

1.1 ANCIENT PERIOD:

Ancient Indian history (3000 BC to 1200 AD) broadly consisted of the Indus Valley Civilization, the rule of Indo-Aryans, Pre-Mauryan period, Mauryan Dynasty, Post-Mauryan period, the Gupta period, the rule of Harshavardhana, and other kingdoms consisting of the Pratiharas, the Palas, the Senas, and the Chauhans.

Period	Details	Remarks / Highlights
3000/2500 – 1500 BC	Mohenjo-daro and Harappa flourished in the Indus Valley	This civilization puts India at par with other ancient civilization of the world. Indian sub continent can be traced to the Paleolithic and Neolithic Human inhabitation in the Indian subcontinent. Archaeological remains have been found at Sind and Punjab in current day Pakistan. Traces were also found in parts of Ambala, Saurashtra, Rajasthan, and West Bengal. This civilization is found to have used copper extensively and remains suggest that there was good town planning and efficient administrative structure. Especially known for World class city planning, with excellent drainage systems, Great Bath and Granary
1500 BC	Aryan tribes immigrated from the northwest. Their merger with the existing Dravidian inhabitants led to the evolution of classical Indian culture	The tribe was known to be semi-nomadic with a possible place of origin assumed to be from Poland to Central Asia, but experts usually differ. Most famous theorist Max Mueller calls them European or Central Asian Tribe who knew the use of Bow and Arrow. Since Aryans immigrated to a lot of places, the ones who came to India are referred to as the Indo-Aryans. Their superiority resulted in the submission of the Dravidian (Dasuyas) of Indus Valley civilization and their retirement to the south. They are found to have practised both social and political organization. Aryan-Dravidian divide theory has since late been strongly challenged.
Pre-Mauryan period	This period consisted of various empires, and emergence of Magadha as Important power and social centre, and establishment of Greek settlement in India. This period lacks written records.	<p>The vedic / epic period of India saw the rise of various kingdoms between 1000 and 600 BC. The greatest epics such as Ramayana, Mahabaratha, and the Upanishads are credited to this epic age.</p> <p>The 16 Mahajanapadas(including 1st Republic), the 16 powerful kingdoms, rose before the start of Buddhism around 600 BC. Four important kingdoms of this period were the Magadha, the Avadh, the Vatsa, and the Malwa with Magadha being the most powerful, which started around 4th century BC through Saisunga Dynasty founded by Saisunga in 642 BC. Most popular rulers of the dynasty were Bimbisara, the 5th King and his son Ajatasatru, during whose rule Mahavira and Buddha were patronized, and the first Buddhist council was held after Buddha's death in 478 BC.</p> <p>The period between decline of Magadha Dynasty and establishment of Mauryan saw the establishment of Nanda dynasty under Nandivardana.</p>
326 BC	Alexander the Great invaded India	Even though invasion of Alexander the Great belonged to the pre-Mauryan period, the invasion holds a lot of significance in the Indian history. It resulted in the establishment of Greeks, better awareness about disciplined army, enhanced road and sea trade, and exchange of art and literature, and restructure of Indian state affairs and society. Indo-Greek

		conflict and collaboration enriched the culture for a long time.
322 – 182BC	Mauryan dynasty, the first historical dynasty in the Indian history	<p>The Mauryan dynasty marked a glorious era of integration of territories, flourishing art, trade, commerce, and contact with rest of the world. The famous rulers of the era were Chandragupta Maurya, its founder, followed by his son Bindusara, known as Slayer of enemies (Amitrachates) by the Greek, and the most famous of the rulers Ashoka, Son of Bindusara, and the last capable ruler of the Mauryan Dynasty. After his conversion to Buddhism, religion got a new life and travelled to other countries beyond Indian Boundaries. This period saw Buddhism emerging as the major national religion.</p> <p>Chanakya or Kautiliya was another marked personality of the era, who was the able minister and was known for his treatise on statecraft ‘Arthashastra’. The period promoted art and architecture widely, the most striking monument being the pillar with four lions that continues to be the Indian emblem.</p>
Post Mauryan Period	This period again saw the emergence of various kingdoms until the establishment of Gupta Dynasty in the 4 th century AD.	The prominent kingdoms of this period include: the Sunga Dynasty, founded by Pushyamitra, who ruled for over 100 years. This was followed by the Kanavas, a Brahman dynasty founded by Vasudeva Kanva, the minister of Devabhuti, the last Sunga king, who ruled for the next 45 years. The other prominent kingdom was the Satavahanas, after whom the kingdoms disintegrated into various territories.
320 AD – 480 AD	Gupta Period	<p>Lichchavis of Vaishali, one of the important independent kingdoms of the period merged with the state of Maghada, ruled by Chandragupta 1, through the marriage of Lichchavi Princess with Chandragupta 1. This marked the emergence of Gupta Dynasty, followed by other prominent kings Samudragupta, Chandragupta II, Vikramaditya, Kumaragupta, and Skandagupta. . Samudragupta in particular was known as Napoleon of India and possessed an extremely strong Navy. Chandragupta II-Vikramaditya was a great king in league of Ashoka. Apart from Militray conquests, culture was at its pinnacle with famous Kalidas and Varahamir being in his court</p> <p>The Gupta Period is referred to as the Golden age. This was the time when Ancient Vaishanv and Shaiv sects again became popular and replaced Budhism and Jainism as dominant religions</p> <p>This period saw the renaissance of Hinduism. Art, sculpture, painting, literature, and science flourished, along with, sound diplomatic ties with many countries including China, Greece, South Asia. The Non Rusting Iron pillar at Delhi belongs to this period.</p>
606 AD - 647 AD	Rule of Harshavardhana	The rule of Harshavardhana is of eminence in the Indian history. During his rule, his was the only consolidated Hindu kingdom after the Gupta period; it marked the emergence of Muslim rule.

647 AD – 1200 AD	Other Kingdoms	The major kingdoms of this period are said to have been the Pratiharas, the Palas, the Senas, and the Chauhans, prominent of them being Prithviraj Chauhan, who fought the battle of Tarain I and II in the year 1191 and 1192. The death of Prithviraj Chauhan in the second battle saw the end of Chauhans and the emergence of Muslim rule in India.
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Kingdoms of the South

The Satavahanas is one of the earliest southern kingdoms founded by Simuka in the 65BC. Gautamiputra Satakarni was one of the most important kings. They constructed many Buddhist worshipping sites – the important ones being at Amaravati and Nagarjuna Konda.

There were three major Southern Kingdoms namely, the Cholas, Cheras, and Pandyas.

The Cholas, The Chola dynasty was founded by Vijayalaya in 850 AD, ruled with the emblem of Tiger. Rajaraja Chola and Rajendra Chola were 2 of the greatest Indian Kings. Earlier the capital was situated at Uraiyar. Later the capital was shifted to Tanjore. **Raja Raja I** (985 AD - 1014 AD) was an important king. He constructed the Siva Temple at Tanjore which is also famous as Raja Rajeshvar Temple. Its generally accepted to be the most beautiful temple in India. Rajendra I (1014 AD- 1044AD) was called the Napoleon of South India. The Cholas were famous for naval power and for their village administration. Their influence went beyond Indian Shores to Sri Lanka and even South East Asian Archipelagoes.

Kamban's Ramayan was a literary master piece. Sangam Literature had blessings of Chola clan.

Administrative Units of the Cholas

- Mandlam -the provinces
- Valanadusnadus the districts
- Taniyur- the large villages
- The Village Assembly was constituted of:
 - Urs**- the assembly of common people
 - Abha** - the assembly of brahmins
 - Nagaram** - the assembly of merchants.

The Cheras, with the capital at Vanji, Karur, ruled with the emblem of Bow. Udiyanjeral was one of the important kings.

The Pandyas, with the capital at Madurai, ruled with the emblem of Carp. Nedunjdian was one of the important kings.

The Chalukyas (6th - 7th Century AD): Pulkeshin I founded the Chalukya dynasty and established its capital at Vatapi. Pulkeshin II (609 AD - 642 AD) was the most important king of this dynasty. He defeated Harshvardhana on the banks of river Narmada in 619 AD. Most of the Buddhist cover at Ajanta and Ellora was structured during the reign of the Chalukyas. Aihole was the temple town of this period.

The Pallavas (560 AD – 903 AD): The Pallava dynasty was founded by Simhavishnu in 560 AD. Their Capital was at Kanch. Mahendranarman I was defeated by Pulkeshin II. Narasimhavarman I was the greatest king of the dynasty, and because he defeated Pulkeshin II and captured Badan, he was known as Vatapi-Konda. Narasimhavarman II constructed the shore temple of Mahabalipuram and the Kailashnath Temple of Kanchi. He was also a worshipper of Vishnu. He built the Vaikunthaperumal Temple at

Kanchi. Aparajita Pallav was the last ruler and was defeated by Aditya Chola.

The Rashtrakutas: Founded by Dantedurga in Deccan, their capital was located at Manyakhet or Malkhed. Greatest kings of the Rashtrakuta dynasty were Govind III (796 AD - 814 AD) and Amoghavarha I (814 AD - 978 AD) - He had written the first Kannada book - 'Kabirajamarga.' and Ratnamalika in Kannada. Kailash I built the Kailash Temple at Ellora (in 9th century).

Administrative Units of the Rashtrakutas

Rashtras - the provinces

Visaya - the districts

Bhukti - the villages

1.2 MEDIEVAL PERIOD:

The medieval Indian history consists of the Delhi sultanate, Mughals, and Europeans in India

1175 AD – 1525 AD	Delhi Sultanate and Arrival of Portuguese	<p>This period consists of the later part of the Hindu kingdoms and was prior to the arrival of the Mughals in India. The period saw a series of Muslim rulers, whose main motive seems to have been the spread of Islam and plundering the vast wealth. The first prominent consolidation of Muslim rule happened under Mahmud Ghazni and then by Mohammad Ghori, whose victory over Prithviraj Chauhan saw the end of Hindu Kingdom. Qutab-ud-din-Aibek, the slave of Mohammad Ghori, who was made the incharge in India, laid the foundation for the Slave Dynasty in 1206 AD after the death of Ghori. Another important ruler of the Slave Dynasty was Iltutmish, son-in-law of Aibek, who also constructed the Qutub Minar during his time. In due course, disintegration of the slave dynasty led to the establishment of Khilji Dynasty by Jalaluddin Khilji, which started in 1290 AD and continued till 1340 AD. Victory of Ghazi Malik Tughluq, a Turkish noble, over the last Khilji ruler, Khusru, saw the end of Khilji Dynasty and the emergence of Tughluq Dynasty. Tughluq Dynasty's fate was sealed by the invasion of Timur, which paved way for the establishment of rule by Sayyids and Lodhis, who were later overthrown by Babur in 1525 and 1526 in the battle of Panipat, that later established the Mughal rule in India.</p> <p>With increased military might, Islam became one of the dominant religion with mass conversion being a way to gain the favour of the ruler and to increase ones social standing..Many conversions happened due to coercion as well..The caste system crept into Islam with Arabic Muslims being called Ashraf and those who converted to Islam from other religions called as Ajlaf. Ashrafs were considered racially superior to Ajlaf and garnered all the top posts of administration. Ajlaf were generally responsible for smaller or less important roles and suffered rigid discrimination from upper class Muslims due to their converted status.</p> <p>The Sachar Committee's report commissioned by the government of India and released in 2006, documents the continued stratification in Muslim society.</p>
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1498	Vasco-da-Gama lands at Calicut.	<p>Even though India had flourishing foreign trade from time immemorial, it was enhanced from the time of Alexander with established trade routes through Afghanistan, Central Asia, Persia, and Syria. However, rise of Arabs in India blocked this route forcing Europeans to explore different sea routes. Portugal, known for its sea-faring experience and love for navigation and exploration, brought Portuguese to India with Vasco-da-Gama's arrival at Calicut in 1498 and further establishment of trading centers and rule in India. Almeida was the first Portuguese Governor in India.</p>
1510 – 1590	Expansion and Decline of Portuguese	<p>The second Portuguese Governor Albuquerque expanded Portuguese occupation with capture of Goa in 1510, Bassein in 1534, and Daman in 1538. After a century of rule, the Portuguese rule started declining with the combined effect of defective administration by successors, religious intolerance, resistance from the Mughals, instability, and lack of financial support from homeland, and emergence of other European competition. Strong portugese influence can still be found in Goan Culture</p>
1526 – 1707	Mughal rule in India	<p>Mughal, Chaghtai Turks, rule in India started with Babur after he defeated Ibrahim Lodi in the Battle of Panipat in 1526. Humayun succeeded Babur, after his death in 1530. Humayun faced opposition from the Sher Shah and Sur Dynasty and had to abandon his throne in 1540. After 15 years he ended the second Afghan rule and came to power in 1555. Akbar, the most successful Mughal king, came to power in 1556 after the death of his father, Humayun. Hemu, a King from Vaisya clan, threatened to uproot the Mughal empire and almost succeeded before he was defeated by Bairam Khan who was Akbar's mentor</p> <p>Akbar followed a policy of reconciliation with the Rajputs and religious tolerance, and he was successful in consolidating the states and raised the Mughal empire to glory. Muhammad Salim also known as Jahangir, who ruled from 1605 to 1627, until his death, succeeded Akbar. Shah Jahan, who ruled from 1627 to 1658, succeeded Jahangir. He is well known for building the Taj Mahal, in memory of his Queen, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1931. Aurangzeb, the ablest son of Shah Jahan, succeeded Aurangzeb. Unlike his predecessors, Aurangzeb followed religious fundamentalism. He was the last great Mughal ruler who took Mughal empire to its greatest glory and made it the biggest of the empires existing then. The succession of rulers after Aurangzeb proved incompetent to maintain the Mughal kingdom. Other factors that led to the decline of the Mughals were the role played by other independent kingdoms and rulers such as the Sayyid Brothers, Rajputs, Jats, Sikhs, and the Marathas. Plagued by inexperience, petty quarrels, intrigues, and conspiracies, British East India Company marked the foundation of British rule in India through the Battle of Plassey in 1757 and consolidated with Battle of Buxar in 1764.</p>

1.3 MODERN INDIAN HISTORY:

It broadly consists of India's struggle for Independence and carries through to the current day.

1600	East India Company constituted	The East India Co.'s presence in India started in 1600 with the grant of free trade by the Queen. Initially the British had to struggle with the Portuguese and the Dutch and found it difficult to exercise influence in the Mughal court. From time to time, they succeeded in gaining concession for the company. Disintegrating Mughal kingdom and superior naval power and support from home helped them to establish their rule from 1757 onwards. At the turn of the 19 th century, Governor-General Wellesley began what went on to become 2 decades of accelerated expansion by way of either alliances with local rulers or military occupation.
1602	Coming of East India Company	The East India came to India.
1608	First Officer of EIC to visit India	The first officer of EIC, Captain Hawkins, came to India in 1608 in the court of Jahangir, the then Mughal ruler in throne.
1613	First factory of EIC	The first factory of East India Company was established in Surat.
1615	First English Ambassador	Sir Thomas Roe, the first English Ambassador, came to India during the rule of Emperor Jahangir.
1757	Battle of Plassey	Siraj-ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Bengal was defeated by East India Co., under the leadership of Lord Clive, the first governor of Bengal. It is also referred to as the Black hole episode of the Indian History.
1760	Battle of Wandiwash	It was the decisive battle fought between the French and English, which saw the end of French rule in India, except Pondicherry
1764	Battle of Buxar	The joint army of Mir Quasim, former Nawab of Bengal Suja-ud-Daulah, Nawab of Awadh and Shah Alam II was defeated by the English army under the leadership of Hector Munro.
1773	The Regulating Act	In 1773, the British Parliament initiated a series of administrative and economic reforms in India. The post of Governor General for Bengal was created. Warren Hastings became the first Governor General of Bengal. The Governor General and his council had all the legislative powers. Supreme Court was established at Calcutta and Sir Elijah Impey became the Chief Justice of India.
1857	First War of Independence	It is also known as the Sepoy Mutiny, where sepoy from the Co.'s army rebelled against the Co.'s rule on the 10 th May 1857 in Meerut that soon spread to other areas and civilian mutiny. It took more than a year to contain the rebellion after gaining military support from home. This is a very important turning point in Indian history, as this saw the end of Co.'s rule in India. India came under direct rule of the British crown after failed Indian mutiny from 1858 to 1947. Mangal Pandey was a prominent figure. He killed two British Sepoys at Barrackpore.

1858	Government of India Act	Direct Governance of British Crown over India.
1867	Formation of East India Association	Dadabhai Naoroji, a Parsi intellectual, educator, cotton trader, and early political leader, formed this association. He was the first Asian to be a British MP between 1892 and 1895. He is also credited to be the co-founder of Indian National Congress.
1885	Indian National Congress founded	A.O. Hume, William Wedderburn, Dinshaw Wacha, and Dadabhoi Naoroji founded this organization also called the Congress Party or INC. It is referred to as the true representation of Indians, and was the strongest political and revolutionary organization in the pre-independence era with over 15 million members and 70 million participants in the struggle against British rule. It was initially formed for obtaining greater share of participation in the government for the educated Indians. However, with constant opposition from the government, its demand became more radical with the party having two factions consisting of moderates and extremists by 1907. The party was in many ways an umbrella organization with members drawn from radical socialists to traditionalists and other Hindu / Muslim conservatives. The organization has produced many great leaders.
1905	First partition of Bengal	Lord Curzon, Viceroy and Governor-General (1899-1905) ordered the partition of Bengal for improvement in administrative efficiency, where Bengali Hindu intelligentsia exerted considerable influence on local and national politics. This led to wide spread agitation and boycotting British products under the ' Swadeshi ' movement.
1906	Formation of Muslim League	The All India Muslim league (AIML) was founded in Dhaka that later became the driving force behind the creation of Pakistan as a Muslim state in the Indian sub-continent. M.A. Jinnah, who was initially a member of INC and later became the president of AIML in 1916, negotiated the Lucknow Pact with Congress for separate electorate and weighted representation for Muslim community. Jinnah broke from congress in 1920 following launch of Non-cooperative movement by Gandhiji, which Jinnah disapproved. Later, the party put forward the demand for separate Muslim state. On 23 March, 1940, through Lahore Resolution, the league recommitted itself to creating independent Muslim state called Pakistan consisting of Sindh, Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, and Bengal. The resolution's principles formed the foundation for Pakistan's first constitution.
1909	Morley – Minto Reforms	Under these reforms, a separate electorate was made for Muslims during the leadership of Lord Minto. A series of constitutional reforms were announced, which then was followed by visit of King George V in 1911 who announced the reversal of the partition of transfer of capital from Calcutta to newly planned city, later came to be known as New Delhi.

1929	Declaration of Poorna Swaraj	In the Lahore session of the Indian National Congress under the presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru, a resolution was adopted calling for complete independence from the British under the “Poorna Swaraj” and 26 January, 1930 was declared as “Poorna Swaraj Diwas”, Independence Day. It was to commemorate this date particularly that the Indian Constitution was formally adopted on 26 January 1950.
1930	Salt Satyagraha	After the declaration of Poorna Swaraj, Gandhiji launched the Salt Satyagraha against the tax on salt in March 1930. It was highlighted by the famous Dandi March from 12 March to 6 April, marching 400 kilometers from Ahmedabad to Dandi, in which thousands of people participated and forced the British to imprison 60000 people, leading the movement to be one of the most successful campaigns against the British rule.
1935	Government of India	Passed on the basis of the Simon Commission report, it envisaged the structure of the government under the direct governance of the ‘British Crown’.
1942-43	Quit India movement	This was the civil disobedience movement launched in August 1942 in response to Gandhiji’s speech calling for immediate independence. Gandhiji hoped to bring the British Government to the negotiation table that led to the arrest of Gandhiji and many other leaders. The movement though found mass support, the INC members themselves were divided, and it failed to achieve the immediate independence, which was its purpose.
1946	Cabinet Mission Plan	This envisaged forming an interim government in India.
1947	India gains freedom	On 15 August 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru was sworn in as the first Prime Minister of independent India and Muhammad Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan, was sworn in as the first Governor-General of Pakistan at Karachi.
1947-48	Hundreds of thousands die in widespread communal bloodshed after partition	Because independence was declared prior to the actual partition, the Governments were forced to keep public order. The partition plan called for safeguard of minorities on both sides and had not contemplated large population movement. There was complete breakdown of law and order on both the sides. This resulted in large-scale riots, massacre, and hardships that was ensued by one of the largest population movement – an estimated 20 million people (Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs), based on the censuses from 1941 and 1951. The result saw widespread communal violence, loss of property, with estimated half a million dead and 12 million homeless according to Richard Symonds’s book, “The making of Pakistan.”

1948	Mahatma Gandhi assassinated by Nathuram Godse	On 30 January 1948, Godse assassinated Gandhiji by shooting at close range using Beretta semi-automatic pistol after the evening prayer and surrendered himself immediately. After the trial, Godse was sentenced to Death on 8 November, 1949 and hanged at Ambala Jail on 15 November, 1949.
1950	India becomes a Republic. Dr Rajendra Prasad is the first President of India	On 26 January 1950, India formally adopted the Constitution of India and made the transition from a British Dominion to a republic. Between the period of August 1947 and January 1950, King George VI was the head of the country and Louis Mountbatten and C. Rajagopalachari were the Governor-Generals of India from 1947 to 1948 and 1948 to 1950 respectively.
1952	First general elections; Congress government comes to power	Under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, Congress party won an overwhelming majority in the first general elections held. Nehru also led the party to victory in the subsequent elections held in 1957 and 1962.
1956	The states are reorganized on a linguistic basis	Based on the recommendations of the States Reorganization Commission, the States Reorganization Act was passed. Old states were dissolved and new states created on the line of shared linguistic and ethnic demographics. This led to the separation of Kerala and Telugu speaking regions of Madras state and creation of Tamil Nadu. Similarly, creation of Maharashtra and Gujarat from Bombay state and later on creation of Punjab occurred.
1962	War with China and India loses	Sino-Indian war over the borders was fought and India lost the war that led to refocusing of arms build up and improved relations with United States. Though China withdrew from the Northeast, it continues to occupy Aksai Chin in Kashmir and the state of Arunachal Pradesh's sovereignty as an Indian state is disputed by China.
1964	Death of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru	He died on 27 May 1964 and was succeeded by Lal Bahadur Shastri as the Prime Minister of India.
1965	War with Pakistan; ceasefire declared.	The second Kashmir war between India and Pakistan ended with a ceasefire with no definitive outcome or alteration of the Kashmir boundary.
1966	Tashkent Agreement reached. Shastri dies at Tashkent. Indira Gandhi becomes prime minister	Under the mediation of Soviet Government, India and Pakistan met at Tashkent in former USSR and current day Uzbekistan and signed the Tashkent Agreement. Lal Bahadur Shastri and Muhammad Ayub Khan were the signatories to the Tashkent Declaration of 10 January 1966, which stated better diplomatic and economic relations, non-interference in internal affairs, pulling back of forces, and better relations. Shastri died on the same night and Indira Gandhi then serving as Minister for Information and Broadcasting became the Prime Minister defeating right wing leader Morarji Desai.

