Government of India Act, 1935

Main Features of the system introduced by the Government of India Act, 1935:

(1) Federation and Provincial Autonomy:
(2) Diarchy at the Centre
(3) The Legislature
(4) Distribution of legislative powers between the centre and the Provinces

(1) Federation and Provincial Autonomy:
- Unlike the previous Government of India Acts, the Act of 1935 prescribed a **federation**, taking the provinces and Indian States as units.
- But it was optional for the Indian States to join the federation, and since the rulers of the **Indian states never gave their consent**, the Federation envisaged by the Act of 1935 never came into being.

- But, the part relating to **Provincial Autonomy** was given effect to since April, 1937.
  - **Act divided legislative powers** between the Provincial and Central Legislatures.
  - **Provinces** were no longer delegates of the Central Government, but were autonomous units of administration.
  - The Indian States never came into the fold to complete the scheme of federation.

- The **executive authority of a Province** was exercised by a Governor on behalf of the **crown** and not as a subordinate of the Governor-General.
- The Governor was to act with the **advice of Ministers** responsible to the legislature.

- The Act retained **control of the Central Government over the Provinces** in a certain sphere:-
  - The Governor would act *‘in his discretion’* or in the exercise of his *‘individual judgment’* in certain matters.
  - In such matters, the Governor was to act without ministerial advice and under the control and directions of the Governor-General, and, through him, of the Secretary of the State.

(2) Diarchy at the Centre: