



## “PRESIDENTIAL AND MONARCHICAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN INDIA AND JAPAN – A COMPARATIVE STUDY.”

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### ABSTRACT

**(Catchy opening line)** From Japan's royal touch to India's democratic beat, two countries, two styles, one goal: governing together smoothly. **(History)** From India's colonial legacy to the independence and from feudal era to modernization the comparative analysis is to observe how two different forms of governments are running smoothly. **(Present Status)** India maintains a parliamentary system with a ceremonial president, while Japan operates under a constitutional monarchy with a ceremonial Emperor. **(Short Explanation)** India has a lively democracy with many political parties. Japan mixes traditional monarchy with modern democratic ways of governing. **(Research Problem)** To investigate the similarities and differences between the presidential system in India and the monarchical system in Japan, examining their respective structures, roles of the head of state, executive powers, historical contexts, and impacts on governance, with the aim of understanding how these systems function within their unique cultural, historical, and political contexts. **(Hypothesis)** While India's parliamentary democracy and Japan's constitutional monarchy differ in structure, both systems will exhibit similarities in executive power concentration and the symbolic role of the head of state, influenced by historical and cultural contexts. **(Possible Reform)** Researcher wants to propose recommendations for potential reforms or improvements to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness of governmental structures in both countries. **(Aim and objective)** Researcher wants to evaluate the impact of the presidential and monarchical systems on governance outcomes, political stability, and societal cohesion. Researcher wants to propose recommendations for potential reforms or improvements to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness of governmental structures in both countries.

**Key Words** – Comparative study, Form of government, India's presidential government, Japan's monarchical government.

### Introduction-

Within distinct cultural, historical, and political settings, India and Japan present conflicting yet fascinating instances of how various types of government can adapt and evolve within the global governance fabric. India has a Parliamentary system of governance that was modelled after the British one. This was chosen by our founding fathers over the Presidential system for good reasons. The Parliamentary form of government is often

described as the cabinet form of government. In the words of Garner, A cabinet government is that system of government where the executive wings of the government is immediately and legally responsible to the legislature for its political policies and acts.<sup>107</sup> Between the vivid clamour of India's democratic enthusiasm and the majestic grandeur of Japan's imperial past,

<sup>107</sup> Indian Institute of Legal studies, *An Analysis of The Advantages and Disadvantages of Parliamentary and Presidential Forms of Government*, available at <https://www.iilsindia.com/blogs/an-analysis-of-the-advantages-and-disadvantages-of-parliamentary-and-presidential-forms-of-government/>, last seen on 29\2\2024.



both countries provide a rich tapestry for comparative analysis. India, with its ceremonial presidency and parliamentary democracy, is the world's largest democracy; Japan, on the other hand, combines modern democratic governance with tradition through its constitutional monarchy and symbolic Emperor.

In order to fully understand their structures, the functions of the head of state, the division of executive authority, historical backgrounds, and effects on governance outcomes, this seminar paper will undertake a thorough analysis of the presidential systems in India and Japan. Despite their seeming disparities, the concentration of executive power and the symbolic importance of the head of state both formed by centuries of cultural legacy and historical evolution share fascinating commonalities between the two systems.

Understanding the historical underpinnings is crucial to grasp the essence of governance in This seminar paper seeks to bridge the gap between Japan and India. To compare the presidential and monarchical forms of government in India and Japan, we can draw insights from the provided sources. In Japan, the monarchy is a constitutional monarchy where the Emperor is a symbolic figure without political functions, performing ceremonial duties and playing a relevant diplomatic role.<sup>108</sup> The transitions of Japan under Emperor Meiji from feudal isolation to rapid modernization and India from the chains of colonialism to vibrant independence are significant events that have shaped their respective political systems. These historical accounts offer a prism through which we might understand the nuances of these countries' modern governance. The emperor is a constitutional monarch but is still described by some Japanese conservatives as 'ruler of a divine nation'.<sup>109</sup>

Researcher will examine the subtleties of executive powers, decision-making procedures, policy implementation, and the wider effects on political stability, societal cohesion, and governance results through a comparative lens. We hope to shed light on the complex interactions between structure and function in the Japanese and Indian political systems by looking at these aspects.

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The historical trajectories of India and Japan are intricately woven with rich narratives of resilience, adaptation, and transformation, shaping their respective governmental structures and political landscapes. Understanding the historical contexts is essential for unravelling the complexities of governance in these nations.

