

Government of India

The **Government of India** (IAST: *Bhārata Sarakāra*), often abbreviated as **GoI**, is the union government created by the constitution of India as the legislative, executive and judicial authority of the union of 29 states and seven union territories of a constitutionally democratic republic. It is located in New Delhi, the capital of India.

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Government of India

Bhārata Sarakāra



सत्यमेव जयते
Emblem of India

Formation	January 26, 1950
Country	Republic of India
Website	india.gov.in
Head of state	President (Ramnath Kovind)
Seat	Rashtrapati Bhavan
Legislature	
Legislature	Parliament
Upper house	Rajya Sabha
Leader	Chairman (Venkaiah Naidu)
Lower house	Lok Sabha
Leader	Speaker (Sumitra Mahajan)
Meeting place	Sansad Bhavan
Executive	
Head of government	Prime minister (Narendra Modi)
Main organ	Cabinet
Head of civil services	Cabinet secretary (Pradeep Kumar Sinha, IAS)

Basic structure

Modelled after the westminster system for governing the state,^[1] the union government is mainly composed of the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary, in which all powers are vested by the constitution in parliament, the prime minister and the supreme court. The President of India is the head of state and the commander-in-chief of the Indian Armed Forces whilst the elected prime minister acts as the head of the executive, and is responsible for running the union government.^[2] The parliament is bicameral in nature, with the Lok Sabha being the

lower house, and the Rajya Sabha the upper house. The judiciary systematically contains an apex supreme court, 24 high courts, and several district courts, all inferior to the supreme court.^[3]

The basic civil and criminal laws governing the citizens of India are set down in major parliamentary legislation, such as the civil procedure code, the penal code, and the criminal procedure code.^[4] Similar to the union government, individual state governments each consist of executive, legislative and judiciary. The legal system as applicable to the union and individual state governments is based on the English Common and Statutory Law.^[5] The full name of the country is the *Republic of India*. India and Bharat are equally official short names for the Republic of India in the Constitution.^[6] and both names appears on legal banknotes, in treaties and in legal cases. Union government, central government and *Bhārata Sarakāra* are often used in an official and unofficial capacity to refer to the Government of India. Because the seat of government is in New Delhi, it is commonly used as a synonym for the central government.

Meeting place	Central secretariat
Ministries	57
Responsible to	Lok Sabha
Judiciary	
Court	Supreme court
Chief judge	Chief justice (Dipak Misra)

Legislature



Building of the Parliament of India

The powers of the legislature in India are exercised by the parliament, a bicameral legislature consisting of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha. Of the two houses of parliament, the former is considered to be the upper house or the Council of States and consists of members appointed by the president and elected by the state and territorial legislatures. The latter is considered the lower house or the House of the people.^[7]

The parliament does not have complete control and sovereignty, as its laws are subject to judicial review by the supreme court.^[8] However, it does exercise some control over the executive. The members of the cabinet, including the prime minister, are either chosen from parliament or elected thereto within six months of assuming office.^[9] The cabinet as a whole is responsible to the Lok Sabha.^[10] The Lok Sabha is a temporary house and can only be dissolved when the party in power loses the support of the majority of the house. Whereas the Rajya Sabha is a permanent house which can never be dissolved. The members of the Rajya Sabha are elected for a six-year term.^[11]

Executive

The executive of government is the one that has sole authority and responsibility for the daily administration of the state bureaucracy. The division of power into separate branches of government is central to the republican idea of the separation of powers.^[12]

President

The executive power is vested mainly in the President of India, as per Article 53(1) of the constitution. The president has all constitutional powers and exercises them directly or through officers subordinate to him as per the aforesaid Article 53(1). The president is to act in accordance with aid and advice tendered by the prime minister, who leads the council of ministers as described in Article 74 of the Constitution of India

The council of ministers remains in power during the 'pleasure' of the president. However, in practice, the council of ministers must retain the support of the Lok Sabha. If a president were to dismiss the council of ministers on his or her own initiative, it might trigger a constitutional crisis. Thus, in practice, the council of ministers cannot be dismissed as long as it holds the support of a majority in the Lok Sabha.

The president is responsible for appointing many high officials in India. These high officials include the governors of the 29 states; the chief justice; other judges of the supreme court and high courts on the advice of other judges; the Attorney general; the Comptroller and Auditor General; the Chief Election Commissioner and other election commissioners; the chairman and members of the Union Public Service Commission; the officers of the All India Services (IAS, IFoS and IPS) and central civil services in group 'A'; and the ambassadors and high commissioners to other countries on the recommendations of the cabinet.^{[13][14]}

The president, as the head of state, also receives the credentials of ambassadors from other countries, whilst the prime minister, as head of government, receives credentials of high commissioners from other members of the Commonwealth, in line with historical tradition.

The president is the de jure commander-in-chief of the Indian Armed Forces^[15]

The President of India can grant a pardon to or reduce the sentence of a convicted person for one time, particularly in cases involving punishment of death. The decisions involving pardoning and other rights by the president are independent of the opinion of the prime minister or the Lok Sabha majority. In most other cases, however, the president exercises his or her executive powers on the advice of the prime minister.^[16]

Vice president

The vice president is the second highest constitutional position in India after the president. The vice president represents the nation in the absence of the president and takes charge as acting president in the incident of resignation, impeachment or removal of the president. The vice president also has the legislative function of acting as the chairman of the Rajya Sabha.^[17] The vice president is elected indirectly by members of an electoral college consisting of the members of both the houses of the parliament in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting is by secret ballot conducted by the election commission.

Prime minister

The Prime Minister of India, as addressed in the Constitution of India, is the chief of the government, chief adviser to the president, head of the council of ministers and the leader of the majority party in the parliament. The prime minister leads the executive of the Government of India.

The prime minister is the senior member of cabinet in the executive of government in a parliamentary system. The prime minister selects and can dismiss other members of the cabinet; allocates posts to members within the Government; is the presiding member and chairman of the cabinet and is responsible for bringing a proposal of legislation. The resignation or death of the prime minister dissolves the cabinet.



The Rashtrapati Bhawan complex, with North and South Block housing the Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Defence, and others.

The prime minister is appointed by the president to assist the latter in the administration of the ~~aff~~airs of the executive.

Cabinet, ministries and agencies

The Cabinet of India includes the prime minister and his cabinet ministers.^[18] Each minister must be a member of one of the houses of the parliament. The cabinet is headed by the prime minister, and is advised by the cabinet secretary, who also acts as the head of the Indian Administrative Service and other civil services. Other ministers are either as union cabinet ministers, who are heads of the various ministries; or ministers of state, who are junior members who report directly to one of the cabinet ministers, often overseeing a specific aspect of government; or ministers of state (independent charges), who do not report to a cabinet minister. As per article 88

of the constitution, every minister shall have the right to speak in, and to take part in the proceedings of, either house, any joint sitting of the houses, and any committee of parliament of which he may be named a member but shall *not* be entitled to a vote in the house where he is not a member

Secretaries

A secretary to the Government of India, a civil servant, generally an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer,^{[19][20][21][22]} is the administrative head of the ministry or department, and is the principal adviser to the minister on all matters of policy and administration within the ministry/department.^{[23][24]} Secretaries to the Government of India rank 23rd on Indian order of precedence.^{[25][26][27][28]} Secretaries at the higher level are assisted by one or many additional secretaries who are further assisted by joint secretaries.^[24] At the middle they are assisted by directors/deputy secretaries and under secretaries.^[24] At the lower level, there are section officers, assistant section officers, upper division clerks, lower division clerks and other secretarial staff.^[24]



The organizational structure of a department of the Government of India.

Ministries and departments of the Government of India

Ministry	Department(s)
President's Secretariat	
Vice President's Secretariat	
<u>Prime Minister's Office</u>	<u>Atomic Energy</u>
	<u>Space</u>
<u>Cabinet Secretariat</u>	
<u>Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</u>	Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare
	Agricultural Research and Education
	Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
<u>AYUSH</u>	
<u>Chemicals and Fertilizers</u>	Chemicals and Petrochemicals
	Fertilizers
	Pharmaceuticals
<u>Civil Aviation</u>	
<u>Coal</u>	
<u>Commerce and Industry</u>	Commerce
	Industrial Policy and Promotion
<u>Communications</u>	<u>Posts</u>
	<u>Telecommunications</u>
<u>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</u>	Consumer Affairs
	Food and Public Distribution
<u>Corporate Affairs</u>	
<u>Culture</u>	
<u>Defence</u>	Defence
	Defence Production
	<u>Defence Research and Development</u>
	<u>Ex-servicemen Welfare</u>
<u>Development of North Eastern Region</u>	
<u>Drinking Water and Sanitation</u>	
<u>Earth Sciences</u>	
<u>Electronics and Information Technology</u>	
<u>Environment, Forest and Climate Change</u>	
<u>External Affairs</u>	
<u>Finance</u>	Economic Affairs
	Expenditure
	Financial Services
	Investment and Public Asset Management
	Revenue
<u>Food Processing Industries</u>	

<u>Health and Family Welfare</u>	Health and Family Welfare
	Health Research
<u>Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises</u>	Heavy Industry
	Public Enterprises
<u>Home Affairs</u>	Border Management
	Internal Security
	Jammu Kashmir Affairs
	Home
	Official Language
	States
<u>Housing and Urban Affairs</u>	
<u>Human Resource Development</u>	<u>Higher Education</u>
	School Education and Literacy
<u>Information and Broadcasting</u>	
<u>Labour and Employment</u>	
<u>Law and Justice</u>	Justice
	Legal Affairs
	Legislative
<u>Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises</u>	
<u>Mines</u>	
<u>Minority Affairs</u>	
<u>New and Renewable Energy</u>	
<u>NITI Aayog</u>	
<u>Panchayati Raj</u>	
<u>Parliamentary Affairs</u>	
<u>Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions</u>	Personnel and Training
	Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
	Pension and Pensioners' Welfare
<u>Petroleum and Natural Gas</u>	
<u>Power</u>	
<u>Railways</u>	
<u>Road Transport and Highways</u>	
<u>Rural Development</u>	Land Resources
	Rural Development
<u>Science and Technology</u>	Biotechnology
	Science and Technology
	Scientific and Industrial Research
<u>Shipping</u>	
<u>Skill Development and Entrepreneurship</u>	
<u>Social Justice and Empowerment</u>	Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

	Social Justice and Empowerment
<u>Statistics and Programme Implementation</u>	
<u>Steel</u>	
<u>Textiles</u>	
<u>Tourism</u>	
<u>Tribal Affairs</u>	
<u>Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation</u>	
<u>Women and Child Development</u>	
<u>Youth Affairs and Sports</u>	Sports
	Youth Affairs
Total	
Ministries	Departments
58	93

Civil services

The Civil Services of India are the civil services and the permanent bureaucracy of India. The executive decisions are implemented by the Indian civil servants.

In the parliamentary democracy of India, the ultimate responsibility for running the administration rests with the elected representatives of the people which are the ministers. These ministers are accountable to the legislatures which are also elected by the people on the basis of universal adult suffrage. The ministers are indirectly responsible to the people themselves. But the handful of ministers are not expected to deal personally with the various problems of modern administration. Thus the ministers lay down the policy and it is for the civil servants to enforce it.

Cabinet secretary

The cabinet secretary (IAST: *Maṃtrimaṇḍala Śaciva*) is the top-most executive official and senior-most civil servant of the Government of India. The cabinet secretary is the ex-officio head of the Civil Services Board, the Cabinet Secretariat, the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and head of all civil services under the rules of business of the government.

The cabinet secretary is generally the senior-most officer of the Indian Administrative Service. The cabinet secretary ranks 11th on the Indian order of precedence^{[25][26][27][28]} The cabinet secretary is under the direct charge of the prime minister.

Judiciary

India's independent union judicial system began under the British, and its concepts and procedures resemble those of Anglo-Saxon countries. The Supreme Court of India consists of the chief justice and 30 associate justices, all appointed by the president on the advice of the Chief Justice of India. The jury trials were abolished in India in the early 1960s, after the famous case *KM Nanavati v. State of Maharashtra* for reasons of being vulnerable to media and public pressure, as well as to being misled.

Unlike its United States counterpart, the Indian justice system consists of a unitary system at both state and union level. The judiciary consists of the Supreme Court of India, high courts at the state level, and district courts and sessions courts at the district level.

Supreme court

The Supreme Court of India is situated in New Delhi, the capital region of India.

The supreme court is the highest judicial forum and final court of appeal under the Constitution of India, the highest constitutional court, with the power of constitutional review. Consisting of the Chief Justice of India and 30 sanctioned other judges, it has extensive powers in the form of original, appellate and advisory jurisdictions^[29]

As the final court of appeal of the country, it takes up appeals primarily against verdicts of the high courts of various states of the Union and other courts and tribunals. It safeguards fundamental rights of citizens and settles disputes between various governments in the country. As an advisory court, it hears matters which may specifically be referred to it under the constitution by the president. It also may take cognisance of matters on its own (or 'suo moto'), without anyone drawing its attention to them. The law declared by the supreme court becomes binding on all courts within India and also by the union and state governments.^[30] Per Article 142, it is the duty of the President to enforce the decrees of the supreme court.



Building of the Supreme Court of India.

