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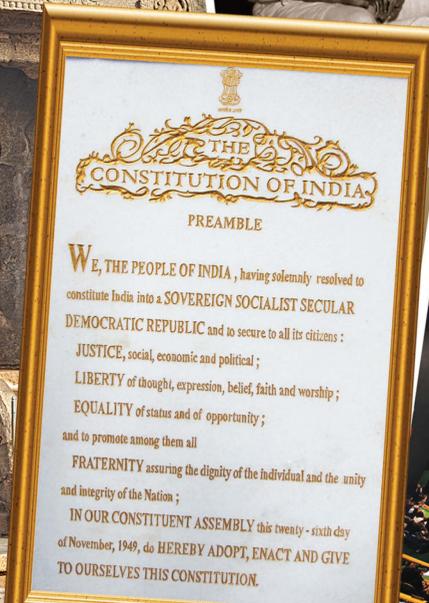
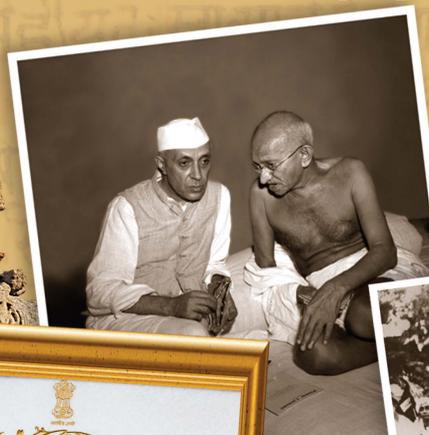
As per the latest ICSE syllabus

10

ICSE

# History & Civics

Sudeshna Sengupta



**THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA**  
PREAMBLE

**WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA**, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a **SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC** and to secure to all its citizens:

- JUSTICE, social, economic and political;
- LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;
- EQUALITY of status and of opportunity;

and to promote among them all  
FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.



Ratna Sagar

Based on the latest syllabus prescribed by the  
Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations

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ICSE  
**History  
& Civics**

10

Sudeshna Sengupta



Ratna Sagar

## THE AUTHOR

Sudeshna Sengupta has over 20 years of teaching experience. She has taught History and Civics in St Xavier's Collegiate School, Kolkata, followed by Champion School, Mumbai. She has been associated with the ICSE Board for over a decade.

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First Published 2008

Second Revised Edition 2013

Third Revised Edition 2017

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

ISBN 978-93-85976-92-6



**Ratna Sagar P. Ltd.**

an ISO 9001:2015 and 14001:2015 company

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# Preface

A textbook is deemed effective if it is optimally useful for the teachers and students alike. With this belief, I have designed ICSE History & Civics 10 slightly differently. Every chapter is interspersed with a *Section Review*, to enable students to revise small sections before attempting to understand the entire chapter. It is important to note that the review section is designed on the lines of the Objective Questions set by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi.

Every chapter has a *To Remember* section, which recapitulates the entire chapter. The questions set by the Council have been given at the end of every chapter. This will be convenient for both teachers and students, as it would eliminate the need to look elsewhere for relevant Board questions. The *Photo Study* section meets the Board's requirement of 'picture questions'. *Timeline* at the end of the chapters in the History section will help students to remember important dates and events.

Another significant addition is by way of snippets under *Trivia*. It will allow students to go beyond mere historical facts and essentials. The tables and bullet points will help students to understand the facts at a glance.

The latest ICSE paper has been given at the end along with the answers. Two model papers have been given for further practice.

As a teacher and a lifelong student of History, I trust that both teachers and students will benefit from this book.

Suggestions for the improvement of the book are welcome.

**Sudeshna Sengupta**

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# The Union Legislature

Since the end of the Second World War in 1945, most countries in the world have adopted the democratic form of government. The noted PM of UK Winston Churchill had commented that 'Democracy is not the best form of government but it is better than the other alternatives available.' The world has witnessed a steady rise in the number of democratic countries.

In a democratic country, the position of the constitution is very crucial as it explains the relationship between the ruler and the ruled.

