

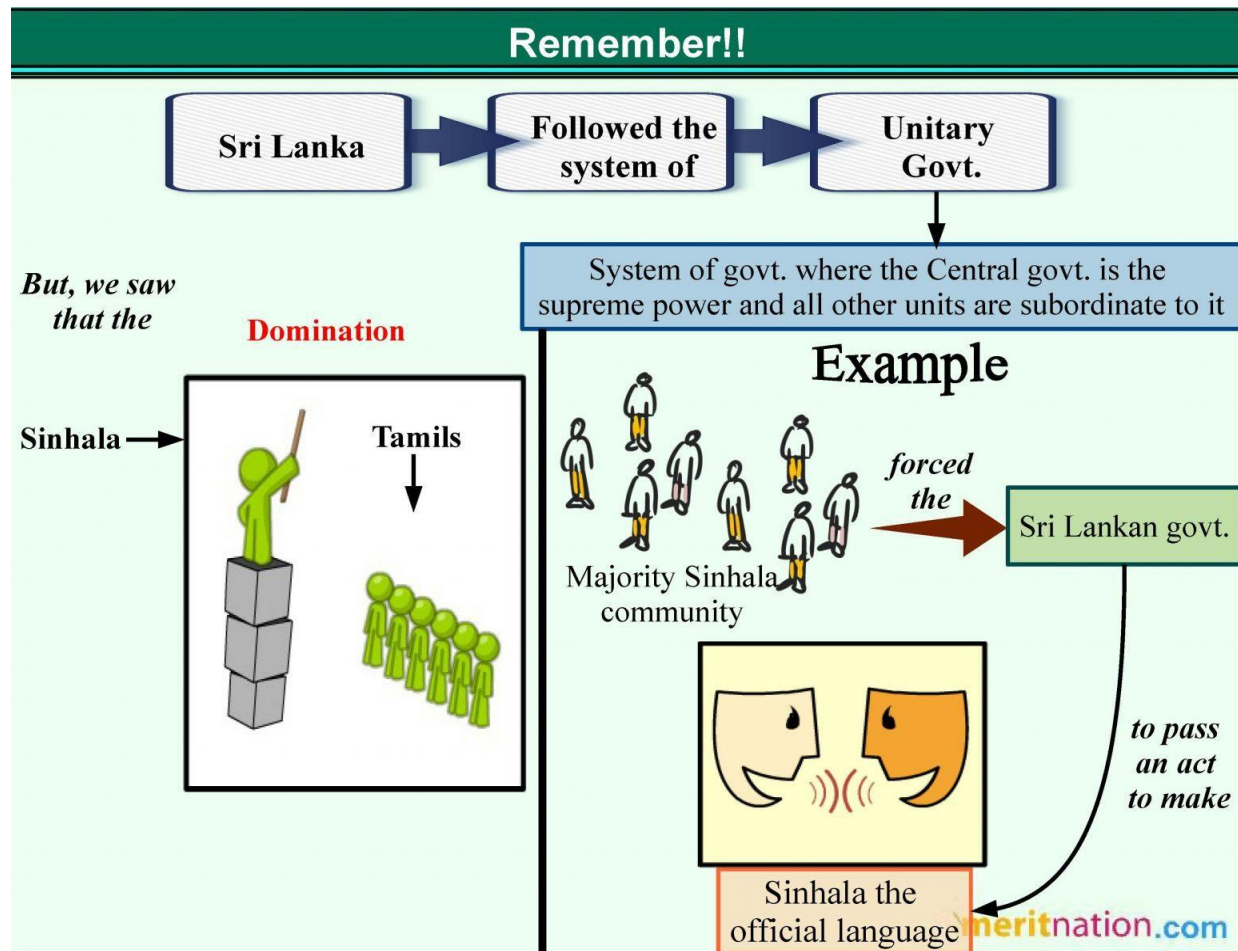
# Federalism

## Introduction : What is "Federalism?"

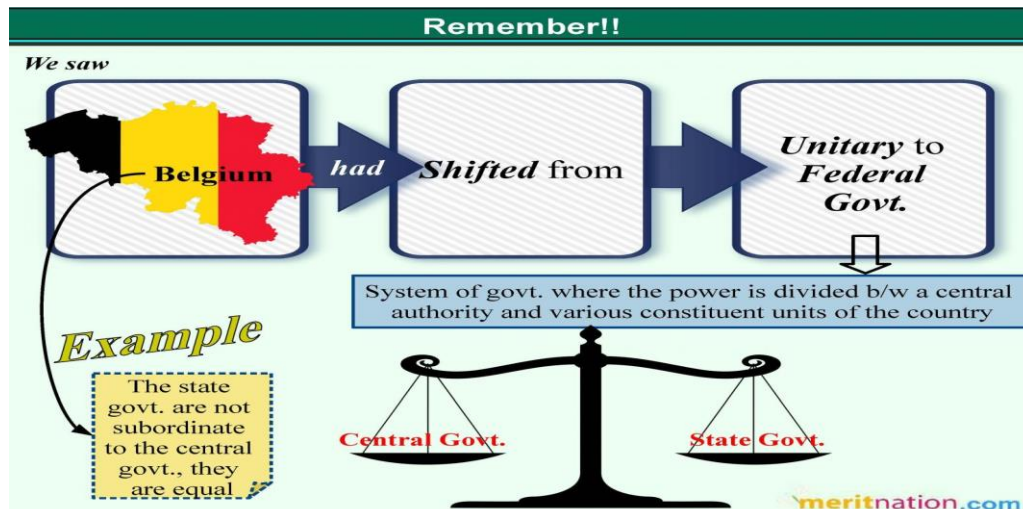
Do you remember studying about the two types of government of Sri Lanka and Belgium in your last chapter ??

Lets have a quick recap...

