

Features Borrowed in the Constitution of India — Source-wise Reference Table

#	Source Country / Document	Feature Borrowed	Explanation & Context	Category	Article / Part
1	Govt. of India Act, 1935	Federal scheme — Centre–State division of legislative powers	The three-list structure (Union List, State List, Concurrent List) dividing legislative authority between Centre and States was directly modelled on the 1935 Act (59 federal + 54 provincial + 36 concurrent subjects). Became Schedule 7 and Arts. 245–255.	Governance & Structure	Arts. 245–255; Sch. 7
2	Govt. of India Act, 1935	Office of Governor	The constitutional post of Governor — appointed by the Centre, exercising executive authority in a State — derives directly from the 1935 Act. Governor is appointed by the President (not elected) and can be removed at his pleasure.	Governance & Structure	Arts. 152–162
3	Govt. of India Act, 1935	Structure of the Judiciary (Federal Court → Supreme Court)	The 1935 Act established a Federal Court with original, appellate and advisory jurisdiction. This became the template for the Supreme Court under Arts. 124–147. High Courts and subordinate court structure also flows from the 1935 Act.	Governance & Structure	Arts. 124–147, 214–231
4	Govt. of India Act, 1935	Public Service Commissions (UPSC & State PSCs)	The 1935 Act created central and provincial Public Service Commissions to ensure merit-based, non-partisan recruitment. These are now the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and State PSCs under Arts. 315–323.	Governance & Structure	Arts. 315–323
5	Govt. of India Act, 1935	Emergency provisions — failure of constitutional machinery in States	Section 45 of the 1935 Act allowed the Governor-General to assume provincial functions when constitutional machinery broke down. This became the template for President's Rule (Art. 356) — the most controversial provision borrowed from the colonial act.	Emergency Provisions	Art. 356
6	Govt. of India Act, 1935	All-India Services (IAS, IPS, IFoS)	The civil services structure common to both Centre and States — ICS under the 1935 Act — became the template for All-India Services. Art. 312 allows Parliament to create such services. The 1935 Act's framework ensured administrative continuity post-Independence.	Governance & Structure	Art. 312
7	United Kingdom	Parliamentary form of government (Cabinet system)	The Westminster model: executive drawn from and responsible to the legislature; PM is real executive heading a Cabinet collectively responsible to Lok Sabha. The President, like the British Monarch, is a nominal constitutional head who acts on advice of Council of Ministers.	Governance & Structure	Arts. 74–75, 163–164
8	United Kingdom	Bicameral legislature with a nominal head of state	Two Houses of Parliament — Lok Sabha (lower) and Rajya Sabha (upper) — with the President as constitutional head acting on ministerial advice. Mirrors Parliament + Crown relationship in the UK.	Governance & Structure	Arts. 53, 74, 79
9	United Kingdom	Rule of Law	Dicey's three meanings: (1) supremacy of law over arbitrary power; (2) equality before law for all persons regardless of rank; (3) ordinary courts as guardians of individual rights. Reflected in Art. 14 (equality) and Art. 21 (personal liberty).	Rights & Judiciary	Arts. 14, 21

10	United Kingdom	Prerogative Writs — Writ jurisdiction	Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Prohibition, Certiorari and Quo Warranto as enforceable constitutional remedies are rooted in British common law prerogative writ tradition. Arts. 32 and 226 make these writs available to the Supreme Court and High Courts respectively.	Rights & Judiciary	Arts. 32, 226
11	United Kingdom	Single citizenship	Unlike the US model of dual federal-state citizenship, India (like the unitary UK) provides one citizenship — Indian citizenship — for all persons regardless of the State they reside in. Arts. 5–11 govern citizenship; the Citizenship Act 1955 supplements these.	Other / Preamble	Arts. 5–11
12	United Kingdom	Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha	The office, role, powers and convention of the Speaker — presiding over the lower house, maintaining order, deciding on Money Bills and disqualification petitions — is drawn from the Speaker of the House of Commons.	Parliamentary Procedure	Arts. 93–94, 178–179
13	United Kingdom	Parliamentary privileges	Freedom of speech within Parliament, immunity from court proceedings for Parliamentary proceedings and votes, right to regulate own proceedings — adopted from British Parliamentary privilege conventions that developed over centuries.	Parliamentary Procedure	Arts. 105, 194
14	United Kingdom	Collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers	The Cabinet is collectively responsible to Lok Sabha. If the Council loses a vote of no confidence, all ministers including the PM must resign — a core Westminster convention enshrined in Art. 75(3).	Governance & Structure	Art. 75(3)
15	United Kingdom	Office of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)	The CAG — supreme audit institution independent of the executive — is inspired by the UK's Comptroller and Auditor General (Arts. 148–151). Unlike the UK CAG (who controls pre-expenditure), the Indian CAG only audits post-expenditure, having no power to prevent payments.	Governance & Structure	Arts. 148–151
16	United Kingdom	Legislative procedure (law-making process)	The procedure for passing ordinary bills — introduction, readings, committee stage, passage in both Houses, Presidential assent — mirrors British Parliamentary legislative process.	Parliamentary Procedure	Arts. 107–111
17	United States	Fundamental Rights (Part III) — justiciable and court-enforceable	The concept of a justiciable Bill of Rights enforceable by citizens directly in courts was inspired by the US Bill of Rights (first 10 Amendments). Part III (Arts. 12–35) covers six categories: Equality, Freedom, Against Exploitation, Religion, Cultural/Educational Rights, and Constitutional Remedies.	Rights & Judiciary	Arts. 12–35
18	United States	Judicial review	The power of courts to strike down legislation inconsistent with the Constitution. Arts. 13, 32 and 226 give the Supreme Court and High Courts this power, derived from the US doctrine established in Marbury v. Madison (1803). Parliament cannot abridge Fundamental Rights.	Rights & Judiciary	Arts. 13, 32, 226
19	United States	Independence of the Judiciary	Security of tenure, fixed salary charged to Consolidated Fund, bar on post-retirement government employment, and impeachment-only removal — all designed to insulate the judiciary from executive pressure, drawing on the US constitutional model.	Rights & Judiciary	Arts. 124, 217, 218, 220
20	United States	Impeachment of the President	The process of removing the President for violation of the Constitution — charges framed in one House (Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha), trial in the other — is modelled on the US impeachment procedure.	Parliamentary Procedure	Art. 61

21	United States	Removal of Supreme Court and High Court judges	Judges can be removed only by an address passed by special majority (majority of total membership + 2/3 of members present and voting) in both Houses of Parliament, presented to the President — mirroring US constitutional protection for judicial independence.	Parliamentary Procedure	Arts. 124(4), 217(1)(b)
22	United States	Post and role of Vice-President (Chairman of Rajya Sabha)	The Vice-President presiding over the Upper House in a casting-vote, non-voting capacity mirrors the US Vice-President's role as President of the Senate.	Governance & Structure	Arts. 63–64, 89
23	United States	Preamble	The idea of prefacing the Constitution with a declaratory Preamble expressing philosophy, ideals and the source of authority ('We, the People...') was taken from the US Constitution. India's Preamble declares India a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic.	Other / Preamble	Preamble
24	United States	Written Constitution	The concept of a single, supreme, codified written constitutional document — as opposed to the unwritten British constitution — derives from the US model. India's Constitution is the world's longest written constitution.	Other / Preamble	(Entire document)
25	United States	Equal Protection of Laws	Art. 14 contains two distinct guarantees: equality before law (from UK/Dacey) AND equal protection of laws — the latter phrase is directly borrowed from the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution.	Rights & Judiciary	Art. 14
26	Ireland	Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV)	Non-justiciable but constitutionally fundamental guidelines for State policy — the concept and many specific directives (e.g. equal pay, free legal aid, living wage, panchayats) are inspired by Arts. 43–44 of the Irish Constitution of 1937 (which itself drew from Papal social encyclicals). Art. 37 of the Indian Constitution declares them 'fundamental in the governance of the country'.	Directive Principles	Arts. 36–51
27	Ireland	Method of election of President by Electoral College (PR-STV)	The President is elected by an Electoral College comprising elected members of both Houses of Parliament and elected members of State Legislative Assemblies using Proportional Representation – Single Transferable Vote (PR-STV) — directly borrowed from the Irish constitutional framework for presidential elections.	Elections	Arts. 54–55
28	Ireland	Nomination of 12 members to Rajya Sabha by the President	The President may nominate 12 persons having special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, art or social service. This power to introduce domain expertise into the upper house is drawn from Ireland's practice of nominating members to the Seanad Éireann.	Governance & Structure	Art. 80(1)(a)
29	Canada	Quasi-federal structure with a strong Centre — residuary powers with the Union	Unlike the US (where residuary powers vest with States), Canada vests residuary powers with the Centre. India followed this model: Art. 248 and the Union List give Parliament exclusive power to legislate on matters not enumerated in State or Concurrent List — making India a 'holding together' rather than 'coming together' federation.	Governance & Structure	Art. 248; List I, Sch. 7
30	Canada	Federation described as 'Union of States'	India is 'Union of States' (Art. 1) — not a 'Federation of States' — implying the Union is indestructible even if States can be reorganised or abolished. This reflects the Canadian model where provinces cannot unilaterally secede.	Governance & Structure	Art. 1

