal.
20. **Federal Dispute Panel** – Body resolving conflicts between Centre and State governments. **Example:** Disputes over river water sharing were adjudicated through specialized panels.
21. **Legislative Sunset Clause** – Provisions allowing laws to expire unless renewed, ensuring review. **Example:** Temporary farm laws expired after parliamentary review, demonstrating this mechanism.
22. **Judicial Accountability** – Mechanisms ensuring judges uphold ethical and legal standards. **Example:** Judicial conduct committees addressed complaints against bench members transparently.
23. **Interinstitutional Balance** – Equilibrium in influence and function among government branches. **Example:** Budget approvals balanced executive proposals with legislative scrutiny.
24. **Constitutional Vigilance** – Active monitoring to prevent erosion of separation principles. **Example:** Civil society watchdogs raised alerts on executive encroachments in appointments.
25. **Judicial Activism Spectrum** – Range of court intervention intensity in governance matters. **Example:** Progressive rulings on women's rights showcased assertive judicial involvement.
26. **Dispute Escalation Control** – Mechanisms to prevent minor conflicts from escalating into crises. **Example:** Early intervention in state-center disputes over resource allocation avoided prolonged standoffs.
27. **Executive Overreach** – Excessive or unlawful expansion of executive powers beyond mandate. **Example:** The Supreme Court curtailed unauthorized surveillance activities ordered by the executive.
28. **Legislative Overshadowing** – When legislative actions dominate or suppress other branches' functions. **Example:** Attempts to limit judicial review via amendment faced judicial pushback.
29. **Judicial Comity** – Mutual respect and restraint between courts to maintain harmony. **Example:** Coordination between high courts and the Supreme Court ensured consistent rulings.
30. **Ombudsman Independence** – Freedom of grievance redressal institutions from political influence. **Example:** Lokayuktas functioned effectively due to statutory autonomy provisions.
31. **Administrative Accountability** – Obligation of bureaucrats to explain and justify decisions. **Example:** The Central Vigilance Commission probed administrative lapses in public projects.
32. **Dispute Resolution Hierarchy** – Structured levels of forums for escalating cases systematically. **Example:** Local mediation efforts preceded High Court hearings in land disputes.
33. **Separation Enforcement** – Actions ensuring compliance with constitutional division of powers. **Example:** Courts nullified ordinances exceeding executive authority to enforce separation.
34. **Institutional Impartiality** – Fair and unbiased conduct by government bodies in disputes. **Example:** Election Commission conducted free and fair polls despite political pressure.
35. **Judicial Review Expansion** – Broadening the scope of courts to include social and economic rights. **Example:** Environmental protection cases expanded judicial purview beyond traditional boundaries.
36. **Parliamentary Scrutiny Panel** – Committees reviewing government performance and decisions. **Example:** Committees probed irregularities in public health scheme implementations.
37. **Executive-Legislature Interface** – Interaction points facilitating cooperation and negotiation. **Example:** Frequent consultations ensured smooth passage of budgetary bills.
38. **Dispute Arbitration Forum** – Neutral body for voluntary resolution of disagreements outside courts. **Example:** Arbitration panels settled inter-state water sharing disputes amicably.

39. **Judicial Discretion** – Judges’ power to interpret laws and deliver decisions based on context. **Example:** Courts balanced freedom of speech with public order concerns through discretionary rulings.
40. **Constitutional Mandate Compliance** – Adherence to duties and powers as defined by the Constitution. **Example:** All branches coordinated disaster response respecting their constitutional roles.

Topic: 4- Comparison of the Indian Constitutional Scheme with that of Other Countries

1. **Constitutional Pluralism** – Coexistence of multiple legal systems within a state. **Example:** Tribal autonomy debates in northeast India highlight the challenge of integrating customary laws with constitutional mandates.
2. **Parliamentary Supremacy** – Legislature holds ultimate law-making authority. **Example:** The UK Parliament’s enactment of the Levelling Up Bill showcased its decisive legislative power amidst devolved tensions.
3. **Presidential Federalism** – System where states enjoy autonomy under a presidential framework. **Example:** US states demonstrated varied COVID-19 response policies, reflecting their autonomous powers within the federal presidency.
4. **Quasi-Federal Model** – Blend of federal and unitary features in constitution design. **Example:** India’s recent central schemes for health infrastructure highlight tensions in this hybrid model.

Constitutional Principles Shaping Governance



5. **Judicial Federalism** – Role of courts in balancing center-state relations. **Example:** The Supreme Court's intervention in GST compensation disputes reaffirmed judicial balancing of fiscal federalism.
6. **Constitutional Rigidity** – Difficulty in amending the constitution. **Example:** The ongoing US debate on Supreme Court reforms underlines the challenges posed by the rigid amendment process.
7. **Flexible Constitution** – Ability to amend laws through ordinary legislative procedures. **Example:** New Zealand swiftly amended electoral laws to enhance voter accessibility.
8. **Written Constitution** – A single formal document codifying the constitution. **Example:** The Indian Supreme Court's recent rulings on the Right to Privacy reaffirm its written constitutional framework.
9. **Unwritten Constitution** – Constitution based on statutes, conventions, and judicial precedents. **Example:** UK's handling of the King's speech and government reshuffles show reliance on constitutional conventions.
10. **Fundamental Rights Enforcement** – Mechanisms protecting citizens' rights constitutionally. **Example:** South African courts upheld protesters' right to assemble despite state restrictions.
11. **Directive Principles Emphasis** – Non-justiciable guidelines influencing governance. **Example:** Government policies on universal health coverage reflect directive principles of welfare.
12. **Constitutional Monarchy** – Monarch's powers limited by constitution. **Example:** Japan's imperial ceremonies were conducted under constitutional constraints during the recent transition.
13. **Republicanism** – Governance by elected representatives without hereditary monarch. **Example:** India's national elections emphasized democratic republican governance.
14. **Constitutional Amendment Procedure** – Formal process for changing the constitution. **Example:** Brazil's Congress debated constitutional reforms addressing public security and environmental concerns.
15. **Bicameral Legislature** – Two-house parliamentary system. **Example:** Australia's Senate blocked proposed environmental legislation, showing checks within bicameralism.
16. **Unicameral Legislature** – Single-house legislative system. **Example:** Finland's parliament passed comprehensive digital privacy laws efficiently in one chamber.
17. **Federal Division of Powers** – Distribution of legislative and executive powers between center and states. **Example:** German Länder enforced region-specific climate policies reflecting federal division.
18. **Unitary State Model** – Centralized governance with limited regional autonomy. **Example:** France's central government imposed uniform COVID protocols nationwide.
19. **Judicial Appointment Process** – Method of selecting judges. **Example:** India's Supreme Court collegium recently faced debates over transparency in appointments.
20. **Electoral System Variance** – Differences in voting methods and representation. **Example:** Mixed electoral reforms in New Zealand enhanced proportional representation in Parliament.
21. **Constitutional Secularism** – Separation of religion and state in constitutional provisions. **Example:** France's ban on religious symbols in public schools sparked nationwide debates on secularism.
22. **Political Pluralism** – Multiple political parties and interests recognized constitutionally. **Example:** India's multi-party elections continue to showcase vibrant democratic pluralism.
23. **Federal-State Relations** – Interaction dynamics between central and subnational governments. **Example:** Australia's negotiation on climate policy revealed complex federal-state dynamics.
24. **Constitutional Entrenchment** – Measures protecting constitution from casual amendment. **Example:** US debates on changing Senate filibuster rules highlighted entrenchment challenges.