#### **India:**

India's journey from colonial subjugation to independence is a testament to the indomitable spirit of its people and the struggle for self-determination. The colonial legacy left a profound imprint on India's political, social, and economic fabric, with centuries of British rule shaping its institutions and governance

<sup>108</sup> Ibid at 2.

<sup>109</sup>Dr John Nilsson-Wright *Jon Wallace Democracy in Japan Examining Japan's democracy, the role of the monarchy, its history and political system.* Available at

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/2022/09/democracy-japan>, last seen on 3\3\2024.



frameworks. The British Raj introduced a system of centralized administration, bureaucratic governance, and parliamentary institutions, laying the groundwork for India's eventual transition to democracy.

The Indian independence movement, led by iconic figures such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, galvanized the nation against colonial rule and paved the way for the birth of independent India in 1947. The adoption of a parliamentary system of government, inspired by the British model, marked a significant departure from centuries of autocratic rule, ushering in an era of democratic governance.

### Japan:

Japan's historical trajectory is characterized by a blend of tradition and modernization, punctuated by periods of isolation, feudalism, and rapid industrialization. The feudal era, dominated by powerful samurai clans and the Tokugawa shogunate, witnessed a rigid social hierarchy and isolationist policies that kept Japan insulated from external influences.

The Meiji Restoration of 1868 heralded a transformative era in Japanese history, as Emperor Meiji and his advisors embarked on a bold agenda of modernization and reform. Drawing inspiration from Western models of governance and technology, Japan underwent rapid industrialization, political centralization, and the establishment of constitutional monarchy.

The adoption of the Meiji Constitution in 1889 introduced a constitutional monarchy with the Emperor as a symbolic figurehead and the emergence of a parliamentary system known as the Diet. This marked a pivotal shift towards modern governance structures, laying the foundations for Japan's emergence as a global economic powerhouse in the 20th century.

### Comparative Analysis:

The historical contexts of India and Japan provide valuable insights into the evolution of

their governmental structures and political systems. While India's parliamentary democracy evolved in the crucible of colonialism and independence struggles, Japan's constitutional monarchy emerged from the ashes of feudalism and isolationism. Despite their divergent paths, both nations have navigated complex historical legacies to establish governance frameworks that reflect their unique cultural, historical, and political contexts.

In the subsequent sections, we will delve deeper into the comparative analysis of the presidential system in India and the monarchical system in Japan, examining their respective structures, roles of the head of state, distribution of executive powers, and impacts on governance outcomes. Through this lens, we aim to unravel the complexities of governance in India and Japan, while shedding light on the broader implications for political stability, societal cohesion, and democratic governance.

### Comparative Analysis of Structures

The structures of the presidential system in India and the monarchical system in Japan exhibit significant differences, yet both systems play pivotal roles in shaping the governance landscape of their respective nations. This section will delve into the institutional frameworks of these systems, examining their organizational structures, roles of the head of state, and distribution of executive powers.

### India's Parliamentary System:

India's parliamentary system is characterized by a fusion of legislative and executive powers, with a clear separation between the head of state and the head of government. The President of India serves as the ceremonial head of state, while the Prime Minister is the head of government and holds significant executive authority. The Parliament, comprising the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States), is vested with legislative powers.



The President of India, elected indirectly by an electoral college, performs ceremonial functions such as appointing the Prime Minister, dissolving the Lok Sabha, and promulgating ordinances. However, real executive power resides with the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers, who are responsible for policy formulation and implementation. The Prime Minister is typically the leader of the majority party or coalition in the Lok Sabha and exercises significant influence over government decisions.

### Japan's Monarchical System:

Japan's monarchical system is founded on the principles of constitutional monarchy, where the Emperor serves as the symbol of the state and unity of the people. The Emperor holds no executive powers and performs ceremonial functions, such as state visits, ceremonies, and the formal appointment of the Prime Minister. Japan's government is a constitutional monarchy where the Emperor's power is limited to mainly ceremonial duties. The government has three branches: the executive, legislature, and the judiciary. The Emperor is the Head of State and the imperial family. His position does not influence the activities of the government in any way. The prime minister, therefore, is the head of the Government.<sup>110</sup> The real executive authority rests with the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, who are responsible for governance and policy implementation.