The following image will help you recall what the situation was in Srilanka

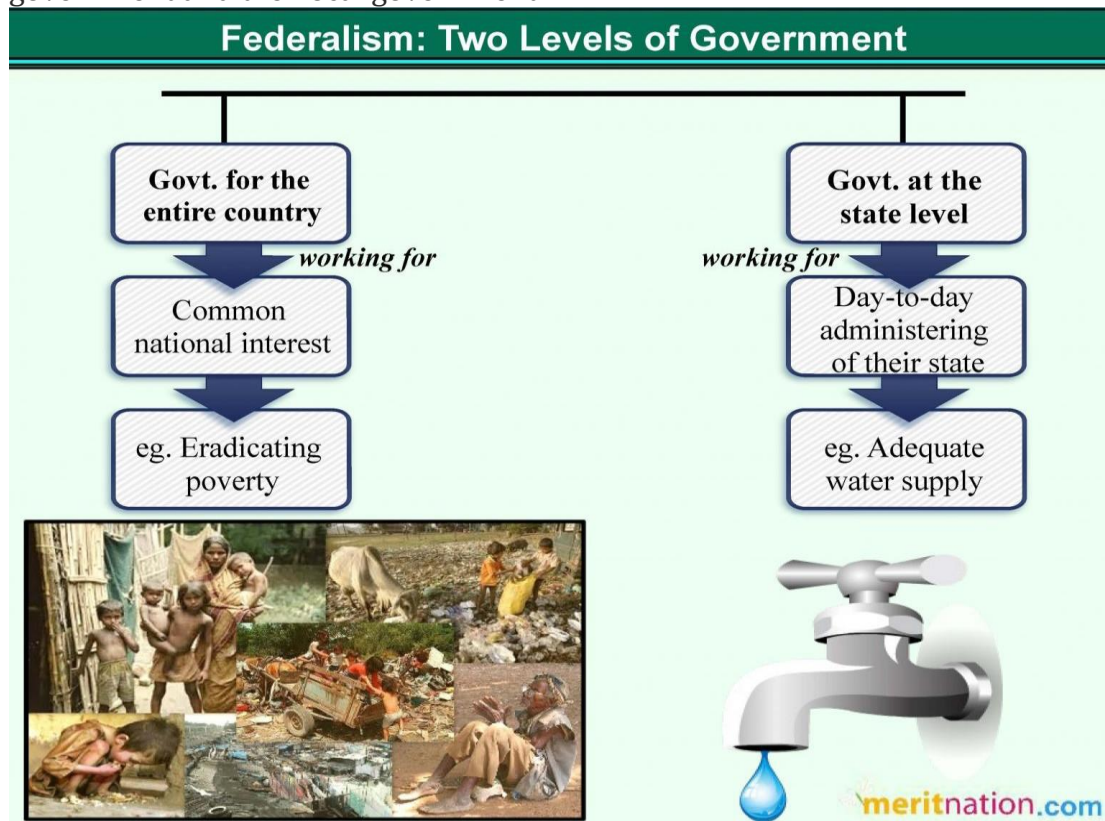


The following image will help you recall what the situation was in Belgium



In Sri Lanka the power was vested only in the hands of the central government. On the other hand, Belgium adopted the federal form of government and **divided power at various levels of administration.**

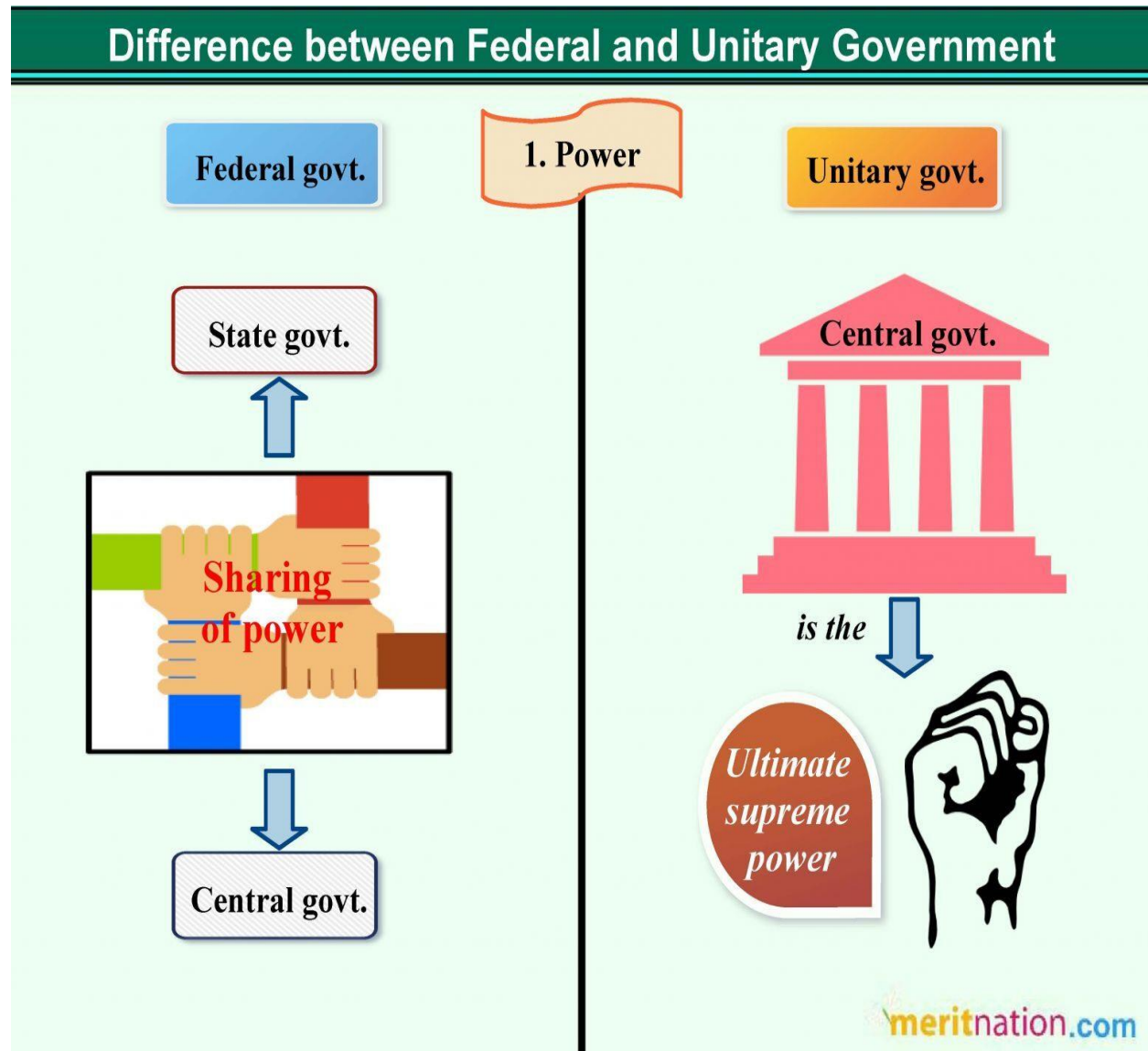
Therefore, federal form of government is the one that has more than one level of government. Like in India we have three levels of government: Central government, State government and the Local government



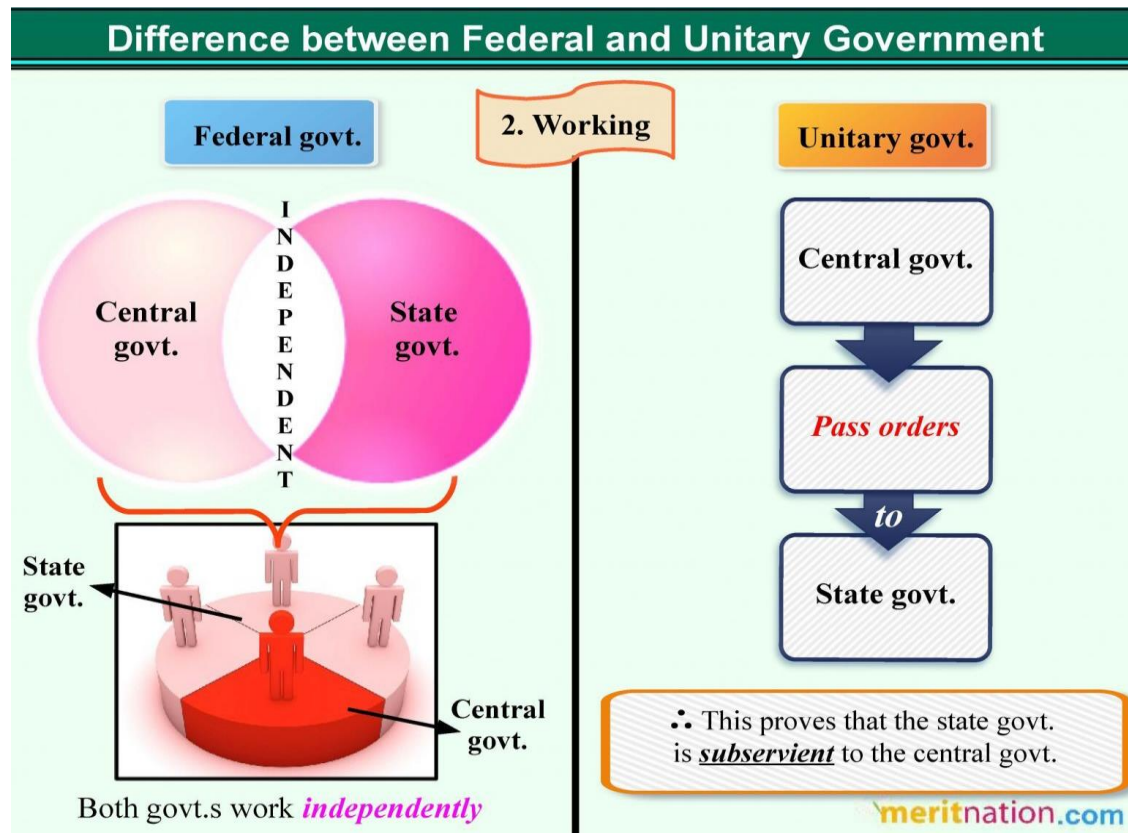
In this chapter we will understand the principal, "federalism" in greater detail. We will study about the various features associated with this term. We will also learn how India adopted federalism and how it works in our country.

But since we already know what unitary form of government is, its best to learn about federal form of government by comparing it to the features of unitary form of government.

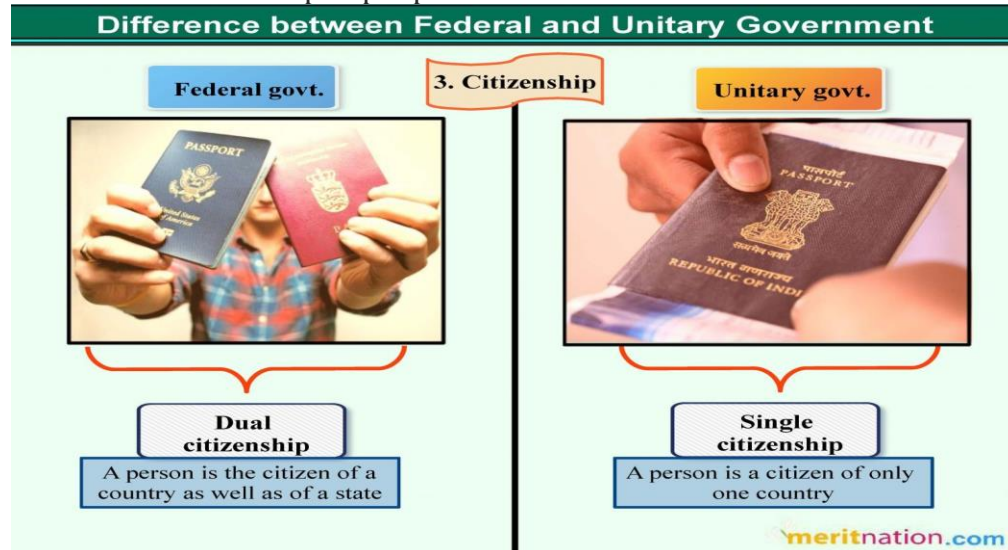
So, in whose hand power is vested in federal government ?



How is the working of federal state different from the working of unitary government ?



