

CONSTITUTION (FIFTY FIRST AMENDMENT) ACT, 1984

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1986
Article (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article 330, 332
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provided for reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in certain North-Eastern States.● Ensured representation of ST communities in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies of specific states.● Addressed unique demographic compositions of North-Eastern regions.

The Constitution (Fifty-First Amendment) Act, 1984 was enacted to ensure adequate political representation for Scheduled Tribes in certain North-Eastern States where existing constitutional provisions did not fully reflect the region's unique demographic composition. It represents a targeted adjustment within the broader framework of reservation and representation under the Constitution.

Prior to the amendment, Articles 330 and 332 provided for reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. However, these provisions were framed in general terms and did not sufficiently account for the distinct demographic realities of some North-Eastern States, where tribal communities formed either a majority or a significant portion of the population but were unevenly distributed across constituencies.

The amendment addressed this by modifying Articles 330 and 332 to enable reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies of States such as Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, and Mizoram, as well as in the Lok Sabha from these regions. This ensured that tribal communities in these states received constitutionally guaranteed representation in line with their population and socio-political context.

The amendment reflects the principle that a uniform approach to representation may not always achieve substantive equality in a diverse society. In regions like the North-East, where tribal identity, customary practices, and local governance structures play a central role, tailored constitutional provisions were necessary to ensure meaningful political participation.

At the same time, the amendment fits within the broader trajectory of India's constitutional policy of affirmative representation. Rather than creating an entirely new framework, it refined existing provisions to better align them with regional realities, thereby strengthening the inclusiveness of democratic institutions.

The Fifty-First Amendment also illustrates the continuing role of Parliament in periodically adjusting representational structures to reflect demographic and political developments. It reinforces the idea that representation under the Constitution is not static but evolves in response to changing social conditions.

The amendment thus strengthens the democratic framework by ensuring that historically marginalised and geographically distinct communities are adequately represented in legislative bodies, particularly in regions with complex demographic patterns.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.htm
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>
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CONSTITUTION (FIFTY SECOND AMENDMENT) ACT, 1985

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1985
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 101, 102, 190, 191● Schedule Inserted : 10th
Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>This Amendment was challenged in</i>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Kihoto Hollohan vs. Zachillhu and Others 1991 INSC 287 [1992] 1 S.C.R. 686</p>
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduced the Anti-Defection Law. ● Inserted the Tenth Schedule to deal with disqualification of legislators on grounds of defection. ● Laid down conditions under which members of Parliament and State Legislatures can be disqualified. ● Empowered the Speaker/Chairman to decide questions of disqualification.

The Constitution (Fifty-Second Amendment) Act, 1985 was enacted to address the growing problem of political defections in legislative bodies, which had become a significant source of instability in governments at both the Union and State levels. It marked a major institutional reform aimed at strengthening the integrity of the parliamentary system.

In the years preceding the amendment, Indian politics had witnessed frequent instances of elected representatives switching parties, often for personal or political gain. This phenomenon, commonly referred to as “horse-trading,” led to the fall of governments, erosion of public trust, and distortion of the electoral mandate.

The Fifty-Second Amendment responded to this by introducing the Tenth Schedule, which laid down the legal framework for disqualification on grounds of defection. Under this framework, a member of a legislature could be disqualified if they voluntarily gave up membership of their political party or voted (or abstained from voting) contrary to the party’s directions without prior permission.

The amendment also addressed situations involving independent and nominated members. Independent members were disqualified if they joined a political party after election, while nominated members could be disqualified if they joined a party after a specified period.

A significant feature of the amendment was the vesting of decision-making authority in the Speaker or Chairman of the respective legislative body. This was intended to ensure an internal mechanism for adjudicating defection disputes, though it also raised concerns about impartiality given the political position of the presiding officer.

The amendment initially included provisions allowing exemption from disqualification in cases of “split” within a political party, where a faction comprising one-third of members could break away without attracting penalties. However, this provision was later removed by the Ninety-First Amendment in 2003 due to its misuse.

The Fifty-Second Amendment thus represents a crucial step in attempting to curb political opportunism and maintain stability in representative institutions. At the same time, it has generated ongoing debate regarding its impact on legislative independence, particularly the extent to which party discipline may limit individual autonomy of elected representatives.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>
- Vajiram & Ravi. (2026, April 16). 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, objectives, features, case laws. <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/52nd-constitutional-amendment-act/>
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CONSTITUTION (FIFTY THIRD AMENDMENT) ACT, 1986

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1987
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article 371G inserted
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Granted full statehood to Mizoram.● Inserted Article 371G providing special provisions for the State.● Protected religious and social practices, customary law, and land ownership of the Mizo people.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ensured that certain central laws would not apply to Mizoram without State Legislative Assembly approval. |
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The Constitution (Fifty-Third Amendment) Act, 1986 was enacted to facilitate the transition of Mizoram from a Union Territory to a full-fledged State of India. It formed part of the broader peace and political settlement following years of insurgency and unrest in the region.

The background to the amendment lies in the Mizo National Front (MNF) insurgency, which had created prolonged instability in the area. The signing of the Mizoram Peace Accord in 1986 marked a turning point, with the Union government agreeing to grant statehood and provide constitutional safeguards to address the unique cultural and social identity of the Mizo people.

The amendment inserted Article 371G, which provides special protections tailored to Mizoram's distinct socio-cultural context. It ensures that no Act of Parliament relating to religious or social practices of the Mizos, their customary law and procedure, administration of civil and criminal justice involving such customary laws, and ownership and transfer of land shall apply to the State unless the Legislative Assembly of Mizoram decides otherwise.

This provision reflects a strong commitment to preserving indigenous identity within the constitutional framework. It recognises that uniform application of central laws may not always be appropriate in regions with deeply rooted customary systems and social practices.

In addition, the amendment amended the First Schedule to formally include Mizoram as a State of the Union, thereby granting it full constitutional status with representation in Parliament and its own elected government.

The amendment represents a clear instance of asymmetrical federalism, where specific constitutional provisions are designed to accommodate regional diversity and political settlements. It demonstrates how the Constitution can be used as an instrument of conflict resolution by integrating regions through negotiated autonomy and institutional safeguards.

It also highlights a broader constitutional approach in the North-East, where statehood is often accompanied by tailored provisions to protect local identity, land rights, and governance structures.

The Fifty-Third Amendment thus stands as a significant example of how constitutional design can support peace-building, political integration, and cultural preservation within a democratic framework.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- GKToday. (2018, May 1). Article 371G. <https://www.gktoday.in/article-371g/>
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>
- Rajraf. (2020, October 29). A durable peace with a weak accord in Mizoram. <https://www.rajraf.org/article/a-durable-peace-with-a-wak-accord-in-mizoram/1006>

CONSTITUTION (FIFTY FOURTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1986

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1986
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 125, 221● Schedule Amended : 2nd
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Revised salaries of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.● Shifted salary determination to the Second Schedule for flexibility.● Provided for periodic revision of judicial salaries through law.

The Constitution (Fifty-Fourth Amendment) Act, 1986 was enacted to revise and rationalise the salaries of judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts. It addressed concerns that judicial compensation had not kept pace with economic conditions, which had implications for judicial independence and the ability to attract and retain competent individuals in the higher judiciary.

Prior to the amendment, the salaries of judges were specified directly within the Constitution. This rigid structure made it difficult to revise compensation in response to inflation, changes in the cost of living, or evolving standards in public service remuneration. As a result, judicial salaries had become outdated over time.

The amendment addressed this by revising the salary structure and relocating the provisions relating to judicial salaries to the Second Schedule of the Constitution. This change introduced greater flexibility, allowing Parliament to amend judicial salaries through ordinary legislation rather than requiring a constitutional amendment each time a revision was needed.

By doing so, the amendment struck a balance between constitutional protection and administrative adaptability. While judicial salaries continued to enjoy constitutional backing—ensuring they could not be altered to the disadvantage of a judge after appointment—it also allowed for periodic and timely revisions to maintain their adequacy.

The revision of salaries was also linked to the broader principle of judicial independence. Adequate and secure remuneration is considered essential to ensure that judges can perform their functions without external pressures or financial insecurity. The amendment thus reinforced institutional integrity by addressing a structural concern affecting the judiciary.

Importantly, the amendment was limited in scope and did not alter the powers, jurisdiction, or appointment process of the judiciary. It was a targeted institutional reform aimed at improving service conditions while preserving constitutional safeguards.

The Fifty-Fourth Amendment reflects a pragmatic approach to constitutional design—recognising that certain institutional details, such as remuneration, require periodic adjustment while still being anchored within a protected constitutional framework.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
 - Bombay High Court. (1986, August 4). The Constitution (Fifty-fourth Amendment) Bill.
<https://bombayhighcourt.gov.in/bhc/libweb/misc/coi/constitution/act/BILL/C054Bill.pdf>
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CONSTITUTION (FIFTY FIFTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1986

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1987
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Inserted : 371H
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Granted full statehood to Arunachal Pradesh.● Inserted Article 371H providing special provisions for the State.● Conferred special responsibility on the Governor with respect to law and order.● Provided for legislative and administrative integration into the Union framework.

The Constitution (Fifty-Fifth Amendment) Act, 1986 was enacted to facilitate the transition of Arunachal Pradesh from a Union Territory to a full-fledged State of India. It formed part of a broader constitutional approach in the North-East, where regions were gradually integrated into the Union through a combination of statehood and tailored constitutional safeguards.

Before this amendment, Arunachal Pradesh was administered as a Union Territory, with limited legislative autonomy and significant control exercised by the Union government. However, increasing political development and the need for representative governance led to the demand for full statehood.

The amendment addressed this by amending the First Schedule to include Arunachal Pradesh as a State of the Union, thereby granting it the same constitutional status as other states, including an elected legislature and representation in Parliament.

A distinctive feature of the amendment is the insertion of Article 371H, which provides special provisions for the State. Under this article, the Governor is given special responsibility with respect to law and order, and may exercise individual judgment in this regard. This is an exception to the general constitutional principle that the Governor acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

This provision reflects the strategic and sensitive nature of the region, given its geographical location and security considerations. It was designed to ensure that issues relating to internal security and public order could be handled with a degree of central oversight, even within the framework of statehood.

The amendment illustrates the use of asymmetrical federalism, where different states are granted tailored constitutional arrangements based on their specific historical, geographical, and political contexts. In this case, statehood was combined with a limited but significant exception to the usual distribution of executive authority.

It also highlights the Constitution’s role as an instrument of integration—extending democratic governance while accommodating regional sensitivities through carefully designed provisions.

The Fifty-Fifth Amendment thus represents a key step in the political and constitutional integration of Arunachal Pradesh, balancing the grant of full statehood with specific safeguards to address its unique circumstances.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>
- Legislative Department. (1986). The Constitution (Fifty-fifth Amendment) Act, 1986. <https://www.legislative.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/07/de89f6e3d1d78cd9ce5fc456597278f2.pdf>

CONSTITUTION (FIFTY SIXTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1987

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1987
Article (s) and Schedule (s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Inserted : 371-I

Amended	
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Granted full statehood to Goa. ● Separated Goa from the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu. ● Inserted Article 371I providing special provisions for Goa. ● Provided representation for Goa in Parliament.

The Constitution (Fifty-Sixth Amendment) Act, 1987 was enacted to grant full statehood to Goa, marking its transition from a Union Territory to a State within the Indian Union. It reflected the region’s political development and the growing demand for greater autonomy and self-governance.

Before the amendment, Goa formed part of the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu, which had been incorporated into India following the end of Portuguese rule in 1961. Over time, Goa developed a distinct political identity and administrative maturity, leading to demands for statehood.

The amendment addressed this by amending the First Schedule to include Goa as a separate State, while Daman and Diu continued as a Union Territory. It also amended the Fourth Schedule to provide representation for Goa in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), thereby integrating it fully into the parliamentary framework.

A specific feature of the amendment is the insertion of Article 371I, which provides that the Legislative Assembly of Goa shall consist of not less than thirty members. Unlike some other special provisions under Article 371, this provision is relatively limited in scope and does not confer extensive autonomy or exceptions but ensures a minimum representative structure for the State legislature.

The amendment illustrates a relatively straightforward instance of state formation compared to other North-Eastern examples. It did not involve complex autonomy arrangements or asymmetrical federal provisions beyond the minimum legislative requirement. Instead, it reflects a transition based on administrative readiness and political consensus.

At the same time, it highlights the Constitution’s role in accommodating evolving regional aspirations by enabling territories to progress from Union Territory status to full statehood as governance structures mature.

The Fifty-Sixth Amendment thus represents a significant step in India's federal evolution, bringing Goa fully within the framework of statehood while maintaining continuity in governance and representation.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
 - GKToday. (n.d.). Fifty-sixth Amendment of the Constitution of India. <https://www.gktoday.in/constitution-56th-amendment-act-1987/>
 - iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>
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CONSTITUTION (FIFTY SEVENTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1987

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1987
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended: 332
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provided for reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in Legislative Assemblies of certain North-Eastern States.● Introduced a special mechanism to ensure representation of different tribal communities within these states.● Allowed adjustment of reservation patterns to reflect local demographic realities.

The Constitution (Fifty-Seventh Amendment) Act, 1987 was enacted to refine the framework of political representation for Scheduled Tribes in specific North-Eastern States, particularly Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland. It built upon earlier provisions relating to reservation by tailoring them to the unique demographic composition of these regions.

In many of these states, Scheduled Tribes constitute either an overwhelming majority or a dominant proportion of the population. However, within this broad category, there exist multiple distinct tribal communities, each with its own identity, customs, and socio-political interests. A uniform reservation system risked concentrating representation in the hands of a few dominant groups, leaving smaller communities underrepresented.

The amendment addressed this issue by modifying Article 332 to allow for a more nuanced approach to reservation. It enabled the division of constituencies and allocation of seats in a manner that ensured representation of different tribal groups within the Legislative Assemblies. This ensured that the principle of representation operated not just at the level of broad categories like “Scheduled Tribes,” but also reflected internal diversity within those categories.

This approach reflects a deeper understanding of equality in a plural society. Rather than treating Scheduled Tribes as a homogeneous group, the amendment recognised internal differentiation and sought to ensure equitable political participation across communities.

The amendment also reinforces the principle of asymmetrical federalism. It applies specifically to certain states where demographic and social conditions justify a departure from the standard model of reservation. By allowing tailored arrangements, the Constitution ensures that representation remains meaningful and context-sensitive.

Importantly, the amendment does not alter the overall framework of reservation but refines its operation in specific contexts. It demonstrates the Constitution’s capacity to evolve from broad principles to more granular institutional mechanisms as the needs of governance become more complex.

The Fifty-Seventh Amendment thus strengthens democratic representation in the North-East by ensuring that political inclusion extends to diverse tribal communities within these states, rather than being confined to aggregate categories.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- CaseMine. (n.d.). Constitution (57th Amendment) Act, 1987. <https://www.casemine.com/act/in/5a979da94a93263ca60b71fe>

- GKToday. (2018, April 23). Article 332 - Reservation of seats.
<https://www.gktoday.in/article-332/>
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments
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CONSTITUTION (FIFTY EIGHTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1987

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1987
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article Inserted : 394A, Amendment of the Heading of Part XXII
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provided for an authoritative text of the Constitution in the Hindi language. ● Empowered the President to publish the Hindi version of the Constitution. ● Ensured that the Hindi translation would have the same legal authority as the English text.