The Diet, Japan's bicameral legislature, consists of the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors. While the Emperor formally opens and closes sessions of the Diet and gives royal assent to laws, legislative power is vested in the elected representatives. The Prime Minister, appointed by the Emperor, is the head of government and exercises executive authority, leading the Cabinet in decision-making processes.

### Comparative Analysis:

Despite their structural disparities, the presidential system in India and the monarchical system in Japan share some commonalities in the distribution of executive powers and the symbolic role of the head of state. In both systems, the head of state (President in India, Emperor in Japan) performs ceremonial functions and acts as a unifying symbol for the nation, while real executive authority resides with the head of government (Prime Minister in India, Prime Minister in Japan) and the Cabinet.

However, there are notable differences in the mechanisms of executive appointment and accountability. In India's parliamentary system, the Prime Minister is directly accountable to the legislature and can be removed through a vote of no confidence, ensuring a strong link between executive authority and legislative representation. In contrast, Japan's monarchical system features a more ceremonial role for the Emperor in executive appointments, with the Prime Minister's accountability primarily to the Diet rather than the monarch.

In the subsequent sections, we will further explore the roles of the head of state, executive powers, and their impacts on governance outcomes in India and Japan. Through this comparative lens, we aim to gain a deeper understanding of how these structural differences influence the functioning of governmental systems in both countries.

### Identification of Challenges and Opportunities:

The presidential system in India and the monarchical system in Japan each face unique challenges and opportunities in their governance structures. Understanding these challenges and opportunities is essential for devising effective reforms and improvements to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness of governmental structures in both countries.

<sup>110</sup>Benjamin Elisha Sawe, *What Type Of Government Does Japan Have?*, available at <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-type-of-government-does-japan-have.html>, last seen at 15\3\2024.



## Challenges:

### Executive Accountability:

In both systems, there are challenges in ensuring adequate checks and balances on executive power. In India, the dominance of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet can sometimes lead to a lack of effective oversight by the legislature. Similarly, in Japan, the Emperor's ceremonial role and limited involvement in executive affairs can raise questions about accountability to the people.

### Bureaucratic Inertia:

Both India and Japan grapple with bureaucratic inefficiencies and institutional inertia, which can impede policy implementation and decision-making processes. The entrenched bureaucracy in both countries may resist reforms and hinder efforts to streamline governance processes.

**Political Polarization:** India's multi-party democracy and Japan's coalition politics can lead to political fragmentation and polarization, making it challenging to build consensus on key policy issues. Divisive politics and partisan gridlock can hinder governance effectiveness and undermine public trust in government institutions.

### Corruption and Transparency:

Corruption remains a persistent challenge in both countries, eroding public trust and undermining the integrity of governance systems. Ensuring transparency and accountability in government decision-making processes is crucial for combating corruption and promoting public confidence in the system.

## Opportunities:

### Constitutional Reforms:

Both India and Japan have opportunities to enact constitutional reforms that strengthen democratic principles and enhance governance effectiveness. Revisiting constitutional provisions related to executive powers, legislative oversight, and judicial

independence can help modernize governance structures and adapt them to contemporary challenges.

### Technological Innovation:

Leveraging advancements in technology, such as e-governance platforms and digital communication tools, can improve government efficiency and transparency. Embracing digitalization initiatives can enhance service delivery, streamline administrative processes, and foster greater citizen engagement in decision-making.

### Strengthening Democratic Institutions:

Investing in the capacity-building of democratic institutions, such as independent judiciary, electoral commissions, and anti-corruption agencies, can bolster their effectiveness in upholding the rule of law and promoting accountability. Enhancing the autonomy and resources of these institutions can help safeguard democratic norms and values.

### Promoting Civic Participation:

Encouraging civic participation and grassroots activism can empower citizens to hold government accountable and advocate for their interests. Strengthening civil society organizations, promoting media freedom, and fostering a culture of political transparency can contribute to a more vibrant and inclusive democracy.

Identifying the challenges and opportunities inherent in the presidential system in India and the monarchical system in Japan is crucial for guiding reform efforts aimed at enhancing governance effectiveness and promoting democratic values. By addressing issues such as executive accountability, bureaucratic inertia, political polarization, and corruption, both countries can strive towards building more transparent, responsive, and inclusive governance structures that meet the needs and aspirations of their citizens. Through concerted efforts to enact meaningful reforms and embrace innovative approaches to



governance, India and Japan can chart a path towards sustainable democratic development and ensure the continued resilience of their governmental systems.