In addition, Article 32 of the constitution gives an extensive original jurisdiction to the supreme court in regard to enforcing fundamental rights. It is empowered to issue directions, orders or writs, including writs in the nature of *habeas corpus*, *mandamus*, *prohibition*, *quo warranto* and *certiorari* to enforce them. The supreme court has been conferred with power to direct transfer of any civil or criminal case from one state high court to another state high court, or from a court subordinate to another state high court and the supreme court. Although the proceedings in the supreme court arise out of the judgment or orders made by the subordinate courts, of late the supreme court has started entertaining matters in which interest of the public at large is involved. This may be done by any individual or group of persons either by filing a *writ petition* at the filing counter of the court, or by addressing a letter to the Chief Justice of India, highlighting the question of public importance for redress. These are known as public interest litigations^[31]

Elections and voting

India has a quasi-federal form of government, called "union" or "central" government,^[32] with elected officials at the union, state and local levels. On a national level, the head of government, the prime minister, is appointed by the President of India amongst the party which won the majority seats in Lok Sabha. The members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected for a term of five years by universal adult suffrage through first-past-the-post voting system. All (except 12 members who are nominated by the president) of the Rajya Sabha, which represents the states, are elected by the members of State legislative assemblies by proportional representation

India is currently the largest democracy in the world, with around 834 million eligible voters, as of 2014.^[33]

State and local governments

State governments in India are the governments ruling States of India and the chief minister heads the state government. Power is divided between union government and state governments. State government's legislature is bicameral in 7 states and unicameral in the rest. Lower house is elected with 5 years term, while in upper house 1/3 of the total members in the house gets elected every 2 years with 6-year term.

Local government function at the basic level. It is the third level of government apart from union and state governments. It consists of panchayats in rural areas and municipalities in urban areas. They are elected directly or indirectly by the people.

Finance

Taxation

India has a three-tier tax structure, wherein the constitution empowers the union government to levy income tax, tax on capital transactions (wealth tax, inheritance tax), sales tax, service tax, customs and excise duties and the state governments to levy sales tax on intrastate sale of goods, tax on entertainment and professions, excise duties on manufacture of alcohol, stamp duties on transfer of property and collect land revenue (levy on land owned). The local governments are empowered by the state government to levy property tax and charge users for public utilities like water supply, sewage etc.^[34] More than half of the revenues of the union and state governments come from taxes, of which 3/4 come from direct taxes. More than a quarter of the union government's tax revenues is shared with the state governments.^[35]

The tax reforms, initiated in 1991, have sought to rationalise the tax structure and increase compliance by taking steps in the following directions:

- Reducing the rates of individual and corporate income taxes, excises, customs and making it more progressive
- Reducing exemptions and concessions
- Simplification of laws and procedures
- Introduction of permanent account number(PAN) to track monetary transactions
- 21 of the 29 states introduced value added tax (VAT) on 1 April 2005 to replace the complex and multiple sales tax system^{[34][36]}

The non-tax revenues of the central government come from fiscal services, interest receipts, public sector dividends, etc., while the non-tax revenues of the States are grants from the central government, interest receipts, dividends and income from general, economic and social services.^[37]

Inter-state share in the union tax pool is decided by the recommendations of the Finance Commission to the president.

Total tax receipts of Centre and State amount to approximately 18% of national GDP. This compares to a figure of 37–45% in the OECD.

Union budget

The Finance minister of India usually presents the annual union budget in the parliament on the last working day of February. However, for the F.Y. 2017-18, this tradition had been changed. Now budget will be presented on the 1st day of February. The budget has to be passed by the Lok Sabha before it can come into effect on 1 April, the start of India's fiscal year. The Union budget is preceded by an economic survey which outlines the broad direction of the budget and the economic performance of the country for the outgoing financial year^[38]

India's non-development revenue expenditure had increased nearly five-fold in 2003–04 since 1990–91 and more than tenfold since 1985–1986. Interest payments are the single largest item of expenditure and accounted for more than 40% of the total non-development expenditure in the 2003–04 budget. Defense expenditure increased fourfold during the same period and has been increasing because of India's desire to project its military prowess beyond South Asia. In 2007, India's defence spending stood at US\$26.5 billion.

Issues

Corruption



Reserve Bank of India's
headquarters in Mumbai, India's
financial capital

Several ministers are accused of corruption and nearly a quarter of the 543 elected members of parliament had been charged with crimes, including murder, in 2009.^[39] Many of the biggest scandals since 2010 have involved high level government officials, including cabinet ministers and chief ministers, such as the 2010 Commonwealth Games scam (₹70,000 crore (equivalent to ₹1.1 trillion or US\$17 billion in 2017)), the Adarsh Housing Society scam, the Coal Mining Scam (₹1.86 lakh crore (equivalent to ₹3.0 trillion or US\$45 billion in 2017)), the mining scandal in Karnataka and the cash for vote scandal

See also

- Foreign relations of India
- National Portal of India
- National Social-media Portal
- Parliamentary democracy

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Further reading

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