What is a constitution? A constitution is a body of laws, rules and principles that defines and regulates the system of governance of a country. It contains the citizens' rights and duties. The Constituent Assembly prepared the Constitution of India, which came into effect on 26 January 1950. Dr BR Ambedkar was the chief architect of our Constitution.

Our Constitution has adopted the **parliamentary** form of government. The term 'parliamentary' refers to a kind of democratic set-up, where the supreme power lies with the people's representative body called a **Parliament**. Through their elected representatives, the people exercise sovereign power. Being the highest legislative body, the Parliament

## Trivia!

Our Constitution was drawn up before we got our Independence. It took the Constituent Assembly almost 3 years to draft the Constitution. It has elements of German, Irish and American Constitutions.

makes laws for the entire country. The executive is drawn from the Parliament and remains responsible to it while functioning according to the rules laid down in the Constitution. The Parliament also enjoys financial control as it has the sole power to authorize expenditure as well as to generate revenues.

The Parliament of India together with the President

## Trivia!

In a Presidential form of government, the executive is led by the President who is the head of the state as well as the head of the government. The executive is not responsible to the legislature and can even veto legislative acts. Unlike in a Parliamentary form of government, the legislature cannot dismiss the executive. Countries like USA, Argentina, Brazil, Iran and Philippines have this form of government.

The Union Parliament



and the two Houses form the **Union Legislature**. The Lower House is called the House of the People or the **Lok Sabha** while the Upper House is known as the Council of States or the **Rajya Sabha**.

It is important to know that though the President does not sit in the Parliament, his assent is necessary for a Bill to become a law.

The existence of the two Houses in the Parliament makes for a bicameral legislature. 'Bi' means two and 'cameral' means chambers. This feature is borrowed from the British Parliament. Their houses are called the House of Commons and the House of Lords. In India, bicameralism is followed at the central level and in some states. There are 7 states, namely Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, that have bicameral legislatures.

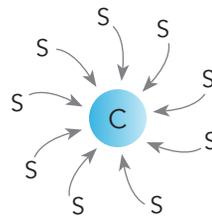
### Federal set-up

In recognition of the religious, cultural and linguistic diversities, the Constitution of India has provided for a federal system of government for the country though it describes India as 'a union of states.' The Drafting Committee of the Constitution deliberately used the term 'Union', as its Chairman Dr B R Ambedkar explained, to imply two advantages. Firstly, the Indian federation is not an outcome of an agreement by the constituent units. Secondly, the component units have no freedom to secede from it. By this the constitution framers aimed at maintaining the unity and integrity of the country against the backdrop of communal and separatist tendencies that accompanied the Partition.

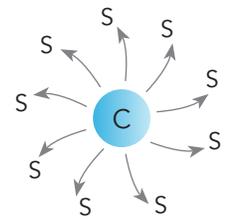
Now, what is federalism? Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. The opposite of this system is the unitary system of government in which either there is only one level of government or the subunits are subordinate to the central government.

There are two types of federations, namely 'coming together federation' and 'holding together federation'. In the former instance, independent states voluntarily come together to form a bigger unit by giving up their

sovereignty. In the latter case, the centre decides to share its power with the constituent units.



The states unite to create a strong centre



A strong centre holds all the states together

### Features of the Indian federal set-up

The Indian Constitution is basically federal in form and contains some of the characteristics of a classic federal system. The most important federal feature of the Constitution of India is the supremacy of the written constitution which is a fairly elaborate one. It is partly rigid and partly flexible. Some parts of the Constitution need a simple majority to be amended while others require a special majority of two-thirds of the total members present and voting. Furthermore, in certain cases, ratification of the amendment proposal by at least 50% of the States is necessary.

#### Trivia!

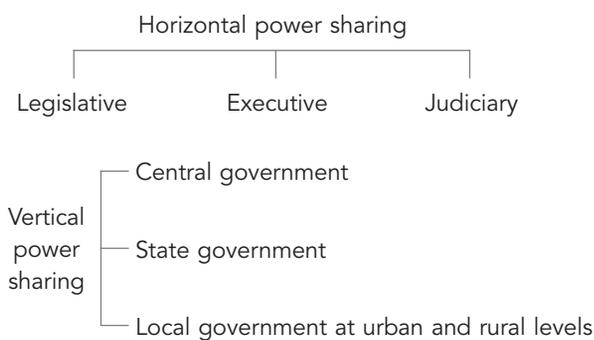
The country that gave the world one of the first constitutional charters by the name 'Magna Carta' does not have a written constitution. In UK, people and politicians follow an unwritten constitution formed of Acts of Parliament, court judgements and conventions.