The Constitution (Fifty-Eighth Amendment) Act, 1987 was enacted to give formal constitutional recognition to the Hindi version of the Constitution of India. It addressed the long-standing need to make the Constitution accessible in a language widely used across the country, while ensuring legal uniformity between different language texts.

At the commencement of the Constitution, the authoritative text was in English. Although Hindi translations existed, they did not carry the same formal legal status. This created a gap between accessibility and authority, particularly in a multilingual society where the use of Indian languages in governance and legal processes was steadily expanding.

The amendment addressed this by inserting Article 394A, which empowered the President to publish an authoritative Hindi translation of the Constitution. Once published, this Hindi version would

carry the same legal validity as the English text, ensuring that both could be relied upon for interpretation and application.

This change reflects the constitutional commitment to linguistic inclusion and accessibility. By recognising Hindi as an authoritative language of the Constitution, the amendment sought to bridge the gap between formal legal texts and broader public engagement with constitutional principles.

At the same time, the amendment maintained continuity and clarity in legal interpretation by ensuring that the authorised Hindi text would be carefully prepared and aligned with the original English version. This was essential to avoid inconsistencies or ambiguities in constitutional interpretation.

The amendment did not alter any substantive provisions of the Constitution. Instead, it focused on the language and accessibility of the constitutional text, highlighting the importance of making foundational legal documents available in widely understood languages without compromising their legal precision.

The Fifty-Eighth Amendment thus represents an important step in democratising access to the Constitution, reinforcing the idea that constitutional knowledge should not be limited by language barriers while preserving the integrity of the legal text.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- CaseMine. (n.d.). Constitution (58th Amendment) Act, 1987. <https://www.casemine.com/act/in/5a979da94a93263ca60b71ff>
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>

CONSTITUTION (FIFTY NINTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1988

Aspect	Details
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Enacted in	1988
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article Amended: 356 ● Article inserted : 359 A
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Permitted proclamation of Emergency in Punjab on the ground of “internal disturbance.” ● Enabled suspension of the right to move courts for enforcement of Fundamental Rights, including Article 21. ● Inserted Article 359A to provide special Emergency provisions for Punjab. ● Expanded the scope of executive power during Emergency conditions in the State.

The Constitution (Fifty-Ninth Amendment) Act, 1988 was enacted in response to the continuing security crisis in the State of Punjab, which was experiencing prolonged militancy and breakdown of public order. It represented a significant, and controversial, expansion of Emergency powers within a specific regional context.

Under the constitutional framework as modified by the Forty-Fourth Amendment, the grounds for proclaiming a National Emergency had been narrowed from “internal disturbance” to “armed rebellion,” and certain safeguards had been introduced to protect civil liberties. In particular, Articles 20 and 21 were insulated from suspension even during an Emergency.

The Fifty-Ninth Amendment effectively created an exception to this framework in relation to Punjab. It allowed the proclamation of Emergency in the State on the earlier and broader ground of “internal disturbance,” thereby lowering the threshold for invoking Emergency powers in that specific context.

More significantly, the amendment modified Article 359 and introduced Article 359A, which enabled the suspension of the right to move courts for enforcement of Fundamental Rights, including the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21. This marked a departure from the post-Emergency constitutional safeguards introduced by the Forty-Fourth Amendment.

The amendment thus concentrated substantial power in the executive, allowing for extensive control over civil liberties in the interest of restoring order. It reflected the government's assessment that extraordinary measures were necessary to deal with the severity of the situation in Punjab.

However, the amendment also raised serious constitutional concerns. By permitting the suspension of judicial remedies for fundamental rights, it reopened questions about the balance between national security and individual liberties—issues that had been central during the Emergency period of 1975–77.

Importantly, the provisions introduced by this amendment were temporary in nature. The Fifty-Ninth Amendment was later repealed by the Sixty-Third Amendment in 1989, which restored the position established by the Forty-Fourth Amendment and reasserted the protection of fundamental rights, particularly Article 21.

The Fifty-Ninth Amendment thus stands as a striking example of how constitutional safeguards can be recalibrated in response to security crises, while also illustrating the limits of such measures in a constitutional democracy committed to the rule of law and civil liberties.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- GKToday. (2018, April 28). Article 359A. <https://www.gktoday.in/article-359a/>
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>
- LegitQuest. (2022, December 31). Constitution (Sixty-third Amendment) Act, 1989. <https://www.legitquest.com/act/constitution-sixty-third-amendment-act-1989/2044>

CONSTITUTION (SIXTIETH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1988

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1988

Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article Amended : 276
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased the maximum limit of professional tax that States can levy. ● Raised the ceiling from ₹250 per annum to ₹2,500 per annum. ● Enhanced fiscal capacity of State governments.

The Constitution (Sixtieth Amendment) Act, 1988 was enacted to revise the constitutional ceiling on professional tax levied by State governments under Article 276. It addressed a long-standing issue where the existing limit had become economically obsolete due to inflation and structural changes in the Indian economy.

At the time the Constitution came into force, Article 276 permitted States to impose a tax on professions, trades, callings, and employments, but capped the maximum amount payable by any individual at ₹250 per year. While this may have been a reasonable limit in the early years of the Republic, it gradually lost relevance as income levels rose and the cost of governance increased.

By the 1980s, the ceiling had effectively become nominal, limiting the utility of professional tax as a meaningful source of revenue for States. Given that professional tax is one of the few direct taxation powers available to States, this restriction was increasingly seen as a constraint on their fiscal autonomy.

The Sixtieth Amendment addressed this by raising the ceiling tenfold, from ₹250 to ₹2,500 per annum. This change restored the practical relevance of the tax and allowed States to better utilise it as a revenue instrument, particularly in urban and service-oriented economies where such taxes are more effectively administered.

The amendment reflects a broader constitutional principle—fiscal provisions must evolve with economic realities. Unlike structural changes to taxation powers, this amendment did not alter the distribution of taxing authority between the Union and the States. Instead, it updated an existing provision to ensure that it remained functional and effective in a changing economic environment.

At the same time, the retention of a constitutional ceiling is significant. It ensures that while States have flexibility, there remains a uniform upper limit across the country, preventing excessive or arbitrary

taxation on individuals engaged in professions and trades. This maintains a balance between State revenue interests and taxpayer protection.

The amendment also fits within a larger pattern of incremental fiscal reforms that preceded more comprehensive changes in India's tax system, such as the later introduction of VAT and GST. While modest in scope, it reflects the ongoing process of adapting constitutional fiscal provisions to meet governance needs.

In practical terms, the amendment strengthened the ability of States to raise internal resources without increasing dependence on central transfers, thereby contributing—albeit in a limited way—to cooperative federalism and financial decentralisation.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- CaseMine. (n.d.). Constitution (60th Amendment) Act, 1988. <https://www.casemine.com/act/in/5a979da94a93263ca60b7201>
- GKToday. (n.d.). Article 276 - Taxes on professions and trades. <https://www.gktoday.in/article-276/>
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>

CONSTITUTION (SIXTY ONE AMENDMENT) ACT, 1988

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1989
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended: 326
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reduced the voting age for elections from 21 years to 18 years.● Expanded the electorate by including younger citizens.● Strengthened democratic participation and political inclusion.

On March 28, 1988, the 61st Constitutional Amendment Act was approved by Parliament and came into force. It changed Article 326 of the Indian Constitution, which oversees adult suffrage elections for State Legislative Assemblies and the House of the People (Lok Sabha). The minimum voting age was 21 before this amendment.

In Article 326, the term "twenty-one years" was substituted by "eighteen years." This modification ensured consistency in the voting age at all governmental levels by applying to both state assembly and parliamentary elections.

Articles 84 and 173 continue to govern eligibility to contest elections, and the amendment has no bearing on this.

The proposal was grounded in the premise that contemporary youth possess higher levels of education and political awareness, thereby justifying their inclusion in the electoral process. It was contended that individuals aged 18 had attained sufficient maturity for electoral participation, as evidenced by their eligibility for civil and civic responsibilities such as driving, marriage, and military service. Enhanced access to education and mass media further contributed to their political consciousness and engagement, strengthening the case for enfranchisement.

Lowering the voting age was also envisaged as a measure to reinvigorate democratic participation by expanding the electorate and increasing voter turnout. Given the significant demographic weight of youth, their inclusion was expected to infuse political discourse with new perspectives and ideas. Additionally, it was perceived as a corrective to the political apathy and disillusionment that had developed in the aftermath of the Emergency.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
 - Dennana. (2024, November 11). 61st amendment to Indian Constitution. <https://dennana.in/2024/11/11/61st-amendment-to-indian-constitution/>
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CONSTITUTION (SIXTY SECOND AMENDMENT) ACT, 1989

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1989
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended: 334
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Extended reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.● Extended nomination of members of the Anglo-Indian community.● Continued these provisions for a further period of ten years (up to 2000).

The Constitution (Sixty-Second Amendment) Act, 1989 was enacted to continue the system of political safeguards for historically disadvantaged communities by extending the duration of reservations and special representation in legislative bodies. It follows a well-established constitutional pattern of periodic extensions under Article 334.

At the commencement of the Constitution, Article 334 had provided that reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), along with the nomination of Anglo-Indian members, would cease after ten years, that is, in 1960. However, recognising that social and political inequalities persisted, Parliament repeatedly extended this period through successive amendments.

The Sixty-Second Amendment extended these provisions for another ten years, up to the year 2000. This ensured the continued reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the House of the People and State Legislative Assemblies, along with the continued nomination of Anglo-Indian members where adequate representation was lacking.

The amendment reflects the constitutional recognition that formal equality does not automatically translate into substantive equality, particularly in the context of deeply rooted social hierarchies. Continued political representation was therefore seen as essential to ensure that these communities remained part of legislative decision-making processes.

At the same time, the structure of Article 334, requiring periodic renewal, signals that these measures were intended to be temporary, subject to review based on changing social conditions. Each extension, including this one, represents a legislative judgment that the underlying objectives of equal representation had not yet been fully achieved.

The amendment does not alter the nature or scope of reservation but simply extends its duration. It demonstrates the continuity of India’s approach to affirmative representation, relying on incremental extensions rather than permanent constitutional entrenchment.

It also reflects a broader democratic concern—ensuring that representation in legislative institutions remains inclusive and reflective of the country’s social diversity, particularly for communities that have historically faced exclusion.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- CaseMine. (n.d.). Constitution (62nd Amendment) Act, 1989. <https://www.casemine.com/act/in/5a979da94a93263ca60b7203>
- GKToday. (2018, April 24). Article 334. <https://www.gktoday.in/article-334/>
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>

CONSTITUTION (SIXTY THIRD AMENDMENT) ACT, 1989

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1989
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 356● Article Ommitted : 359 A
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Repealed the special Emergency provisions applicable to Punjab introduced by the 59th Amendment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Omitted Article 359A, which had enabled suspension of enforcement of Fundamental Rights, including Article 21.● Restored constitutional safeguards relating to fundamental rights during Emergency.
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The Constitution (Sixty-Third Amendment) Act, 1989 was enacted to reverse the exceptional constitutional provisions introduced by the 59th Amendment in the context of the security situation in the State of Punjab. It marked a return to the constitutional safeguards that had been strengthened after the Emergency period of 1975–77.

The 59th Amendment had created a special framework for Punjab, allowing the proclamation of Emergency on the broader ground of “internal disturbance” and enabling the suspension of the right to move courts for enforcement of Fundamental Rights, including the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21. These provisions had raised serious concerns regarding civil liberties and constitutional balance.

The Sixty-Third Amendment addressed these concerns by omitting Article 359A, thereby removing the special Emergency provisions that applied specifically to Punjab. It also restored the position under Article 359 as it stood after the Forty-Fourth Amendment, ensuring that the protections relating to Fundamental Rights—particularly Articles 20 and 21—remained intact even during an Emergency.

This amendment reflects a clear constitutional shift back towards safeguarding individual liberties and limiting the scope of executive power. It reaffirmed the principle that even in situations of national or regional crisis, certain core rights must remain protected and enforceable.

The repeal of the earlier provisions also indicates that the extraordinary measures introduced in response to the Punjab crisis were intended to be temporary and context-specific. Once conditions evolved, Parliament moved to restore the general constitutional framework applicable across the country.

From a broader perspective, the amendment reinforces the post-Emergency constitutional consensus that judicial review and fundamental rights are essential components of the constitutional structure and cannot be easily set aside. It highlights the self-correcting nature of the constitutional system, where earlier expansions of power are reassessed and rolled back when they are no longer justified.

The Sixty-Third Amendment thus represents a reaffirmation of constitutional safeguards, restoring the balance between State authority and individual rights within India’s democratic framework.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- GKToday. (2018). Article 359A (Repealed). <https://www.gktoday.in/article-359a/>
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>
- LegitQuest. (2022, December 31). Constitution (Sixty-third Amendment) Act, 1989. <https://www.legitquest.com/act/constitution-sixty-third-amendment-act-1989/2044>

CONSTITUTION (SIXTY FOURTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1990

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1990
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 356
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Extended the period for which President’s Rule could continue in Punjab.● Allowed continuation of central rule beyond the standard constitutional limits.● Provided a specific exception to the general framework governing Article 356.

The Constitution (Sixty-Fourth Amendment) Act, 1990 was enacted to address the continuing breakdown of constitutional machinery in the State of Punjab during a prolonged period of militancy and political instability. It followed earlier constitutional interventions that had similarly relaxed limitations on the duration of President’s Rule in the State.

Under the normal constitutional scheme, Article 356 permits the imposition of President's Rule in a State when its constitutional machinery fails, but such a proclamation is subject to time limits. Typically, it cannot continue beyond one year unless specific conditions are met, and even then, extensions are subject to periodic parliamentary approval. These safeguards are designed to preserve federal balance and ensure that elected governance is restored at the earliest possible stage.

However, the situation in Punjab during the late 1980s and early 1990s remained exceptionally volatile, with persistent challenges to law and order, threats to public safety, and difficulties in conducting free and fair elections. In this context, the existing constitutional limits were considered insufficient to ensure stable governance.

The Sixty-Fourth Amendment created a specific exception by enabling the continuation of President's Rule in Punjab beyond the usual time constraints. This allowed the Union government to maintain direct administrative control over the State for a longer duration, without being restricted by the standard one-year ceiling.

This amendment must be seen alongside earlier measures such as the Forty-Eighth Amendment, which had similarly addressed the situation in Punjab. Together, these amendments illustrate how the Constitution has been used to respond to extraordinary regional crises through targeted, state-specific provisions.

At the same time, such extensions raised important constitutional questions about the limits of central intervention in State governance. While justified as necessary for restoring order, prolonged President's Rule can potentially weaken democratic institutions and delay the return of representative government.

The Sixty-Fourth Amendment thus reflects the tension between the need for administrative control in times of crisis and the constitutional commitment to federalism and democratic governance. It underscores the exceptional nature of such provisions, which are typically framed as temporary responses to specific circumstances rather than permanent changes to the constitutional structure.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html

- CaseMine. (n.d.). Constitution (64th Amendment) Act, 1990.
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- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments
<https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>
- Rajya Sabha. (1990, May 3). President's Rule extension Punjab discussion.
https://rsdebate.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/251006/1/PD_154_03051990_3_p177_p228_9.pdf

CONSTITUTION (SIXTY FIFTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1990

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1992
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article Amended : 338
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Replaced the earlier Special Officer for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with a multi-member National Commission. ● Strengthened institutional safeguards for SCs and STs. ● Expanded functions to include investigation, monitoring, and advisory roles.