1967 – 1969	Elections, Devaluation of Indian rupee and split of Congress	Congress party came to power with reduced minority amidst widespread disenchantment over rising prices, unemployment, economic stagnation, and food crisis. She successfully ended the Privy purse guarantee for former Indian royalty. Her proposed nationalization of Banks resulted in her suspension from congress membership. With the support of exodus of MPs, she formed the Congress (R) and continued to govern with slim majority.
1971	Third war with Pakistan; Formation of Bangladesh; Elections and Nationalization of Banks	India intervened in Bangladesh Liberation War, which resulted in the independence of East Pakistan that became to be known as Bangladesh. Indira Gandhi and her party Congress (R) came back to power with increased majority, and many socialist and economic reforms including Nationalization of Banks were carried out.
1971	Twenty-year treaty of friendship signed with Soviet Union	India's participation in the civil war resulted in strained relation with the US and India signed 20-year treaty with Soviet Union, breaking from the non-alignment.
1972	Simla agreement signed between India and Pakistan	2 July 1972 - India and Pakistan signed the Simla Agreement, after the War of 1971, for settling the differences by peaceful bilateral negotiations. Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the Prime Minister of Pakistan signed it.
1974	India's first atomic device exploded at Pokhran in Rajasthan Bihar Movement	On 18 May 1974, India tested its first Nuclear weapon at Pokhran in Rajasthan. Bihar Movement, initiated by the students in Bihar in 1974 led by Jayprakash Narayanan, veteran Gandhian Socialist, against misuse and corruption of Indira's Government. Allahabad High Court found Indira Gandhi guilty of misusing Government machinery for election purposes.
1975	Sikkim became an Indian state; Indira Gandhi declared state of emergency	On 26 April, Sikkim decided to formally join India and depose the Chogyal, the monarch of former kingdom of Sikkim. Economic and social problems and allegations of corruption caused political unrest and Ms. Gandhi urged the then President, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, to declare a state of Emergency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil liberties curbed • Non-congress governments dismissed in states • Many opposition leaders / activists imprisoned
1977	Indira Gandhi's Congress Party loses general elections. Janata Party comes to power	After the defeat of congress party in elections, Janata Dal, a union of opposition parties, came to power under Morarji Desai, the first non-congress Prime Minister.

1979	Janata Party splits; Seventh general elections held	Owing to unpopularity of Janata Government, the coalition crumbled and an interim government under Charan Singh was formed and general elections held
1980	Indira Gandhi returns to power heading Congress party splinter group, Congress (Indira)	In January 1980, Indira Gandhi came back to power.
1984	Operation Blue Star. Indira Gandhi assassinated; son Rajiv Gandhi becomes Prime Minister	Operation Bluestar, undertaken by Indian forces to raid out Khalisthan Militants hiding inside the Golden Temple resulted in civilian death and damage to the temple and instigated communal tension within the Sikh community throughout India, following which Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her own Sikh bodyguards on 31 October 1984 at her residence. Her death caused communal violence in Delhi and Punjab, causing deaths of thousands, pillage. The Parliament was dissolved, and Rajiv Gandhi led congress party to its largest majority winning 450 seats out of 545 seats and became the youngest Prime Minister. Rajiv Gandhi initiated the loosening of License Raj, improved relations with the US, got involved in major expansion of telecommunications, Indian space program, and gave birth to software and IT sector.
1987	India deploys troops for peacekeeping operation in Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict. Goa becomes the 25th state of India	Indian peacekeeping force (IPKF) was sent to Sri Lanka to enforce agreement between Sri Lankan Government and Tamil rebels (LTTE), but it got entangled in outbreaks of violence and target of attack from Sri Lankan nationalists. Bofors scandal broke tarnishing the honest, clean image of Rajiv Gandhi.
1989 to 1990	Rajiv Gandhi's Congress defeated in ninth general elections; minority government led by Janata Dal's V.P Singh comes to power	1989 elections led to 2 minority governments. The first led by V.P. Singh under Janata Dal with support from BJP and left parties was withdrawn following the implementation of Mandal Commission recommendations to increase the quota in reservations for low caste Hindus, following which V.P. Singh resigned. Later, Chandra Shekhar led split Janata Dal (Socialist) with support from Congress that fell after Congress withdrew its support in 1991. V.P. Singh withdrew the IPKF from Sri Lanka in 1990.
1991	Rajiv Gandhi assassinated. Congress government returned to power with P.V. Narasimha Rao as Prime Minister	On 21 May 1991, Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated at Sriperumbadur in Tamil Nadu by a female suicide bomber belonging to LTTE. The congress led government came to power with P.V. Narasimha Rao as the Prime Minister. During his period, opening of Indian economy to global trade and investment through liberalization of economy were initiated.

1992	The dome of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya demolished by hindu fanatics; triggering widespread Hindu-Muslim violence	On 6 December 1992, the Babri Masjid, the Mosque disputed to have been constructed after the destruction, by the Mughal ruler Babur, of the temple built in memory of Rama's birth (Ram Janmabhoomi). Babri Masjid was destructed by 1,50,000 strong VHP activists that led widespread Hindu-Muslim communal violence and saw more than 10000 dead and led to violence and destruction of Hindu temples in Bangladesh and Pakistan.
1996	Congress suffers worst ever electoral defeat as Hindu nationalist BJP emerges as largest single party. On May 16 AB Vajpayee is made the PM, until May 28; United Front Coalition forms government under Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda	After congress's worst ever defeat, the BJP led coalition government came to power under A.B.Vajpayee, but it lasted only for 13 days after the coalition party withdrew its support. After that, H.D. Deve Gowda headed the United Front Coalition 14-party government whose government lasted less than a year as congress withdrew its support.
1997	Congress withdraws support to coalition government; I.K. Gujral sworn in Prime Minister	16-party government led by I.K.Gujral as Prime Minister again came to an end after Congress withdrew support in November 1997.
1998	BJP forms coalition government under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. 2 nd Nuclear test conducted at Pokhran	Fresh elections were held in 1998 and BJP formed the Government on 20 March, 1998. On 11 and 13 May, India conducted its second nuclear test at Pokhran, Rajasthan following which economic sanctions were placed by US and Japan on India.
1999	Inauguration of Delhi-Lahore Bus service	Vajpayee makes historic bus trip to Pakistan to meet Premier Nawaz Sharif and to sign bilateral Lahore peace declaration.
1999	Kargil war	The peace process was derailed with the discovery of infiltration by the Pakistan Army and Kashmiri militants in the Kargil –Drass sector in the Indian side of LOC. After over 2 months of intense high altitude fighting by the Indian Army supported by the Indian Air force, Pakistan accepted to withdraw its troop after the Washington Accord on July 4. Yet, the final clearing of jehadis happened on 26 July, which is celebrated as Kargil Vijay Diwas every year. Same year, Vajpayee led National Democratic Alliance came to power in September. The NDA was fraught with many scandals such as Tehelka and Communal violence in Gujarat sparked by the Godhra Train Massacre of 59 Hindu activists. But, 2003 saw speedy economic growth, political stability, and peace initiative with Pakistan.
2001	Parliament Attack	On 13 December 2001, the Indian Parliament was attacked by 5 armed Pakistan based Kashmiri militants and is one of the high profile attacks in which over a dozen were killed and led to the 2001-2002 India-Pakistan standoff.
2004	Congress Party wins in general elections. Dr.	In January 2004, Vajpayee recommended early dissolution of the Lok Sabha and General Elections. The congress-led party won the election in

	Manmohan Singh is sworn in as Prime Minister	May 2004 and Dr. Manmohan Singh became the Prime Minister of the United Progressive Alliance consisting of Congress and other socialist and regional parties and outside support of communists.
2006	Nuclear Deal.	President of the United States, George W. Bush visits India. United States signs landmark nuclear deal with India pending approval from the US Congress and Indian Parliament. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh declared Naxalism to be the most serious internal security threat to India
2007	First female President of India. Nandigram violence. Samjhauta Express Bombing	Prathiba Patil is elected as the first female President of India. Clashes between opposition parties, the governing Communist Party of India (Marxist) and police in Nandigram, West Bengal. On 14 March, 14 villagers were killed in police firing. Islamist militants from the Lashkar-e-Taiba organization set off a bomb on the Samjhauta Express, a twice-weekly train service connecting Delhi, India, and Lahore, Pakistan.
2008	Sixth pay commission. UPA survives no-confidence motion and terrorist attack on Mumbai	The Sixth Pay Commission recommends increase in the salaries of all government employees by 40%. The United Progressive Alliance led government in India survives a crucial no-confidence vote based on disagreements between Indian National Congress and Left Front over the Indo-US nuclear deal. 2008 Mumbai attacks: 175 people were killed and over 308 wounded in more than ten coordinated shooting and bombing attacks across Mumbai, India's largest city, carried out by Islamic terrorists from Pakistan.
2009	General Elections.	India held general elections to the 15th Lok Sabha in five phases between 16 April 2009 and 13 May 2009. The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) led by the Indian National Congress formed the government. The UPA was able to put together a comfortable majority with support from 322 members out of 543 members of the House.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN BRIEF

The Government of India operates within a framework of federal parliamentary representative democratic republic, whereby the Prime Minister of India is the head of government. It was established by the Constitution of India on January 26, 1950, and is the governing authority of a federal union of 28 states, 6 union territories, and 1 National Capital Territory. Collectively, the federal union is called the Republic of India. The Government of India consists of legislative, executive, and judicial branches. The Legislative branch is a bicameral parliament, comprising the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) and the Lok Sabha (Lower House). The Executive arm consists of the President, Vice-President, the Prime Minister, and the Council of Ministers the legislative wing. The judiciary branch is independent of the legislative and executive branches. The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice and 25 associate justices. The legal system as applicable to the federal and individual state governments is based on the English Common and Statutory Law. India accepts compulsory International Court of Justice jurisdiction with several reservations.