The following are the features of India's federal set-up:

- ◆ There are two levels of government, namely the union government and the state governments.
- ◆ Both levels of government have their own jurisdiction in matters of law making, monetary independence and administration. This arrangement is constitutionally guaranteed.
- ◆ The fundamentals of the Constitution cannot be changed by any one level of the government. Consent of both the levels are essential for this.
- ◆ Another important feature of the Indian federal

set-up is that the Constitution provides for an independent judiciary. The Supreme Court is at the apex of the integrated judicial system. It has the power to interpret the Constitution, to settle disputes between the Centre and the States, to declare a law null and void if it contravenes any provisions of the Constitution and, above all, to act as the custodian of the Fundamental Rights of the citizens.

- ◆ To ensure financial autonomy, sources of revenue are clearly specified by the Constitution for each level.
- ◆ The Constitution enumerates three lists – the Union List consisting of 97 subjects of national importance such as Defence, External Affairs, Railways, etc., the State List of 66 subjects of state interest such as Police, Public Health, etc. and a Concurrent List of 47 subjects important to both the Union and the States, such as Economic and Social Planning, Electricity, etc.
- ◆ The Constitution 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts extend the federal arrangement further by conferring constitutional status on the Panchayati Raj institutions making them the third tier of the Indian federal set-up. This system of vertical power sharing is matched by a horizontal power sharing arrangement between the three organs of the government – the legislature (Parliament), the executive (Council of Ministers) and the judiciary (Supreme Court) based upon the principles of ‘separation of powers’ and ‘checks and balances.’



### Indian Federalism is not truly federal

Despite an elaborate structure of a federal set-up, the

framers of the Constitution created a strong Centre with overriding powers. The presence of certain strong unitary or non-federal features has, no doubt, made the Constitution of India, as some critics point out, federal in form but unitary in spirit. Some of the unitary features are as follows:

- ◆ A strong Centre enjoying an overriding position vis-à-vis the States
- ◆ A single constitution governing both the Union and the States
- ◆ Single citizenship
- ◆ Unequal representation of the States in the Rajya Sabha
- ◆ Extensive powers vested in the President to deal with various kinds of emergency
- ◆ Right of the Parliament to legislate on state subjects on the recommendation of the Rajya Sabha
- ◆ Exclusive right of the Union Parliament to amend the Constitution
- ◆ Residuary powers assigned to the Union

Such an extensive array of powers vested in the Union government has led critics to describe the Constitution of India as ‘quasi-federal.’

### LOK SABHA

The Lok Sabha is called the House of the People as the people of our country elect its members directly. All citizens of India, who are 18 years of age and above, can vote irrespective of race, gender, property and

#### Trivia!

Universal Adult Franchise or simply universal suffrage was not really universal earlier. Only male members of the society who enjoyed a certain property qualification had the right to vote. Slowly it was extended to all male members though race was a consideration. Much later women were also given this right. New Zealand was the first country to give its women voting rights in 1893. On the other hand, France, where the movement originated, gave voting rights to women in 1944. After Independence, the Indian Constitution gave equal voting right to everybody irrespective of caste, creed, gender, religion, language, etc.

the like. This is called the Universal Adult Franchise. The 61st Constitutional Amendment Act (1988) reduced the voting age from 21 to 18 years.

### Term

The members are elected for a term of 5 years. Nevertheless, the President can dissolve the Lok Sabha before its term is over if the party in power loses its majority. On the other hand, in case of an Emergency, the term of the Lok Sabha can be extended for 1 year at a time. The Constitution, however, does set a limit upon the power of the Parliament to extend its own life. Therefore, the extension cannot be made for a period of more than 1 year at a time. Also, the extension cannot continue beyond a period of 6 months after the Emergency has ceased to exist.

### Composition

According to the Constitution, the Lok Sabha cannot have more than 552 members. There will not be more than 530 members representing the States, 20 members representing the Union Territories and not more than 2 members from the Anglo-Indian community, nominated by the President if she or he feels that they have not been adequately represented in the Lok Sabha. At present, the Lok Sabha consists of 545 members, including the 2 nominated Anglo-Indian members.

For the purpose of holding elections to the Lok Sabha, the territory of India is divided into **parliamentary constituencies**. The seats allotted to the States and Union Territories in the Lok Sabha are based on their respective population. However, care has been taken to ensure that the ratio between the number of seats allotted to each state and the population of the state is, so far as possible, the same for all states.

**Reserved constituencies** To ensure that marginalized groups like the SCs and STs get political empowerment, seats in the Lok Sabha are reserved for them. In such constituencies, only the SC/ST candidates can contest election, however, everybody is allowed to vote.

### ALLOCATION OF SEATS IN THE LOK SABHA

Name of the State/Union Territory	Seats
<b>States</b>	
Andhra Pradesh	25
Arunachal Pradesh	2
Assam	14
Bihar	40
Chhattisgarh	11
Goa	2
Gujarat	26
Haryana	10
Himachal Pradesh	4
Jammu and Kashmir	6
Jharkhand	14
Karnataka	28
Kerala	20
Madhya Pradesh	29
Maharashtra	48
Manipur	2
Meghalaya	2
Mizoram	1
Nagaland	1
Odisha	21
Punjab	13
Rajasthan	25
Sikkim	1
Tamil Nadu	39
Telangana	17
Tripura	2
Uttarakhand	5
Uttar Pradesh	80
West Bengal	42
<b>Union Territories</b>	
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
Chandigarh	1
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
Daman and Diu	1
Delhi	7
Lakshadweep	1
Puducherry	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>543</b>

## Qualifications for membership

In order to become a member of the Lok Sabha, a candidate must be:

- ◆ An Indian citizen.
- ◆ Not less than 25 years of age.
- ◆ Holding additional qualifications if prescribed by the Parliament from time to time.

## Oath by members

Every Member of the Parliament is required to take an oath before the President before accepting his seat. He has to affirm that he will:

- ◆ Bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India.
- ◆ Uphold the sovereignty and integrity of the country.
- ◆ Faithfully discharge the duty he has been entrusted with.

## Vacation of seats by members

The seat of a Member of Parliament falls vacant in the following circumstances.

- ◆ If a member of either House of Parliament has been given the membership of the other House, he must vacate his seat in one of the Houses.
- ◆ If a member resigns his seat by writing a letter to the Speaker of the House he belongs to.
- ◆ If a member absents himself from the meetings of the House for a period of 60 days without prior permission.
- ◆ If a member is disqualified on account of any of the reasons laid down in the Constitution.
- ◆ If a member is disqualified under the Anti-Defection Law as stated in the Tenth Schedule.

## Privileges

The privileges enjoyed by the members of each House can be divided into:

- those which are enjoyed by the members individually, and
- those which belong to each House of Parliament, as a collective body.

The privileges enjoyed by the members individually are:

- ◆ Freedom from arrest
- ◆ Exemption from attendance as jurors and witnesses
- ◆ Freedom of speech on the floor of the House

The privileges enjoyed by the members of the House collectively are:

- ◆ The right to publish debates and proceedings and the right to restrain publication
- ◆ The right to regulate internal matters of the House
- ◆ The right to publish parliamentary misbehaviour
- ◆ The right to punish members and outsiders for breach of their privileges

## Sessions of the Parliament

The period during which the House meets to conduct its business is called a **session**. The Constitution empowers the President to summon each House at such intervals that there should not be more than a 6 months' gap between the two sessions. Hence, Parliament must meet at least twice a year. In India, the Parliament conducts three sessions in a year:

- ◆ Budget Session (February–May)
- ◆ Monsoon Session (July–September)
- ◆ Winter Session (November–December)

## Quorum

A quorum is the minimum number of members required to be present before a session can begin. The required number of members to be present in the Lok Sabha for a session to be held is one-tenth of the total membership including the Speaker. Thus, at least 55 members need to be present for a session to commence.