31	Canada	Appointment of State Governors by the Centre	Unlike the US where governors are popularly elected, Canadian provincial Lieutenant-Governors are appointed by the federal government. India followed this: State Governors are appointed by the President on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers (Art. 155).	Governance & Structure	Arts. 155, 157
32	Canada	Advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court	Art. 143 allows the President to refer questions of law or fact of public importance to the Supreme Court for its advisory (non-binding) opinion. This mirrors the Canadian Supreme Court's reference jurisdiction under the Supreme Court Act, Canada.	Governance & Structure	Art. 143
33	Australia	Concurrent List — subjects for joint Centre-State legislation	The concept of a concurrent legislative list — allowing both Centre and States to legislate on the same subjects, with Central law prevailing in case of repugnancy (Art. 254) — is derived from Australia's concurrent legislative powers. There are 52 subjects in List III.	Governance & Structure	Art. 246; List III, Sch. 7
34	Australia	Freedom of trade, commerce and intercourse throughout India	Arts. 301–307 guarantee freedom of trade and commerce throughout India, permitting Parliament to impose restrictions only in the public interest. This is directly modelled on Section 92 of the Australian Constitution, which guarantees freedom of interstate trade and commerce.	Rights & Judiciary	Arts. 301–307
35	Australia	Joint sitting of both Houses to resolve legislative deadlocks	If a bill is rejected or disagreement arises between the two Houses, the President may call a joint sitting presided over by the Speaker of Lok Sabha. Derived from Section 57 of the Australian Constitution. It has been used only three times in Indian parliamentary history: (1) Dowry Prohibition Bill, 1960 (joint sitting held 1961); (2) Banking Service Commission (Repeal) Bill, 1977 (joint sitting held 1978); (3) Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2002.	Parliamentary Procedure	Art. 108
36	Australia	Language and style of the Preamble	The style and some formulations of the Preamble are drawn from the preamble to the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, 1900.	Other / Preamble	Preamble
37	Germany (Weimar)	Suspension of Fundamental Rights during National Emergency	During a National Emergency (Art. 352), Art. 358 suspends Art. 19 freedoms, and Art. 359 empowers the President to suspend the right to move courts for enforcement of other Fundamental Rights. This power to derogate rights in an emergency is drawn from Arts. 48, 114–118 of the Weimar Constitution of Germany (1919). NOTE: The Basic Structure Doctrine is NOT borrowed from Germany — it is a purely judicial creation of India's Supreme Court (Kesavananda Bharati v. Kerala, 1973).	Emergency Provisions	Arts. 352, 358–359
38	France	Republican form of government	India is declared a 'Sovereign Democratic Republic' in the Preamble. The concept of a republic — with an elected (not hereditary) head of state and sovereignty vested in the people — is drawn from the French constitutional tradition rooted in the Revolution of 1789.	Other / Preamble	Preamble; Art. 52
39	France	Ideals of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity	The Preamble's commitment to Liberty, Equality and Fraternity directly echoes the French Revolutionary trinity (Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité) enshrined in French constitutional philosophy since 1789 and the Declaration of the Rights of Man.	Other / Preamble	Preamble