2.1 THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION & THE CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The constitution of India draws extensively from Western legal traditions in its outline of the principles of liberal democracy. However, it is distinguished from many Western constitutions in its elaboration of principles reflecting the aspirations to end the inequities of traditional social relations and enhance the social welfare of the population. It lays down the framework defining the fundamental political principles, establishing the structure, procedures, powers, and duties of the government and spells out the fundamental rights, directive principles, and duties of citizens.

Adopted after much deliberation by the Constituent Assembly that also acted as India's first legislature, the Indian constitution was put into effect on January 26, 1950. Bhimrao Ramji (B.R.) Ambedkar chaired the drafting committee of the constitution. The constitution of India draws a balance between the traditional views of Gandhiji backed measures that would form a decentralized polity with strong local administration--known as *panchayat* --in a system known as *panchayati raj*, that is rule by *panchayats* and modernist leaders, such as Jawaharlal Nehru, for a parliamentary government and a federal system with a strong central government. Following a British parliamentary pattern, the constitution embodies the Fundamental Rights, which are similar to the United States Bill of Rights, and a Supreme Court similar to that of the United States. It creates a "sovereign democratic republic" called India, which shall be a Union of States. India is a federal system in which residual powers of legislation remain with the central government, similar to that in Canada. The constitution of India provides detailed lists dividing powers between central and state governments as in Australia, and it elaborates a set of Directive Principles of State Policy, as does the Irish constitution.

The 395 articles and twelve appendixes, known as schedules, in the constitution make it one of the longest and most detailed in the world. Schedules can be added to the constitution by amendment. The twelve schedules in force cover the following:

1. Designations of the states and union territories
2. The emoluments for high-level officials
3. Forms of oaths
4. Allocation of the number of seats in the Rajya Sabha (Council of States--the upper house of Parliament) per state or territory
5. Provisions for the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes
6. Provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam
7. The union (Central government), state, and concurrent lists of responsibilities
8. The official languages

9. Land and tenure reforms and the association of Sikkim with India
10. Provisions for Members of Parliament and Members of State Legislatures
11. Panchayat Raj (Rural Development)
12. Municipality (Urban Planning)

Note: The Directive Principles, which is a part of the Constitution of India, are guidelines to be kept in mind while framing laws and policies by both the central and state governments. These provisions are not enforceable by any court as the principles laid down are considered fundamental in the governance of the country, making it the duty of the state to apply these principles in making laws. The principles draw its origins from the Directive Principles of the Irish Constitution and Principles of Gandhism. Directive Principles are classified under the following categories: Gandhian, economic and socialistic, political and administrative, justice and legal, environmental, protection of monuments, and peace and security.

Amendments to Constitution of India

Article 368 of the Constitution of India allows changes, namely, amendments to be made to the constitution. The Indian constitution is also one of the most frequently amended constitutions in the world. The first amendment came only a year after the adoption of the constitution and instituted numerous minor changes. Many more amendments followed, and till June 1995, the constitution had been amended seventy-eight times, a rate of almost two amendments per year since 1950. There have been a total of **94** Amendments to the constitution of India, as of 2010. Source -<http://india.gov.in/>

Procedure of the Amendments to the Indian Constitution

The method of an amendment to the constitution is considered to be a highly complicated procedure. Amendment can be made by various methods, which have been modeled based on the South African Constitution. The initial step of an amendment to the constitution is the introduction of Bills regarding it in any one of the houses of the Parliament. Simple majority of the Parliament can pass the Bills. Before sending the Bills for President's assent, there can be a voting among the members of Parliament present. If majority of them vote in favor of the amendments, it is accepted. An amendment can also be finalized if two-thirds of the members of Parliament present vote in its favor. However, the number of voters should be more than half of the total number of members of the house. This method is known as 'special majority of the Parliament'. In some cases, Bills for amendments to the Indian Constitution, finalized in this method, may also require the ratification of the Legislatures of at least half of the Indian States.

Exceptions to passing of Amendments

In spite of the presence of right to amend and the frequency of amendments, the basic structure of the constitution cannot be amended. The basic structure doctrine is the judge made doctrine whereby certain features of the Constitution of India are beyond the limit of the powers of amendment.

Some of the Historical court rulings

Some of the early cases questioning the amendments were made in the case of 'Shankari Prasad vs. Union of India' and 'Sajjan Singh vs. State of Rajasthan' wherein the power to amend was upheld under the Article 368. But in 1967, in the case of 'Golak Nath vs. The State of Punjab', the 11 judges bench of the Supreme Court pronounced that "Amendments which take away or abridge the fundamental rights cannot be passed."

In the landmark case of 'Kesavananda Bharati vs. The State of Kerala', the 13 judge bench overruled the 1967 ruling, but upheld that 'Article 368 does not enable the Parliament to alter the basic structure or framework of the constitution.' The other famous rulings include 'Indira Gandhi vs. Raj Narain,' during the period of emergency and 'Minerva Mills vs. Union of India' in 1981, in which it was declared that clause (4) of Article 368 of the Constitution that excludes judicial review of constitutional amendments

was unconstitutional. Nani Palkhiwala, the famous Jurist and Economist, was the key person in all the above cases.

Salient Features

1. The Constituent Assembly was formed by the order of The Cabinet Mission in 1946.
2. Sachida Prasad Sinha was the temporary President of the Constituent Assembly.
3. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the permanent President of the Constituent Assembly.
4. Dr. B.R. Ambedker was the chairman of the Drafting Committee.
5. B.N. Rao was the legal advisor of the Constituent Assembly.
6. The Constituent Assembly took 2 years 11 months and 18 days to prepare the largest written constitution in the World.
7. Rs. 64 lakhs were spent on the making of the Constitution.
8. The original Constitution consisted of 22 parts, 395 articles but at present ,it has 22 parts, 444 articles and 12 schedules.
9. It was adopted by the Government of India on the 26th of November, 1949.
10. It was enforced by the Government of India on the 26th of January, 1950.

Fundamental Rights

1. Part III (Articles 12 - 35) of the Constitution deals with Fundamental Rights.
2. Originally, seven Fundamental Rights were listed, but after the 44th Amendment, only six Fundamental Rights are existent. These are
 - (a) Right to Equality (14 - 18)
 - (b) Right to freedom of speech (19)
 - (c) Right against Exploitation (23-24)
 - (d) Right to freedom of Religion (25-28)
 - (e) Culture and Educational Right (29-30)
 - (f) Right to Constitutional Remedies (32-33)
3. Right to Property used to be a Fundamental Right, but after the 44th Amendment, it became a legal right.
4. Right to Education has been included in Fundamental rights on April 1 2010

Fundamental Duties

Article (51-A) included in the Constitution in the 42nd Amendment, lays down 10 Fundamental Duties that citizens have towards the state. These are:

- a. To abide by the Constitution and show respect to the National Flag and the National Anthem.
- b. To follow the noble ideas of the freedom struggle.
- c. To protect the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India.
- d. To defend one's country.
- e. To promote common brotherhood and establish dignity of women.
- f. To preserve our heritage and culture.
- g. To protect the natural environment.
- h. To develop a scientific temper.
- i. To safeguard public property.
- j. To strive for excellence in all spheres of activity.

Kinds of Bills

Ordinary Bill - An ordinary bill can be introduced in either of the Houses and can be passed by a simple majority in both the Houses. In case of a deadlock, a joint sitting of both the houses is possible.

Money Bill (Article 110) – A money bill is concerned with taxation and government spending.