The Constitution (Sixty-Fifth Amendment) Act, 1990 was enacted to strengthen the constitutional machinery for safeguarding the rights and interests of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). It marked a shift from a limited, individual-based oversight mechanism to a more robust institutional framework.

Before the amendment, Article 338 provided for the appointment of a Special Officer for SCs and STs, whose primary role was to investigate matters relating to the safeguards provided for these communities and report to the President. While this arrangement served an important monitoring function, it was increasingly seen as inadequate given the scale and complexity of issues faced by these groups.

The amendment addressed this by substituting Article 338 to provide for a National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, consisting of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and other members. This transformed the earlier single-officer model into a multi-member body with broader institutional capacity.

The Commission was entrusted with a wide range of functions, including investigating and monitoring the implementation of constitutional and legal safeguards, inquiring into specific complaints of deprivation of rights, participating in the planning process for socio-economic development, and advising the government on policy matters affecting these communities.

It was also empowered to present reports to the President, who would place them before Parliament, along with action taken reports. This ensured a formal link between the Commission's findings and legislative oversight, thereby enhancing accountability.

The amendment reflects a growing recognition that the protection of disadvantaged communities requires not just legal provisions, but also strong institutional mechanisms capable of continuous monitoring and intervention. It aligns with the broader constitutional commitment to social justice and substantive equality.

Importantly, the amendment did not alter the underlying rights or safeguards available to SCs and STs, but significantly strengthened the institutional framework for their enforcement. It laid the foundation for further developments, including the later bifurcation of the Commission into separate bodies for SCs and STs through the Eighty-Ninth Amendment.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
 - CaseMine. (n.d.). Constitution (65th Amendment) Act, 1990. <https://www.casemine.com/act/in/5a979da94a93263ca60b7208>
 - iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>
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CONSTITUTION (SIXTY SIXTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1990

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1990
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Schedule Amended: 9th
Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>This Amendment was challenged in</i> I. R. Coelho (Dead) by Lrs. Vs. State of Tamil Nadu 2007 INSC 28 [2007] 1 S.C.R 706
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Added a large number of land reform laws to the Ninth Schedule.● Provided constitutional protection to these laws from challenge on the ground of violation of Fundamental Rights.● Strengthened the State's ability to implement agrarian reforms.

The Constitution (Sixty-Sixth Amendment) Act, 1990 was enacted to extend constitutional protection to additional land reform laws enacted by various states. It continued the established legislative practice of using the Ninth Schedule as a mechanism to insulate socio-economic legislation from judicial review.

Land reform remained a central policy priority in post-independence India, aimed at redistributing land, reducing concentration of ownership, and promoting social justice in rural areas. However, such laws were frequently challenged in courts on the ground that they violated Fundamental Rights, particularly the right to equality and, earlier, the right to property.

To address these challenges, the Constitution had developed protective mechanisms such as Article 31A and the Ninth Schedule, which allowed certain laws to be shielded from being invalidated on specified constitutional grounds. Despite these provisions, states continued to encounter legal hurdles when implementing new or revised land reform legislation.

The Sixty-Sixth Amendment responded by adding a substantial number of such laws—primarily relating to land ceilings, tenancy regulation, and redistribution measures—to the Ninth Schedule. This ensured that these laws could be implemented without the risk of being struck down by courts on the basis of inconsistency with Fundamental Rights.

This amendment reflects the continued constitutional emphasis on achieving socio-economic transformation through legislative action, particularly in the agrarian sector. It demonstrates the State's commitment to prioritising redistributive justice and rural reform as part of its broader development strategy.

At the same time, the repeated expansion of the Ninth Schedule raised important constitutional questions about the limits of Parliament's amending power and the scope of judicial review. These questions became central to later constitutional jurisprudence, where courts examined whether such protection could extend to laws that might affect the basic structure of the Constitution.

The Sixty-Sixth Amendment thus represents both a continuation of the land reform agenda and a significant moment in the ongoing dialogue between Parliament and the judiciary regarding constitutional limits and legislative authority.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- CaseMine. (n.d.). Constitution (66th Amendment) Act, 1990. <https://www.casemine.com/act/in/5a979da94a93263ca60b7207>
- Dhyeya Law. (n.d.). Ninth Schedule: Protection and judicial scrutiny. <https://www.dhyeyalaw.in/the-ninth-schedule-of-the-indian-constitution-a-tale-of-protection-and-judicial-scrutiny>
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CONSTITUTION (SIXTY SEVENTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1990

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1990
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article Amended: 356
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provided for further extension of President’s Rule in Punjab. ● Allowed continuation of central rule beyond the limits prescribed under the general framework. ● Created a specific exception applicable to the State.

The Constitution (Sixty-Seventh Amendment) Act, 1990 was enacted to continue the special constitutional arrangement permitting extended President’s Rule in the State of Punjab. It formed part of a series of amendments responding to the prolonged political instability and security challenges faced by the State during this period.

Under the normal constitutional scheme, Article 356 allows the imposition of President’s Rule when the constitutional machinery in a State breaks down. However, such proclamations are subject to strict time limits and periodic parliamentary approval to ensure that central intervention remains temporary and does not undermine federal principles.

In the case of Punjab, the persistence of militancy, breakdown of law and order, and difficulties in conducting free and fair elections created conditions in which these standard limits were considered impractical. Earlier amendments, such as the Forty-Eighth and Sixty-Fourth Amendments, had already relaxed these constraints to allow extended central administration.

The Sixty-Seventh Amendment continued this approach by enabling further extension of President’s Rule in Punjab beyond the usual constitutional limits. It ensured that the Union government could maintain direct administrative control over the State while efforts were made to restore stability and normal democratic processes.

This amendment illustrates the Constitution’s capacity to respond to exceptional and prolonged crises through targeted, state-specific provisions. However, it also highlights the tension inherent in such measures. While extended central rule may be necessary in certain circumstances, it raises concerns about the suspension of representative government and the potential erosion of federal autonomy.

The amendment, therefore, must be understood as part of a broader sequence of temporary interventions, rather than a permanent alteration of the constitutional framework governing Centre–State relations. It reflects the balancing act between ensuring effective governance in times of crisis and preserving the foundational principles of democracy and federalism.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- CaseMine. (n.d.). Constitution (67th Amendment) Act, 1990.
<https://www.casemine.com/act/in/5a979da94a93263ca60b7208>
- Drishti IAS. (2025, February 17). President's Rule analysis.
<https://www.drishtiiias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/president-s-rule-in-manipur>
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CONSTITUTION (SIXTY EIGHTTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1991

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1991
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article Amended : 356
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provided for further extension of President’s Rule in Punjab. ● Allowed continuation of central rule beyond the existing extended limits. ● Marked the final phase of constitutional extensions in this context.

The Constitution (Sixty-Eighth Amendment) Act, 1991 was enacted to continue the special constitutional arrangement permitting prolonged President’s Rule in the State of Punjab. It represents the concluding stage in a series of amendments designed to address the exceptional political and security situation prevailing in the State during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Under the general constitutional framework, Article 356 permits the imposition of President's Rule for a limited duration, with extensions subject to strict conditions and parliamentary approval. These safeguards are intended to ensure that central intervention remains temporary and that elected governance is restored at the earliest opportunity.

However, in Punjab, persistent militancy, breakdown of law and order, and challenges in conducting elections necessitated a longer period of direct central administration. Earlier amendments—including the Forty-Eighth, Sixty-Fourth, and Sixty-Seventh—had successively extended the permissible duration of President's Rule in the State.

The Sixty-Eighth Amendment continued this approach by enabling a further extension beyond the already expanded limits. It ensured that the Union government retained the constitutional authority to administer the State directly until conditions stabilised sufficiently to allow the restoration of democratic processes.

What makes this amendment notable is that it effectively marks the endpoint of this series of extraordinary constitutional measures. It reflects the recognition that while such extensions may be necessary in periods of crisis, they are inherently temporary and must eventually give way to the normal functioning of representative institutions.

The amendment also highlights the tension between two core constitutional values—federal autonomy and national stability. While extended President's Rule may be justified to restore order, it inevitably delays the return of elected government, raising concerns about democratic legitimacy.

In the broader constitutional context, the Sixty-Eighth Amendment underscores the flexibility of the Constitution in dealing with prolonged emergencies, while also reinforcing the principle that such flexibility must be exercised with restraint and within clearly defined limits.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- CaseMine. (n.d.). Constitution (68th Amendment) Act, 1991. <https://www.casemine.com/act/in/5a979da94a93263ca60b7209>

- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments
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CONSTITUTION (SIXTY NINTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1991

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1992
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article Inserted : 239 AA, 239 AB
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided special status to Delhi as the National Capital Territory (NCT). • Created a Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers for Delhi. • Defined the powers of the elected government vis-à-vis the Lieutenant Governor. • Excluded certain subjects, public order, police, and land, from the legislative domain of the Assembly.

Delhi's transition from a Union Territory to the National Capital Territory (NCT) with limited statehood was initiated by the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991, based on the recommendations of the S. Balakrishnan Committee. The amendment sought to enhance local self-governance by granting Delhi a greater degree of autonomy, while preserving its distinct constitutional status as the national capital.

The structure of the Delhi government was significantly altered by the Constitution (69th Amendment) Act of 1991. This amendment was passed to give Delhi's residents a democratic administration and to recognise Delhi's special status as the nation's capital.

Acknowledging Delhi's unique status, the Indian Parliament proposed this change to establish a fair administrative structure that would benefit both local and national interests.

Delhi's government is still based on the amendment, which strikes a balance between national needs and local democratic goals. Its measures guarantee that Delhi can continue to play the vital role of India's capital city while being efficiently administered. India's federal structure and democratic ideals are still demonstrated by its special constitutional setup.

The amendment provided for an elected legislature, chosen by the residents of Delhi. According to clause 3(a) of article 239AA, the Legislative Assembly of the capital may enact laws about any of the subjects listed in the state or concurrent lists under schedule VII, except those about land, law enforcement, and law and order, which were to be handled by the Centre through the LG. According to clause (4) of the same article, a Council of Ministers led by the state's chief minister will "aid and advise" the LG on the issues mentioned above.

In the case of a tussle regarding a law between the state legislature and the centre, the law enacted by the Parliament shall always prevail unless the legislature secures the assent of the President on such law.

Article 239B provides that if the President, based on a report from the Lieutenant Governor or otherwise, believes that the administration of the National Capital Territory cannot be carried out according to Article 239AA or related laws, or considers it necessary for proper governance, the President may issue an order suspending the operation of Article 239AA (in whole or in part) or any related law for a specified period and with certain conditions. The President may also make any additional provisions needed to ensure the administration of the territory under Articles 239 and 239AA.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- Drishti Judiciary. (n.d.). 69th constitutional amendment of the Constitution of India. <https://www.drishtijudiciary.com/ttp-constitution-of-india/69th-constitutional-amendment-of-the-constitution-of-india>
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>
- Kumre, V., & Singh, P. (2024). The role of the governor in Indian federalism. *International Journal of Legal Science and Innovation*, 6(4), 198–208. <https://ijlsi.com/wp-content/uploads/The-Role-of-the-Governor-in-Indian-Federalism.pdf>
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CONSTITUTION (SEVENTIETH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1992

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1991
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 54, 239AA
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Expanded the Electoral College for Presidential elections.● Included elected members of Legislative Assemblies of Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.● Ensured representation of these Union Territories in the election of the President.

The Constitution (Seventieth Amendment) Act, 1992 was enacted to broaden the composition of the Electoral College responsible for electing the President of India. It addressed a representational gap that had emerged following the creation of legislative assemblies in certain Union Territories.

Under the original framework of Article 54, the President is elected by an Electoral College consisting of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament and the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States. Union Territories were not included in this scheme, as most of them did not have legislative assemblies at the time the Constitution came into force.

However, with the establishment of representative institutions in Union Territories such as Delhi and Puducherry, the exclusion of their elected representatives from the Electoral College was seen as inconsistent with the principle of democratic participation. These territories had functioning legislative assemblies, yet their representatives had no role in the election of the Head of State.

The amendment addressed this by modifying Article 54 to include the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of Delhi and Puducherry within the Electoral College. This ensured that these Union Territories were brought within the constitutional framework governing Presidential elections.

The change reflects a broader constitutional principle—representation should evolve alongside institutional development. As Union Territories acquired elected legislatures and a more representative character, their inclusion in national constitutional processes became necessary to maintain democratic coherence.

At the same time, the amendment was carefully limited. It did not extend participation to all Union Territories, but only to those with legislative assemblies, thereby maintaining a clear distinction between different categories of territories within the constitutional scheme.

The Seventieth Amendment thus represents a modest but important refinement of the electoral framework, ensuring that the process of electing the President reflects the evolving structure of representative governance in India.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- CaseMine. (n.d.). Constitution (70th Amendment) Act, 1992. <https://www.casemine.com/act/in/5a979da94a93263ca60b720b>
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>
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CONSTITUTION (SEVENTY FIRST AMENDMENT) ACT, 1992

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1992
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Schedule Amended : 8th
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Added three languages to the Eighth Schedule.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Included Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali as recognised languages.● Expanded the list of officially recognised languages under the Constitution.
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The Constitution (Seventy-First Amendment) Act, 1992 was enacted to recognise additional linguistic identities by expanding the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. It marked an important step in acknowledging India's cultural and linguistic diversity within the constitutional framework.

Before this amendment, the Eighth Schedule contained a list of recognised languages that were accorded official status for purposes such as representation in the Official Languages Commission, development by the State, and use in certain public functions. However, several widely spoken and culturally significant languages remained outside this list.

The amendment addressed this by adding Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali to the Eighth Schedule. This brought these languages within the ambit of constitutional recognition, acknowledging their historical, cultural, and social significance.

The inclusion of these languages had both symbolic and practical implications. Symbolically, it affirmed the identity and cultural heritage of the communities speaking these languages. Practically, it enabled their use in competitive examinations, parliamentary proceedings, and other official contexts, and facilitated their development through institutional support.

The amendment reflects the Constitution's broader approach to linguistic pluralism—recognising diversity while maintaining national unity. Rather than imposing a uniform linguistic framework, the Constitution accommodates multiple languages, allowing them to coexist within a shared constitutional structure.

It also illustrates how linguistic recognition evolves over time. The Eighth Schedule has been expanded through successive amendments, each responding to demands for inclusion and reflecting changing political and cultural dynamics.

The Seventy-First Amendment thus represents a significant moment in the constitutional recognition of India's linguistic diversity, reinforcing the principle that cultural identity forms an integral part of democratic representation and national integration.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- CaseMine. (n.d.). Constitution (71st Amendment) Act, 1992.
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- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments
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- LawBhoomi. (2026, March 23). 71st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.
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CONSTITUTION (SEVENTY SECOND AMENDMENT) ACT, 1992

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1992
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 332
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provided for reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of Tripura.● Ensured representation of tribal communities in line with the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC).● Introduced a temporary arrangement to address demographic imbalance.

The Constitution (Seventy-Second Amendment) Act, 1992 was enacted to ensure adequate political representation for Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of Tripura. It was closely linked to the evolving institutional framework of tribal self-governance in the State, particularly the role of the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC).

Tripura presents a distinct demographic context. While tribal communities historically formed a majority, large-scale migration over time altered the demographic balance, leading to concerns

regarding underrepresentation of indigenous tribal populations in political institutions. This created a need for targeted constitutional intervention to safeguard their political voice.

The amendment addressed this by modifying Article 332 and introducing a temporary provision, Article 332A, to provide for reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in the State Legislative Assembly. The objective was to ensure that tribal communities received representation proportionate to their population, particularly in areas falling within the jurisdiction of the Autonomous District Council.

This arrangement was designed as a transitional measure, reflecting the Constitution's approach of using time-bound provisions to address specific representational imbalances. It allowed the State's electoral framework to be recalibrated without permanently altering the structure of representation.

The amendment also illustrates the interaction between different constitutional mechanisms—reservation of seats and autonomous councils under the Sixth Schedule. Together, these mechanisms aim to ensure both political representation and local self-governance for tribal communities.

From a broader perspective, the amendment reflects the principle that equality in representation may require context-specific adjustments. In regions with complex demographic histories, uniform rules may not adequately protect the interests of vulnerable communities, necessitating tailored constitutional solutions.

The Seventy-Second Amendment thus represents a focused intervention to strengthen democratic inclusion in Tripura, ensuring that tribal communities continue to have a meaningful role in legislative decision-making during a period of demographic transition.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>
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THE CONSTITUTION (SEVENTY-THIRD AMENDMENT) ACT, 1992

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1993
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 280● Schedule Inserted : 11th Part IX- The Panchayats● Article Inserted : 243, 243A to 243-O
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Constitutionalised Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).● Provided a three-tier system of local self-government in rural areas.● Mandated regular elections every five years.● Introduced reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women.● Established State Finance Commissions and State Election Commissions.

[The Constitution \(Seventy-Third Amendment\) Act of 1992](#) is a landmark amendment that broadened the scope of Indian Democracy by creating a three-tiered Panchayati Raj system for rural governance. The amendment resulted in the addition of [Part IX](#) in the Constitution, comprising Articles 243-243O. The amendment established a three-tiered structure: District, Intermediate, and Village levels.

The Indian democracy, till 1990, worked on a two-tier structure with a central Parliament and State legislative Assemblies. While many in the constitution assembly wanted to have a rural self-governance system, something which Gandhi also envisaged. The other perspective was that rural governance would result in strengthening the caste system, as villages were seen as a locus of the caste system, where the dominant caste would hold all political power. Thus, till the 73rd amendment, rural development and villages remained in the mercy of bureaucrats. It was after the reports of various committees, which highlighted the failure of such a system, that the 73rd Amendment was introduced.

The 73rd Amendment of 1992 added a whole new part to the Constitution, stating the provisions for rural self-government. Article 243, the introductory article of Part IX, states the definitions. Gram Sabha, according to this, is a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a village comprised within the area of the Panchayat at the village level, and the Panchayat is an institution that governs this Gram Sabha. Similarly, the intermediate level is defined as a level between the District and the Village. Article 243B empowers the Gram Sabha to function and exercise power. Subsequent Article in this Part deals with the constitution, composition and reservation in the Panchayats.

The amendment established Panchayats at the village, intermediate(block) and district level. Though states having a population of less than 20 Lakh shall not have a Panchayat at the intermediate level. The Panchayat would be elected through direct elections. At the village level, the Chairperson can be elected directly or indirectly, depending on the state. However, the Chairperson at the Intermediate and District levels was to be chosen indirectly through members elected directly. Article 243D reserves the seats for the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes in proportion to the population. One-third of the seats were reserved for Women. The Panchayats would have a term of 5 years, and if dissolved before completing the aforesaid period, elections should take place within six months of dissolution. Articles 243G and 243H enshrine the Panchayat with powers and responsibilities like collecting taxes and implementing schemes of economic development and social justice. However, all these powers are to be granted by the State Legislature. The Amendment also introduces the 11th Schedule, which lists down the subjects that come under the ambit of the functioning of the Panchayat.

The 73rd Amendment also directs the state to form a Finance Commission within one year of the enactment of the Amendment, and after every 5 years of completion of the term of a Panchayat. The Finance Commission has to review the work of the Panchayat and make recommendations regarding grants given to the Panchayat and the distribution of taxes between the State Legislature and the Panchayats.

References

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- Centre for Law and Policy Research. (n.d.). Part IX: The Panchayats. Constitution of India. <https://www.constitutionofindia.net/parts/part-ix/>
- Government of India. (1992). The Constitution (Seventy-Third Amendment) Act, 1992. <https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/constitution/act/ACT/C073Act.pdf>

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CONSTITUTION (SEVENTY FOURTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1992

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1993
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article Amended : 280 ● Schedule Inserted : 12th Part IX A- The Municipalities, ● Article Inserted : 243P to 243Z, 243ZA to 243ZG
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Constitutionalised Urban Local Bodies (Municipalities). ● Provided for a three-tier classification, Nagar Panchayats, Municipal Councils, and Municipal Corporations. ● Mandated regular elections every five years. ● Introduced reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women. ● Established State Election Commissions and State Finance Commissions for urban bodies.

The Constitution (Seventy Fourth Amendment) Act of 1992 resulted in the decentralisation of democracy by providing the municipalities with constitutional status. The amendment added Part IXA to the Constitution, containing Articles 243P to 243ZG. These articles outline the provisions for the functioning of municipalities, which are categorised into three types, defined according to the population.

In the Constitution of India promulgated in 1950, the municipalities and governance of urban areas find their mention in the State List, where the State Legislature is endowed with the responsibility of local government of cities and urban areas. In the statement of objectives and reasons, the amendment act stated that due to inadequate constitutional provisions, municipal governance has been unstable. Total dependence on the State has resulted in suspension of elections for an indefinite period of time, and there has been no financial independence for these municipal corporations. Thus, to strengthen democracy at the grassroots level, the 74th Amendment Act was introduced.

The Act mandates the creation of Municipalities in the cities and urban areas of the state, with regular elections being held. Article 243P of the Part IXA defines Metropolitan Area as an area having a population of ten lakhs or more, comprised in one or more districts and consisting of two or more Municipalities or Panchayats or other contiguous areas. A municipality is defined as the institution that governs the municipal areas. Article 243Q deals with the constitution of the Municipality. The following are the three kinds of Municipalities that can be established:

- Nagar Panchayat: A transitional area from rural to urban area.
- Municipal Council: Smaller Urban Area
- Municipal Corporation: Larger Urban Areas

The decisive factor for Municipalities can be population density, percentage of people engaged in non-agricultural activities, revenue generated from local administration or any other factor which the governor deems fit. A municipality is territorially divided into various Wards. All the seats in a Municipality have to be filled through direct elections. However, some seats can be nominated for people of expertise in a particular field, which would be helpful for municipal governance. The nominated members, however, cannot vote in meetings of the municipality. Municipalities with a population of more than 3 Lakh should have ward committees for one or more wards.

The amendment also reserves seats for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes according to the proportion of their population, with 1/3rd of these seats being reserved for women of these communities. Similarly, 1/3rd of the total seats should be reserved for women. A municipality can function for 5 years, after which elections should take place for a fresh municipality. If dissolved before the period of 5 years, elections should take place within 6 months.

Articles 243W and 243X state the financial and other powers that can be exercised by a Municipal government. Powers and responsibilities for fulfilling economic equality and social justice are vested in the municipality by the State Legislature. The 11th Schedule introduced by this Act lists down the subjects that come under the ambit of municipal government.

The 74th Amendment also makes provisions for the establishment of a financial commission, which would review the financial condition of a municipality and would provide its recommendations regarding the distribution of taxes and tolls between the State Legislature and the Municipality, grant-aid to be provided to the municipality from the Consolidated Funds of India and other related aspects.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.

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- Centre for Law and Policy Research. (n.d.). Part IXA: The Municipalities. Constitution of India.

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- Government of India. (1992). The Constitution (Seventy-Fourth Amendment) Act, 1992.

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CONSTITUTION (SEVENTY FIFTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1993

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1994
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 332B
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provided for the establishment of tribunals for rent and tenancy disputes.● Enabled speedy adjudication of disputes between landlords and tenants.● Reduced burden on regular courts.

The Constitution (Seventy-Fifth Amendment) Act, 1994 was enacted to address the growing backlog and delay in adjudication of rent control and tenancy disputes. It sought to introduce a specialised dispute resolution mechanism through the creation of tribunals, thereby improving efficiency in this area of law.

Prior to the amendment, disputes between landlords and tenants were handled by ordinary civil courts under various rent control laws enacted by states. These proceedings were often time-consuming due to procedural complexities and the heavy workload of courts, leading to delays in resolution. This affected both tenants seeking protection and landlords seeking recovery of property or rent.

The amendment addressed this by expanding the scope of Article 323B, which deals with the establishment of tribunals for certain matters. It enabled the creation of specialised tribunals for adjudicating disputes relating to rent, tenancy rights, and related issues. These tribunals were intended to function as faster and more efficient forums compared to traditional courts.

The move reflects a broader constitutional trend towards tribunalisation—creating subject-specific adjudicatory bodies to handle specialised areas of law. By transferring certain categories of disputes to tribunals, the amendment aimed to reduce the burden on the judiciary and ensure quicker resolution of cases.

At the same time, the amendment raised questions about the balance between efficiency and judicial independence. The increasing reliance on tribunals led to debates on issues such as the independence of these bodies, their procedural safeguards, and the extent of judicial oversight over their decisions.

Importantly, the amendment did not itself establish tribunals but provided the constitutional basis for Parliament and state legislatures to do so through appropriate legislation. It thus enabled institutional reform while leaving the details of implementation to the legislative process.

The Seventy-Fifth Amendment represents a targeted intervention aimed at improving access to justice in a specific domain, reflecting the Constitution's adaptability in responding to systemic challenges within the legal system.

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- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
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- CaseMine. (n.d.). Constitution (75th Amendment) Act, 1993.
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CONSTITUTION (SEVENTY SIXTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1994

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1994
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schedule Amended : 9th
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Included the Tamil Nadu reservation law in the Ninth Schedule. ● Protected 69% reservation in education and public employment in Tamil Nadu. ● Sought to insulate the law from judicial review on the ground of violation of Fundamental Rights.

The Constitution (Seventy-Sixth Amendment) Act, 1994 was enacted to provide constitutional protection to a specific state legislation that prescribed a higher level of reservation than generally permitted under judicial precedent. It reflects a direct legislative response to evolving constitutional jurisprudence on affirmative action.

The immediate context of the amendment lies in the decision of the Supreme Court in *Indra Sawhney v. Union of India* (1992), where the Court upheld reservations for Other Backward Classes but indicated that reservations should ordinarily not exceed 50%, except in extraordinary circumstances. This judgment created uncertainty for states like Tamil Nadu, where the reservation framework historically exceeded this limit.

Tamil Nadu had enacted the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 1993, which provided for 69% reservation. Given the potential conflict with the judicially evolved ceiling, there was a risk that the law could be struck down.

The Seventy-Sixth Amendment addressed this by placing the 1993 Act in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. Laws included in the Ninth Schedule are granted protection from being invalidated on the ground of violation of Fundamental Rights, thereby shielding the Tamil Nadu reservation policy from judicial challenge on this basis.

This amendment illustrates the continuing interaction between Parliament and the judiciary in shaping the contours of affirmative action. While the judiciary sought to impose limits to maintain

balance and equality, Parliament exercised its amending power to protect a state-specific policy rooted in local social conditions.

At the same time, the use of the Ninth Schedule in this context contributed to broader constitutional debates regarding the limits of such protection. Subsequent judicial decisions, particularly in *I.R. Coelho v. State of Tamil Nadu* (2007), clarified that even laws placed in the Ninth Schedule are subject to review if they violate the basic structure of the Constitution.

The amendment reflects a nuanced approach to social justice, recognising that uniform national standards may not always accommodate regional variations in social structure and historical disadvantage. It underscores the role of the Constitution as a flexible instrument capable of accommodating such diversity within a broader framework of equality.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- CaseMine. (n.d.). Constitution (76th Amendment) Act, 1994. <https://www.casemine.com/act/in/5a979daa4a93263ca60b7211>
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CONSTITUTION (SEVENTY SEVENTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1995

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1995
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 16
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provided for reservation in promotions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.● Enabled the State to make provisions for advancement of SCs and STs in public employment.

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|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responded to judicial limitations on reservation in promotions. |
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The Constitution (Seventy-Seventh Amendment) Act, 1995 was enacted to restore the ability of the State to provide reservation in promotions for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in public employment. It reflects a targeted constitutional response to judicial developments that had restricted such provisions.

The immediate context of the amendment lies in the decision of the Supreme Court of India in *Indra Sawhney v. Union of India* (1992), where the Court held that while reservation in appointments was permissible under Article 16(4), reservation in promotions was not. This ruling significantly altered the existing practice in many states, where promotional reservations had been extended to SCs and STs as part of affirmative action policies.

The Seventy-Seventh Amendment addressed this by inserting Article 16(4A), which explicitly empowered the State to make provisions for reservation in matters of promotion in favour of SCs and STs, where they are not adequately represented in services under the State. This restored the constitutional basis for such policies.

The amendment reflects the principle that substantive equality may require continued support not just at the stage of entry into public service, but also in career advancement. Without such provisions, structural barriers could limit upward mobility, even where initial representation is ensured.

At the same time, the amendment does not mandate reservation in promotions but enables the State to provide it based on its assessment of inadequate representation. This preserves a degree of flexibility and allows policies to be shaped according to administrative and social conditions.

The insertion of Article 16(4A) also contributed to a continuing constitutional dialogue on equality, merit, and affirmative action. Subsequent judicial decisions have examined the scope and limits of this provision, particularly in relation to requirements such as quantifiable data, administrative efficiency, and the overall balance within the equality framework.

The Seventy-Seventh Amendment thus represents a significant development in the evolution of reservation policy in India, extending the logic of affirmative action beyond initial access to include progression within public institutions.

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- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
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CONSTITUTION (SEVENTY EIGHTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1995

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	1995
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Schedule Amended : 9th
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Added several land reform laws to the Ninth Schedule.● Provided constitutional protection to these laws from challenge on the ground of violation of Fundamental Rights.● Continued the policy of shielding agrarian reform legislation.

The Constitution (Seventy-Eighth Amendment) Act, 1995 was enacted to extend constitutional protection to additional land reform laws passed by various states. It represents a continuation of the long-standing legislative approach of using the Ninth Schedule as a mechanism to safeguard socio-economic legislation from judicial invalidation.

Land reform has remained a central element of India's post-independence policy framework, aimed at redistributing land, reducing inequalities in ownership, and dismantling remnants of feudal agrarian structures. However, such laws were frequently challenged in courts on the ground that they violated

Fundamental Rights, particularly the right to equality and, prior to its reclassification, the right to property.

To address these challenges, earlier constitutional amendments had introduced protective devices such as Article 31A and the Ninth Schedule, allowing certain laws to be insulated from judicial review. Despite these safeguards, continued litigation and evolving legal interpretations necessitated further additions to the Ninth Schedule.

The Seventy-Eighth Amendment responded by including a number of land reform laws—relating to tenancy, land ceilings, and redistribution—within the Ninth Schedule. This ensured that these laws could be implemented without the risk of being struck down on specified constitutional grounds.

The amendment reflects the State's continued commitment to agrarian reform as a tool for achieving social and economic justice. It underscores the priority given to redistributive policies, even where such policies may come into tension with individual rights claims.

At the same time, the expanding use of the Ninth Schedule contributed to an ongoing constitutional debate regarding the limits of Parliament's amending power and the extent to which judicial review can be excluded. This debate would later culminate in important judicial pronouncements clarifying that even Ninth Schedule laws are subject to basic structure review.