25. **Executive Accountability Mechanism** – Constitutional processes for holding executives responsible. **Example:** Parliamentary questioning intensified scrutiny on UK government's pandemic handling.
26. **Judicial Independence Guarantees** – Constitutional provisions protecting judiciary autonomy. **Example:** India's Supreme Court emphasized protecting judicial independence amid political pressures.
27. **Federal Judicial Review** – Courts' role in resolving intergovernmental disputes. **Example:** US Supreme Court adjudicated conflicts over state vaccine mandates and federal laws.
28. **State Sovereignty Principle** – Recognition of subnational autonomy within federal frameworks. **Example:** Swiss cantons maintained strong control over COVID restrictions amidst federal coordination.
29. **Electoral Franchise Expansion** – Constitutional provisions widening voter eligibility. **Example:** India's Election Commission enhanced voter outreach programs for marginalized groups.
30. **Language Rights Protection** – Constitutional safeguarding of linguistic diversity. **Example:** Canada implemented policies to strengthen Indigenous language education.
31. **Judicial Precedent Importance** – Weight given to past court decisions. **Example:** UK courts reaffirmed precedent in recent landmark data privacy rulings.
32. **Federal Legislative Competence** – Defined subjects where central legislature can enact laws. **Example:** India's Union List was invoked in passing new agricultural reforms.
33. **Constitutional Crisis Resolution** – Mechanisms for addressing conflicts in governance. **Example:** Belgium's political factions resolved a prolonged deadlock through mediated negotiations.
34. **Direct Democracy Elements** – Citizen participation in decision-making through referenda. **Example:** Switzerland held multiple referenda on environmental and social issues.
35. **Constitutional Ombudsman** – Independent official addressing administrative grievances. **Example:** New Zealand's Ombudsman investigated government delays in welfare schemes.
36. **Bureaucratic Neutrality** – Constitutionally mandated impartiality of civil service. **Example:** India's bureaucracy-maintained impartiality during politically sensitive elections.
37. **Judicial Enforcement Mechanisms** – Methods used by courts to implement orders. **Example:** South African courts empowered community groups to enforce housing rights rulings.
38. **Federalism Spectrum** – Range from highly centralized to decentralized federal systems. **Example:** Comparative analysis of India's centralized policies versus USA's decentralized governance gained attention.
39. **Constitutional Flexibility Index** – Measure of how easily constitutions can be amended. **Example:** Israel's fluid constitutional framework enabled rapid legislative responses during crises.
40. **Institutional Checks and Balances** – Constitutional structures preventing abuse of power. **Example:** US Congress held multiple hearings to check executive authority over foreign policy decisions.

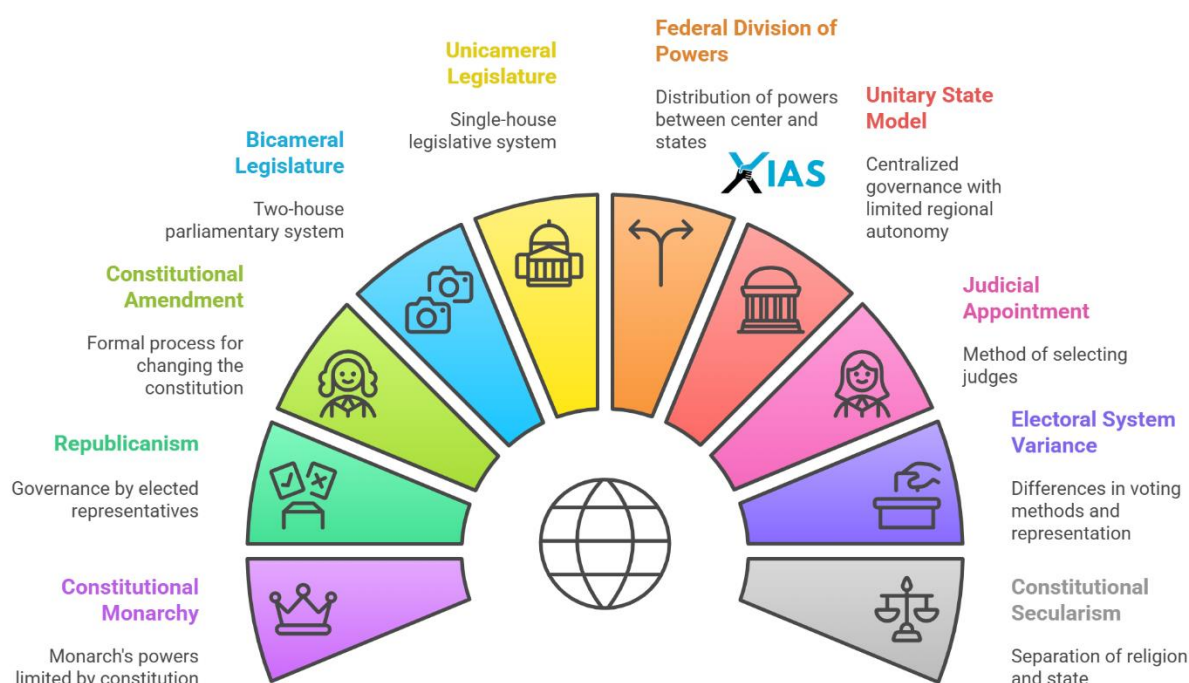
Topic : 5 - Parliament and State Legislatures—Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges, and Issues Arising out of these

1. **Constitutional Pluralism** – Coexistence of multiple legal systems within a state. **Example:** Tribal autonomy debates in northeast India highlight the challenge of integrating customary laws with constitutional mandates.
2. **Parliamentary Supremacy** – Legislature holds ultimate law-making authority. **Example:** The UK Parliament's enactment of the Levelling Up Bill showcased its decisive legislative power amidst devolved tensions.
3. **Presidential Federalism** – System where states enjoy autonomy under a presidential framework. **Example:** US states demonstrated varied COVID-19 response policies, reflecting their autonomous powers within the federal presidency.

4. **Quasi-Federal Model** – Blend of federal and unitary features in constitution design. **Example:** India's recent central schemes for health infrastructure highlight tensions in this hybrid model.
5. **Judicial Federalism** – Role of courts in balancing center-state relations. **Example:** The Supreme Court's intervention in GST compensation disputes reaffirmed judicial balancing of fiscal federalism.
6. **Constitutional Rigidity** – Difficulty in amending the constitution. **Example:** The ongoing US debate on Supreme Court reforms underlines the challenges posed by the rigid amendment process.
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10. **Fundamental Rights Enforcement** – Mechanisms protecting citizens' rights constitutionally. **Example:** South African courts upheld protests' right to assemble despite state restrictions.
11. **Directive Principles Emphasis** – Non-justiciable guidelines influencing governance. **Example:** Government policies on universal health coverage reflect directive principles of welfare.
12. **Religious Accommodation** – Constitutional recognition of religion's role in public life. **Example:** India's continued balancing of personal laws with secular legislation remains a key policy challenge.
13. **Judicial Review Scope** – Extent to which courts can invalidate legislation. **Example:** The US Supreme Court's decision on affirmative action reaffirmed expansive judicial review.
14. **Constitutional Supremacy** – Constitution as the highest legal authority. **Example:** The Indian judiciary struck down laws conflicting with fundamental constitutional rights.
15. **Constitutional Conventions** – Unwritten practices guiding political behavior. **Example:** The UK's political crisis tested long-standing conventions around government formation.
16. **Federal Fiscal Federalism** – Financial relations between central and regional governments. **Example:** Canada's equalization payments were recalibrated to support provinces impacted by economic downturns.
17. **Emergency Provisions** – Constitutional rules for handling crises. **Example:** India invoked constitutional emergency provisions during natural disaster response coordination.
18. **Human Rights Charter** – Constitutional guarantees of individual rights. **Example:** South African constitutional court ruled in favour of LGBTQ+ rights protections.
19. **Separation of Church-State** – Degree of institutional separation between religion and government. **Example:** The US Supreme Court rulings upheld church-state separation in school funding cases.
20. **Constitutional Preamble** – Introductory statement outlining values and objectives. **Example:** India's judiciary invoked the preamble to reinforce principles of social justice in landmark cases.
21. **Constitutional Guardianship** – Role of judiciary or other bodies in safeguarding the constitution. **Example:** Germany's Federal Constitutional Court actively curtailed executive overreach during pandemic restrictions.
22. **Political Pluralism** – Multiple political parties and interests recognized constitutionally. **Example:** India's multi-party elections continue to showcase vibrant democratic pluralism.
23. **Federal-State Relations** – Interaction dynamics between central and subnational governments. **Example:** Australia's negotiation on climate policy revealed complex federal-state dynamics.
24. **Constitutional Entrenchment** – Measures protecting constitution from casual amendment. **Example:** US debates on changing Senate filibuster rules highlighted entrenchment challenges.

25. **Executive Accountability Mechanism** – Constitutional processes for holding executives responsible. **Example:** Parliamentary questioning intensified scrutiny on UK government's pandemic handling.
26. **Judicial Independence Guarantees** – Constitutional provisions protecting judiciary autonomy. **Example:** India's Supreme Court emphasized protecting judicial independence amid political pressures.
27. **Federal Judicial Review** – Courts' role in resolving intergovernmental disputes. **Example:** US Supreme Court adjudicated conflicts over state vaccine mandates and federal laws.
28. **State Sovereignty Principle** – Recognition of subnational autonomy within federal frameworks. **Example:** Swiss cantons maintained strong control over COVID restrictions amidst federal coordination.

Foundations of Governance



29. **Electoral Franchise Expansion** – Constitutional provisions widening voter eligibility. **Example:** India's Election Commission enhanced voter outreach programs for marginalized groups.
30. **Language Rights Protection** – Constitutional safeguarding of linguistic diversity. **Example:** Canada implemented policies to strengthen Indigenous language education.
31. **Judicial Precedent Importance** – Weight given to past court decisions. **Example:** UK courts reaffirmed precedent in recent landmark data privacy rulings.
32. **Federal Legislative Competence** – Defined subjects where central legislature can enact laws. **Example:** India's Union List was invoked in passing new agricultural reforms.
33. **Constitutional Crisis Resolution** – Mechanisms for addressing conflicts in governance. **Example:** Belgium's political factions resolved a prolonged deadlock through mediated negotiations.
34. **Direct Democracy Elements** – Citizen participation in decision-making through referenda. **Example:** Switzerland held multiple referenda on environmental and social issues.

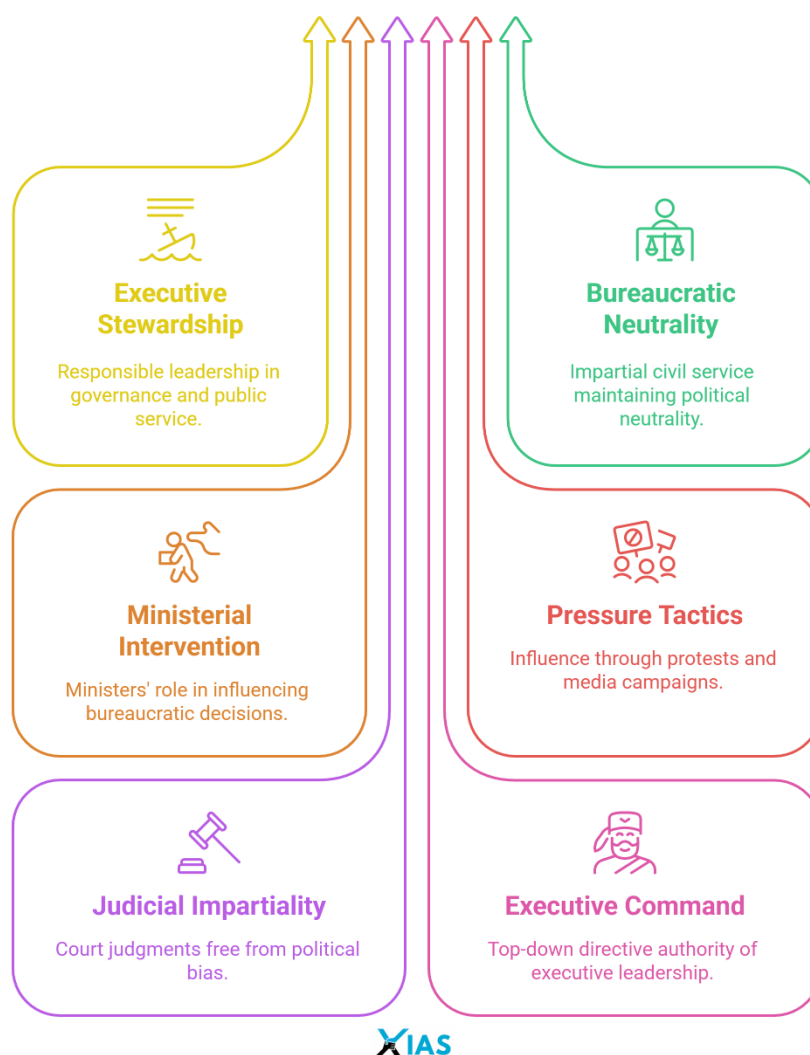
35. **Constitutional Ombudsman** – Independent official addressing administrative grievances.
Example: New Zealand's Ombudsman investigated government delays in welfare schemes.
36. **Bureaucratic Neutrality** – Constitutionally mandated impartiality of civil service. **Example:** India's bureaucracy-maintained impartiality during politically sensitive elections.
37. **Judicial Enforcement Mechanisms** – Methods used by courts to implement orders. **Example:** South African courts empowered community groups to enforce housing rights rulings.
38. **Federalism Spectrum** – Range from highly centralized to decentralized federal systems.
Example: Comparative analysis of India's centralized policies versus USA's decentralized governance gained attention.
39. **Constitutional Flexibility Index** – Measure of how easily constitutions can be amended.
Example: Israel's fluid constitutional framework enabled rapid legislative responses during crises.
40. **Institutional Checks and Balances** – Constitutional structures preventing abuse of power.
Example: US Congress held multiple hearings to check executive authority over foreign policy decisions.

Topic : 6 - Structure, Organization and Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary— Ministries and Departments of the Government; Pressure Groups and Formal/Informal Associations and their Role in the Polity

1. **Collegium Supremacy** – Judicial body's dominant role in appointments. **Example:** Collegium's delay in appointments sparked debates on judicial vacancies impacting case backlog.
2. **Shadow Bureaucracy** – Unofficial influential bureaucrats operating beyond formal channels.
Example: Policy leaks revealed influence of senior bureaucrats shaping climate change negotiations.
3. **Judicial Collegium** – Group of senior judges controlling judicial appointments. **Example:** Collegium recommendation controversially stalled for high-profile judicial posts.
4. **Ministerial Patronage** – Favoritism by ministers in bureaucratic postings. **Example:** Allegations of patronage emerged during rural development ministry reshuffle.
5. **Tribunal Overreach** – Tribunals exceeding their constitutional jurisdiction. **Example:** NGT ruling on state issues sparked debate on federal limits.
6. **Informal Factionalism** – Unofficial groupings within ministries affecting decisions. **Example:** Factional clashes reportedly delayed infrastructure projects.
7. **Judicial Restraint** – Courts avoiding interference in political matters. **Example:** SC declined to intervene in electoral reform citing separation of powers.
8. **Executive Encroachment** – Executive interfering in legislative or judicial domains. **Example:** Attempt to influence judicial appointments faced backlash.
9. **Ministerial Veto** – Power of ministers to block policy proposals. **Example:** Cabinet sub-committee environmental reforms stalled due to veto.
10. **Policy Capture** – Interest groups disproportionately shaping policy. **Example:** Telecom policy influenced by corporate lobbying drew criticism.
11. **Judicial Overreach** – Judiciary acting beyond constitutional mandate. **Example:** HC's broad interpretation of land rights invited executive pushback.
12. **Bureaucratic Entrenchment** – Bureaucrats resisting structural reforms. **Example:** Direct tax reform delayed due to revenue department resistance.
13. **Executive Bypass** – Skipping legislature through ordinances. **Example:** Labor law ordinance issued without parliamentary debate.
14. **Pressure Brokers** – Middlemen influencing decision-making between stakeholders. **Example:** Urban housing consultations saw rise of pressure brokers.
15. **Judicial Backchannel** – Informal communication influencing judicial outcomes. **Example:** Whistleblower flagged lobbying in sensitive court cases.

