

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS IN INDIA

## What is a Constitutional Amendment?

A **constitutional amendment** is a formal change or addition made to the **Constitution of India**.

The Constitution is **not rigid**, and it allows **modifications** to meet changing needs while maintaining its basic structure.

## Provision for Amendment

- **Article 368** of the Indian Constitution provides the procedure to **amend the Constitution**.

## Types of Amendments (Under Article 368):

Type of Amendment	Procedure
1. <b>By Simple Majority</b>	Like ordinary law; used for non-federal provisions (e.g., renaming states)
2. <b>By Special Majority</b>	Majority of total membership + 2/3 of members present and voting
3. <b>By Special Majority + Ratification by States</b>	Special Majority in Parliament + approval by <b>at least 50% of states</b> ; used for federal provisions (e.g., Election Commission, High Court jurisdiction)

## Important Features of the Amendment Process:

- **Flexible and rigid** – allows change but with safeguards
- **Initiated only in Parliament** – **no provision for state legislatures** or public to initiate it
- **President must give assent** – but cannot **withhold** assent

## Notable Constitutional Amendments:

Amendment No.	Year	Key Features
<b>1st</b>	1951	Added reasonable restrictions to Fundamental Rights
<b>42nd</b>	1976	Known as the "Mini-Constitution"; strengthened Centre, added words to Preamble (Socialist, Secular, Integrity)
<b>44th</b>	1978	Restored Fundamental Rights, removed excessive powers added by the 42nd Amendment
<b>61st</b>	1989	Reduced voting age from 21 to 18

<b>Amendment No.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Key Features</b>
<b>73rd &amp; 74th</b>	1992	Introduced Panchayati Raj and Municipalities
<b>86th</b>	2002	Made education a Fundamental Right (Article 21A)
<b>103rd</b>	2019	Introduced 10% EWS reservation in education and jobs