

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 did not come 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: