How to Remember Progression – DYARCHY in British India

Aspect	Progress Over Time		
Origin of Dyarchy	Introduced by Government of India Act, 1919 (based on Montagu-		
	Chelmsford Report, 1918). Inspired by the idea of gradually preparing Indians		
	for self-governance.		
Meaning of Dyarchy	From Greek <i>di-archy</i> = "double rule". A system where two sets of		
	administrators governed a province:		
	1. Reserved Subjects – handled by Governor and Executive Council		
	(British officials, not responsible to legislature).		
	2. Transferred Subjects – handled by Indian ministers responsible to		
	elected legislature.		
Subjects under	- Reserved Subjects: Police, Revenue, Law & Order, Irrigation - Transferred		
Dyarchy (Provinces)	Subjects: Education, Health, Agriculture, Local Self-Government		
Implementation Period	Dyarchy at the provincial level operated from 1921 to 1937 .		
Challenges and	- Real power remained with the Governor Governors often interfered in		
Failures	transferred subjects Ministers had no control over finances Frequent		
	conflict between ministers and executive council Ministers had		
	responsibility, but not full authority.		
Abolition at the	Government of India Act, 1935 abolished dyarchy in provinces. Replaced it		
Provincial Level	with Provincial Autonomy, where elected ministers had full control over all		
	subjects. Governors were to act on ministerial advice (except in special		
	circumstances).		
Irony: Dyarchy at the	While dyarchy was removed in provinces, Government of India Act, 1935		
Centre Introduced	introduced dyarchy at the Central level: - Reserved subjects (Defence,		
(1935 Act)	External Affairs) under Viceroy and Executive Council Transferred		
	subjects (Education, Health, Industries, Labour) under Indian ministers		
	This dyarchy at Centre was never implemented, as the proposed federation		
E' ID'	under the Act never came into force.		
Final Disappearance of	The system of dyarchy was completely removed after Independence (1947)		
Dyarchy	and formally replaced by Parliamentary democracy under the Constitution		
	of India (1950).		

Quick Summary Table: Dyarchy – Rise and Fall

Phase	Year(s)	Event
Introduction	1919 (Implemented in 1921)	Dyarchy introduced in provinces under GOI Act, 1919
Operation	1921–1937	Functioned with dual subjects and shared governance
Abolition (Provinces)	1935 (Effective 1937)	Abolished by GOI Act , 1935 → Provincial Autonomy introduced
Reappearance (Centre)	1935	Dyarchy proposed at Central level (never implemented)



Final Exit	1947–1950	Not part of Independent India's governance; replaced
		by parliamentary system

Mnemonic to Remember: D-Y-A-R-C-H-Y

Letter	Clue
D	Double Rule – Two sets of subjects (reserved + transferred)
Y	Year 1919 – Introduced by Government of India Act
A	Abolished in Provinces – 1935 Act ended it at provincial level
R	Reserved Subjects – Controlled by Governor/Executive Council
C	Central Dyarchy – Introduced in 1935 but never implemented
H	Held power by British – Indians got responsibility without power
Y	Yielded to Autonomy – Provincial Autonomy replaced Dyarchy in 1937