

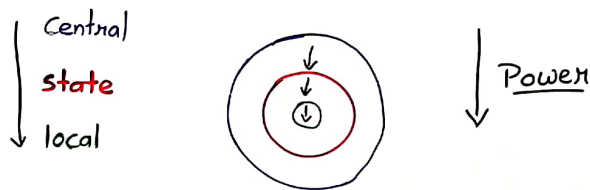
Class-X Civics Chapter-2 Federalism

Introduction: What is federalism?

- Recall the example of Belgium and Sri Lanka.
- Shifting of power from Central government → Regional government. [In Belgium]
- Regional government was given Constitution power.

∴ Federal v/s Unitary ∴

→ federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a Central authority and various Constituent units of the Country.



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Features of Federalism

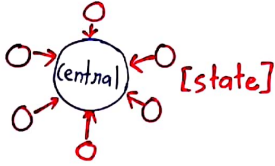
- There are two or more levels (tiers) of governments.
- Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own jurisdiction.
- The jurisdiction of the respective levels or tiers of government are specified in the Constitution and authority and existence of each tier is Constitutionally guaranteed.
- The fundamental provisions of the Constitution cannot be changed unilaterally by one level of govt.
- Courts have the power to interpret the Constitution and the power of different level of government. It acts as an umpire if disputes arise between different levels of government.
- Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure it financial autonomy.
- The federal system thus has dual objectives:
 - (i). To safeguard and promote unity of country
 - (ii). At the same time accommodate regional diversity

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Types of Federations

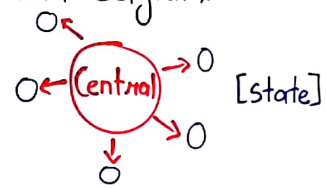
• Coming together federation

- Independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit.
- By pooling sovereignty and retaining identity they can increase their security.
- States usually have equal power and are strong in the federation.
- U.S.A, Switzerland and Australia.



• Holding together federation

- Large country decides to divide its power between the constituent states and national govt.
- The central government tends to be more powerful than states.
- Constituent units have unequal power. Some units are granted special powers.
- India, Spain and Belgium.



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What makes India a federal Country? -I

→ Constitution declared India as a union of states. The word federation is not used, but the Indian union is based on the principles of federalism.

- Three tiers of government [Central, State and local]
- Each tier of government has its own jurisdiction, Specified in Constitution:

(i) Union list

- Includes Subjects of National importance
- Such as: Defence, foreign affair, Banking, Currency, Communication etc.
- Union govt. alone make laws on them.

(ii) State list

- Contains Subjects of state and local imp.
- Such as: police, trade, Commerce, agriculture and irrigation.
- State govt. alone make laws on them.

(iii) Concurrent list

- Includes Subjects of Common interest of both the union and state govt.
- Such as: Education, forest, trade union, Marriage, adoption etc.
- Both union and state govt. can make laws on these subjects. In case of conflict, laws made by union govt. will prevail.

(iv) Residuary list: Contains those Subjects which do not fall in any of the list and came up after the Constitution was made. Such as: IT. [Central govt. Make laws on them].

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What makes India a federal Country? -II

- India → Holding together federation → Unequal powers among states [Special powers]
→ J&K has its own Constitution. [Special status].
- Union territories: These territories do not have the powers of state. Central government has special powers in running these areas.
- Power sharing arrangement is the basic structure of the Constitution. This arrangement cannot be changed easily. Any change to it has to be passed by both the houses of parliament with at least two-third Majority. Then it has to be ratified by the legislatures of at least half of the states.
- Judiciary takes decision in case of dispute.

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How is Federalism practised: Linguistic States

• Federalism × Success of federalism both are different things.

↓
It depends on the nature
of democratic politics.

people speaking
same language

↓
lived in the same state

∴ Linguistic States

→ Evolution of states over a period of time [1947 to 2019]

→ Creation of states on the basis of language is Linguistic States.

→ Leaders feared → It would lead to disintegration 😨 [Central govt. also resisted for some time]

→ But experience has shown that linguistic states has forged unity and made administration easier.

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How is Federalism practised - II

• Language policy

- We didn't have any national language.
- Hindi was identified as official language.
- Besides Hindi, 21 other other language were recognised as schedule languages.
- States too have their own official languages.
- Cautious use of spreading Hindi [Sri Lanka]
- Debate for Hindi v/s English.
- promotion of Hindi still continues, promotion Does not means imposition of Hindi.

• Central-state relations

- Power sharing arrangement works on how the ruling parties and leaders follow these arrangements.
- One party dominance → !! Neglected federalism!!
- The party ruled at Center undermine state party.
- Regional party → Came in power [Coalition government].
- New culture of power sharing, check on the power of Central govt., autonomy of states increased.

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Decentralisation in India

∴ When power is taken away from Central and State governments, it is called decentralisation.

• Need ☹??

→ local issues



Can be best settled at the local level.



Best knowledge of local area and problems

!! Decentralisation was Not in effective terms!!

∴ Major Steps taken towards decentralisation in 1992 :

→ It was made Constitutionally mandatory to hold election regularly.

→ Seats are reserved for ST, SC and OBC.

→ At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.

→ An independent state Election Commission has been Created in each state to Conduct panchyat and municipal elections.

→ State govt. are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies.



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Decentralisation in India: Rural and Urban local government

Rural local government/Panchayati Raj

→ Village or group of village →

Gram panchayat

- Approves annual budget
- Review the performance of Gram panchayat

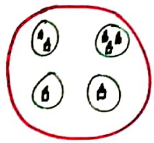
President = Sarpanch

Directly Elected by Adult population.

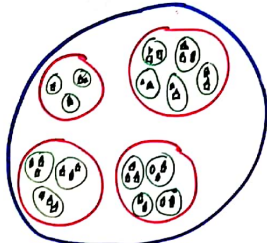
Gram Sabha

Rural local Govt. Structure

Gram panchayat



Panchayat samiti
Block / Mandal



Zilla parishad.

• Political Head of Zilla parishad

↓
Zilla parishad chairperson

• MP's and MLA's of that district are also its Members.

Urban local government

• Big Cities → Municipal Corporations

→ Head = Mayor. [Political]

• Towns → Municipalities

→ Head = Municipal chairperson.

• Achievements ??

• Challenges Ahead ??