The Seventy-Eighth Amendment thus represents both a continuation of the land reform agenda and a key moment in the evolving relationship between Parliament and the judiciary in constitutional interpretation.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
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CONSTITUTION (SEVENTY NINTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1999

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2000
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 334
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Extended reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.● Extended the provision for nomination of members of the Anglo-Indian community.● Continued these provisions for a further period of ten years (up to 2010).

The Constitution (Seventy-Ninth Amendment) Act, 1999 was enacted to continue the system of political safeguards for historically disadvantaged communities by extending the duration of reservations and special representation in legislative bodies. It follows the established constitutional practice of periodic extensions under Article 334.

At the commencement of the Constitution, Article 334 had provided that reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), along with the nomination of Anglo-Indian members, would cease after ten years, that is, in 1960. However, recognising that structural inequalities and underrepresentation persisted, Parliament repeatedly extended this period through successive amendments.

The Seventy-Ninth Amendment extended these provisions for another ten years, up to 2010. This ensured the continued reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the House of the People and State Legislative Assemblies, as well as the continued nomination of Anglo-Indian members where adequate representation was considered necessary.

The amendment reflects the constitutional recognition that formal equality alone is insufficient to address deep-rooted social disparities. Continued political representation was seen as essential to ensure that these communities have a voice in legislative processes and policy-making.

At the same time, the design of Article 334, requiring periodic review, signals that such measures are intended to be transitional, subject to reassessment based on evolving social conditions. Each extension, including this one, represents a legislative judgment that the goals of substantive equality and adequate representation had not yet been fully realised.

The amendment does not modify the structure or nature of reservations but simply extends their duration. It illustrates the continuity of India’s approach to affirmative representation, relying on incremental renewals rather than permanent constitutional entrenchment.

It also highlights a broader democratic concern—ensuring that legislative bodies remain inclusive and reflective of the country’s social diversity, particularly for communities that have historically faced marginalisation.

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- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- GKToday. (2018, April 24). Article 334. <https://www.gktoday.in/article-334/>
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- LegitQuest. (1999, December 31). Constitution (Seventy-ninth Amendment) Act, 1999. <https://www.legitquest.com/act/constitution-seventy-ninth-amendment-act-1999/1955>

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTIETH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2000

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2000
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 269● Article Substituted : 270● Article Omitted : 272
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduced a new scheme for distribution of tax revenues between the Union and States.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provided for sharing of the net proceeds of all central taxes (except certain specified taxes and surcharges).● Implemented recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission.● Simplified and rationalised the system of fiscal devolution.
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The Constitution (Eightieth Amendment) Act, 2000 was enacted to fundamentally restructure the mechanism for sharing tax revenues between the Union and the States. It marked a shift from a fragmented system of tax devolution to a more unified and streamlined framework.

Before this amendment, the Constitution provided for the sharing of specific central taxes—such as income tax and Union excise duties—with the States, while other taxes remained exclusively with the Union. This system was complex, involving multiple provisions and categories, and often led to disputes and inefficiencies in fiscal distribution.

The amendment addressed this by modifying Articles 269 and 270 and omitting Article 272. It introduced the concept of a consolidated divisible pool of central taxes, under which the net proceeds of all central taxes and duties (except those specifically excluded, such as surcharges and certain cesses) would be shared between the Union and the States.

This represented a significant move towards fiscal consolidation. Instead of distributing individual taxes separately, the amendment allowed for a more comprehensive sharing mechanism, enabling greater flexibility in allocating resources based on broader fiscal considerations.

The reform was based on the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission, which had emphasised the need for a more rational and transparent system of devolution. By creating a single pool, the amendment simplified the constitutional framework and improved predictability in resource transfers to States.

From a federal perspective, the amendment strengthened the financial position of States by broadening the base of shared revenues. It also reinforced the role of the Finance Commission as the key institution responsible for recommending the distribution of these resources.

At the same time, the exclusion of surcharges and certain cesses from the divisible pool preserved an area of fiscal flexibility for the Union, allowing it to raise resources for specific purposes without

sharing them with the States. This reflects the ongoing balancing of fiscal autonomy between different levels of government.

The Eightieth Amendment thus represents an important milestone in the evolution of fiscal federalism in India, moving towards a more integrated and equitable system of tax devolution while maintaining necessary flexibility within the constitutional framework.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- GKToday. (2018, April 13). Article 270 - Taxes levied and collected by Union.
<https://www.gktoday.in/article-270/>
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CONSTITUTION (EIGHTIETH FIRST AMENDMENT) ACT, 2000

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2000
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 16
Note	<p><i>This Amendment was challenged in</i></p> <p>M. Nagaraj and Ors. vs. Union of India and Ors. 2006 INSC 711 : [2006] Supp. (7) S. C. R. 336</p>
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Allowed carrying forward of unfilled reserved vacancies for SCs and STs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Excluded such backlog vacancies from the 50% reservation ceiling in a given year.● Strengthened implementation of reservation in public employment.
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The Constitution (Eighty-First Amendment) Act, 2000 was enacted to address a practical limitation in the implementation of reservation policies for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in public employment. It responded to the issue of unfilled reserved vacancies accumulating over time due to various administrative and eligibility constraints.

Prior to the amendment, the Supreme Court's decision in *Indra Sawhney v. Union of India* (1992) had established that total reservations in a given year should ordinarily not exceed 50%. While this ceiling aimed to maintain a balance between equality and affirmative action, it created difficulties in filling backlog vacancies that remained unoccupied in previous recruitment cycles.

In practice, when such vacancies were carried forward to subsequent years, they were still counted within the 50% limit, making it difficult to fill them without breaching the ceiling. As a result, a significant number of reserved posts remained vacant, undermining the objective of ensuring adequate representation.

The Eighty-First Amendment addressed this issue by inserting Article 16(4B), which allows the State to treat unfilled reserved vacancies of a previous year as a separate class of vacancies. These backlog vacancies can be filled in subsequent recruitment cycles without being counted towards the 50% reservation limit applicable for that year.

This provision effectively enables the State to clear accumulated vacancies while still maintaining the general ceiling for current-year appointments. It reflects a pragmatic approach to implementing reservation policies, recognising that rigid application of the ceiling could defeat the purpose of affirmative action in practice.

The amendment also forms part of a broader series of constitutional responses aimed at refining reservation policy in light of judicial decisions. Along with provisions such as Article 16(4A), it demonstrates the continuing dialogue between Parliament and the judiciary in shaping the contours of equality and representation.

Importantly, the amendment does not mandate filling of backlog vacancies but enables the State to do so. This preserves administrative flexibility while strengthening the constitutional framework for achieving substantive equality in public employment.

The Eighty-First Amendment thus represents a targeted intervention to ensure that reservation policies operate effectively over time, addressing implementation gaps without altering the broader principles governing equality and affirmative action.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
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CONSTITUTION (EIGHTIETH SECOND AMENDMENT) ACT, 2000

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2000
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article Amended : 335
Note	<p><i>This Amendment was challenged in</i></p> <p>M. Nagaraj and Ors. vs. Union of India and Ors. 2006 INSC 711 [2006] Supp. (7) S. C. R. 336</p>
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Allowed relaxation in qualifying marks and standards of evaluation for SCs and STs in matters of promotion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Enabled the State to make provisions to ensure adequate representation in services.● Balanced administrative efficiency with affirmative action.
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The Constitution (Eighty-Second Amendment) Act, 2000 was enacted to address constraints on the implementation of reservation policies for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), particularly in the context of promotions in public employment. It reflects a continuation of the constitutional effort to ensure substantive equality within the framework of public services.

Article 335 of the Constitution provides that the claims of SCs and STs shall be taken into consideration in appointments to services and posts, consistent with the maintenance of efficiency of administration. Over time, judicial interpretation emphasised the importance of maintaining minimum standards, which in some cases limited the extent to which relaxation in qualifying marks or evaluation criteria could be granted.

The Eighty-Second Amendment addressed this by inserting a proviso to Article 335, explicitly permitting the State to relax qualifying marks or standards of evaluation in matters of promotion for SCs and STs. This was intended to ensure that the objective of adequate representation is not defeated by rigid application of uniform standards.

The amendment must be understood in the context of earlier developments, including the insertion of Article 16(4A), which allowed reservation in promotions. While that provision enabled promotional reservations, practical difficulties remained in implementing them effectively due to evaluation criteria that could disproportionately disadvantage candidates from historically marginalised communities.

By allowing relaxation in standards, the amendment provides the State with a tool to address these structural barriers. It recognises that formal equality in evaluation may not produce equitable outcomes where historical disadvantage has affected access to education, training, and opportunities.

At the same time, the reference to administrative efficiency in Article 335 continues to operate as a guiding principle. The amendment does not eliminate the requirement of maintaining efficiency but allows a calibrated balance between efficiency and social justice, leaving it to the State to determine the appropriate extent of relaxation.

The amendment forms part of a broader series of constitutional changes aimed at refining the framework of reservations in response to judicial scrutiny. It reflects an ongoing effort to ensure that affirmative action policies remain effective in practice while operating within constitutional limits.

The Eighty-Second Amendment thus represents a targeted intervention to support the implementation of reservation in promotions, reinforcing the commitment to inclusive representation within public services.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- CaseMine. (n.d.). Constitution (82nd Amendment) Act, 2000.
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- GKToday. (2018). Article 335 - Claims of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
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CONSTITUTION (EIGHTIETH THIRD AMENDMENT) ACT, 2000

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2000
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 243M
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provided an exception to the requirement of reservation for Scheduled Castes in Panchayats in Arunachal Pradesh.● Recognised the unique demographic composition of the State.● Allowed flexibility in implementing Panchayati Raj provisions.

The Constitution (Eighty-Third Amendment) Act, 2000 was enacted to address a specific issue arising from the application of Panchayati Raj provisions in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. It reflects a tailored constitutional response to the unique demographic realities of the region.

Under the framework introduced by the 73rd Amendment, reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Panchayats were made mandatory to ensure inclusive representation at the grassroots level. However, this general rule did not adequately account for states where the population composition differed significantly from the national pattern.

In Arunachal Pradesh, the population is overwhelmingly composed of Scheduled Tribes, and there is little to no presence of Scheduled Castes. As a result, applying the requirement of reservation for SCs in Panchayats was impractical and unnecessary in this context.

The Eighty-Third Amendment addressed this by modifying Article 243M to provide that the provisions relating to reservation for Scheduled Castes in Panchayats would not apply to Arunachal Pradesh. This ensured that the constitutional framework remained aligned with the actual demographic and social conditions of the State.

The amendment illustrates the principle that uniform constitutional provisions may require adaptation in specific contexts to remain meaningful and effective. It is a clear example of asymmetrical federalism, where certain states are granted flexibility in the application of otherwise general rules.

Importantly, the amendment does not dilute the broader objective of inclusive representation. Instead, it recognises that in a state where tribal communities already constitute the overwhelming majority, the standard model of reservation does not serve its intended purpose.

The Eighty-Third Amendment thus represents a pragmatic adjustment within the decentralisation framework, ensuring that constitutional provisions for local self-governance operate in a manner consistent with regional realities.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- CaseMine. (n.d.). Constitution (83rd Amendment) Act, 2000. <https://www.casemine.com/act/in/5a979daa4a93263ca60b7218>

- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments
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CONSTITUTION (EIGHTIETH FOURTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2001

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2001
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article Amended : 55, 81,82, 170, 330, 332
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended the freeze on delimitation of parliamentary and assembly constituencies. • Permitted readjustment of seats only for SCs and STs based on the 1991 Census. • Maintained the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

The Constitution (Eighty-Fourth Amendment) Act, 2001 was enacted to continue the policy of freezing the delimitation of constituencies, thereby maintaining the existing allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies despite changes in population. It reflects a deliberate constitutional choice to balance representation with national policy objectives.

Under the original constitutional scheme, Articles 82 and 170 provided for periodic readjustment of constituencies after each census, ensuring that representation remained aligned with population changes. However, this approach created concerns that states which had successfully implemented population control measures could be disadvantaged in terms of political representation compared to states with higher population growth.

To address this, earlier amendments had introduced a freeze on delimitation, preventing changes in the number of seats based on population figures. The Eighty-Fourth Amendment extended this freeze further, ensuring that the allocation of seats among states would remain based on the 1971 Census until after the first census conducted post-2026.

At the same time, the amendment introduced a limited exception. While the total number of seats and their allocation among states remained unchanged, it allowed for the readjustment of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) based on updated population data from the 1991 Census. This ensured that representation of these communities remained proportionate to their population.

The amendment reflects a careful balancing of competing considerations. On one hand, it preserves the principle of equal representation by population; on the other, it avoids penalising states that have achieved demographic stabilisation. It thus links political representation with broader developmental goals, particularly population control.

This approach also highlights the dynamic nature of the constitutional framework governing representation. Rather than strictly adhering to population-based redistribution, the Constitution allows for temporary departures from this principle in response to national priorities.

The Eighty-Fourth Amendment therefore represents an important intervention in the evolution of India's representative system, maintaining stability in political representation while accommodating concerns of equity among states and ensuring continued representation for disadvantaged communities.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- CaseMine. (2002, February 20). Constitution (84th Amendment) Act, 2001.
<https://www.casemine.com/act/in/5a979daa4a93263ca60b7219>
- Drishti IAS. (2026, March 26). Balancing North-South divide in delimitation.
<https://www.drishtiias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/balancing-the-north-south-divide-in-delimitation>
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments
<https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTIETH FIFTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2001

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2002
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article Amended : 16
Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>This Amendment was challenged in</i> <p>M. Nagaraj and Ors. vs. Union of India and Ors. 2006 INSC 711 [2006] Supp. (7) S. C. R. 336</p>
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided for “consequential seniority” in promotions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Extended the scope of reservation in promotions. Gave retrospective effect from 1995.

The Constitution (Eighty-Fifth Amendment) Act, 2001 was enacted to strengthen the framework of reservation in promotions for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in public employment. It built upon earlier constitutional provisions that had restored and supported promotional reservations.

The background to this amendment lies in judicial developments following the insertion of Article 16(4A) by the 77th Amendment, which permitted reservation in promotions. Courts had subsequently clarified that while such reservations could be provided, the benefit of seniority would not automatically follow. This meant that SC/ST candidates promoted through reservation could be placed below general category candidates promoted later, limiting the practical impact of the policy.

The Eighty-Fifth Amendment addressed this issue by amending Article 16(4A) to explicitly include “consequential seniority.” This ensured that when SC/ST candidates are promoted through reservation, they would retain seniority in accordance with their position in the promotional hierarchy, rather than being placed at a disadvantage.

The amendment also provided retrospective effect from 1995, aligning it with the date from which the 77th Amendment had taken effect. This ensured continuity in the application of the policy and validated earlier promotions granted under similar principles.

The introduction of consequential seniority reflects a deeper understanding of how representation operates within institutional hierarchies. Without seniority, the benefits of promotion could be limited, as career progression in public service is closely tied to rank and length of service. The amendment therefore seeks to ensure that affirmative action extends meaningfully to higher levels of administration.

At the same time, the amendment forms part of a broader constitutional dialogue on equality, efficiency, and representation. Subsequent judicial decisions have examined the conditions under which such provisions can be applied, including requirements relating to data on backwardness, inadequate representation, and administrative efficiency.

