



## 1. Madhya Pradesh may get a second House.

- Which article of the Indian constitution provides for the option of bicameral system of legislature at the state level?
- Why is a second House needed?
- So, do all states have Legislative Councils?
- How are members of the Council elected?

**GS paper 2 (Indian Constitution- evolution ,historical underpinnings, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.)**

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**In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.**

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## What is the context about?



The Congress government in Madhya Pradesh has moved to create a Legislative Council for the state, in keeping with the promise in its manifesto ahead of the 2018 Assembly elections.

### Which article of the Indian constitution provides for the option of bicameral system of legislature at the state level?



Just as Parliament has two Houses, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, individual states too, can choose to have a Legislative Council in addition to the Legislative Assembly.



This option is available under Article 171 of the Constitution. As in the Rajya Sabha, members of a state Legislative Council too, are not directly elected by voters.



## Why is a second House needed?



When the founding fathers of the Republic were debating the Constitution of free India, it was argued that a second House would help check hasty actions by the directly elected House.



Also, non-elected individuals in the Upper House would be able to contribute to the legislative process.



Opponents of the idea argued that political parties would be able to use the Legislative Council in the states to delay legislation, and as a sop or sinecure for leaders who have failed to win an election.





## So, do all states have Legislative Councils?



No. Our constitution does not force a bicameral legislature on states. It gives states the option of having a second House.



As of today, seven states have Legislative Councils. These are Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.



If J&K, which has been split into two Union Territories, not be considered, six states currently have Legislative Councils.



## How are members of the Council elected?



Membership may vary, but the Legislative Council must not have more than a third of the total membership of the Assembly of that state, and in no case fewer than 40 members.



About 1/3rd of members are elected by members of the Assembly, another 1/3rd by electorates consisting of members of municipalities, district boards and other local authorities in the state, 1/12th by an electorate consisting of teachers, and 1/12th by registered graduates.



The remaining members are nominated by the Governor.