### Impacts on Governance Outcomes:

The presidential system in India and the monarchical system in Japan have significant implications for governance outcomes, political stability, and societal cohesion. Understanding these impacts is essential for assessing the effectiveness and performance of governmental structures in both countries.

#### 1. Governance Efficiency:

**India:** The parliamentary system in India, with its fusion of legislative and executive powers, can facilitate swift decision-making and policy implementation. However, the dominance of the Prime Minister and Cabinet may lead to centralized decision-making and potential inefficiencies in governance processes.

**Japan:** Japan's monarchical system, characterized by a constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy, emphasizes consensus-building and gradual policy reforms. While this can contribute to stability, it may also result in bureaucratic inertia and slow decision-making.

#### 2. Transparency and Accountability:

**India:** The parliamentary system in India provides mechanisms for executive accountability through parliamentary oversight, including question periods, debates, and no-confidence motions. However, transparency in decision-making processes and public access to information can vary, leading to concerns about government accountability.

**Japan:** In Japan, the role of the Emperor as a ceremonial figurehead limits direct accountability, with the Prime Minister and Cabinet bearing responsibility for governance outcomes. While Japan has made efforts to enhance transparency and combat corruption, challenges remain in ensuring full

accountability and public trust in government institutions.

#### 3. Political Stability:

**India:** India's multi-party democracy can lead to coalition governments and frequent changes in leadership, which may impact policy continuity and long-term planning. However, the democratic system also allows for peaceful transitions of power and accommodates diverse interests, contributing to overall political stability.

**Japan:** Japan's political landscape is characterized by a relatively stable party system, with the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) holding significant influence. While this stability can promote policy continuity and long-term governance strategies, it may also lead to complacency and resistance to change.

The impacts of the presidential system in India and the monarchical system in Japan on governance outcomes, political stability, and societal cohesion are multifaceted and influenced by a variety of factors. While both systems have strengths and weaknesses, they also offer opportunities for reform and improvement to address governance challenges and promote democratic values.

By enhancing transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in governance processes, both India and Japan can strengthen their democratic institutions and ensure more responsive and effective governance. Through continued dialogue, civic engagement, and institutional reforms, both countries can navigate the complexities of governance in the 21st century and uphold the principles of democracy, rule of law, and social justice.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, the comparative analysis of the presidential system in India and the monarchical system in Japan reveals the diverse array of governance structures, historical contexts, and impacts on governance outcomes in both countries. Despite their differences, both systems exhibit strengths and



weaknesses that shape their respective political landscapes and influence the trajectory of democratic governance.

India's parliamentary democracy, rooted in its struggle against colonialism and commitment to pluralism, embodies the vibrancy of a diverse and dynamic nation. The fusion of legislative and executive powers, coupled with mechanisms for accountability and representation, has enabled India to navigate complex challenges and uphold democratic principles. However, issues such as political polarization, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and communal tensions underscore the need for continuous reforms and improvements to enhance governance efficiency and promote social cohesion.

On the other hand, Japan's monarchical system, forged through centuries of tradition and modernization, reflects a unique blend of ceremonial monarchy and parliamentary democracy. While Japan's stability, consensus-oriented decision-making, and strong sense of national identity contribute to governance effectiveness and societal cohesion, challenges such as bureaucratic inertia, limited executive accountability, and demographic shifts pose ongoing challenges to Japan's governance model.

Despite these challenges, both India and Japan possess opportunities for reform and improvement to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness of their governmental structures. By embracing constitutional reforms, leveraging technological innovations, strengthening democratic institutions, and promoting civic participation, both countries can chart a path towards sustainable democratic development and ensure the continued resilience of their governance systems.

In the pursuit of good governance, it is imperative for India and Japan to learn from each other's experiences, exchange best practices, and collaborate on common challenges. By fostering mutual understanding,

dialogue, and cooperation, both countries can harness the rich diversity of their democratic traditions and chart a course towards a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous future for their citizens.

As we reflect on the comparative analysis of presidential and monarchical systems in India and Japan, it becomes evident that governance is not merely a matter of structures and processes, but a reflection of the values, aspirations, and collective will of the people. By upholding democratic principles, promoting transparency and accountability, and embracing the spirit of cooperation and innovation, both India and Japan can continue to govern together towards a brighter and more sustainable future.