The Eighty-Fifth Amendment thus represents a significant step in strengthening the effectiveness of reservation in promotions, ensuring that the policy translates into real advancement within public institutions rather than remaining symbolic.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTIETH SIXTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2002

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2002
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article Amended : 51A ● Article Inserted : 21A ● Article Substituted : 45
Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>This Amendment was challenged in</i> <p align="center">Pramati Educational & Cultural Trust & Cultural Trust &</p>

	<p>Ors. 2014 INSC 362 : [2014] 11 S.C.R. 712</p>
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provided for the establishment of tribunals for rent and tenancy disputes. ● Enabled speedy adjudication of disputes between landlords and tenants. ● Reduced burden on regular courts.

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTY SIXTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2002

Aspect

Details

Enacted on

2002

Article(s) Amended

Article 21 - Article 21A was inserted.

Article 51A

Key Amendments

Introduction of the Right to education for children aged 6-14.

Addition of the 11th Fundamental Duty.

The Constitution of India originally addressed the goal of universal education through Article 45, a Directive Principle requiring the State to provide free and compulsory education to all children up to fourteen years of age within ten years of the Constitution’s commencement. However, this objective remained unfulfilled even after five decades, reflecting persistent gaps in access, quality, and educational infrastructure. Although the National Policy on Education (1986) revitalised national commitment to elementary education and spurred collaborative efforts between the Union and State governments, progress was uneven and insufficient to achieve universalisation. Improvements in enrolment, literacy rates, and school facilities did occur, yet the broader constitutional aspiration of ensuring equitable and quality education for every child continued to elude the system.

Recognising that a directive principle lacked enforceability and that the absence of a justiciable right denied accountability, policymakers concluded that elementary education required constitutional elevation. This led to the consensus that education for children should no longer remain a non-binding directive but should instead be incorporated into the chapter on Fundamental Rights. An explicit fundamental right, enforceable through legal remedies, was viewed as essential to guarantee State responsibility, strengthen institutional mechanisms, and ensure that every child between six and fourteen years receives free and compulsory education as a matter of constitutional entitlement rather than governmental discretion.

To elevate the right to free and compulsory education to the status of a fundamental right, the Government of India introduced the Constitution (Eighty-third Amendment) Bill in 1997. The Bill proposed the insertion of Article 21A, granting all children aged 6 to 14 the right to free and compulsory education. After its introduction, the Bill underwent detailed scrutiny by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, which examined the proposal's legal, administrative, and policy implications. Additionally, the Law Commission of India considered the matter in its 165th Report, further assessing the constitutional and legislative changes required. These deliberations formed the groundwork for the eventual constitutional amendment establishing education as a fundamental right.

The amendment also sought to amend Article 51A, which lists the Fundamental Duties of citizens. It added the 11th duty, which placed the constitutional duty on parents or guardians to ensure that their children receive education. This proposal complemented the introduction of Article 21A, reinforcing that the right to free and compulsory education must operate alongside a corresponding duty within the family. By making parental responsibility a constitutional requirement, the amendment aimed to strengthen societal commitment to universal education and ensure that children actually benefited from the newly guaranteed right.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- CaseMine. (n.d.). Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002. <https://www.casemine.com/act/in/5a979daa4a93263ca60b721b>
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>

- Law Commission of India. (1998). 165th Report: Free and Compulsory Education for Children.

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CONSTITUTION (EIGHTIETH SEVENTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2003

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2003
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article Amended : 81,82, 170, 330
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Allowed delimitation of constituencies based on the 2001 Census. ● Retained the freeze on the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. ● Permitted readjustment of constituency boundaries and reserved seats.

The Constitution (Eighty-Seventh Amendment) Act, 2003 was enacted to update the process of delimitation by allowing the use of more recent population data, while continuing the broader policy of freezing the total number of seats in legislative bodies. It builds upon the framework established by the 84th Amendment.

Under the constitutional scheme, delimitation involves the redrawing of constituency boundaries to reflect changes in population. However, due to the freeze introduced earlier, the total number of seats allocated to each state in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies remained based on the 1971 Census, as part of a policy to avoid penalising states that had successfully controlled population growth.

The Eighty-Seventh Amendment refined this arrangement by permitting delimitation to be carried out using the population figures from the 2001 Census. While the number of seats remained unchanged, the boundaries of constituencies could now be redrawn to ensure more balanced population distribution within states.

The amendment also allowed for the readjustment of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) based on updated demographic data. This ensured that representation of these communities remained aligned with their current population levels, even within the overall freeze on seat allocation.

This approach reflects a nuanced balancing of principles. On one hand, it maintains stability in inter-state representation by continuing the freeze on the total number of seats. On the other, it promotes fairness within states by ensuring that constituencies are more evenly distributed in terms of population.

The amendment highlights the Constitution’s flexibility in managing representation in a diverse and changing society. Rather than adopting an all-or-nothing approach, it allows for partial adjustments that address inequities without disturbing broader policy objectives.

The Eighty-Seventh Amendment thus represents an important refinement of the delimitation framework, ensuring that electoral representation remains both stable and responsive to demographic changes.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>
- Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India. (2003). The Constitution (Eighty-seventh Amendment) Act, 2003. <https://www.legislative.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/07/ba763f8738d9c5a13e212e9ea4cc6aaa.pdf>

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTIETH EIGHTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2003

Aspect	Details
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Enacted in	2004
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article Amended : 270 ● Schedule Amended : 7th ● Article Inserted : 268A
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provided constitutional basis for levy of service tax by the Union. ● Enabled collection and appropriation of service tax by both Union and States. ● Recognised services as a distinct category of taxation.

The Constitution (Eighty-Eighth Amendment) Act, 2003 was enacted to formally recognise and incorporate service tax within the constitutional framework of taxation. It responded to the growing importance of the service sector in India’s economy and the need for a clear legal basis for taxing services.

Before this amendment, the Constitution did not explicitly provide for taxation of services. While the Union government had introduced service tax through statutory mechanisms in the 1990s, its constitutional footing was indirect, often linked to the residuary powers of Parliament under Article 248 and Entry 97 of the Union List. As the service sector expanded, this arrangement was increasingly seen as inadequate.

The amendment addressed this by inserting Article 268A, which specifically empowered the Union to levy service tax. At the same time, it provided that the proceeds of such tax could be collected and appropriated by both the Union and the States in accordance with principles laid down by Parliament. This introduced an element of shared fiscal interest in the taxation of services.

Additionally, the amendment inserted Entry 92C in the Union List of the Seventh Schedule, explicitly placing taxes on services within the legislative domain of Parliament. This removed ambiguity regarding legislative competence and ensured clarity in the distribution of taxing powers.

The amendment reflects a significant shift in India’s fiscal structure. As the economy moved from being predominantly agrarian and industrial to increasingly service-oriented, the tax system had to evolve accordingly. Recognising services as a distinct taxable category was a key step in modernising the fiscal framework.

At the same time, the provision for shared collection and appropriation highlights the cooperative nature of fiscal federalism. While the Union retained the power to levy the tax, the involvement of States in its proceeds acknowledged their role in service-related economic activity.

Importantly, the amendment laid the groundwork for later developments in indirect taxation, particularly the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). With the implementation of GST through the One Hundred and First Amendment, Article 268A and Entry 92C were eventually omitted, as services became part of a unified tax structure.

The Eighty-Eighth Amendment thus represents a transitional but significant moment in the evolution of India's taxation system, bridging the gap between traditional tax categories and the modern service-based economy.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
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- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments
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- TaxTMI. (2014, February 26). Constitutional validity of service tax.
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CONSTITUTION (EIGHTIETH NINTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2003

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2004
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 338● Article Inserted : 338A
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Separated the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes into two distinct bodies.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Established a dedicated National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.● Redefined the scope and functions of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes.
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The Constitution (Eighty-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2003 was enacted to strengthen institutional mechanisms for safeguarding the rights of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) by creating separate commissions for each group. It reflects a move towards more specialised and focused constitutional oversight.

Before this amendment, Article 338 provided for a single National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. While this body performed an important role in monitoring safeguards and addressing grievances, the distinct socio-economic conditions and challenges faced by SCs and STs required more focused institutional attention.

The amendment addressed this by modifying Article 338 to limit its scope to Scheduled Castes and inserting Article 338A to establish a separate National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. This resulted in the creation of two independent constitutional bodies—each tasked with addressing the specific needs and concerns of their respective communities.

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes was entrusted with functions similar to those of the SC Commission, including investigating and monitoring safeguards, inquiring into complaints, advising on socio-economic development, and reporting to the President. This ensured parity in institutional protection while allowing for specialised focus.

The amendment reflects a recognition that a unified institutional framework may not always be sufficient to address the diverse challenges faced by different groups. Scheduled Tribes, in particular, often face issues relating to land rights, displacement, forest governance, and cultural preservation, which require distinct policy attention.

By creating separate commissions, the amendment enhanced the capacity of the constitutional system to respond to these issues more effectively. It also strengthened accountability by ensuring that each body could focus on its mandate without dilution of attention.

The Eighty-Ninth Amendment thus represents an important development in the evolution of constitutional institutions for social justice, moving towards greater specialisation while reinforcing the broader commitment to equality and protection of vulnerable communities.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments
<https://blog.iplayers.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>
- Legislative Department. (2003, September 28). The Constitution (Eighty-ninth Amendment) Act, 2003.
<https://www.legislative.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/07/0c2366570aee86b57258a378ddf6dbc1.pdf>
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<https://theiashub.com/upsc/national-commission-for-scheduled-caste/>

CONSTITUTION (NINETIETH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2003

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2003
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 332
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provided for the establishment of tribunals for rent and tenancy disputes.● Enabled speedy adjudication of disputes between landlords and tenants.● Reduced burden on regular courts.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
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- Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India. (2003). The Constitution (Ninetieth Amendment) Act, 2003.
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- Vajiram & Ravi. (2026, March 10). Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC).
<https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/bodoland-territorial-council/>

CONSTITUTION (NINETY FIRST AMENDMENT) ACT, 2003

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2004
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 75, 164● Schedule Amended : 10th● Article Inserted : 361B
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provided for continued representation of Scheduled Tribes and non-tribal populations in the Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BTAD) of Assam.● Maintained the existing composition of the Legislative Assembly from these areas.● Ensured protection of representation arrangements arising from the Bodo Accord.

Several measures were introduced to limit the number of the Council of Ministers, restrict defectors from holding public posts, and tighten the anti-defection law via the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act 2003.

The Anti-Defection Law, adopted by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003, intended to prevent the detrimental impact of political defections by restricting the size of ministerial councils and banning defectors from holding public posts. This law improves parliamentary democracy by tackling the immoral practice of political defection prompted by the temptation of office or pecuniary gain. Nevertheless, current developments have shown serious flaws, underscoring the necessity for more changes in spite of these efforts.

Clause 1A was added to Article 164 by the Constitution (91st Amendment) Act, 2003, stating that "the total number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a State shall not exceed 15% of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly of that State." Also, Clause 1B provided that a member of either House of State Legislature associated with any political party, who is disqualified based on defection, is likewise ineligible for appointment as a minister. Additionally, it said that a state must have at least twelve ministers, including the chief minister.

The office of the Council of Ministers is specified in Article 74 of the Constitution, while the appointment, term, responsibilities, qualifications, oath, and salaries and allowances of the ministers are covered in Article 75. Under Article 75, similar changes were made. The President is to appoint the PM, and the President is to appoint the other Ministers based on the PM's recommendation. According to Article 75 (1A), the entire strength of ministers in the Council of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, cannot be more than 15% of the Lok Sabha's total membership. Article 75 (1B) also provides that a member of either House of Parliament associated with any political party, who is disqualified based on defection, is likewise ineligible for appointment as a minister, till he/she is elected again as a member. The goal of the 91st Amendment was to avoid jumbo Cabinets and the accompanying drain on the public exchequer.

In Article 361, Clause B was inserted, which specified that A member of either House of Parliament or either House of State Legislature linked with any political party, facing disqualification based on defection, is likewise forbidden from holding any remunerative political role.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
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CONSTITUTION (NINETY SECOND AMENDMENT) ACT, 2003

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2004
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schedule Amended : 8th
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Added four languages to the Eighth Schedule. ● Included Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali as recognised languages. ● Expanded the list of officially recognised languages under the Constitution.

The Constitution (Ninety-Second Amendment) Act, 2003 was enacted to further expand the Eighth Schedule by recognising additional languages that reflect India's linguistic diversity. It builds upon earlier amendments that progressively broadened the scope of constitutional recognition for regional languages.

Before this amendment, the Eighth Schedule contained 18 languages. However, several widely spoken and culturally significant languages continued to remain outside its ambit, leading to demands for their inclusion. Recognition in the Eighth Schedule carries both symbolic and functional significance, particularly in the context of cultural identity and administrative use.

The amendment addressed this by adding Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali to the Eighth Schedule. This brought the total number of recognised languages to 22.

The inclusion of these languages had important implications. It acknowledged the linguistic and cultural identity of the communities speaking these languages and facilitated their development through institutional support. It also enabled their use in competitive examinations, parliamentary proceedings, and official communication where applicable.

From a constitutional perspective, the amendment reinforces the principle of linguistic pluralism. Rather than adopting a narrow or uniform linguistic policy, the Constitution accommodates a wide range of languages, reflecting the country's diversity.

At the same time, inclusion in the Eighth Schedule does not automatically make a language an official language of the Union or a State. Instead, it provides recognition and creates opportunities for development and representation within the constitutional framework.

The Ninety-Second Amendment thus represents a significant step in recognising India's linguistic diversity, strengthening cultural inclusion while maintaining the broader framework of national unity.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- CaseMine. (2004). Constitution (92nd Amendment) Act, 2003. <https://www.casemine.com/act/in/5a979dab4a93263ca60b7221>
- GKToday. (2019, June 22). Ninety-second Amendment of the Constitution of India. <https://www.gktoday.in/ninety-second-amendment-of-the-constitution-of-india/>
- iPleaders. (2022). Major Constitutional Amendments <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-major-constitutional-amendment-in-indian-history/>

CONSTITUTION (NINETY THIRD AMENDMENT) ACT, 2006

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2006
Article (s) and	

Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article Amended : 15
Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>This Amendment was challenged in</i> <p>Ashoka Kumar Thakur vs. Union of India 2008 INSC 473 : [2008] 4 S.C.R.1</p> <p>Pramati Educational & Cultural Trust & Cultural Trust & Ors. 2014 INSC 362 : [2014] 11 S.C.R. 712</p>
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabled the State to make special provisions for advancement of socially and educationally backward classes, SCs and STs in educational institutions. Extended reservation to private unaided educational institutions (except minority institutions). Strengthened the framework of affirmative action in education.

The Constitution (Ninety-Third Amendment) Act, 2005 was enacted to expand the scope of affirmative action in education by enabling the State to provide reservations not only in public institutions but also in private educational institutions. It represents a significant development in the evolution of equality jurisprudence under the Constitution.

The background to this amendment lies in judicial decisions such as *T.M.A. Pai Foundation v. State of Karnataka* (2002) and *P.A. Inamdar v. State of Maharashtra* (2005), where the Supreme Court of India held that the State could not impose reservation policies on private unaided educational institutions. These decisions limited the reach of affirmative action, particularly in a context where private institutions were playing an increasingly important role in higher education.

The Ninety-Third Amendment addressed this by inserting Article 15(5), which explicitly empowers the State to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes, as well as Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), in admissions to educational institutions, including private unaided institutions.

At the same time, the amendment excludes minority educational institutions protected under Article 30(1), thereby maintaining the constitutional balance between affirmative action and minority rights. This carve-out ensures that the autonomy of minority institutions is preserved even as the scope of reservation is expanded elsewhere.