**Question hour and interpellation** The Members of the Parliament enjoy the right to ask questions with regard to the policies and programmes of the government. Each day during a parliamentary session, the first hour is allotted to asking and answering questions. This hour is the **question hour**, and the right to ask questions is called **interpellation**. The questions could either be in written or in oral form.

During question hour, the ministers are required to answer queries about their policies and address any lapses of failings. This is how the Parliament controls the executive and ensures Cabinet responsibility. Different days of the week are allotted to different ministries so that all departments are kept on their toes.

**Adjournment motion** It must be remembered that the agenda for the day's work is already fixed by the Houses of Parliament. But an unexpected event of grave national importance like a serious train accident, a plane crash, or a natural calamity like the tsunami, is taken up for immediate discussion, putting aside or adjourning the work already planned. Thus, an **adjournment motion** is passed to discuss emergency situations. The aim is to seek clarifications from the executive, i.e. the government in power about the steps taken to handle an emergency.

**No-confidence motion** A no-confidence motion is usually moved by a member or the Leader of the Opposition expressing total lack of confidence in the government. The government policies are debated before the motion is placed for vote. If the motion is passed by the majority, the government has to resign. The no-confidence motion can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha.

**Censure motion** A Member of Parliament can move a motion against an individual minister censuring or criticizing the action or a policy undertaken by his ministry. A vote of censure against a particular minister does not amount to the fall of the government but is definitely a strong condemnation of the policies and programmes adopted by it.

**Cut motion** A cut motion is moved when the Budget is taken up for consideration. A Member of Parliament may propose that the government expenditure be reduced by a single rupee. The importance of this is to show disapproval of the monetary policy of the government and not the cut itself.

## Role of Opposition in a Parliamentary Democracy

The opposition plays a very important role in a democracy. The Leader of the Opposition is chosen from the largest opposition party in either House of Parliament. He enjoys the same status and facilities as those of a Union Cabinet Minister. He occupies a position of responsibility because a constructive and progressive opposition is required for the smooth functioning of democracy besides ensuring accountability of a democratic government.

### SPEAKER OF THE LOK SABHA

According to the Constitution, each House of Parliament has its own Presiding Officer. The **Speaker** is the Presiding Officer of the Lok Sabha.

One of the first duties of a newly constituted House is to elect the Speaker. The Lok Sabha, soon after its first meeting, elects by a simple majority of members present and voting, 2 members of the House to be the **Speaker** and the **Deputy Speaker** respectively. The Deputy Speaker presides over the proceedings in the absence of the Speaker.

### How is the Speaker elected?

It has become a practice over the years that the ruling party nominates its candidate after informal consultations with the leaders of other parties and groups in the Lok Sabha. This practice ensures that once elected, the Speaker enjoys the respect of the entire House. It is to be remembered that the Speaker is expected to act in a non-partisan manner in the discharge of his duties.

### Term

The Speaker holds office from the date of his election till immediately before the first meeting of the newly-formed Lok Sabha after next elections. He is eligible for re-election. On the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, although the Speaker ceases to be a member of the House, he does not vacate his office.

The salary and allowances of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are charged on the Consolidated Fund

of India, i.e. they are not subject to being voted by the Parliament. The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker hold office during the tenure of the House, but their office may be terminated earlier in any one of the following ways:

- ◆ By ceasing to be a member of the House.
- ◆ By tendering resignation in writing addressed to the Deputy Speaker or vice versa.
- ◆ By a resolution for their removal, passed by a majority of all members of the House, which has been presented after a 14 days' notice. While such a resolution is under consideration, the Speaker does not preside over the proceedings. However, he can speak and take part in the discussions.

At the first meeting of a newly-elected Lok Sabha, a temporary Speaker or **Speaker pro tem** is nominated. This is because the post of the Speaker falls vacant immediately before the new House meets. Kamal Nath was the Speaker pro tem of the 16th Lok Sabha before the House unanimously elected Sumitra Mahajan as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.



