



Sixth Edition

INDIAN POLITY

**For Civil Services and
Other State Examinations**

M LAXMIKANTH

- 6 new chapters
- Updates in all chapters

INDIAN POLITY

For **Civil Services and Other State
Examinations**

Sixth Edition

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

M Laxmikanth obtained his postgraduate degree in Political Science from Osmania University in 1989. He is the former founder and director of an erstwhile coaching institute called Laxmikanth's IAS Academy, Hyderabad. Other books authored by him include ***Governance in India, Objective Indian Polity, Public Administration and Constitution of India.***

INDIAN POLITY

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Examinations**

Sixth Edition

M Laxmikanth

*Former Founder-Director
Laxmikanth's IAS Academy (Closed)
Hyderabad*



McGraw Hill Education (India) Private Limited



Published by McGraw Hill Education (India) Private Limited
444/1, Sri Ekambara Naicker Industrial Estate, Alapakkam, Porur, Chennai -
600 116

Indian Polity, 6/e

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This edition can be exported from India only by the publishers,
McGraw Hill Education (India) Private Limited

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 7101351 23 22 21 20 19

Printed and bound in India

ISBN (13): 978-93-89538-47-2

ISBN (10): 93-89538-47-5

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Typeset at TNQ Technologies Pvt. Ltd., 4/600, Phase II, Dr Vikram
Sarabhai Instronics Estate, Kottivakkam, Chennai 600 041 and printed at
Rajkamal Electric Press, Plot No. No. 2, Phase-IV, Kundli, Haryana.

Cover Designer: Creative Designer

DQBLCDLTDLXBD

visit us at: www.mheducation.co.in

Write to us at: info.india@mheducation.com

CIN: U80302TN2010PTC111532

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Dedicated
to
My Wife
Mamadgi Vidya
and
My Daughters
Mamadgi Anjali
Mamadgi Aishwarya
and
My Native Place
Dhanasiri (Zaheerabad – Telangana)

Preface to the Sixth Edition

I am pleased to place before the readers a thoroughly revised, enlarged and updated edition of this widely read book on Indian Polity.

In 2011 and 2013, the UPSC changed the pattern and syllabus of the preliminary and main examinations, respectively. Both times, the scope of Indian Polity has been considerably increased. Hence, this new edition of the book is more relevant now and is aimed to meet the expanded needs of the aspirants.

In the course of revision and updation of this edition of the book, various new developments related to the subject, like recent constitutional amendments, parliamentary legislations, executive decisions and supreme court judgments, have been taken into account.

Changes in this Edition:

1. Addition of 6 new chapters.
2. Inclusion of 2017, 2018 and 2019 preliminary questions with answers.
3. Inclusion of 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 mains questions.
4. Updation of the year-wise break-up of the UPSC questions in the preliminary and main examinations.
5. Inclusion of additional updated information on a number of topics.
6. New items included in various chapters.

New Chapters:

1. Goods and Services Tax Council
2. National Commission for Backward Classes
3. National Investigation Agency
4. National Disaster Management Authority
5. Role of Regional Parties
6. Coalition Government

I firmly believe that this is now a very comprehensive and updated manual. It is a matter of immense satisfaction that the previous five editions of this book have received an overwhelming response from readers. I am confident that readers would continue to repose their faith in this edition as well.

Constructive comments and concrete suggestions to further improve the book are welcome and shall be gratefully acknowledged.

M. LAXMIKANTH

Preface to the First Edition

I have great pleasure in placing this book before the aspirants of the top administrative services. The book has been written to meet the growing requirements of the candidates appearing for the Civil Services Examinations (Preliminary and Main) conducted by the Union Public Service Commission. It directly and fully covers the Indian Polity section of the paper on General Studies and is also useful for certain optional subjects like Public Administration, Political Science, Law, Sociology and Anthropology.

This comprehensive volume would enable the readers to acquire a complete and detailed understanding of the subject. It covers all dimensions (constitutional, non-constitutional, political and administrative) of the subject. My first-hand experience of coaching the candidates for the Civil Services Examinations has been a great source of inspiration and has helped me immensely in writing this book.

An effort has been made to make the contents of the book relevant, authentic, and up-to-date. The constitutional provisions are explained in the light of the debates of the Constituent Assembly of India as well as the judgements of the Supreme Court and the high courts. I have also used tables to make the presentation more clear. The Appendices, provided at the end of the book, serve as a reference section.

I welcome all constructive comments and concrete suggestions from the readers of this book.

M. LAXMIKANTH

Acknowledgements

During the course of writing this book, I have received help, encouragement and assistance from my teachers, students, family members, colleagues, friends, library staff and others.

I am thankful to all of them.

I am particularly grateful to my wife, Smt. M. Vidya, for the encouragement and support that she provided during the preparation of the book.

I am deeply indebted to the eminent political scientists and constitutional experts (Granville Austin, Moris Jones, K.C. Wheare, Rajni Kothari, Paul Appleby, K. Santhanam, N.A. Palkhivala, Soli Sorabji, D.D. Basu, V.N. Shukla, M.P. Jain, Subhash Kashyap) and other scholars of repute whose valuable works have been highly useful in the writing of this book.

My thanks are also due to Mr. Tanmoy Roychowdhury, Mr. Deepak Singh, Ms. Shukti Mukherjee, Ms. Shalini Jha, Ms. Shreya Soni and Ms. Anjali Chakravarty of McGraw Hill India Private Limited for their unstinted cooperation in bringing out this updated edition on time.

M. LAXMIKANTH

Year-Wise Break-up of the UPSC Questions on Indian Polity (General Studies—Prelims)

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Questions Asked</i>
1.	2000	12
2.	2001	12
3.	2002	19
4.	2003	19
5.	2004	22
6.	2005	10
7.	2006	13
8.	2007	12
9.	2008	13
10.	2009	14
11.	2010	10
12.	2011	12
13.	2012	20
14.	2013	18
15.	2014	13
16.	2015	15
17.	2016	06
18.	2017	22
19.	2018	15
20.	2019	15

Note I: In 2011, the UPSC changed the pattern and syllabus of the Preliminary Examination. In the new scheme, the Indian Polity section has been renamed as “Indian Polity and Governance”. It covers Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc. Also, now each question carries two marks (previously one mark).

Note II: In the above table, the number of questions asked on “Governance” (since 2011) are also included.

Year-Wise Break-up of the UPSC Marks on Indian Polity (General Studies—Mains)

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Questions Asked</i>
1.	2000	130
2.	2001	100
3.	2002	130
4.	2003	100
5.	2004	100
6.	2005	100
7.	2006	100
8.	2007	100
9.	2008	130
10.	2009	66
11.	2010	66
12.	2011	111
13.	2012	47
14.	2013	100
15.	2014	88
16.	2015	100
17.	2016	112
18.	2017	110
19.	2018	125
20.	2019	125

Note I: In 2013, the UPSC changed the pattern and syllabus of the Main Examination. In the new scheme, a separate and full paper on “Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations” has been introduced. It carries 250 marks.

Note II: In the above table, the number of marks allotted to the questions relating to the “Governance Social Justice and International Relations” (since 2013) are not included.

About the Civil Services Examination

The Civil Services examination comprises two successive stages:

- (i) Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination (Objective Type) for the selection of candidates for Main Examination; and
- (ii) Civil Services (Main) Examination (Written and Interview) for the selection of candidates for the various services and posts.

Scheme and subjects for the Preliminary and Main Examination.

A. PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

The Examination shall comprise two compulsory Papers of 200 marks each.

Note:

- (i) Both the question papers will be of the objective type (multiple choice questions).
- (ii) The question papers will be set both in Hindi and English. However, questions relating to English Language Comprehension Skills of Class X level will be tested through passages from English language only without providing Hindi translation thereof in the question paper.

B. MAIN EXAMINATION

The written examination will consist of the following papers:

Qualifying Papers:

Paper A: (One of the Indian Language to be selected by the candidate from the Languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution).

300 Marks

Paper B: English

300 Marks

The papers on Indian Languages and English (Paper A and Paper B) will be of Matriculation or equivalent standard and will be of qualifying nature. The marks obtained in these papers will not be counted for ranking.

Papers to be counted for merit

Paper I: Essay

250 Marks

Paper II: General Studies–I

(Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society)

250 Marks

Paper III: General Studies –II

250 Marks

(Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations)

Paper IV: General Studies –III

250 Marks

(Technology, Economic Development, Bio-diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management)

Paper V: General Studies –IV

250 Marks

(Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude)

Paper VI: Optional Subject – Paper 1

250 Marks

Paper VII: Optional Subject – Paper 2

250 Marks

Sub Total (Written test):

1750 Marks

Personality Test:

275 Marks

Grand Total:

2025 Marks

Candidates may choose any one of the optional subjects from amongst the list of subjects given below:

List of optional subjects for Main Examination:

- (i) Agriculture
- (ii) Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science
- (iii) Anthropology
- (iv) Botany
- (v) Chemistry
- (vi) Civil Engineering
- (vii) Commerce and Accountancy
- (viii) Economics
- (ix) Electrical Engineering
- (x) Geography
- (xi) Geology
- (xii) History
- (xiii) Law
- (xiv) Management
- (xv) Mathematics
- (xvi) Mechanical Engineering
- (xvii) Medical Science
- (xviii) Philosophy
- (xix) Physics
- (xx) Political Science and International Relations
- (xxi) Psychology
- (xxii) Public Administration
- (xxiii) Sociology
- (xxiv) Statistics
- (xxv) Zoology
- (xxvi) Literature of any one of the following

Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu and English.

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Additional reading material available at the weblink given below:

<http://www.mhhe.com./indianpolity6e>

1. Oath by the Constitutional and Other Authorities
2. Definitions Under the Constitution
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PART-I

CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

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1 Historical Background

The British came to India in 1600 as traders, in the form of East India Company, which had the exclusive right of trading in India under a charter granted by Queen Elizabeth I. In 1765, the Company, which till now had purely trading functions obtained the 'diwani' (i.e., rights over revenue and civil justice) of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.¹ This started its career as a territorial power. In 1858, in the wake of the 'sepoy mutiny', the British Crown assumed direct responsibility for the governance of India. This rule continued until India was granted independence on August 15, 1947.

With Independence came the need for a Constitution. Hence, a Constituent Assembly was formed for this purpose in 1946 and on January 26, 1950, the Constitution came into being. However, various features of the Indian Constitution and polity have their roots in the British rule. There were certain events in the British rule that laid down the legal framework for the organisation and functioning of government and administration in British India. These events have greatly influenced our constitution and polity. They are explained here in a chronological order under two major headings :

1. The Company Rule (1773 – 1858)
2. The Crown Rule (1858 – 1947)