16. **Ministerial Accountability** – Holding ministers responsible for policy failures. **Example:** Finance minister censured for PSU bank mismanagement.
17. **Judicial Transparency** – Public access to judicial functioning. **Example:** Live-streaming of constitutional bench hearings enhanced openness.
18. **Executive Discretion** – Power to act without legislative approval. **Example:** Relief fund allocations handled using executive discretion.
19. **Bureaucratic Capture** – Bureaucrats aligning with interest groups. **Example:** Health department captured by pharma lobbies revealed in audit.
20. **Judicial Collegiality** – Judges working in consensus on benches. **Example:** Farm laws verdict resulted from collegial deliberation.
21. **Ministerial Syndicate** – Inner cabinet controlling key portfolios. **Example:** Digital policy shaped by powerful ministerial syndicate.
22. **Informal Lobby** – Unregistered actors influencing legislation. **Example:** Startups lobbied informally for data privacy exemptions.
23. **Executive Prerogative** – Special discretionary powers of executives. **Example:** PM directive fast-tracked vaccine manufacturing.
24. **Judicial Supremacy** – Courts holding ultimate constitutional authority. **Example:** SC struck down state law limiting protest rights.

Pillars of Governance

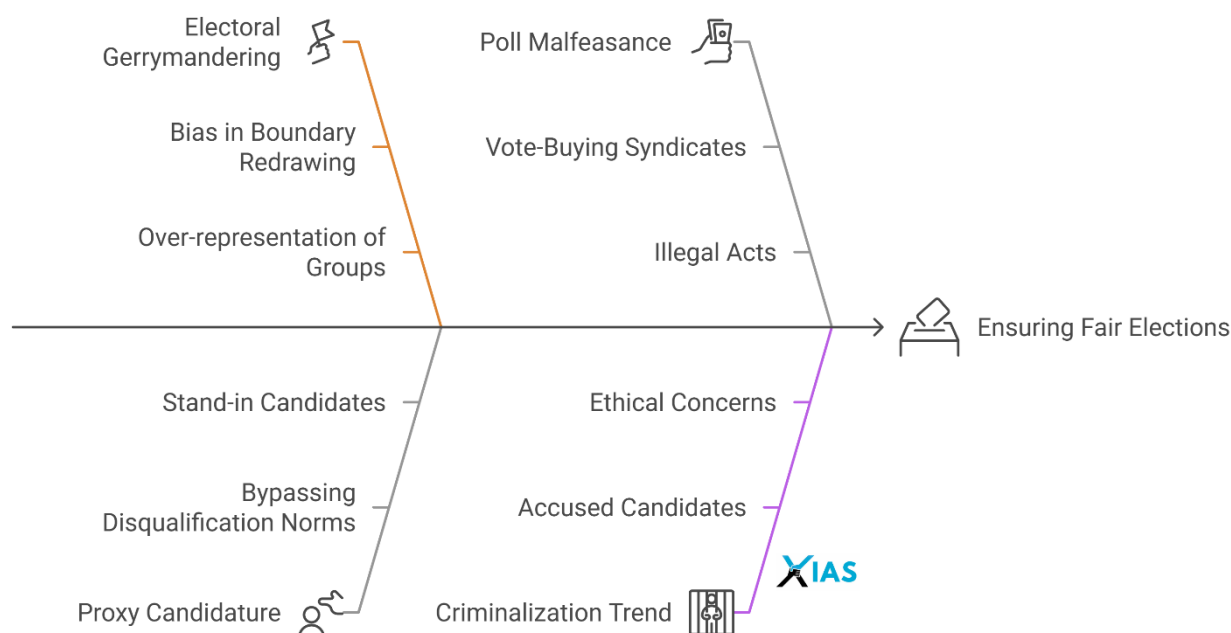


25. **Bureaucratic Inertia** – Slow administrative response to reforms. **Example:** Forest clearance delays attributed to bureaucratic inertia.
26. **Ministerial Turf** – Jurisdictional boundaries among ministries. **Example:** Renewable energy policies saw inter-ministry turf clash.
27. **Pressure Coalition** – Alliance of interest groups for joint advocacy. **Example:** Farmers and labor unions opposed labor reforms collectively.
28. **Judicial Remedy** – Court-ordered redressal of legal violations. **Example:** SC awarded compensation in illegal land acquisition case.
29. **Executive Primacy** – Executive dominating other branches. **Example:** Executive faced criticism for stifling parliamentary debate.
30. **Tribunal Jurisdiction** – Legal scope of tribunals. **Example:** Telecom tribunal resolved spectrum dispute between companies.
31. **Ministerial Consensus** – Cabinet unity on policy issues. **Example:** Consensus reached on urban infrastructure fund allocation.
32. **Informal Associations** – Unofficial groups shaping discourse. **Example:** Activist groups swayed privacy law debate via social media.
33. **Judicial Integrity** – Ethical and impartial conduct by judiciary. **Example:** Judges denounced politicization attempts of court process.
34. **Executive Coordination** – Inter-agency cooperation for governance. **Example:** Health-finance coordination ensured smooth fund flow.
35. **Pressure Mobilization** – Organizing mass support to impact policy. **Example:** Environmentalists mobilized against mining approvals.
36. **Ministerial Oversight** – Minister's supervision of department work. **Example:** Rural sanitation project audit flagged oversight lapses.
37. **Judicial Transparency** – Openness of courts to the public. **Example:** SC live-streamed electoral reform hearings.
38. **Executive Authority** – Power of executives to enforce laws. **Example:** Emergency curbs imposed via executive order.
39. **Bureaucratic Resistance** – Internal opposition to policy changes. **Example:** E-governance rollout delayed due to resistance.
40. **Pressure Advocacy** – Campaigns to push group interests. **Example:** Consumer groups led campaign for food safety reforms.