What is the citizenship of people in countries with federal form of **??** government



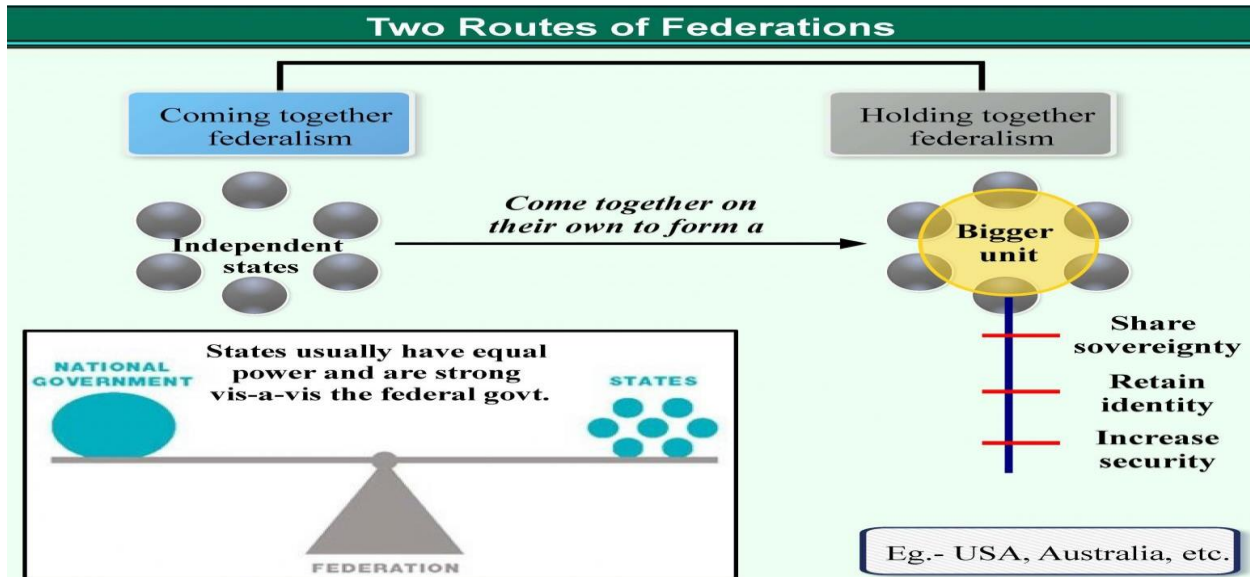
Few examples of some federal states....

These were the features of federalism that we studied. But how and why these countries



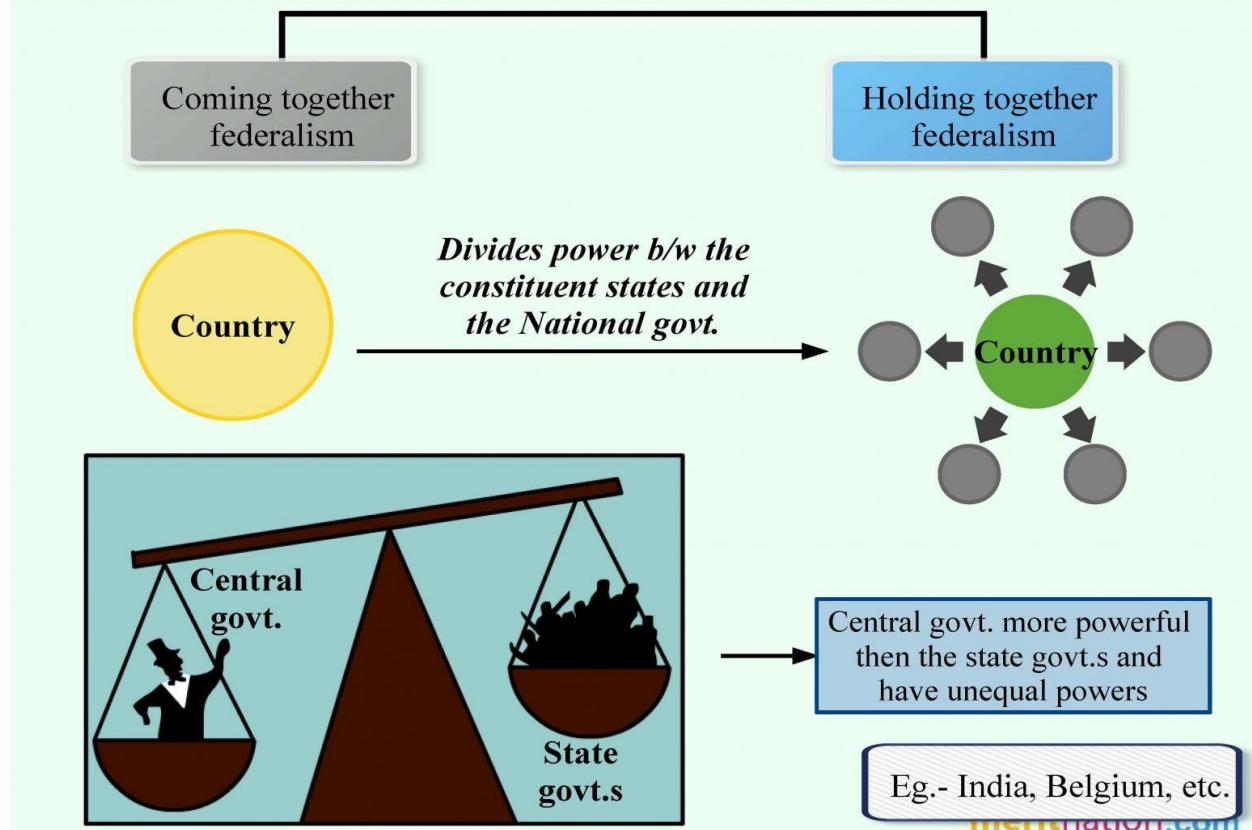
reach to the conclusions of having federations?

Let us understand the two types of situations that lead to the formation of a federal government in countries:



1. **Coming Together Federalism**: This happens when *small independent units come together to form a bigger unit*. This is done to increase security, to share sovereignty etc. Do you remember about the formation of in the first chapter of History, Rise of Nationalism in Europe? *England, Wales and Scotland* came together to form the *Great Britain*.

