

## Semester 2 MJC 2

### The Legislature in India

The legislature is a crucial component of India's democratic system, responsible for making laws, representing the people, and overseeing the executive branch.

### Structure of the Indian Legislature

India has a bicameral legislature, consisting of two houses:

1. Lok Sabha (House of the People): The lower house, comprising members elected by the people through direct elections.
2. Rajya Sabha (Council of States): The upper house, comprising members elected by the state legislatures and nominated by the President.

### Key Features of the Indian Legislature

1. Federal Structure: The Indian legislature is part of a federal system, with powers divided between the Union and State governments.
2. Parliamentary System: India follows a parliamentary system, with the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers accountable to the Lok Sabha.
3. Representative Democracy: Members of the legislature are elected by the people, representing their interests and

concerns.

## Functions of the Indian Legislature

1. **Law-Making:** The primary function of the legislature is to make laws on subjects listed in the Union, State, and Concurrent Lists.
2. **Representation:** Members of the legislature represent the interests of their constituents and raise issues concerning them.
3. **Oversight:** The legislature exercises oversight over the executive branch, ensuring accountability and transparency.
4. **Budgetary Control:** The legislature approves the government's budget and expenditures.

## Powers of the Indian Legislature

1. **Legislative Powers:** The legislature has the power to make laws on various subjects.
2. **Financial Powers:** The legislature approves the government's budget and expenditures.
3. **Electoral Powers:** The legislature elects the President and Vice-President of India.
4. **Judicial Powers:** The legislature has the power to impeach the President, judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, and other officials.

## Key Institutions and Processes

1. **Speaker of the Lok Sabha:** Presides over the Lok Sabha,

maintaining order and discipline.

2. Chairman of the Rajya Sabha: Presides over the Rajya Sabha, with the Vice-President of India as its ex-officio Chairman.

3. Parliamentary Committees: Standing and ad-hoc committees examine bills, budgets, and policies.

4. Question Hour: Members can raise questions on government policies and actions.

## Challenges and Reforms

1. Criminalization of Politics: The presence of criminal elements in politics undermines the legislature's credibility.

2. Lack of Representation: Marginalized groups, such as women and minorities, are underrepresented in the legislature.

3. Disruption and Disorder: Frequent disruptions and disorderly conduct hinder the legislature's functioning.