Topic : 7 - Salient Features of the Representation of People's Act

1. **Judicial Disqualification** – Legal bar on candidates convicted or under trial. **Example:** The Supreme Court barred a sitting MLA from Bihar due to a conviction in a corruption case related to a public welfare scheme.
2. **Electoral Forensics** – Analytical scrutiny of voting data to detect anomalies. **Example:** Election Commission's forensic team flagged irregular voting patterns in Arunachal Pradesh's Anjaw district, leading to a re-election order.
3. **Nomination Vetting** – Rigorous verification of candidate affidavits and credentials. **Example:** In Telangana, several candidate nominations were rejected after cross-checking revealed false educational qualifications.
4. **Campaign Monetization** – Regulation and monitoring of financial resources fueling election campaigns. **Example:** Unaccounted cash exceeding ₹10 crore was seized during raids on offices linked to a major political party's campaign in Uttar Pradesh assembly polls.
5. **Affidavit Auditing** – Systematic examination of candidate declarations for transparency. **Example:** Auditors detected underreported assets in the affidavit of a Maharashtra legislator, leading to an ongoing investigation.
6. **Voter Intimidation** – Use of threats to influence voter behavior. **Example:** Police arrested several individuals for attempting to intimidate voters in a sensitive border district of Punjab.

7. **Election Expenditure** – Limits and tracking of candidate spending. **Example:** Social media spending by candidates in Maharashtra exceeded declared limits, prompting a fresh investigation.
8. **Electoral Roll** – Official list of eligible voters. **Example:** A massive drive in Rajasthan resulted in deletion of 1 lakh duplicate names from electoral rolls.
9. **Disqualification Grounds** – Legal criteria for banning candidacy. **Example:** An MP was disqualified for failing to lodge election expenditure reports on time.
10. **Voter Awareness** – Efforts to educate voters on electoral rights. **Example:** Innovative outreach programs in Kerala led to record voter turnout in rural constituencies.



11. **Campaign Financing** – Legal framework controlling election funding. **Example:** A new directive mandated greater transparency in corporate donations to political parties.
12. **Criminal Cases** – Pending legal matters involving candidates. **Example:** Public pressure mounted after it was revealed that a convicted politician contested polls from Uttar Pradesh.
13. **Electoral Bonds** – Financial instruments used to fund parties anonymously. **Example:** A parliamentary committee demanded greater disclosure norms on electoral bond transactions.
14. **Poll Code Violation** – Breach of election guidelines. **Example:** Several leaders were booked for violating curfew norms during campaigning in Assam.
15. **Candidate Withdrawal** – Process of quitting nominations. **Example:** Multiple candidates withdrew last minute citing health and security concerns in West Bengal elections.
16. **Nomination Filing** – Formal submission of candidacy papers. **Example:** A record number of candidates filed nominations in the recent Madhya Pradesh assembly elections.
17. **Affidavit Transparency** – Public accessibility of candidate declarations. **Example:** NGOs published detailed reports comparing affidavits of major contenders in Karnataka polls.
18. **Electoral Violence** – Physical confrontations related to elections. **Example:** Clashes between rival supporters during Bihar local elections left several injured.
19. **Voting Rights** – Legal entitlements ensuring universal adult franchise. **Example:** Special voter ID camps were held in Jammu to ensure no eligible voter was left out.
20. **Candidate Scrutiny** – Official examination of eligibility and background. **Example:** The Election Commission disqualified several candidates due to outstanding criminal warrants.

21. **Electoral Transparency** – Openness in election processes and finances. **Example:** Introduction of real-time expenditure tracking apps during Gujarat elections enhanced transparency.
22. **Campaign Ethics** – Norms regulating conduct of candidates and parties. **Example:** Social media campaigns in Tamil Nadu came under scrutiny for spreading misinformation.
23. **Polling Irregularities** – Deviations from lawful polling procedures. **Example:** Reports of booth capturing in Uttar Pradesh led to annulment of results in select constituencies.
24. **Voter Suppression** – Tactics limiting voter participation. **Example:** A court case challenged measures allegedly aimed at suppressing minority voters in Maharashtra.
25. **Election Tribunal** – Specialized courts resolving electoral disputes. **Example:** The Rajasthan election tribunal expedited hearing of petitions challenging results in contested seats.
26. **Candidate Eligibility** – Legal criteria defining who can contest. **Example:** Questions were raised over the age eligibility of a candidate contesting municipal elections in Delhi.
27. **Party Recognition** – Official acknowledgment of political parties. **Example:** The Election Commission revoked recognition of a regional party after repeated code violations.
28. **Voter Identification** – Verification of voter identity at polling. **Example:** Implementation of Aadhaar-based verification reduced fraud in Hyderabad elections.
29. **Election Commission** – Autonomous body conducting free and fair elections. **Example:** The Election Commission deployed additional observers in conflict-prone districts of Jharkhand.
30. **Postal Ballots** – Voting facility for remote or disabled voters. **Example:** Postal ballots increased participation of elderly voters in Himachal Pradesh assembly elections.
31. **Candidate Withdrawal** – Process allowing candidates to retract nominations. **Example:** Several aspirants withdrew citing strategic alliances ahead of Karnataka polls.
32. **Electoral Bonds** – Instruments for anonymous political funding. **Example:** The Supreme Court sought detailed reports on electoral bond disclosures from the government.
33. **Vote Counting** – Procedure for tallying votes after polls close. **Example:** Electronic counting machines malfunction delayed results in select seats in Uttar Pradesh.
34. **Election Campaign** – Organized efforts to secure votes. **Example:** Door-to-door campaigns using data analytics boosted voter outreach in Kerala's urban constituencies.
35. **Polling Booths** – Fixed venues where voting takes place. **Example:** Introduction of mobile polling booths improved access for remote tribal voters in Chhattisgarh.
36. **Candidate Disclosures** – Mandatory financial and criminal record declarations. **Example:** Discrepancies in disclosures led to formal complaints against candidates in Maharashtra.
37. **Polling Agents** – Official representatives monitoring polling. **Example:** Deployment of trained polling agents helped reduce malpractices in Bihar's rural elections.
38. **Voter Roll** – Updated list of eligible voters. **Example:** A voter roll revision drive eliminated over 50,000 duplicate entries in Uttar Pradesh.
39. **Model Code** – Guidelines to maintain fairness during elections. **Example:** The Commission took strict action against leaders violating model code in West Bengal.
40. **Election Petitions** – Legal challenges against election results. **Example:** Multiple petitions filed contesting the results of closely fought seats in Gujarat assembly elections.