It can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha after prior recommendation of the President. Speaker of the Lok Sabha is the deciding authority whether the introduced bill is a Money bill or not.

Financial Bill - A bill which is related to revenue and expenditure of the government but is not a money bill is a financial bill.

Constitutional Amendment Bill (Article 368) - This bill can be introduced in either of the Houses of the Parliament. It can be passed only by a special majority.

2.2 THE LEGISLATIVE AND ELECTIONS IN INDIA

India is a constitutional democracy with a parliamentary system of government at the heart of which is the commitment to hold fair and free elections at regular intervals. The elections are the key parameters that determine the composition of the government, the membership to the two houses of parliament, the state and union territory legislative assemblies, and the presidency and vice presidency.

Parliament of India

The Indian parliament consists of two houses – the lower and the upper, namely, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Lok Sabha, the house of people, consists of direct representatives elected through the electorate in the general elections. The size of Lok Sabha is 552 members out of which maximum of 530 are from the states, 20 from the union territories, and 2 members to represent the Anglo-Indian community appointed by the President of India. The Lok Sabha is the stronger of the two houses.

Rajya Sabha, Council of States, consists of members indirectly elected by the legislative assemblies of the states. The Rajya Sabha is designed to maintain federal character of the country with representation of the state in accordance with proportional representation by means of single transferable vote system. The population of the individual states determines the number of seats allocated for it in the council. The house consists of 250 members with 12 members nominated by the President with people having special knowledge or experience in literature, science, art, or social service.

The Election Commission Of India

The Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional body created to conduct free and fair elections for the representative bodies in India. It was established on January 25, 1950.

The Constitution of India has vested in the Election Commission of India the superintendence, direction and control of the entire process for conducting elections for the Parliament and the Legislature of every State and for the offices of the President and the Vice-President of India. The law which governs all the elections in India as mentioned above is the Representation of People Act, 1950.

The commission presently consists of a Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners. Originally, however, the commission had just one Chief Commissioner. Two Commissioners were appointed for the first time on 16 October, 1989, but their tenure lasted only till 1 January 1990. On 1 October 1993, two additional Election Commissioners were appointed. The commission has followed the multi-member structure since then, with decisions taken by majority vote. The Election Commission has a Secretariat at New Delhi consisting of about 300 officials.

The Election Process

Elections in India are events involving political mobilization and organizational complexity on a large scale. With elections held in 28 states + 7 UTs covering an electorate of 670 million people (with over 389 million votes polled in the last 2004 14th Lok Sabha elections), it is one of the largest election process in the world almost twice that of the next largest, the European Parliament Elections.

The process involves publishing of electoral rolls of all individuals who are citizens of India. People above the age of 18 years are eligible to enroll as voters. Pre-election process consists of announcement of dates for filing nomination by the candidates, and also for the polling and counting of votes. The Election Commission of India is entrusted with the process of conducting elections in India, which also lays down guidelines for the conduct of individual candidates, parties, and their campaign processes.

The post election process involves the tallying of votes with the person garnering maximum votes in a

constituency accorded winner. A single party or coalition of parties that has won the maximum number of seats in the constituencies represented is invited by the President to form the government with the Prime Minister as the head of the government, who is helped by the council of ministers called the cabinet. The party or its coalition must prove its majority in the floor of the house (Lok Sabha) in a vote of confidence by obtaining a simple majority, which is 50% of the votes in the house.

Election of the President and Vice President

The President and the Vice President are elected by the Electoral College consisting of members of Parliament (both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) and elected members of the state legislative assembly (the Vidhan Sabha). The election is through the method of proportional representation using single transferable voting system. The President and the Vice President are elected for a 5-year term. The president is the Head of the state, first citizen of India, and the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces. The president is vested with executive, judiciary, and legislative powers, yet, the maximum authority is vested with the council of ministers headed by the Prime Minister. The vice president apart from the executive powers also has the legislative function of acting as the chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Presently, Ms. Pratibha Patil, the 12th (first woman) president in India, is holding office since July 2007. The Vice President is Mr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari holding office since August 2007.

2.3 FRAMEWORK OF POLITICS IN INDIA

Politics in India is carried out in a framework of federal parliamentary multi-party representative democratic republic. As like any other democracy, political parties represent different sections among the Indian society and regions, and their core values play a major role in the politics of India. The representatives of the political parties, who have been elected through the elections, run both the executive branch and the legislative branch of the government.

In the multi-party system, there are a number of national as well as regional parties. A regional party may gain a majority and rule a particular state. If a party represents more than 4 states, then such parties are considered as national parties.

As mentioned before-The union government, is divided into three different but closely interlinked Parts-Legislative, Executive, and judicial. As in the British parliamentary model, the leadership of the executive is drawn from and responsible to the legislative body. Article 50 stipulates the separation of the judiciary from the executive.

Executive- Headed by President and Supported by Cabinet Secretariat. President however has to act as per the advice of council of Ministers

Cabinet Ministers (as on 21.01.2011)

S.No.	Name	Portfolio
1	Dr. Manmohan Singh	Prime Minister and also in-charge of the Ministries/Departments not specifically allocated to the charge of any Minister viz.: (i) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions; (ii) Ministry of Planning; (iii) Department of Atomic Energy; and (iv) Department of Space.
2	Shri Pranab Mukherjee	Minister of Finance.



- 3 Shri Sharad Pawar Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Food Processing Industries.
- 4 Shri A.K. Antony Minister of Defence.
- 5 Shri P. Chidambaram Minister of Home Affairs.
- 6 Km. Mamata Banerjee Minister of Railways.
- 7 Shri S.M. Krishna Minister of External Affairs.
- 8 Shri Virbhadra Singh Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- 9 Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh Minister of Rural Development and Minister of Panchayati Raj
- 10 Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad Minister of Health and Family Welfare.
- 11 Shri Sushilkumar Shinde Minister of Power.
- 12 Shri M. Veerappa Moily Minister of Law and Justice.
- 13 Dr. Farooq Abdullah Minister of New and Renewable Energy.
- 14 Shri S. Jaipal Reddy Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- 15 Shri Kamal Nath Minister of Urban Development.
- 16 Shri Vayalar Ravi Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs and Minister of Civil Aviation
- 17 Shri Dayanidhi Maran Minister of Textiles.
- 18 Shri Murli Deora Minister of Corporate Affairs.
- 19 Smt. Ambika Soni Minister of Information and Broadcasting.
- 20 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge Minister of Labour and Employment.
- 21 Shri Kapil Sibal Minister of Human Resource Development and Minister of Communications and Information Technology
- 22 Shri B.K. Handique Minister of Development of North Eastern Region.
- 23 Shri Anand Sharma Minister of Commerce and Industry.
- 24 Shri C.P. Joshi Minister of Road Transport and Highways.
- 25 Kumari Selja Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Minister of Culture.
- 26 Shri Subodh Kant Sahay Minister of Tourism.
- 27 Dr. M.S. Gill Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- 28 Shri G.K. Vasan Minister of Shipping.
- 29 Shri Pawan Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Science and

	Kumar Bansal	Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences.
30	Shri Mukul Wasnik	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.
31	Shri Kantilal Bhuria	Minister of Tribal Affairs.
32	Shri M.K. Alagiri	Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
33	Shri Praful Patel	Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
34	Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal	Minister of Coal.
35	Shri Salman Khursheed	Minister of Water Resources and Minister of Minority Affairs.

Source <http://cabsec.nic.in/>

Current Cabinet secretary is Sh K M Chandrasekhar

The development of Political system in India can be broadly categorized into 3 phases:

Single Party dominance (1947-67): Being the political spearhead of pre-Independence Indian era, the Congress Party dominated nationally and largely at state level. In the 61 years since India's independence, the Indian National Congress (INC) has ruled India for 48 of those years. Yet, the party has seen a gradual decline in the electoral seats since 1960's. Its traditionally headed by a Member of Nehru Gandhi family. Hence was also called **Single Family Rule**. Though in Power now, the party is embroiled in lot of corruption cases and inefficient handling of economic issues like inflation and legal issues like Black money laundering

Congress Opposition System (1967-93): The party had till then enjoyed a parliamentary majority but for the first time, it saw the congress party coming to power with the reduced majority in the 1960's owing mainly to the disenchantment over rising prices, unemployment, economic stagnation, and food crisis. The period also saw the friction within the party's top level leadership. The congress's continued rule was interrupted between 1977 to 1980, when the Janata Party coalition won the election owing to public discontent with the controversial state of emergency declared by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The Janata Dal won elections in 1989, but its government managed to hold on to power for only two years. The congress remained the most prominent party at national level, but started facing serious competition at the state level and increased cohesion between the opposition parties at the centre.