## Two Routes of Federations



2. **Holding Together Federation:** This happens when a **big country divides power between the smaller units and the national government**. This can be well understood by taking an example of India. It's a huge country divided into smaller units (states), but the power is divided into the state government and the central government.

So in this unit we learnt about the term "federalism" and the key features associated with it.

### Key features of federalism

In the last unit we understood the new term called "federalism". I hope you remember all the key points.

### RECAP:

Federalism	A form of government where power is distributed amongst the central and state government.
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Difference between







Federal and unitary state

1. Unlike unitary form of government, the state governments and central governments in federal states work independently.

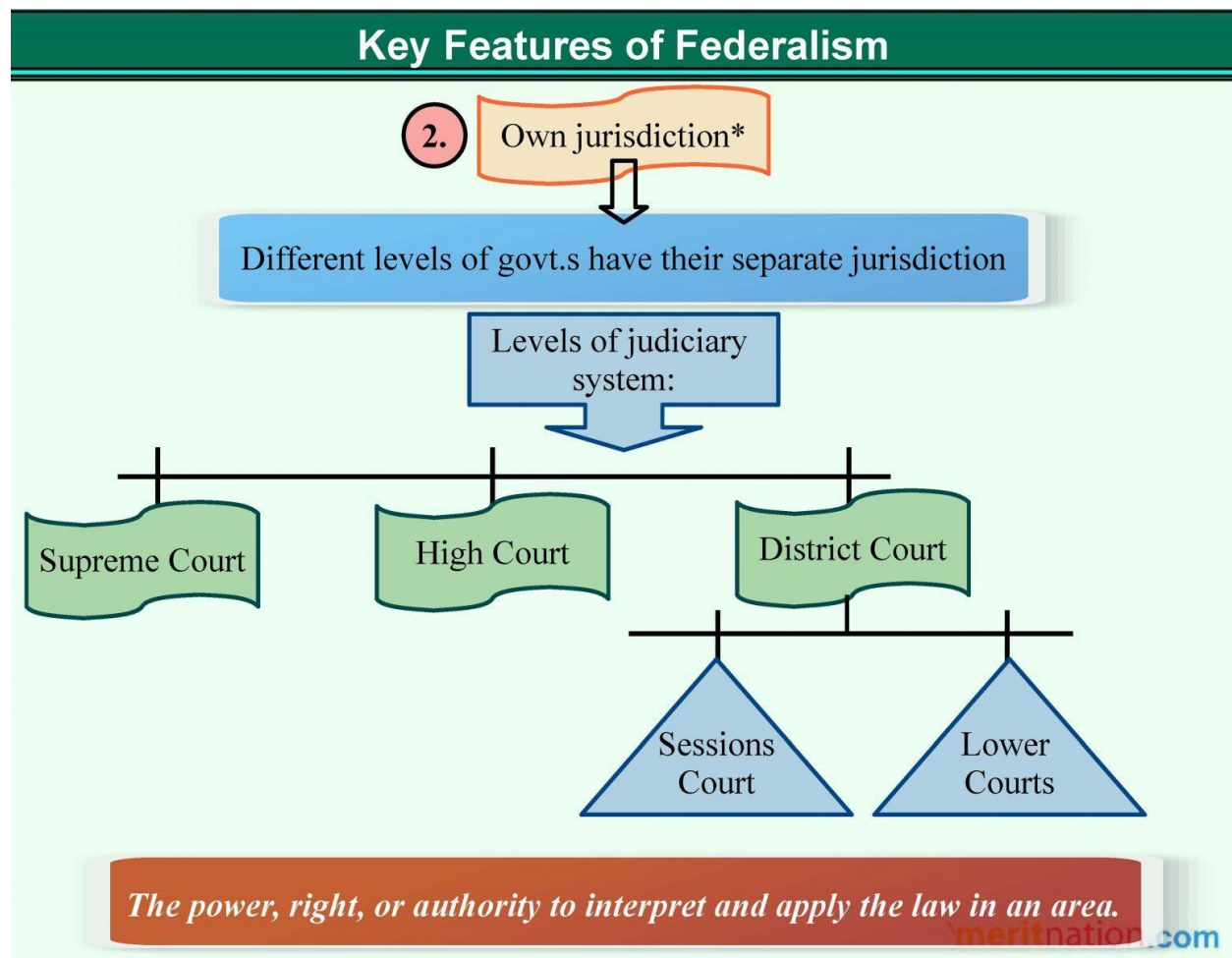
2. Citizens hold a dual citizenship.

Now, we will learn about the different **peculiar features** of the **Federal Government**:

1. The federal form of government has two or more levels of the government: The government at the **national level**, the government at the **state level** and in some cases **local government** as well.

Key Features of Federalism		
1. Two or more levels of government		
Levels	Functioning	Head
National level	 Govt. for the entire country	 Prime Minister or the President
State level	 Govt. ruling at diff. states	 Chief Minister
Local level	 Govt. functioning at the local level	 Mayor or Municipal Councillor <a href="http://meritnation.com">meritnation.com</a>

2. In federal countries, just like the different tiers of the government, there are three tiers of jurisdiction as well. Well, each tier of the government has separate jurisdiction:



Thus, there is **Supreme court at the central level, High court at the State level and District courts at the district levels.**

3. Since, the formation and existence of the three tier government, along with their powers and authority is clearly laid down in the constitution, they are said to be 'constitutionally guaranteed'.



## Key Features of Federalism

3.

Constitutionally guaranteed



The constitution  
states

The power, existence  
and authority

*of*

Each tier  
of the govt.

4. The powers mentioned above are constitutionally guaranteed but can be altered only when there is a mutual consent between the central and the state government and that is what makes the country a federal country.

## Key Features of Federalism

4.