Topic 8 – Appointment to Constitutional Posts, Powers, Functions, Responsibilities

1. **Caretaker Tenure** – Temporary incumbency during transitions. **Example:** EC ensured elections in a southern state amid political flux.
2. **Collegium Consensus** – Collective judge appointments. **Example:** SC collegium cleared HC judges to reduce backlog.
3. **Regulatory Autonomy** – Independent powers in regulation. **Example:** SEBI penalized IPO fraud without executive interference.
4. **Vigilance Oversight** – Monitoring misconduct. **Example:** CVC probed urban project irregularities.

5. **Quasi-Judicial** – Adjudication without judiciary status. **Example:** TDSAT resolved telecom license disputes.
6. **Pardon Powers** – Authority to grant clemency. **Example:** President pardoned death row convict.
7. **Transparency Mandate** – Duty for openness. **Example:** CAG flagged COVID relief fund misuse.
8. **Fiscal Prudence** – Ensuring financial responsibility. **Example:** Finance Commission advised deficit-ridden states.
9. **Conflict Resolution** – Settling inter-government disputes. **Example:** Inter-State Council mediated Cauvery issue.
10. **Appointment Ratification** – Formal approval of posts. **Example:** Lokpal nominee blocked over allegations.
11. **Tenure Security** – Protection from arbitrary removal. **Example:** EC resisted premature dismissal attempts.
12. **Accountability Framework** – Structures to ensure answerability. **Example:** CAG reported central scheme misuse.
13. **Functional Independence** – Operational freedom from pressure. **Example:** EC held polls despite political pressure.
14. **Mandamus Jurisdiction** – SC's power to direct action. **Example:** SC ordered anti-corruption officer appointments.
15. **Ex Officio Role** – Holding position by virtue of another. **Example:** FM's ex officio Planning Commission role.
16. **Nomination Authority** – Power to appoint members. **Example:** President nominated NHRC members.
17. **Judicial Review** – Scrutiny of executive actions. **Example:** SC struck down biased appointment rules.
18. **Delegated Powers** – Legislative powers exercised by bodies. **Example:** EC issued EVM usage rules.
19. **Impeachment Procedure** – Removal of office bearers. **Example:** CJ impeachment motion rejected.
20. **Remuneration Fixation** – Setting pay and benefits. **Example:** Law Commission proposed EC pay reforms.
21. **Tenure Extension** – Legal service prolongation. **Example:** CAG tenure extension sparked debate.
22. **Delegated Legislation** – Rulemaking under legal power. **Example:** EC framed MCC rules.
23. **Judicial Independence** – Freedom from executive control. **Example:** SC reviewed judge appointment process.
24. **Constitutional Safeguards** – Protection from external pressure. **Example:** CVC safeguarded from interference.
25. **Public Interest Litigation** – Legal action for public cause. **Example:** PILs challenged body appointments.
26. **Oversight Mechanism** – Monitoring institutional actions. **Example:** Parliament reviewed Lokpal efficiency.
27. **Executive Accountability** – Holding government responsible. **Example:** SC annulled illegal appointments.
28. **Transparency Framework** – Open process system. **Example:** EC mandated live spending disclosure.
29. **Conflict Resolution** – Solving inter-body disputes. **Example:** ISC mediated state financial disputes.
30. **Judicial Appointment** – Judge selection process. **Example:** Collegium delay caused case backlog.
31. **Remedial Jurisdiction** – Fixing constitutional breaches. **Example:** SC ordered EC appointments.
32. **Term Limitations** – Fixed office duration. **Example:** Debates on Lokpal term caps rose.

33. **Statutory Bodies** – Legislated institutions with powers. **Example:** NHRC acted on custodial deaths.
34. **Independent Investigations** – Free-from-influence probes. **Example:** CVC exposed project corruption.
35. **Accountability Standards** – Benchmarks for conduct. **Example:** EC revised funding norms.
36. **Appointment Transparency** – Open selection processes. **Example:** Citizens demanded Lokpal transparency.
37. **Mandate Violation** – Breach of constitutional role. **Example:** SC warned body for delay.
38. **Inter-Agency Cooperation** – Joint institutional effort. **Example:** EC-IB coordinated election security.
39. **Performance Audits** – Efficiency evaluations. **Example:** CAG flagged lapses in SECs.
40. **Resignation Protocol** – Official quitting procedures. **Example:** Lokpal member resigned post-allegations.

Governance Framework



Topic 9 – Statutory, Regulatory, and various Quasi-judicial Bodies

1. **Penal Clause** – Statutory provision authorizing penalties for breaches. **Example:** The Competition Commission fined Amazon for predatory pricing strategies impacting small retailers.
2. **Adjudicative Tribunal** – Specialized body resolving sector-specific disputes. **Example:** The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board's tribunal expedited resolution of a major NBFC liquidation case.
3. **Regulatory Sandbox** – Controlled testing environment for innovative products. **Example:** The RBI's sandbox enabled testing of UPI-powered international remittance apps.
4. **Compliance Audit** – Detailed examination ensuring legal adherence. **Example:** SEBI's audit of IPO disclosures uncovered irregularities in a tech startup's filings.
5. **Investigative Wing** – Unit probing violations within regulatory frameworks. **Example:** FSSAI's wing busted a large-scale adulterated spice manufacturing racket in Rajasthan.
6. **Binding Verdict** – Final enforceable decision by a quasi-judicial body. **Example:** TDSAT ruled in favor of a telecom firm recovering spectrum fees wrongly charged.
7. **Sectoral Authority** – Regulatory body governing a specific industry. **Example:** IRDAI introduced new regulations to improve transparency in health insurance claims.
8. **Remedial Directive** – Order mandating correction of regulatory breaches. **Example:** The NGT directed immediate suspension of illegal sand mining along the Yamuna floodplains.

9. **Public Grievance** – Citizen complaint redressal mechanism within regulatory bodies. **Example:** The CCPA resolved thousands of complaints related to fraudulent online shopping platforms.
10. **Governance Framework** – Structural system ensuring regulatory accountability. **Example:** The IBBI restructured its decision-making committees to improve insolvency process transparency.
11. **Penalty Mechanism** – Defined process for imposing sanctions on offenders. **Example:** The Telecom Authority penalized a major operator for violating spectrum usage norms.
12. **Regulatory Capture** – Risk of regulators serving industry interests over public good. **Example:** Parliamentary reports raised concerns over alleged regulatory capture in the coal mining sector authority.
13. **Quasi-Judiciary** – Bodies empowered to adjudicate with judicial authority but outside courts. **Example:** The Securities Appellate Tribunal quashed penalties imposed on mutual funds for compliance delays.
14. **Dispute Arbitration** – Alternative conflict resolution within regulatory frameworks. **Example:** The National Green Tribunal mediated conflict between villagers and a factory over pollution concerns.
15. **Compliance Framework** – Set of rules ensuring adherence to laws. **Example:** The RBI released updated compliance framework for NBFCs amid rising financial fraud cases.
16. **Licensing Authority** – Body issuing permissions for regulated activities. **Example:** The Food Safety Authority revoked licenses of multiple packaged water brands for contamination.
17. **Transparency Protocol** – Guidelines ensuring openness in regulatory actions. **Example:** The Election Commission mandated real-time disclosure of political donations over a threshold.
18. **Oversight Committee** – Group monitoring functioning of statutory bodies. **Example:** The parliamentary oversight committee summoned top officials over delays in GST tribunal appointments.
19. **Judicial Review** – Power of courts to assess legality of regulatory decisions. **Example:** The Supreme Court struck down a CCI order on merger approval citing procedural lapses.
20. **Sectoral Regulation** – Industry-specific regulatory norms. **Example:** TRAI revised tariff regulations to promote affordable internet access in rural areas.
21. **Enforcement Action** – Steps taken to ensure compliance with regulations. **Example:** FSSAI conducted surprise inspections leading to closure of multiple adulterated food units.
22. **Accountability Mechanism** – Systems to hold bodies responsible for their actions. **Example:** Parliamentary committee released report on accountability lapses in the RBI's regulatory functions.
23. **Appeal Tribunal** – Body hearing challenges against regulatory decisions. **Example:** The Telecom Disputes Settlement Appellate Tribunal expedited resolution of consumer tariff disputes.
24. **Rule Framing** – Process of developing specific regulations under statutory authority. **Example:** The IRDAI initiated rule framing for mandatory disclosure of claim settlement ratios.
25. **Mandatory Disclosure** – Legal obligation to reveal certain information. **Example:** SEBI made it mandatory for listed companies to disclose ESG-related risks.
26. **Provisional License** – Temporary permit granted pending full compliance. **Example:** The Aviation Authority issued provisional licenses to new airlines pending safety audits.
27. **Sanction Guidelines** – Criteria determining penalties and fines. **Example:** The Competition Commission updated sanction guidelines for anti-competitive conduct in e-commerce.
28. **Judicial Intervention** – Courts stepping in to correct regulatory failings. **Example:** The High Court intervened to stay eviction orders against informal waste pickers after NGT directives.
29. **Statutory Mandate** – Legal duty imposed on regulatory bodies. **Example:** The RBI's statutory mandate includes regulating payment systems to ensure financial stability.
30. **Conflict Resolution** – Process of settling disputes between parties under regulatory purview. **Example:** The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission resolved large-scale telecom billing complaints.

31. **Ethical Standards** – Norms guiding fair conduct of statutory bodies. **Example:** The Election Commission issued ethical guidelines restricting paid news during election campaigns.
32. **Regulatory Reform** – Changes aimed at improving statutory body effectiveness. **Example:** The government proposed regulatory reforms to streamline environmental clearances.
33. **Consultation Process** – Stakeholder engagement in policy formulation. **Example:** TRAI's public consultation on 5G spectrum allocation incorporated feedback from industry and consumers.
34. **Judicial Precedent** – Earlier court rulings influencing regulatory decisions. **Example:** SC rulings on data privacy shaped the Information Regulator's enforcement strategy.
35. **Administrative Autonomy** – Operational independence granted to statutory bodies. **Example:** The Central Vigilance Commission functions with administrative autonomy to prevent corruption.

Overview of Regulatory Frameworks



36. **Regulatory Equity** – Fairness in applying rules across sectors. **Example:** SEBI worked to ensure regulatory equity between traditional mutual funds and newer ETFs.

37. **Fact-Finding** – Investigative process to gather evidence before decisions. **Example:** The NGT conducted fact-finding in groundwater depletion cases affecting farmers.
38. **Policy Enforcement** – Implementation of legislated policies by regulatory bodies. **Example:** The Telecom Authority enforced new data privacy policies to protect consumer rights.
39. **Appeals Process** – Mechanism to challenge decisions of regulatory bodies. **Example:** Numerous appeals were filed against CCI's merger approvals by competing firms.
40. **Regulatory Freeze** – Temporary halt on new rules or licenses pending review. **Example:** The Aviation regulator imposed a regulatory freeze on new flight permits amid safety concerns.



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