40	Japan	Procedure established by law' — right to life and personal liberty	Art. 21 states no person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty 'except according to procedure established by law'. This phrase is borrowed from Art. 31 of the Japanese Constitution (1946). The Constituent Assembly deliberately chose it over the American 'due process of law' — on advice of US Justice Felix Frankfurter relayed through B.N. Rau — to prevent courts from striking down welfare legislation on substantive grounds. After <i>Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India</i> (1978), the Supreme Court held the procedure must be 'just, fair and reasonable', converging with due process in effect.	Rights & Judiciary	Art. 21
41	South Africa	Constitutional amendment procedure — special majority in Parliament	Art. 368 requires a Constitutional Amendment Bill to be passed by a special majority (majority of total membership + 2/3 of members present and voting) in each House — neither rigid (like the US requiring state ratification) nor flexible (like ordinary legislation). This balanced rigidity was drawn from South Africa's amendment procedure.	Parliamentary Procedure	Art. 368
42	South Africa	Election of Rajya Sabha members using Proportional Representation (STV)	Members of Rajya Sabha are elected by elected members of each State Legislative Assembly using the system of Proportional Representation with Single Transferable Vote — a procedure drawn from South Africa's Senate election method, ensuring proportional State representation.	Elections	Art. 80(4)
43	USSR (now Russia)	Fundamental Duties of citizens (Part IV-A)	Art. 51A listing 10 Fundamental Duties was added by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976 (on the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee). A further 11th duty — relating to providing educational opportunities for children aged 6–14 — was added by the 86th Amendment, 2002, bringing the total to 11. The concept of citizens' duties constitutionally enshrined alongside rights was drawn from the Soviet (USSR) Constitution, which listed citizens' duties as part of the constitutional framework.	Rights & Judiciary	Art. 51A
44	USSR (now Russia)	Ideals of social, economic and political justice in the Preamble	The Preamble's commitment to 'Justice — social, economic and political' echoes the socialist ideals of justice in Soviet constitutional tradition. The words 'Socialist' and 'Secular' were added to the Preamble by the 42nd Amendment (1976).	Other / Preamble	Preamble
45	USSR (now Russia)	Five-Year Plans (centralised planned economic development)	India's national economic planning through Five-Year Plans (administered by the erstwhile Planning Commission, now replaced by NITI Aayog) was inspired by the Soviet model of centralised five-year economic plans. The Directive Principles (Arts. 39, 43) provide constitutional backing for State-directed economic planning.	Directive Principles	Arts. 39, 43

LEGEND & IMPORTANT NOTES

Category	Colour Key
Governance & Structure	Blue — structural provisions about how government is organised

Rights & Judiciary	Green — Fundamental Rights, judicial powers and protections
Directive Principles	Yellow — Part IV guidelines (non-justiciable but fundamental)
Emergency Provisions	Red — powers during National/State/Financial Emergency
Parliamentary Procedure	Purple — internal working of Parliament (amendment, joint sitting, etc.)
Elections	Orange — electoral methods for President, Rajya Sabha, etc.
Other / Preamble	Grey — Preamble ideals, citizenship, form of government
IMPORTANT NOTE 1	The Basic Structure Doctrine (Kesavananda Bharati v. Kerala, 1973) is NOT listed because it is a purely Indian judicial creation — not borrowed from any foreign constitution.
IMPORTANT NOTE 2	The Govt. of India Act, 1935 is classified separately from 'United Kingdom' because it was a colonial statute, not a feature of UK's own constitutional arrangement.
IMPORTANT NOTE 3	Procedure established by law' (Art. 21) was taken from Japan's Art. 31. After Maneka Gandhi (1978), the SC gave it the substantive content of 'due process', bridging the gap with the US doctrine.
IMPORTANT NOTE 4	Words 'Socialist' and 'Secular' were inserted in the Preamble by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976 — they were not in the original 1950 Preamble.
IMPORTANT NOTE 5	42nd Amendment (1976) also added Part IV-A (Fundamental Duties) — the 11th duty was added by the 86th Amendment, 2002.