Emergence of Multi-Party System (1990's onwards): The decline of Congress party's majority over the period can be attributed to both internal and external changes in the political set up. The congress was increasingly fractionalized, which led to organizational decline within the party. The external factors that contributed to the change were the more effective opposition, rise of other national and regional parties, and popular upsurge of historically marginalized sectors of society. Between 1996 and 1998, there was a period of political flux with the government being formed first by the right wing nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) followed by a left-leaning United Front coalition. In 1998, the BJP formed the National Democratic Alliance with smaller regional parties, and became the first non-INC and coalition government to complete a full five-year term. In 2004 the INC won the largest number of seats to form a government leading the United Progressive Alliance, and supported by left-parties and those opposed to the BJP. Dr. Manmohan Singh was appointed the Prime Minister of India.

In May 2009, Dr. Manmohan Singh was appointed the Prime Minister of India following the victory of

the INC & the left front in the 2004 Lok Sabha election. Previously, Atal Bihari Vajpayee had taken office in October 1999 after a general election in which a BJP-led coalition of 13 parties called the National Democratic Alliance emerged with a majority.

Formation of coalition governments reflects the transition in Indian politics away from the national parties towards smaller, more narrowly based regional parties. Some regional parties, especially in South India, are deeply aligned to the ideologies of the region unlike the national parties and thus the relationship between the central government and the state government in various states has not always been free of rancor. Disparity between the ideologies of the political parties ruling the centre and the state leads to severely skewed policy decisions.

A look at the following table that summarizes the 2004 general election results shows that there are very few national parties, namely Congress, BJP, CPM, and CPI. The other parties of both the ruling and the opposition coalition consist of large number of regional parties some limited to just one state.

Party	Vote (%)	Seats	Party	Vote (%)	Seats
United Progressive Alliance	37.22	220	National Democratic alliance	24.63	159
Indian National Congress	28.55	206	Bharatiya Janata Party	18.80	116
All India Trinamool Congress	3.2	19	Janata Dal (United)	1.52	20
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	1.83	18	Shiv Sena	1.55	11
Nationalist Congress Party	2.04	9	Rashtriya Lok Dal	0.44	5
National Conference	0.55	3	Shiromani Akali Dal	0.96	4
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	0.40	2	Telangana Rashtra Samiti	0.62	2
Muslim League	0.21	2	Asom Gana Parishad	0.43	1
Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi	0.18	1	Indian National Lok Dal	0.31	-
Kerala Congress (Mani)	0.10	1			
All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul					
Muslims	0.07	1			
Republican Party of India (Athavale)	0.09	-			
Third Front	21.15	79	Fourth Front, other parties and	4.32	36
Communist Party of India (M)	5.33	16	Independents	3.04	5
Communist Party of India	1.43	4	Rashtriya Janata Dal	1.27	4
Revolutionary Socialist Party	0.37	2	Samajwadi Party	3.42	23
All India Forward Bloc	0.32	2	Assam United Democratic Front		1
Bahujan Samaj Party	6.17	21	Jharkhand Vikas Morcha		1
Biju Janata Dal	1.59	14	Nagaland People's Front		1
AIADMK	1.67	9	Bodoland People's Front		1
Telugu Desam Party	2.51	6	Swabhimani Paksha		1
Janata Dal (Secular)	0.82	3	Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi		1
MDMK	0.27	1	Sikkim Democratic Front		1
Haryana Janhit Congress	0.20	1	Independents	5.19	9

Major Political Parties and present leadership

1. Indian National Congress – Founded in 1885 with an objective of obtaining greater share in government for educated Indians, it went on to play a pivotal role in the Independence movement. Post-independence the party was the obvious choice to lead the first independent government in 1947. Out of 63 years of independence, the party has been in power for 48 years, although its majority has decreased through the years.

Indian Prime Ministers from the Congress Party

- Jawaharlal Nehru (1947 - 1964)
- Gulzarilal Nanda (May – June 1964, January 1966)
- Lal Bahadur Shastri (1964 - 1966)
- Indira Gandhi (1966 - 1977, 1980 - 1984)
- Rajiv Gandhi (1984 - 1989)
- P.V. Narasimha Rao (1991 - 1996)
- Manmohan Singh (2004 – present; re-elected)

Present Leadership

Party and Parliamentary Party Chairperson	Mrs. Sonia Gandhi
Leader in Lok Sabha	Dr. Pranab Mukherjee
Leader in Rajya Sabha (Prime Minister)	Dr. Manmohan Singh
Seats in Lok Sabha	206
Seats in Rajya Sabha	72
Political Ideology	Socialism, Social Democracy, Populism,
Centrist,	
Social Liberalism, Secularism	
Publication	Congress Sandesh

2. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) – was created in 1980. It had its origin in the BJS (Bharatiya Jana Sangh) formed in 1950. It is a major center-right Indian Political Party with a strong focus on self-reliance, economic growth, and foreign policy driven by nationalist agenda. Its constituency is strengthened by fellow members of the set of Hindu nationalist organizations informally known as the Sangh Parivar in which the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh plays a leading role. The BJP, in alliance with several other parties, led the Government of India between 1998 and 2004, under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani, its most senior leaders. It is the leading party within the National Democratic Alliance and leads the opposition. With mere 2 out of 543 seats in 1984, the party has made tremendous inroads in the Indian Political scenario by winning 88 seats in 1989 and an all time high of 183 seats in 1999 election. In the last Lok Sabha Elections the party managed to win 116 seats across the country.

Present Leadership

Party Chairperson	Mr. Nitin Gadkari
General Secretary	Mr. Arun Jaitley
Parliamentary Party Chairperson	Mr. A.B. Vajpayee
Leader in Lok Sabha (Opposition)	Mr. Sushma Swaraj
Leader in Rajya Sabha (Opposition)	Mr. Arun Jaitley
Seats in Lok Sabha	116
Seats in Rajya Sabha	53
Political Ideology	Indian Nationalism, Economic

Publication

3. Communist Party of India has its origin in Tashkent in 1920 but as the party maintains today, it is said to be founded in 1925. The party was embroiled in various conspiracies during the British rule and was legalized only in 1942. The party itself was divided between the left and right wing views which led to the split CPI(M) in 1964.

Present Leadership

General Secretary	Mr. A.B. Bardhan
Seats in Lok Sabha	10
Political Ideology	Marxism
Publication	New Age (English) and Mukti Sangharsh (Hindi)

4. Communist Party of India (Marxist) was founded in 1964 after the split from CPI. The party has a strong presence in Kerala, West Bengal, and Tripura and heading the state governments in these states as of 2008. It is notable to see that the Party has held the majority in West Bengal since 1977 with continuous chief ministerial candidate in Mr. Jyoti Basu till his retirement in 2000.

Present Leadership

General Secretary	Mr. Prakash Karat
Leader in Lok Sabha	Mr. Basudev Acharia
Leader in Rajya Sabha	Mr. Sitaram Yechuri
Seats in Lok Sabha	16
Seats in Rajya Sabha	14
Political Ideology	Marxism – Leninism
Publications	People's Democracy (English) Lok Lehar (Hindi)

The party also has many other daily, weekly, fortnightly, monthly, and theoretical publications.

Other National parties of prominence include:

5. Bahujan Samaj Party led by Ms. Mayawati Kumari as the Party chairperson. The party was founded in 1984 with main political ideology as Dalit Socialism. It presently holds 20 and 6 seats in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha respectively. The publications are Adil Jatri and Mayayug.

6. Samajwadi Party was founded in 1992 as a fraction from the erstwhile Janata Dal, which was the main opposition party before the emergence of BJP. It is presently headed by Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav as the party's chairperson. The political ideology of the party is Democratic socialism. Presently it is the fourth largest party in the Lok Sabha with 38 seats. It has 16 seats in Rajya Sabha. It's Secretary-General is Mr. Amar Singh and Leader in Lok Sabha is Mr Ram Gopal Yadav. It has its primary base in Uttar Pradesh, but in the recent times, it is making its presence in other states too. Its primary support base is from the Other Backward Castes (OBCs) and Muslims, and the Yadav caste.

