

- The importance of Indian polity can be witnessed in the increasing number of polity questions every year. Let us try to understand some basic concepts in Indian polity.

What is a Constitution?

- Constitution is the basic law of the land. All organs of the government are based on the constitution.
- The Indian constitution is derived from the working of the drafting committee of the constituent assembly which was headed by Dr.B.R.Ambedkar.
- Indian constitution is a blend of rigidity and flexibility. It is a *living document* which is subjected to amendments.
- Our constitution consists of 3 main pillars- Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.

Legislature:

- It is the place where law is made.
- In India, legislature is located at both centre and states. The Parliament at the centre constitute of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. It is the place where laws for the entire county are made.
- In addition to the Parliament, there are legislatures at every state where laws are made within the state list.

Executive:

- The executive machinery is responsible for the implementation of policies.
- The Union executive consists of President, Vice President, Prime Minister, etc.
- The State executive consists of Governor, Chief Minister, Council of Ministers, etc.

Judiciary:

- Judiciary is responsible to ensure that laws, rules and regulations made by the government are consistent with the constitution.
- According to **Article-130** of the constitution, the Supreme Court shall be seated in Delhi.
- These three organs ensure the vibrancy of the Indian democracy.

Local Bodies:

- In addition to these organs, local bodies play an important role in the governance.
- The **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts** made local bodies mandatory in every state.
- These bodies make a shift towards **Bottom-up** model of governance.

Elections:

- India, the world's largest democracy, has provisions for **universal adult franchise** which allows voting rights for citizens irrespective of caste, sex, place of birth, etc.
- The **61st Constitutional Amendment Act** reduced the voting age of citizens from 21 to 18.

Other provisions:

- The constitution has provisions for the **Union Public Service Commission** which act as watchdog of the merit system in India by conducting examinations for various government positions.
- There are also **emergency provisions** in the constitution which makes it possible for the centre to have more control on states during certain scenarios.
- The Indian constitution with around 450 articles, 12 schedules and 25 parts act as a glaring example for the entire world.