MOST IMPORTANT POLITY TOPICS FOR PRELIMS 2026 (Articles, Bodies & Amendments)

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Indian Polity is one of the **most scoring, predictable, and high-weightage subjects** in the UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination. Almost **15–20 questions every year** are directly or indirectly asked from Polity, making it a *non-negotiable area* for Prelims 2026 aspirants.

This article provides a **comprehensive, exam-oriented, and updated list of the MOST IMPORTANT POLITY TOPICS FOR PRELIMS 2026**, with special focus on **Constitutional Articles, Constitutional & Statutory Bodies, and Constitutional Amendments** – exactly as UPSC expects.

Why Indian Polity is Crucial for UPSC Prelims 2026

- High return on investment (ROI)
- Questions are **conceptual + factual**, not opinion-based
- Strong overlap with **current affairs**
- Helps equally in **Mains & Interview**

With proper preparation, Polity can become your strongest Prelims section.

PART I: MOST IMPORTANT CONSTITUTIONAL ARTICLES FOR PRELIMS 2026

UPSC frequently asks **direct, indirect, and application-based questions** from Articles of the Constitution. Aspirants must know the **Article number, subject, and key provisions**.

1. Preamble of the Constitution

- Source of authority of the Constitution
- Keywords: Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic
- Justice, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity

- **42nd Constitutional Amendment** – added Socialist, Secular, Integrity

2. Citizenship (Articles 5–11)

- Articles 5–8: Citizenship at the commencement
- Article 9: Voluntary acquisition of foreign citizenship
- Article 11: Parliament’s power to regulate citizenship

□□ Link with Citizenship Act, 1955 & amendments

3. Fundamental Rights (Articles 12–35)

Highly important & frequently tested

- Article 12–13: Definition & laws inconsistent with FRs
- Article 14: Equality before law
- Article 19: Six freedoms
- Article 21: Protection of life & personal liberty
- Article 21A: Right to Education
- Article 25–28: Freedom of religion
- Article 32: Right to Constitutional Remedies (Heart & Soul)

4. Directive Principles of State Policy (Articles 36–51)

- Nature: Non-justiciable
- Article 39: Welfare principles
- Article 44: Uniform Civil Code
- Article 48A: Protection of environment

□□ Balance between FRs and DPSPs is UPSC favourite

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5. Fundamental Duties (Article 51A)

- Added by **42nd Amendment Act, 1976**
- Currently 11 duties (86th Amendment added one)

6. Union Executive (Articles 52–78)

- President: Articles 52–62
- Vice-President: Articles 63–71
- Prime Minister & Council of Ministers: Articles 74–75

Focus on:

- Ordinance making power
- Pardon powers
- Collective responsibility

7. Parliament (Articles 79–122)

- Composition & sessions
- Law-making procedure
- Budget & Money Bills (Article 110)
- Parliamentary privileges (Article 105)

8. Judiciary (Articles 124–147 & 214–231)

- Supreme Court & High Courts
- Judicial review
- Appointment & removal of judges
- Writ jurisdiction (Articles 32 & 226)

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9. Federal System (Articles 245–263)

- Distribution of powers
- Union, State & Concurrent Lists
- Article 249, 250, 356
- Centre-State relations

10. Local Self Government

- 73rd Amendment – Panchayati Raj
- 74th Amendment – Urban Local Bodies
- Articles 243–243O

PART II: IMPORTANT CONSTITUTIONAL & STATUTORY BODIES FOR PRELIMS 2026

UPSC increasingly asks **match-the-following and statement-based questions** from bodies.

A. Constitutional Bodies (Must Prepare Thoroughly)

- Election Commission of India (Article 324)
- Union Public Service Commission (Articles 315–323)
- Comptroller and Auditor General (Article 148)
- Finance Commission (Article 280)
- Attorney General of India (Article 76)
- Advocate General (Article 165)

B. Statutory Bodies (High UPSC Preference)

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- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
- Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)
- National Commission for Women
- National Commission for SCs & STs
- Lokpal and Lokayuktas

□□ Focus on **composition, appointment, powers, and reports**

C. Quasi-Judicial Bodies

- Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)
- National Green Tribunal (NGT)
- Armed Forces Tribunal

PART III: MOST IMPORTANT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS FOR PRELIMS 2026

UPSC regularly asks **direct and indirect questions** from major amendments.

Must-Remember Amendments

- 1st Amendment (1951): Reasonable restrictions
- 7th Amendment: Reorganisation of states
- 24th Amendment: Parliament’s power to amend
- 42nd Amendment: Mini Constitution
- 44th Amendment: Restored civil liberties
- 52nd Amendment: Anti-defection law
- 61st Amendment: Voting age to 18
- 73rd & 74th Amendments: Local self-government
- 86th Amendment: Right to Education

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- 97th Amendment: Cooperative societies
- 101st Amendment: GST
- 102nd & 103rd Amendments: OBC & EWS reservation
- 105th Amendment: States' power to identify OBCs

Smart Strategy to Prepare Polity for Prelims 2026

1. **Article-wise preparation** instead of chapter-wise
2. Link static Polity with **current affairs**
3. Revise frequently – Polity is memory intensive
4. Solve previous year questions (PYQs) repeatedly
5. Focus on **elimination techniques** in MCQs

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Ignoring Articles & numbers
- Studying Polity only theoretically
- Skipping amendments
- Not revising constitutional bodies

Conclusion

Indian Polity is the **backbone of UPSC Prelims preparation**. A strong grip on **Constitutional Articles, Bodies, and Amendments** can decisively push you above the cut-off. With smart, focused, and repeated revision, Polity can become your highest-scoring subject in Prelims 2026.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1. How many Polity questions are asked in UPSC Prelims?

Usually 15–20 questions, sometimes more depending on the year.

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Q2. Are Article numbers important for Prelims?

Yes. UPSC often frames questions directly or indirectly using Article numbers.

Q3. Should I focus more on static Polity or current affairs?

Both are equally important. Static concepts must be linked with current developments.

Q4. Are Constitutional Amendments important for Prelims 2026?

Yes. Major amendments are repeatedly tested by UPSC.

Q5. Can Polity be completed without coaching?

Absolutely. With standard books, PYQs, and regular revision, self-study is sufficient.

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