Other parties include **Rashtriya Janata Dal** led by Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, who is also the party chief and present central Railway minister and **Nationalist Congress Party** led by erstwhile congress veteran Mr. Sharad Pawar with a populist ideology. The party has a strong presence in Maharashtra.

2.4 JUDICIARY IN INDIA

The Constitution of India vests independent power with the Judiciary outside the executive and legislative powers. The Constitution designates the Supreme Courts, the High Courts, and the Lower Courts as the authority to resolve disputes among the people as well as the disputes related to the people and the government. The constitution through its articles relating to the judicial system provides rights to question the laws of the government, if the common man finds the laws as unsuitable for any community in India.

Legal System in India

The world's largest democracy, India, also has one of the most comprehensive legal constitutional laws in the world. A unique feature of the Indian Constitution is that, despite its Federal system and the existence of the Central and State laws with their predefined spheres of application, there exists a single integrated system of Courts, which administers both the central and the state laws.

The Indian constitution, formed in the 1950, is based on the British Common Law, and incorporates some of the important US court decisions. The Constitution of India guarantees equal rights to all citizens, and prohibits discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, caste, and religion; it also allows universal franchise, thereby making the Indian electorate the largest in the world. The Fourth Part of the Constitution contains what are called "directive principles of state policy", which require the government to set goals for the welfare of the people, such as a minimum wage, jobs for people from disadvantaged backgrounds, and subsidized medical care.

Hierarchy of Courts:

As the name suggests, Supreme Court of India is the highest judiciary authority in India comprising under it the High courts for each state or groups of states. This includes both the civil and criminal divisions. Under the High courts come the states' own subordinate courts, which are divided into judicial districts that are presided over by the District and Sessions Judge. The lower courts below are divided as per the divisional jurisdiction, namely, Civil and Criminal. The Criminal jurisdiction consists of the Courts of the Chief Judicial Magistrates, and Judicial Magistrates of 1st and 2nd class. The Civil jurisdiction consists of Courts of Munsifs, Sub-judges, and civil judges. The Supreme Court of India and the High Courts are the two constitutional courts that are vested with major powers to protect the Fundamental Rights of the citizens and also to interpret the Constitution and other laws.

The Supreme Court of India:

The Supreme Court stands at the helm of the Indian Judicial System. It is located in the capital city of New Delhi, and comprises of the Chief Justice of India and 25 other Judges who are appointed by the President of India. The Supreme Court of India was inaugurated on the 28th January 1950, just two days after the Constitution of India came into force. It has many benches for litigation and its exclusive original jurisdiction extends to any dispute between the Government of India and one or more States; or between the States themselves. It also has an advisory jurisdiction wherein the President can always seek advice on any matter of law. The Law pronounced by this court is binding on all courts within India and the Court has the power to punish anybody for its contempt.

Current Chief Justice Sh. S H Kapadia has been news for quashing the appointment of scam tainted Chief Vigilance Commissioner, PJ Thomas. This was seen as a serious setback to dignity of Prime Minister's Office as Mr Manmohan Singh had directly appointed Thomas on the sensitive post.

The High Courts:

There are total 21 High Courts in India, each of which stand at the head of the concerned States administration, while three of them have jurisdiction over more than one State. They work under the direct guidance and supervision of the Supreme Court of India. However, no direct administrative control is exercised by the latter that may in any way affect the functioning of the High Courts as independent judicial institutions. Every High Court has a Chief Justice and such other Judges, which the President may

appoint from time to time.

Decisions of the Supreme Court are considered law of the land and are binding unless overruled by a larger bench of the same court. High Court decisions are binding to the extent of their respective state jurisdiction.

The Bar Council of India:

The Law education dates back to 1857, when it was taught through the law department of the Universities in Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. But it was in 1961, through the efforts of The Parliament of India, The Bar Council of India was established as the All India statutory body for all the laws governing the Indian legal profession. Bar Council of India directs the legal education pattern in India.

The primary responsibilities of this body was:

- To recognize the law degree from universities, as one of the qualification for a graduate's enrolment as an "advocate", and
- To introduce stringent legal education standards along with curricular specifications, so as to prevent the mushroom growth of sub-standard law schools.

Law Education in India:

Over 500 law colleges and universities in India offer the LLB professional degree course. Students, who opt for a three-year LLB degree course, have to be a graduate in any discipline with 50 per cent marks. For the five-year integrated law program, the minimum requirement is 10+2 with 50 per cent marks. Generally, the students of the five year law degree course are selected on the basis of their performance in an entrance test which comprises objective papers on general awareness and legal aptitude. For the three year degree course after graduation, different universities follow their own criteria either merit/marks based on a combination of merit and testing.

Premier Institutes teaching Law in India:

- National Law School of India University, Bangalore
- Indian Law Society, Pune
- Bangalore University Law College
- Law Faculty, Delhi
- The National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR University of Law), Hyderabad
- National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS), Calcutta

The Advocates Act, 1961

Realizing the importance of an integrated Bar and the need for Reforms of Judicial Administration, the Indian Bar Committee in 1951 made some recommendations relating to the Bar and to Legal education. These recommendations were endorsed in 1958 by the Law Commission in its Fourteenth Report on Reforms of Judicial Administration and urged the Government to implement the same. It was in 1959 that the Legal Practitioners Bill, which incorporated these recommendations, was introduced in the Parliament, which was to be later on adopted with the new name of Indian Advocates Act, 1961. The main features of the bill included:

- The establishment of an All India Bar Council and a common role of advocates with the right to practice in any court in any part of the country.
- The integration of the bar into a single class of legal practitioners known as advocates.
- The prescription of a uniform qualification for admission of persons as advocates.
- Division of advocates into senior advocates and other advocates based on merit.

- Autonomous Bar Councils creation, one for the whole of India and one for each state.

As the Bill was a comprehensive measure, it repealed the Indian Bar Councils Act 1926 and all other laws on the same subject.

Status Of Legal Profession In India In Perspective To The Entry Of Foreign Lawyers & Law Firms

Since India is one of the founder members of WTO including GATS, it will have to enter into some negotiations, with regard to opening up of its service sector, which includes Legal Services to the Foreign Service suppliers (Foreign lawyers, Foreign Legal Consultants, and Foreign Law firms).

Law has a national character as it is a part of local culture and life. This poses as an obstacle to cross-border trade in legal services. In India, the legal profession is governed and regulated by the Advocates Act, 1961. In view of permitting the foreign law firms in India, the provisions of the Act that need consideration include:

- Section 24 states that only an Indian citizen will have the right to practice and also be enrolled as an Advocate in India.
- Subject to this Act under ‘Reciprocity’, a national of any other country may be admitted as an Advocate on a State roll, only if the citizens of India, duly qualified, are permitted to practice law in that other country.
- Subject to the provisions of the Section 47, the Bar Council of India may prescribe the conditions, subject to which foreign qualifications in law obtained by persons other than citizens of India shall be recognized for admission as an Advocate.

The E-Justice System:

One of the major challenges today in delivering justice is establishing a proper E-Justice system. The advent of information technology has changed the mode of working in almost all the spheres of life. The justice delivery system has also been benefited by this technological revolution. The “E-justice system” has already found its existence in India. It would be in the interest of Indian judicial system that a sound and effective ICT training must be imparted to the Judges, Lawyers, professionals, and students. The concept of e-learning in India has already taken a shape, and it is proceeding in the right direction. E-learning can provide valuable inputs and training to the crucial members of judicial system in India.

Benefits of E-Justice:

- Reduction of backlog of cases
- Decreased cost
- Increased efficiency
- Better witness protection program

Some of the threats faced in establishing E-Justice system:

1. Cyber terrorism
 - a. Privacy violation.
 - b. Secret information violations and data theft.
 - c. Demolition of E-governance base.
 - d. Distributed Denial of Services (DDOS) attack.
 - e. Network damage and disruption.
2. Cyber extortions
3. E-mail manipulations