

Insights Unwrapped

We, The People...



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India's Constitution - *the lengthiest*

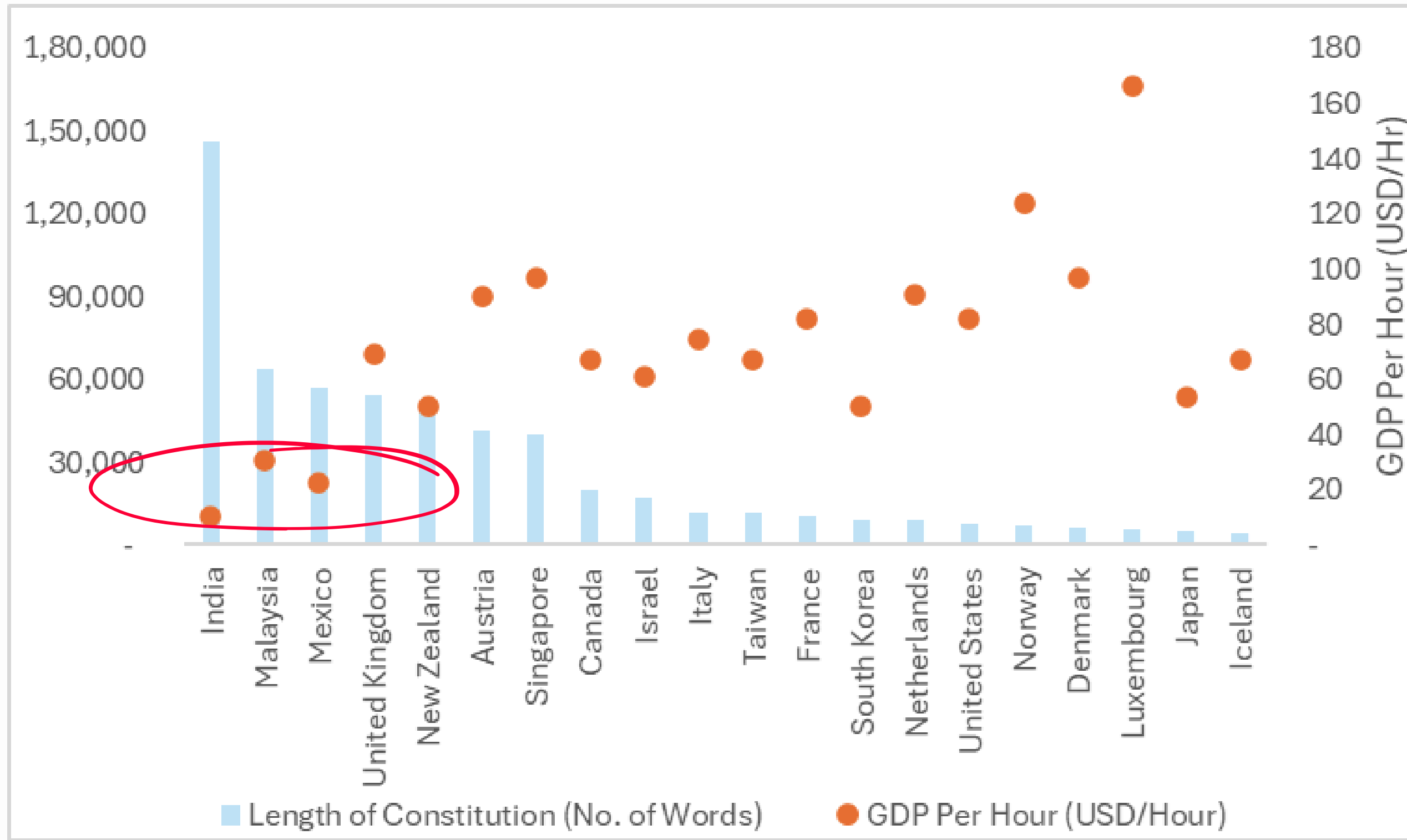
Country	Length (in words)	Country	Length (in words)
 India	146,385	 Gambia	43,465
 Nigeria	66,263	 South Africa	43,062
 Brazil	64,488	 Bahamas	41,835
 Malaysia	64,080	 Austria	41,366
 Papua New Guinea	58,490	 Fiji	40,773
 Mexico	57,087	 Myanmar	40,492
 Pakistan	56,240	 Sri Lanka	40,085
 Zimbabwe	55,883	 Singapore	40,076
 Ecuador	54,555	 Seychelles	39,729
 United Kingdom	54,408	 Belize	39,629
 Ghana	53,985	 Bolivia	39,375
 Saint Kitts and Nevis	49,643	 Antigua and Barbuda	38,464
 Uganda	49,448	 Saint Lucia	38,271
 Kenya	48,818	 Jamaica	38,048
 Eswatini	48,604	 Venezuela	37,344
 New Zealand	48,438	 Mauritius	37,320
 Colombia	46,902	 Cyprus	37,006
 Guyana	46,221	 Dominica	36,080
 Lesotho	45,532	 Tanzania	35,651
 Sierra Leone	44,636	 Portugal	35,219

The Constitution of India is the world's lengthiest written constitution, with 146,385 words in its English version. The Constitution of Monaco is the shortest written constitution, with 3,814 words

Longer constitutions are often linked to constraints that can hinder economic growth and efficiency:

- ***Increased Rigidity and Reduced Flexibility:*** *Highly detailed constitutions often impose stricter policy-making constraints, worsening time-inconsistency issues and hindering a country's productivity (measured by GDP per person employed).*
- ***Higher Corruption and Oversight Issues:*** *Extensive details in constitutions may create more loopholes, correlating with increased corruption levels (measured by the Corruption Perception Index).*

Do Elaborate Constitutions Impact Productivity?