The amendment reflects a recognition that access to education is a critical component of social mobility and equality. As the private sector's role in education expanded, limiting affirmative action to public institutions would have significantly reduced its impact. By extending the scope to private institutions, the amendment sought to ensure broader access to educational opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

It also illustrates the continuing dialogue between Parliament and the judiciary. Where judicial interpretation had narrowed the application of reservation, Parliament intervened through constitutional amendment to restore and expand the policy framework.

Subsequent judicial scrutiny, particularly in *Ashoka Kumar Thakur v. Union of India* (2008), upheld the validity of Article 15(5), while also emphasising the need for reasonable classification and exclusion of the “creamy layer” in certain contexts.

The Ninety-Third Amendment thus represents a major expansion of affirmative action in education, aligning constitutional policy with the changing structure of the education sector and reinforcing the commitment to substantive equality.

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CONSTITUTION (NINETY FOURTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2006

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2006
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 164
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Removed the requirement of a separate Minister for Tribal Welfare in Bihar.● Extended the requirement to newly formed states—Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.● Updated the constitutional provision to reflect state reorganisation.

The Constitution (Ninety-Fourth Amendment) Act, 2006 was enacted to update Article 164 in light of changes brought about by state reorganisation, particularly the creation of new states in 2000. It reflects a technical but necessary adjustment to ensure that constitutional provisions remain aligned with administrative realities.

Article 164 originally required that in certain states—such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha—there shall be a Minister in charge of Tribal Welfare, who may also be responsible for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and backward classes. This requirement recognised the significant tribal populations in these states and the need for focused policy attention.

However, with the reorganisation of states in 2000, new states such as Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh were carved out of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh respectively—both having substantial tribal populations. At the same time, the residual State of Bihar no longer had a comparable tribal demographic profile.

The Ninety-Fourth Amendment addressed this by removing Bihar from the list of states where the appointment of a Minister for Tribal Welfare is mandatory, and extending this requirement to

Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. This ensured that the constitutional obligation corresponded with the actual distribution of tribal populations across states.

The amendment illustrates how the Constitution adapts to changes in territorial and administrative structures. While the underlying objective—ensuring focused governance for tribal welfare—remained unchanged, its application was recalibrated to reflect new political boundaries.

It also highlights the importance of aligning institutional design with demographic realities. Constitutional provisions relating to governance are not static; they evolve in response to shifts in population, territory, and administrative organisation.

The Ninety-Fourth Amendment thus represents a targeted and corrective modification, ensuring that constitutional mandates relating to welfare governance remain relevant and effectively implemented in the appropriate states.

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CONSTITUTION (NINETY FIFTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2009

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2010
Article (s) and Schedule (s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 334

Amended	
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Extended reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. ● Extended the provision for nomination of members of the Anglo-Indian community. ● Continued these provisions for a further period of ten years (up to 2020).

The Constitution (Ninety-Fifth Amendment) Act, 2009 was enacted to continue the system of political safeguards for historically disadvantaged communities by extending the duration of reservations and special representation in legislative bodies. It follows the established constitutional practice of periodic renewal under Article 334.

At the commencement of the Constitution, Article 334 had envisaged that reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), along with the nomination of Anglo-Indian members, would cease after ten years. However, Parliament has repeatedly extended this period in recognition of the continuing need to ensure adequate representation of these communities in legislative institutions.

The Ninety-Fifth Amendment extended these provisions for another ten years, up to 2020. This ensured the continued reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the House of the People and State Legislative Assemblies, as well as the continued nomination of members of the Anglo-Indian community where such representation was considered necessary.

The amendment reflects the constitutional understanding that formal equality does not automatically eliminate structural disadvantages rooted in history and social hierarchy. Continued political representation is therefore seen as essential to ensure meaningful participation in governance and law-making.

At the same time, the design of Article 334, requiring periodic extensions, indicates that these provisions are intended to be temporary and subject to review. Each extension represents a legislative judgment that the conditions necessitating such safeguards continue to exist.

The amendment does not alter the nature or scope of reservations but simply extends their duration. It reflects continuity in India’s approach to affirmative representation, balancing the aspiration for equality with the reality of persistent social disparities.

It also highlights the importance of inclusiveness in democratic institutions, ensuring that legislative bodies remain representative of the country’s social diversity.

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- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
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CONSTITUTION (NINETY SIXTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2011

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2011
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Schedule Amended : 8th
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Changed the name of the language “Oriya” to “Odia” in the Eighth Schedule.● Recognised the correct linguistic and cultural identity of the language.● Ensured uniform usage in official and constitutional texts.

The Constitution (Ninety-Sixth Amendment) Act, 2011 was enacted to formally change the name of the language “Oriya” to “Odia” in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. While seemingly minor, the amendment carries important cultural and linguistic significance.

The change was made to reflect the correct pronunciation and indigenous form of the language as used by its speakers, particularly in the State of Odisha. Over time, “Oriya” had come to be seen as a colonial-era anglicised version, whereas “Odia” more accurately represented the phonetic and cultural identity of the language.

By incorporating this change into the Constitution, the amendment ensured that official recognition aligns with linguistic authenticity. It also brought uniformity across legal, administrative, and educational contexts, where the updated terminology would now be used consistently.

The amendment reflects a broader constitutional approach to linguistic identity—one that is responsive not only to the inclusion of languages but also to how they are represented. Recognition in the Eighth Schedule is not merely administrative; it carries symbolic value, affirming the identity and heritage of linguistic communities.

At a deeper level, the amendment illustrates that constitutional change is not limited to structural or institutional reforms. Even seemingly small modifications can play an important role in acknowledging cultural identity and correcting historical inaccuracies.

The Ninety-Sixth Amendment thus represents a focused but meaningful step in aligning constitutional language with cultural reality, reinforcing respect for linguistic diversity within the constitutional framework.

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- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
- CaseMine. (2011). Constitution (96th Amendment) Act, 2011. <https://www.casemine.com/act/in/5a979dab4a93263ca60b7225>
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CONSTITUTION (NINETY SEVENTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2012

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2012
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 19 Part IXB- The Co-operative Societies● Article Inserted : 43B, 243ZH to 243ZT
Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>This Amendment was challenged in</i> Union of India vs. Rajendra N. Shah and Anr. 2021 INSC 340: [2021] 5 S.C.R.458
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Recognised the right to form cooperative societies as a Fundamental Right.● Inserted Article 43B to promote voluntary formation, democratic control, and professional management of cooperatives.● Provided a constitutional framework for governance of cooperative societies through Part IXB.

The Constitution Ninety-Seventh Amendment Act, 2011, was aimed at creating effective machinery and regulations for the working of the cooperatives. The Amendment resulted in the right to form cooperative societies becoming part of fundamental rights. It also added promotion and management of cooperative societies in the Directive Principles. A whole new Part IXB was added, which listed the provisions regarding the functioning and management of cooperative societies.

The 97th Amendment was primarily made to foster the growth of the cooperative societies. Amending Article 19 (1)(c) of the Constitution, it inserted cooperative societies there. Thus, it became a fundamental right of citizens to form cooperative societies. Earlier, it only included the right to form associations. Additionally, it inserted a new Article 43B, which stated that the state should actively work for the formation, autonomous democratic working and management of the cooperative societies.

A new Part IXB was added through this Amendment, which granted cooperative societies a constitutional status and provided directions for their democratic functioning. It spans from Article 243ZH to Article 243ZT. Article 243ZH provides definitions for this part. It defines an authorised person as someone who is authorised by law to take actions regarding illegal actions within cooperative societies. A board, according to this article, is a board of directors that acts as the managing body of the cooperative society. A cooperative society is a society that is deemed to be one according to the law. A cooperative society can operate in more than one state. Such cooperative societies can be termed as a multi-state cooperative society. Office bearer includes the President, Vice-President, Treasurer or any person who is elected by the board of a cooperative society. Registrar, in case of this part, is defined as the Central Registrar for a multi-state cooperative society. For such societies, the Registrar is to be appointed by the Central Government; for societies operating in a single state, the Registrar is to be appointed by the state government.

Article 243ZI states that the State Legislature, by law, can make provisions for the incorporation, management or winding up of cooperative societies. These provisions, however, should be based on principles of voluntary formation, democratic member control, member economic participation, and autonomous functioning.

Article 243ZJ states the provision regarding board members and office bearers. According to this article, the maximum number of the board of directors can be 21. Additionally, the Legislature of the State shall reserve 1 seat for the Scheduled Caste or the Scheduled Tribe and two seats for women if there are members of these categories in the general body of the cooperative society. The term for elected members of the board or office bearers is 5 years. However, if a situation of casual vacancy occurs (death, resignation or disqualification), the board can fill that seat by nomination if less than half of the term is left. If the term left is more than half, the election is to be held. The nominated person should be from the category that the earlier member was from. The article also provides an option for lateral entry to the

board of directors. A person specialising in finance, banking or any activity in which the co-operative society is engaged can be made a member of the board. However, the maximum limit is two for such members. These co-opted members are not eligible to vote or to be elected as an office bearer.

Regarding the elections, Part IXB states that elections should be convened before the expiry of the existing board. The state Legislature can vest authority and make guidelines to conduct the election of co-operative societies. The Part also states that a board cannot be superseded for more than six months. The Board of a co-operative society can be superseded on the grounds of persistent default, negligence

to perform duties, acting against the benefit of the co-operative society or election failure. These laws do not apply to private cooperative societies fully. Co-operative Banks are an exception to this Article, as for them, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, would be applicable. Or in such banks, the maximum limit of supersession is 1 year. During the period of the Board's suspension, the Administrator may be appointed, who shall conduct the elections.

Article 243ZM empowers the State Legislature to make provisions regarding the auditing of the cooperative societies. Auditing should be conducted once in each financial year. The state legislature is empowered to make laws regarding the qualification of auditors and auditing firms. The auditor or the auditing firm shall be the one authorised by the state government. The audit must be completed within six months of the subsequent financial year. Article 243ZN states that a general body meeting of every cooperative society should be convened annually within six months of the end of the financial year.

Article 243ZO to ensure the participation of members in a cooperative society makes the provision that all the information, books and accounts should be accessible to the members of cooperative societies. Additionally, the members should take part in a minimum number of general body meetings as well as use the services of the cooperatives to a minimum extent. Also, the State Legislature, by law, can force cooperative societies to organise training and education of members.

Article 243ZP states that every cooperative society shall file returns within six months of the close of the financial year. These returns include the annual report of its activities, the audited statement of accounts, plan for surplus disposal, list of amendments to the bye-laws, declaration regarding the date of holding of its general body meeting and conduct of elections when due and any other information demanded by the Registrar.

Article 243ZQ states offences and penalties related to cooperative societies. The State Legislature is empowered to make laws in this regard. The offences listed in this article are furnishing false information, false returns, or not furnishing the required information, willfully or unreasonably disobeying lawful summons, acquisition or written orders, misappropriation of funds, withholding documents and corrupt practices before, during or after the elections.

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- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
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- Vajiram & Ravi. (2026). Part 9B of Indian Constitution.
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CONSTITUTION (NINETY EIGHTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2013

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2013
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article Inserted : 371 J
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provided special status to the Hyderabad–Karnataka region. ● Enabled equitable allocation of funds for development. ● Provided reservation in education and public employment for local residents. ● Established a separate development board for the region.

The Constitution (Ninety-Eighth Amendment) Act, 2012 was enacted to address regional imbalances within the State of Karnataka by granting special constitutional status to the Hyderabad–Karnataka region (now commonly referred to as Kalyana Karnataka). It reflects a targeted intervention aimed at promoting balanced regional development.

The region had historically lagged behind other parts of the state in terms of infrastructure, education, employment opportunities, and overall socio-economic indicators. These disparities were attributed to historical factors, including its administrative legacy prior to integration into Karnataka.

The amendment addressed these concerns by inserting Article 371J, which provides for special provisions tailored to the region. These include the establishment of a development board to monitor and promote regional growth, ensuring that adequate funds are allocated for development projects in the area.

A key feature of the amendment is the provision for reservation in public employment and educational institutions for local candidates from the region. This was intended to enhance opportunities for residents and address structural disadvantages that had persisted over time.

The amendment also provides for equitable distribution of resources and opportunities, ensuring that development policies are aligned with the specific needs of the region. By embedding these provisions in the Constitution, it ensures a degree of continuity and protection for these measures.

This amendment is another example of asymmetrical federalism, where specific regions within a state are granted tailored constitutional provisions to address unique developmental challenges. It demonstrates that the Constitution not only accommodates diversity across states but also within them.

At a broader level, the amendment reflects the use of constitutional mechanisms to address regional inequality, ensuring that development is not unevenly concentrated but more evenly distributed across different parts of a state.

The Ninety-Eighth Amendment thus represents a focused effort to promote inclusive growth and regional balance, using constitutional tools to address long-standing disparities.

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- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
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CONSTITUTION (NINETY NINTH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2014

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2015
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article Amended : 124, 127, 128, 217, 222, 224, 224A, 231 ● Article Inserted : 124A, 124B, 124C
Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>This Amendment was challenged in</i> Supreme Court Advocates- on-Record Association and Anr. vs. Union of India 2015 INSC 285: [2015] 13 S.C.R. 1
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Established the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC). ● Replaced the collegium system for appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts. ● Provided a new framework for judicial appointments involving executive participation.

References:

- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments.
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- Supreme Court of India. (2015, October 16). Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India (2015) 5 SCC 1. https://main.sci.gov.in/supremecourt/2015/37325/37325_2015_Judgement_16-Oct-2015.pdf
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CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AMENDMENT AMENDMENT) ACT, 2015

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2015
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schedule Amendment: 1st
Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>This Amendment was challenged in</i> Supreme Court Advocates- on-Record Association and Anr. vs. Union of India 2015 INSC 285: [2015] 13 S.C.R. 1
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gave effect to the India–Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement (LBA), 1974 (as amended in 2011). ● Provided for exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh. ● Altered the territorial boundaries of certain states.

The Constitution (One Hundredth Amendment) Act, 2015 was enacted to implement the long-pending Land Boundary Agreement between India and Bangladesh, resolving a complex and historically rooted territorial issue. It represents a significant moment in India’s constitutional and diplomatic history.

The background to the amendment lies in the existence of numerous enclaves—small pockets of land belonging to one country but located within the territory of the other—along the India–Bangladesh border. These enclaves created serious administrative, legal, and humanitarian challenges, as residents often lacked access to basic services, governance, and legal recognition.

The Land Boundary Agreement, originally signed in 1974 and later updated in 2011, sought to resolve this issue through the exchange of enclaves and rationalisation of the border. However, since the agreement involved ceding and acquiring territory, it required a constitutional amendment under Article 368, as interpreted by the Supreme Court in earlier cases relating to territorial changes.

The One Hundredth Amendment addressed this by amending the First Schedule of the Constitution to reflect the new territorial boundaries following the exchange of enclaves. As a result, 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh were transferred to Bangladesh, while 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in India became part of India.

A key aspect of the implementation was the protection of the rights of residents. Individuals residing in these enclaves were given the option to choose their nationality, ensuring that the transition respected their preferences and safeguarded their legal status.

The amendment illustrates the intersection of constitutional law and international relations. It demonstrates how the Constitution provides a legal framework for implementing international agreements that affect national territory, ensuring that such changes are carried out with parliamentary approval and constitutional legitimacy.

It also reflects a humanitarian dimension, resolving decades of statelessness and administrative neglect faced by enclave residents by integrating them fully into the governance structures of either country.