Sumitra Mahajan,  
Speaker of the 16th  
Lok Sabha



M. Thambidurai,  
Deputy Speaker of  
the 16th Lok Sabha

### Powers and functions of the Speaker

The Speaker has to perform certain administrative, judicial and regulatory functions.

- ◆ The Speaker presides over the meetings of the House. All speeches are addressed to him. He decides on the members who will be allowed to have the floor, i.e. speak in the Lok Sabha. He also decides when a member shall speak and the duration of speech.
- ◆ He decides upon the questions to be admitted and resolutions to be passed. He can also disallow questions or motions.
- ◆ The Speaker decides whether amendments to a Bill should be made or not.
- ◆ The Speaker decides whether a particular Bill is a Money Bill or an ordinary one. His decision is final in that regard.
- ◆ No Bill can be sent to the other House or to the President for consideration unless the Speaker signs it.
- ◆ The Speaker presides over the joint sitting of both the Houses called in the event of any disagreement between the two Houses.
- ◆ The Speaker also maintains order and decorum in the House. He can ask any member disturbing the proceedings of the House to leave.
- ◆ The Speaker can remove a word or words from the proceedings if they are unparliamentary or indecent.
- ◆ The Speaker decides if there are any cases of contempt of the House.
- ◆ He interprets the rules of the House and also puts

#### LOK SABHA SPEAKERS

Name	Tenure
G V Mavalankar	1952–1956
M A Ayyangar	1956–1962
Sardar Hukam Singh	1962–1967
N Sanjiva Reddy	1967–1969
G S Dhillon	1969–1975
Bali Ram Bhagat	1976–1977
N Sanjiva Reddy	1977 (March – July)
K S Hegde	1977–1980
Bal Ram Jakhar	1980–1989
Rabi Ray	1989–1991
Shivraj Patil	1991–1996
P A Sangma	1996–1998
G M C Balyogi	1998–2002
Manohar Joshi	2002–2004
Somnath Chatterjee	2004–2009
Meira Kumar	2009–2014
Sumitra Mahajan	2014–till date

relevant questions to vote. He votes only in case of a tie to resolve the issue. His casting vote is of great value.

- ◆ The Speaker receives all documents addressed to the House. He also communicates the decisions of the House to the concerned authorities.
- ◆ He permits the entry of outsiders and the Press into the House.
- ◆ He also nominates members to form part of parliamentary delegations to various countries.
- ◆ If a member stands disqualified under the Anti-Defection Act of 1985, the Speaker gives the final decision in that regard.
- ◆ The Speaker, being the *ex-officio* Chairman of some of the Committees of the House, has to nominate the chairpersons of these Committees, issue directions to them and advise and instruct whenever necessary. Committees like the Business Advisory Committee and the Rules Committee function directly under the Speaker's chairmanship.

The position of the Speaker is one of authority, honour and dignity. It has been said of the Speaker that while the Members of Parliament represent individual constituencies, the Speaker represents the collective voice of the House.

Being the true guardian of the Lower House of Parliament, the Speaker is responsible for ensuring its smooth functioning. His importance is well illustrated by the fact that in the order of precedence, the Speaker comes after the President, the Vice President and the Prime Minister.

### Section Review

1. Name the law making body of the Union Government.
2. Define the term 'Parliament'.
3. Name the two types of authority in a federal set-up in India.
4. How is the President an integral part of the legislative process?
5. Name the two Houses of the Union Parliament.
6. How is the Speaker of the Lok Sabha elected?
7. What is the maximum strength of the Lok Sabha?
8. What is bicameral legislature? Name any one state that has a bicameral legislature.

9. How effective is the no-confidence motion? When is it passed?
10. What is the normal term of the Lok Sabha?
11. What is a session? How often does the Parliament hold a session in India?
12. State the minimum number of times the Lok Sabha must meet in a year.
13. Define quorum.
14. State any two qualifications for membership of the Lok Sabha.
15. How many members are nominated by the President to the Lok Sabha? Which community do they represent?
16. What is the required quorum to hold the meetings of the Lok Sabha?
17. Under which circumstances can the seat of a Lok Sabha member fall vacant?
18. Mention one provision of the Constitution which clearly establishes the supremacy of the Lok Sabha with regard to Money Bills.
19. Mention any two privileges enjoyed by the Members of Parliament.
20. How is the Leader of the Opposition chosen? Who is the present Opposition Leader in the Lok Sabha?
21. Who is the Presiding Officer of the Lok Sabha? How is he appointed?
22. What do you understand by Speaker pro tem?
23. Mention any three important powers of the Speaker.
24. What is the unique feature about the position of the Speaker? Who is the present Speaker of the Lok Sabha?