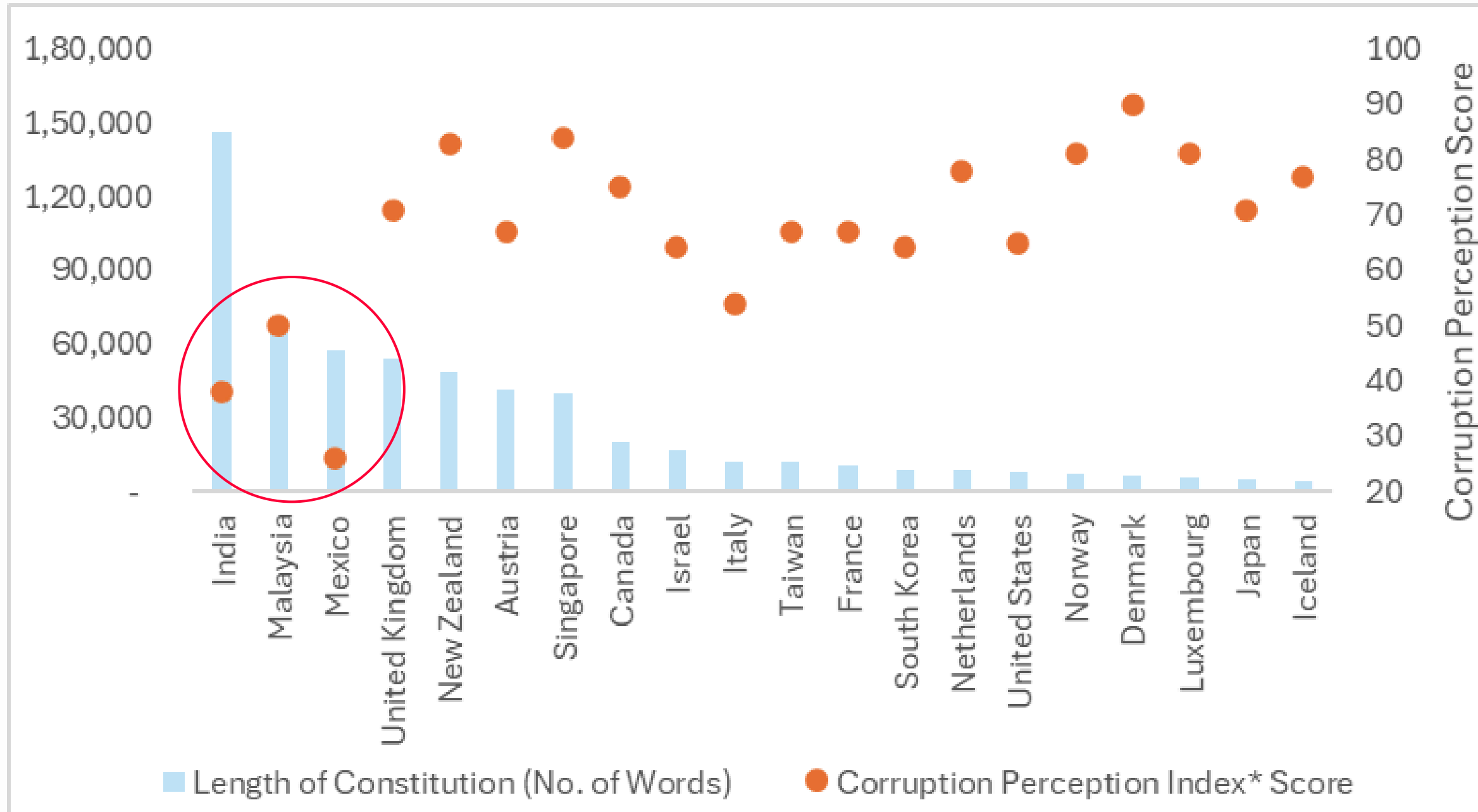


Highly detailed constitutions often impose rigid constraints on policymaking, high time-inconsistency problems and reducing a country's productivity, as measured by GDP per hour worked.

*According to the ILO, **India's labour productivity is among the lowest globally at \$10.6/Hr compared to the global average of \$23.1/Hr and the G7 average of \$74.9/Hr***

Source: Comparative Constitution Project; <https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/labour-productivity/>

Does a Lengthy Constitution Create More Loopholes for Corruption?



Extensive details in a constitution can create more loopholes, potentially correlating with elevated corruption levels—as measured by the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)*. **According to the 2024 CPI, India has a relatively high level of corruption with a score of 38, compared to 65 for the US, 71 for the UK, and 43 for China.**

Source: Comparative Constitution Project, Transparency International *2024 Score *Lower scores indicate higher perceived corruption

Is it merely a coincidence that countries with longer written constitutions—such as India, Malaysia, and Mexico—tend to have relatively higher levels of corruption?

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