The One Hundredth Amendment thus represents a landmark in boundary settlement, combining constitutional procedure, diplomatic negotiation, and human rights considerations to resolve a complex territorial issue.

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- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html

- CaseMine. (2015). Constitution (100th Amendment) Act, 2015.
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CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED FIRST AMENDMENT AMENDMENT) ACT, 2018

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2018
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article Amended : 338, 366 ● Article Inserted : 338B, 342A
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST). ● Created a concurrent taxing power for both Union and States on goods and services. ● Established the GST Council as a constitutional body. ● Subsumed multiple indirect taxes into a unified tax system.

The Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016, is a significant amendment that resulted in the introduction of a single Goods and Services Tax (GST) throughout the nation. Before the 101st Amendment, various central and state taxes existed, including VATs, a luxury tax, and other taxes. To reduce the burden of dual taxation on consumers and make the tax administration much

more transparent, the tax was introduced. This Act added new Articles 246A, 269A, and 279A, as well as brought changes in the Seventh Schedule.

Article 366 titled Definition defines various terms. The 101st Amendment added Clause 12A in this article, defining Goods and Services Tax as a tax on the supply of goods and services except alcoholic liquor for human consumption. Services are defined as anything other than goods. This Act deals with three types of tax: Central GST, State GST and Integrated GST. The Central GST and State GST are concurrent taxes applied simultaneously in intra-state transactions. The Integrated GST is levied on inter-state transactions.

The 101st Amendment moves away from a federal structure by providing concurrent rights to both the Union and the State Government. Article 246 of the Constitution defines the exclusive rights of the Union and State Governments and lists the subjects regarding which both can make laws in the Seventh Schedule. Regarding the situation of conflict between the Union and a State Government, Article 254 states that primacy shall be given to the former. However, the 101st Amendment introduces a new Article 246A, which overrides both these articles and provides concurrent power to both the Union and the State Government to make laws regarding GST. The second clause of this article provides exclusive power to the Union Government regarding the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST), which is levied on interstate trade or commerce.

Article 269A added by this Amendment Act states that the tax on inter-state commerce shall be collected and levied by the Union Government and then divided between the Union and States as defined by the law made by the Parliament. This article also notes that the tax proceeds should not be part of the Consolidated Funds of India or the state. The amount of proceeds allotted to the Union and State Government gained through IGST or SGST, rather than being part of the Consolidated Funds of India or the State, should be allotted to the Union or the State Government first. Some new clauses were also added to Article 270. According to these new additions, the Union Government should share the proceeds of CGST with the States as decided by the law. Additionally, Clause 1B of Article 270 states that the portion gained by the Central Government through IGST also has to be shared with the States.

Article 279A, introduced by this Act, is an important article that deals with the GST Council. It states that after 60 days of the commencement of this act GST Council should be formed to make recommendations to the government regarding taxes, cesses, and surcharges to be levied in GST, a list of goods and services to be exempted, a template for levying and appropriating CGST, SGST AND IGST between the Union and the States, minimum limit of turnover below which GST shall not be

levied. It can also provide recommendations regarding the minimum rate and the range within which tax rates must fall, special or specified rates during calamities and provisions related to the Himalayan and North-Eastern States due to geographical and economic constraints. The Petroleum products (crude, diesel, petrol, natural gas and aviation turbine fuel) were kept outside GST according to this Act. The Council can make recommendations and decide on any date from which GST would be levied on these products as well.

Article 279A also provides provisions regarding the components of the Council. The Union Finance Minister shall be the Chairperson of this Council, and the Union Minister of State of Finance and Revenue, along with the Finance and Revenue Ministers of the State Government, shall be the members of this Council. The Council should aim to create a harmonised structure of GST for facilitating harmonised trade in the nation. To form a quorum, half of the members should be present in the meeting of the council. The decision should be taken with the majority of not less than three-fourths of the present members. Not all the members possess equal weightage of their votes. The Central Government carry a weightage of one-third while all the State Governments combinedly carry the weightage of two-thirds.

The Article also states that the proceedings of the Council shall not be invalidated on the grounds of a defect in the Constitution of Council, a defect in the appointment of a member or a procedural irregularity. Additionally, the power to adjudge disputes between the Centre and the States and between two or more states.

The 101st Amendment, by amending the Seventh Schedule, in the Union list it added Petroleum products and tobacco products to the list of goods on which the Central government can levy excise duties. Entry 92, which dealt with inter-state commerce and 92C, which dealt with taxes on services, were omitted as they were now covered under IGST and GST, respectively. Substituting entry 54 of the State List, the act lists products for which the state can apply VAT or Sales tax. In entry 62, earlier, the state had the power to levy the entertainment tax. Amending this, the power to levy entertainment tax was restricted to local bodies such as Panchayats, Municipalities, etc.

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CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED SECOND AMENDMENT AMENDMENT) ACT, 2018

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2018
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article Amended : 338, 366 ● Article Inserted : 338B, 342A
Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>This Amendment was challenged in</i> Dr. Jaishri Laxmanrao Patil vs. The Chief Minister & ors. 2021 INSC 284 : [2021] 15 S.C.R.715
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Granted constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). ● Empowered the President to notify the list of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs). ● Defined SEBCs under Article 366.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018 was enacted to strengthen the institutional framework for the protection and advancement of socially and educationally backward classes (SEBCs), commonly referred to as Other Backward Classes (OBCs). It marked a significant step in formalising the constitutional position of these groups.

Prior to this amendment, the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) functioned as a statutory body, created through legislation in 1993 following the implementation of the Indra Sawhney judgment. While it played an important advisory role, it did not enjoy the same constitutional status as commissions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The amendment addressed this by inserting Article 338B, thereby granting constitutional status to the NCBC. The Commission was entrusted with functions similar to those of other constitutional commissions, including investigating safeguards, inquiring into complaints, advising on socio-economic development, and reporting to the President.

Another key feature of the amendment is the insertion of Article 342A, which provides that the President may specify the list of socially and educationally backward classes for each state and union territory, in consultation with the Governor. This brought the identification of SEBCs within a structured constitutional process, similar to the mechanism for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The amendment also introduced a definition of SEBCs in Article 366, providing clarity within the constitutional framework.

However, the amendment gave rise to significant federal concerns. In *Jaishri Laxmanrao Patil v. Chief Minister, Maharashtra* (2021), the Supreme Court of India interpreted Article 342A to mean that the power to identify SEBCs lay exclusively with the Union, thereby limiting the ability of states to maintain their own OBC lists. This interpretation led to substantial debate regarding the balance of power between the Union and the States.

In response, Parliament later enacted the One Hundred and Fifth Amendment, which clarified that states retain the power to identify and maintain their own lists of backward classes for state purposes.

The One Hundred and Second Amendment thus represents both an important institutional strengthening of the backward classes framework and a significant moment in the evolution of federal relations, highlighting the complexities involved in balancing central authority with state autonomy.

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CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED THIRD AMENDMENT AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2019
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article Amended : 15, 16
Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>This Amendment was challenged in</i> Janhit Abhiyan vs. Union of India 2022 INSC 1175: [2022] 14 S.C.R.1
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provided for reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). ● Enabled up to 10% reservation in education and public employment. ● Applied to economically weaker sections not covered under existing reservation categories.

The 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019, introduced one of the most significant changes to India's reservation framework since Independence. It amended Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution to empower the State to provide reservations in educational institutions and public employment for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of society, irrespective of caste, community, or social

backwardness. This marked the first time that economic disadvantage alone became the basis for affirmative action within the constitutional framework.

The Amendment inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6), allowing up to 10% reservation for EWS in admissions to educational institutions (including private unaided institutions, except minority institutions under Article 30) and in appointments to posts under the State. Importantly, this quota is in addition to existing reservations for SCs, STs, and OBCs, and does not require adjustments within the existing 49.5% reservation ceiling.

The Amendment represented a paradigm shift in constitutional policy by acknowledging economic deprivation as an independent form of structural disadvantage requiring state intervention. However, it also generated significant constitutional debate, particularly regarding compliance with the basic structure doctrine, the 50% ceiling rule, and the shift from social to economic criteria for reservation. The Supreme Court upheld the Amendment in *Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India* (2022) by a 3:2 majority.

The 103rd Constitutional Amendment introduces a 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among citizens who do not benefit from existing reservations for SCs, STs, or OBCs. Eligibility for EWS status is determined through specific economic and asset-based criteria: a family's annual income must be below ₹8 lakh, and its property holdings must fall within prescribed limits, namely, less than five acres of agricultural land, a residential flat under 1,000 square feet, or a residential plot under 100 square yards in a notified municipal area. The amendment extends its applicability to all educational institutions, including private, aided, and unaided institutions, with the sole exception of minority institutions protected under Article 30(1). By creating a distinct category of affirmative action based solely on economic disadvantage, the amendment marks a significant shift in India's reservation framework, traditionally grounded in historical and social backwardness.

The 103rd Constitutional Amendment was introduced to extend affirmative action to economically weaker sections (EWS) of the general category, addressing long-standing concerns that existing reservation policies benefited only socially disadvantaged groups while economically poor individuals outside SC, ST, and OBC communities remained excluded. By enabling a 10% reservation for EWS in education and public employment, the amendment seeks to mitigate economic inequality and broaden access to opportunities. It aligns with the constitutional mandate under Article 46, which calls upon the State to promote the educational and economic interests of weaker sections. Politically, the amendment responded to growing public demand for a more inclusive reservation framework that considers economic deprivation alongside social backwardness. Conceptually, it represents an attempt

to rebalance India’s affirmative action system by integrating economic criteria and expanding the scope of protective measures beyond caste-based classifications.

References:

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CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED FOURTH AMENDMENT AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2020
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 334
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Extended reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.● Discontinued the nomination of members of the Anglo-Indian community.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued SC/ST reservation for another ten years (up to 2030). |
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The Constitution (One Hundred and Fourth Amendment) Act, 2019 was enacted to continue political safeguards for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), while simultaneously bringing an end to the special provision for nomination of Anglo-Indian members in legislative bodies. It reflects both continuity and change within India's framework of representational protections.

Since the commencement of the Constitution, Article 334 has provided for time-bound reservation of seats for SCs and STs, along with the nomination of Anglo-Indian members in the Lok Sabha and certain State Legislative Assemblies. While these provisions were originally intended to last for ten years, they have been periodically extended in recognition of continuing social disparities.

The One Hundred and Fourth Amendment extended the reservation for SCs and STs for a further period of ten years, up to 2030, ensuring continued representation of these communities in legislative bodies. This reflects the ongoing constitutional commitment to addressing historical disadvantage and ensuring inclusive political participation.

At the same time, the amendment omitted Articles 331 and 333, thereby discontinuing the provision for nomination of Anglo-Indian members to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. This marked a significant shift, as it brought to an end a long-standing form of representation that had existed since the adoption of the Constitution.

The decision to discontinue Anglo-Indian nomination was based on the assessment that the community had achieved sufficient integration and representation within the broader political framework, making the continuation of special nomination no longer necessary.

The amendment thus illustrates the evolving nature of constitutional safeguards. While some protections are extended in response to continuing need, others may be withdrawn when their underlying rationale is considered to have diminished.

From a broader perspective, the amendment reflects the Constitution's adaptive approach to representation, balancing continuity in affirmative measures with periodic reassessment of their relevance. It underscores that such provisions are not permanent entitlements but are subject to review in light of changing social and political conditions.

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- Bombay High Court. (n.d.). Constitutional amendments. https://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/misc/coi/New-constitution_amendment.html
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CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED FIFTH AMENDMENT AMENDMENT) ACT, 2021

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2021
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Amended : 338B, 342A, 366
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Restored the power of States to identify Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) for their own purposes.● Clarified that the Union list and State lists of OBCs can coexist.● Addressed issues arising from judicial interpretation of the 102nd Amendment.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Fifth Amendment) Act, 2021 was enacted to restore the authority of States to identify and maintain their own lists of socially and educationally backward classes (SEBCs), commonly referred to as Other Backward Classes (OBCs). It represents a direct legislative response to a judicial interpretation that had altered the federal balance in this domain.

The background to this amendment lies in the decision of the Supreme Court of India in *Jaishri Laxmanrao Patil v. Chief Minister, Maharashtra* (2021), where the Court interpreted Article 342A, introduced by the 102nd Amendment, to mean that only the President (and Parliament) had the power to identify SEBCs. This interpretation effectively removed the ability of states to maintain their own OBC lists for state-level purposes.

The decision generated significant concern among states, as the identification of backward classes has historically been a state-specific exercise, reflecting regional social and economic conditions. Centralising this power was seen as inconsistent with India's federal structure.

The One Hundred and Fifth Amendment addressed this issue by amending Articles 338B and 342A, and making corresponding changes to Article 366. It clarified that while the Union may maintain a central list of SEBCs for purposes such as central services and institutions, states retain the power to identify and notify their own backward class lists for state-level reservations and welfare measures.

This amendment reaffirms the principle of federalism by recognising that social backwardness is context-specific and may vary across states. It restores the balance between Union and State powers in a sensitive and significant area of public policy.

At the same time, it maintains a dual framework, one central list for Union purposes and separate state lists, ensuring that both levels of government can operate within their respective spheres. This reflects a cooperative model rather than a strictly centralised approach.

The amendment also highlights the dynamic nature of constitutional interpretation and amendment. Where judicial interpretation led to an unintended shift in the distribution of powers, Parliament intervened to clarify and restore the original balance.

The One Hundred and Fifth Amendment thus represents a key moment in contemporary constitutional law, reinforcing federal principles while ensuring that affirmative action policies remain responsive to regional realities.

References:

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CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED SIXTH AMENDMENT AMENDMENT) ACT, 2023

Aspect	Details
Enacted in	2023
Article (s) and Schedule (s) Amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Article Inserted: 239AA, 330A, 332A, 334A
Key Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provided for reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.● Extended similar reservation to the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.● Reserved one-third of seats for women, including within SC/ST reserved seats.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Linked implementation to delimitation after the next Census. |
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The Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023, popularly referred to as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, marks a significant development in India's representative democracy by introducing reservation for women in legislative bodies. It reflects a long-standing demand to enhance women's participation in formal political institutions.

The amendment provides that one-third of the total number of seats in the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and in the Legislative Assemblies of States shall be reserved for women. This reservation also applies within seats already reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), ensuring intersectional representation.

A key feature of the amendment is that the reservation is not immediately operational. Its implementation is tied to the conduct of the next Census and the subsequent delimitation exercise. This means that the actual reservation of seats will come into effect only after constituency boundaries are redrawn based on updated population data.

The amendment also introduces the concept of rotation of reserved seats, whereby different constituencies will be reserved for women in successive delimitation cycles. This is intended to distribute the benefit of reservation across different regions over time, rather than concentrating it in specific constituencies.

The inclusion of Article 239AA ensures that the Legislative Assembly of Delhi is also covered under this framework, maintaining consistency across different legislative bodies.

From a constitutional perspective, the amendment represents a shift towards enhancing descriptive representation, ensuring that legislative bodies more accurately reflect the demographic composition of society. It builds upon earlier measures such as reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies under the 73rd and 74th Amendments, which significantly increased women's participation at the grassroots level.

At the same time, the amendment raises important questions about implementation timelines, the linkage with delimitation, and the broader impact on electoral politics. The delay in operationalisation has been a subject of debate, particularly in light of the immediate need to address gender imbalance in legislative representation.

The One Hundred and Sixth Amendment thus represents a landmark step towards gender inclusion in India's legislative framework, while also highlighting the complexities involved in translating constitutional commitments into practice.

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