

INDIAN FEDERAL SYSTEM

The Indian federal system, as outlined in the **Constitution of India**, is **quasi-federal**, meaning it combines features of both **a strong central government** and **state autonomy**. Unlike a classical federal system (like the U.S.), the Indian federal structure leans more toward **centralization** in times of need, especially in matters of national importance.

Key Features of the Centre in Indian Federal System:

1. Strong Centre

- The Constitution favors the Centre in both **legislative, administrative, and financial matters**.
- The **Union List** contains more subjects (currently 100+) than the State List, giving Parliament exclusive powers.

2. Single Constitution

- India has **one Constitution** for both the Centre and the states (except Jammu & Kashmir before Article 370 was abrogated in 2019).

3. Single Citizenship

- Citizens are only **citizens of India**, not of individual states.

4. Unified Judiciary

- The **Supreme Court** heads a unified judicial system. It interprets laws for both the Centre and the States.

Powers of the Centre

A. Legislative Powers

- Parliament can make laws on subjects in the **Union List** and in **residuary matters** (not listed in any of the three lists).
- In case of **conflict**, Union law prevails over State law on subjects in the **Concurrent List**.

B. Administrative Powers

- The Union can issue directions to states for ensuring compliance with laws and the Constitution.
- During **President's Rule (Article 356)**, the Centre directly controls state administration.

C. Financial Powers

- Major sources of revenue (income tax, customs, excise duty, etc.) are under Centre control.
- States depend on the **Finance Commission** and central grants for funds.

Emergency Powers

In times of:

- **National Emergency (Article 352):** Centre gets full control over State functions.
- **President's Rule (Article 356):** Centre governs states through the Governor.
- **Financial Emergency (Article 360):** Centre controls state expenditures and finances.

Center-State Relations

- **Legislative, administrative, and financial relations** are outlined in Part XI and XII of the Constitution.
- The **Inter-State Council** and **Zonal Councils** promote cooperation.

Summary

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| Constitution | Single |
| Citizenship | Single |
| Judiciary | Integrated, Supreme Court-led |
| Law-Making Power | Greater for Centre |
| Emergency Powers | Strong Central Role |
| Financial Powers | Centre has upper hand |