## RAJYA SABHA

The Rajya Sabha (Council of States) is referred to as the Upper House of Parliament. It represents the 29 Indian States and the 7 Union Territories.

### Term

The Rajya Sabha is not subject to dissolution. It is a **permanent** body, but one-third of its members retire after every second year. Thereafter fresh elections are announced for the seats vacated at the beginning of the third year. Each member enjoys a six-year term and is eligible for re-election.

### Composition

According to the Constitution, the Rajya Sabha shall be composed of not more than 250 members, of

whom 238 shall be representatives of the States and the Union Territories, and the remaining 12 shall be nominated by the President.

The present strength of the Rajya Sabha is 245 members, out of which 233 represent the States and the Union Territories and 12 are nominated. The number of seats for each State and Union Territory is fixed according to the population. Uttar Pradesh sends 31 members to the Rajya Sabha, while Goa and the north-eastern states send only 1 member each. Delhi, on the other hand, sends 3 members to the Rajya Sabha.

### Qualifications

A candidate for election to the Rajya Sabha must be:

- ♦ A citizen of India and not less than 30 years of age.
- ♦ Holding additional qualifications as may be prescribed by the Parliament by law from time to time.

### Vacation of seats by members

The procedure for the vacation of a seat is similar to that laid down for the Lok Sabha.

### Election

The representatives of each State shall be elected by the elected members of the legislative assembly of that State in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote.

The representatives of the Union Territories shall be indirectly elected by members of an electoral college for that territory as Parliament by law prescribes, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. The electoral college comprises members of the Municipal Corporations, District Boards, etc.

### Nomination

The 12 nominated members shall be chosen by the President from amongst persons having 'special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, art and social service'.



Lata Mangeskar, who has been awarded Bharat Ratna, was nominated to Rajya Sabha in 1999.



Sachin R. Tendulkar, the legendary cricketer has been nominated to Rajya Sabha in 2012.

### Presiding officer

The Vice President is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. He is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament. The Rajya Sabha also elects one of its members to be the Deputy Chairman.

When the Vice President assumes the role of the President of India, the Deputy Chairman performs the functions of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

The functions of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha are similar to those of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, except that the Speaker has certain special powers for certifying Money Bills and presiding over a joint sitting of the two Houses as mentioned earlier.

## POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE UNION PARLIAMENT

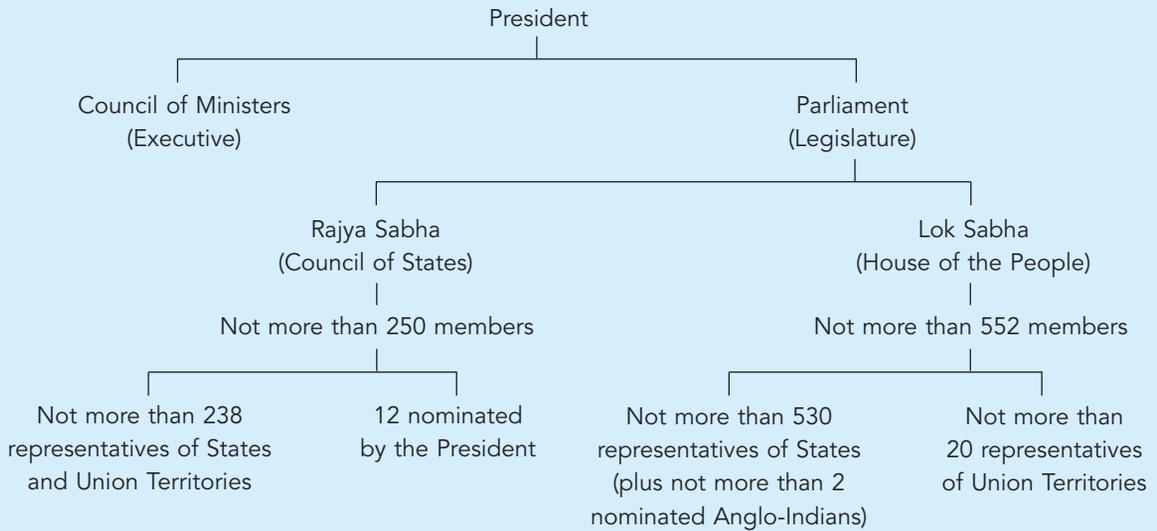
The Parliament, being the legislative organ of the Union, enjoys extensive powers and performs a wide range of functions.

### Legislative powers

The Parliament is competent to make laws on the following.

1. List 1, which is the **Union List** comprises 97 subjects. The Union has exclusive powers over subjects mentioned in this list like defence, external affairs, banking, taxes, etc.
2. List 3 is the **Concurrent List** comprising 47 items. The Union and state legislatures have equal powers but in case of a conflict of interests, the

## GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION AT A GLANCE



## PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

<b>President's Address</b>	This is the joint sitting of the two Houses at the commencement of the first session after each general election. It is prepared by the government and is the policy statement of the new government.
<b>Motion of Thanks</b>	The debate on the President's Address takes the form of a Motion of Thanks. It is a discussion of the policies of the government which are finally put to vote. If defeated, the government has to resign.
<b>The Zero Hour</b>	The Zero Hour usually lasts from 12 noon to 1 o'clock. In this hour, questions pertaining to policies followed by the government are raised.
<b>Types of Questions</b>	Starred Question – an oral answer is given by the Minister. Unstarred Question – written answer is laid on the table of the House. Short-notice Question – Questions can be asked with less than 10 days' notice.
<b>Adjournment</b>	Within a session there are a number of daily sittings separated by adjournments, which postpone the discussion of business for a specified time. It does not end the session of Parliament.
<b>Prorogation</b>	It is the termination of a session of Parliament.
<b>Dissolution</b>	It is the termination of the life of the Lok Sabha, so that there can be fresh elections for a new House and a new government may be formed. The Rajya Sabha being a permanent body is never dissolved.

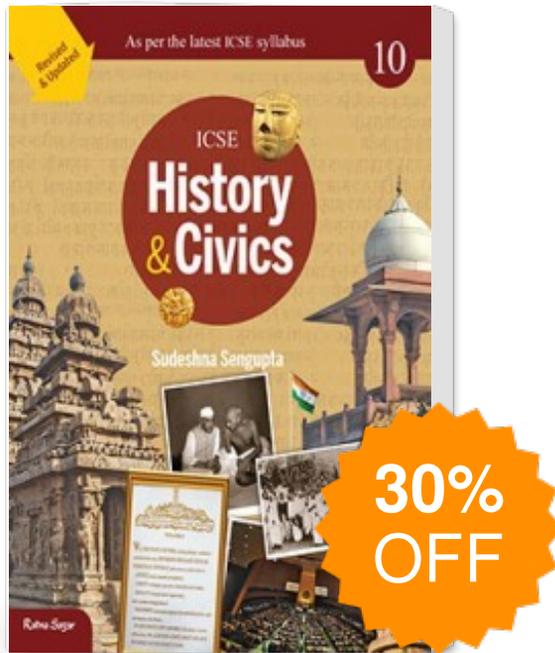
Union law prevails. The subjects include criminal law and procedure, civil procedure, marriage, education, economic and social planning, etc. Such a provision makes our Constitution quasi-federal in character. It is federal in form but unitary in spirit.

3. Apart from the above lists, there is the **State List** comprising 66 items. The subjects include public

order, police, prisons, local government, public health and sanitation, agriculture, communications, etc. Though they are under the jurisdiction of the states, the Union government can legislate on the state subjects under the following extraordinary circumstances:

- If the Council of States declares by a resolution of two-thirds of its members present and voting

# ICSE History And Civics Class X



Publisher : Ratna Sagar

ISBN : 9789385976926

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