

Indian Parliament

What is Parliament?

The Parliament is the legislative organ of a Union government and the Parliament of India is its supreme legislative body.

•First Parliament:

•The first general elections under the new Constitution of India were held during the year 1951-52 and the first elected Parliament came into existence in April, 1952.

It is also known as the 'Westminster' model of government.

Constitutional Provisions: Articles 79 to 122 in Part V of the Constitution deal with the organisation, composition, duration, officers, procedures, privileges and powers of the Parliament.

Frame of Reference for Parliament: The framers of the Indian Constitution **relied on the British pattern for Parliament** rather than the American pattern.

Organs of Parliament

•Lok Sabha (The House of the People):

About: It is the Lower House (it represents the people of India as a whole).
Composition: The maximum strength of the Lok Sabha is fixed at 550 out of which 530 members are to be the representatives of the states and 20 of the UTs.

•The current strength of Lok Sabha is 543, out of which 530 members represent the states and 13 represent the UTs. •Earlier, the President also nominated two members from the Anglo-Indian community.

Rajya Sabha (The Council of States):

•About: It is the Upper House ,it represents the states and union territories of the Indian Union.

•The Rajya Sabha is called the **permanent** House of the Parliament as it is never fully dissolved. •Composition: The maximum strength of Rajya Sabha is 250 (out of which 238 members are representatives of the states & UTs (elected indirectly) and 12 are nominated by the President).

•Current strength of the house is 245, 233 members represent the states and UTs and 12 are nominated by the president. **Election of Representatives:** The representatives of states are elected by the members of state legislative assemblies. The members nominated by the President are those who have special knowledge or practical experience in art, literature, science and social service

President:

About: The President of India is **not a member** of either of the Houses and does not sit in the Parliament to attend its meetings but he is an integral part of the Parliament.

He is the **head of the state** and is the **highest formal authority** in the country.