Mutual consent



Changes in the constitution can be made by the mutual consent



of

Central govt.

and

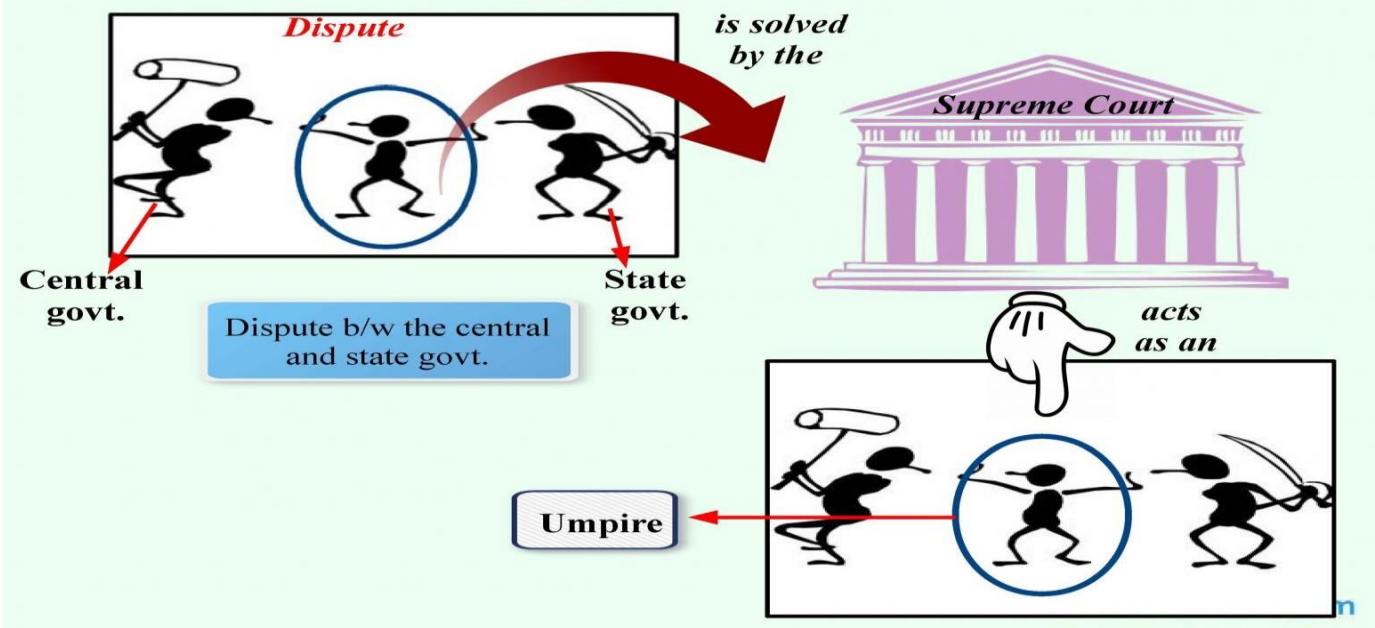
State govt.

5. In a federal state when there is clash of opinion between the two tiers of the government, then it is the Supreme Court that acts as an umpire to solve the issues.

## Key Features of Federalism

5.

Supreme court acts as an umpire



6. In a federal setup, every tier is given the financial freedom to raise money through different sources and spend it according to the needs of the people. Let us see how the three tiers choose to collect money:

## Key Features of Federalism

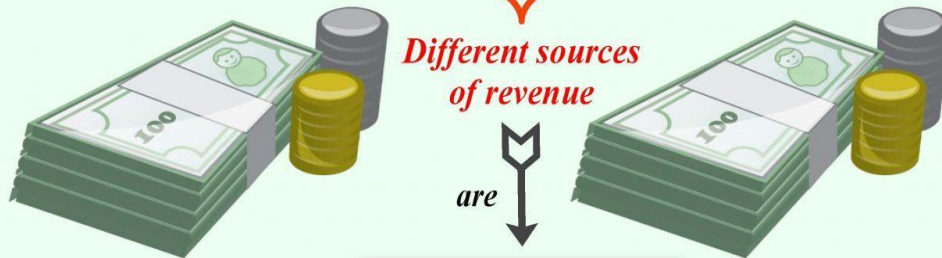
6.

Financial autonomy

Loans

Tax

Foreign aid



*Different sources  
of revenue*

are

Clearly specified  
for each government

for

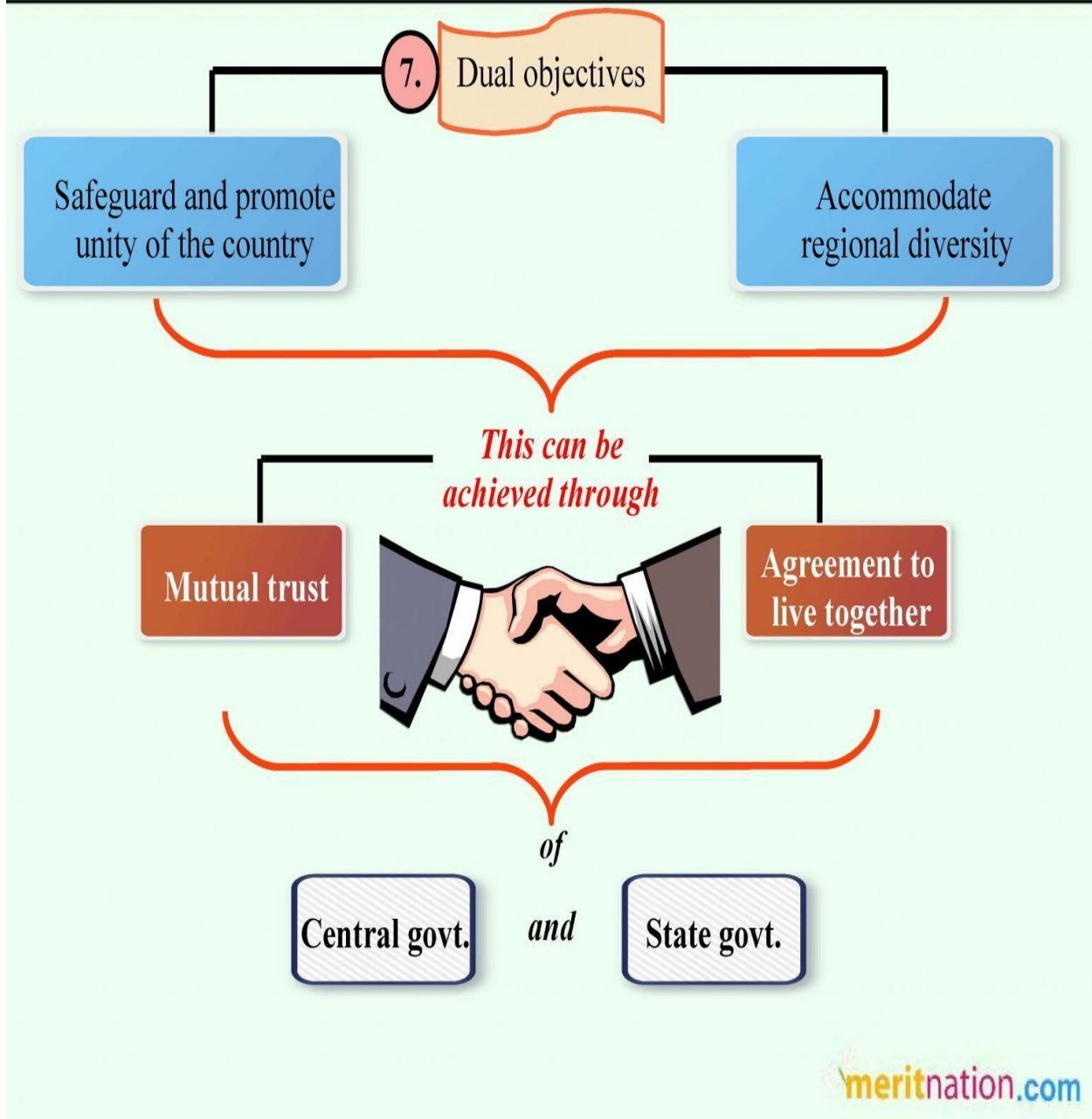
Ensuring its financial autonomy

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8. Also, the central government and the state government work together to safeguard and promote the unity of the country.



## Key Features of Federalism



India as a federal state

### RECAP

In the last unit we studied the various features of federal state in greater details. I hope by now you are familiar with the term federalism.

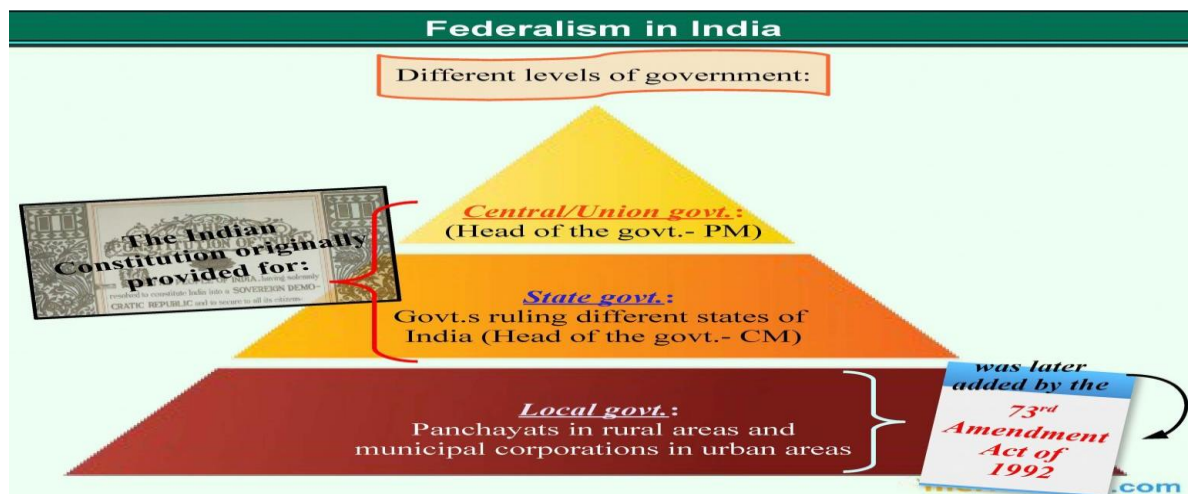
### Lets quickly revise what we had studied:

Key features	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Two or more levels of government.</li><li>2. Different levels of government have separate jurisdiction.</li><li>3. The powers of the tiers of government are written in the constitution.</li><li>4. Each government has its own financial autonomy.</li></ol>
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Now, we will learn how these features are related to the form of government that exists in India and see how power is distributed amongst the three types of government in the country.

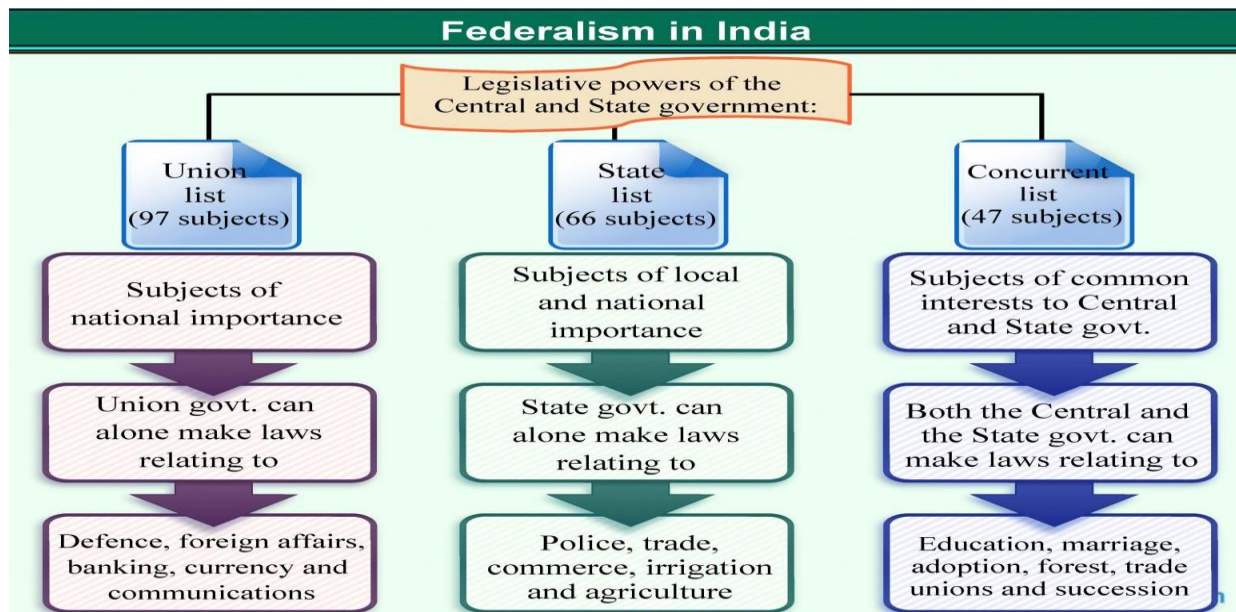
Firstly, we will focus on the features of the Indian government.

In India, there are **three different levels** of government:



If you can recall we have studied earlier that in a federal state powers are distributed amongst the different governments. This is a very peculiar feature of this form of government. This feature matches with the structure of the Indian government. Isn't it.

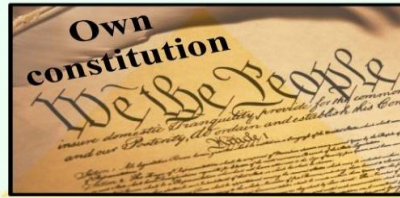
Also, There are three types of lists, defined in the constitution, which define the powers of the different levels of government:



Though the power distribution between the central and state government is well established in the constitution there is an exceptional case of Jammu and Kashmir:

## Federalism in India

Special powers for Jammu and Kashmir



Many provisions of the Indian Constitution are not applicable to J&K without the approval of the state assembly



Indians who are not permanent residents of J&K cannot buy land or house there



The conflicts and the tensions that prevail in the state of Jammu and Kashmir is the main reason behind the exceptions that are granted to the state.

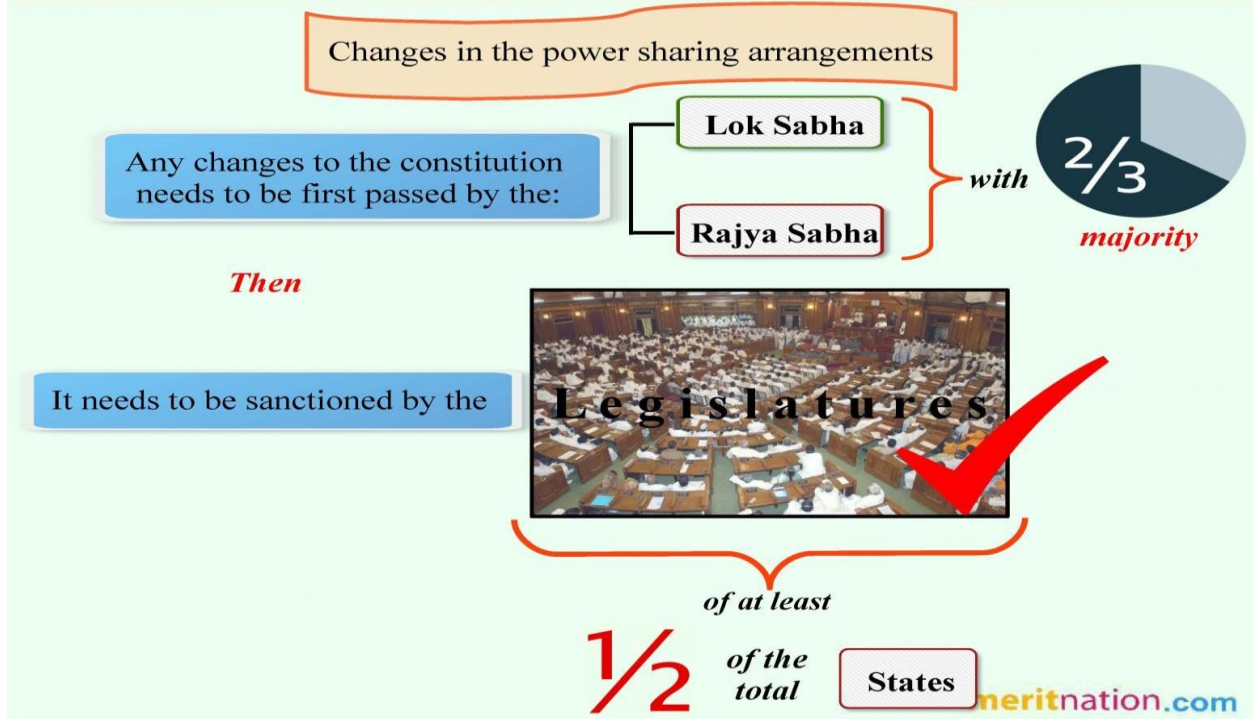
Union Territories are also exceptional cases and come under the control of the central government.

In the last unit we learnt that the powers given under the constitution can be amended but for that a particular procedure needs to be followed. This feature of a federal state is very much applicable for India as well.





## Federalism in India



So, by far we have learnt about the two features i.e. the different levels of government in India and the powers that they hold, but there are more features that make India a federal state.

### Other Features of Federalism in India

As we studied in the last unit, different levels of government in a federal state have their own judicial mechanism. India follows the same custom:



## Federalism in India

### Role of judiciary

**Original Jurisdiction:** Cases that come directly to the Supreme Court



vs



Union government  
vs state government



vs



State government vs  
state government



vs



Union govt. and one or more state govt. on one  
side and one or more state govts. on the other

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## Federalism in India

### Role of judiciary

*Disputes  
b/w*



vs



Central govt. vs State govt.

*is resolved  
by the*

High Court

and

Supreme  
Court

### Financial power to impose taxes

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## Federalism in India

### Role of judiciary

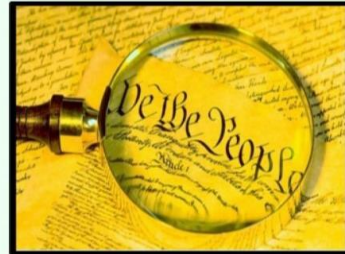
**Appellate Jurisdiction:** Supreme Court hears appeals against the decisions of the High Court



Criminal Cases



Civil Cases

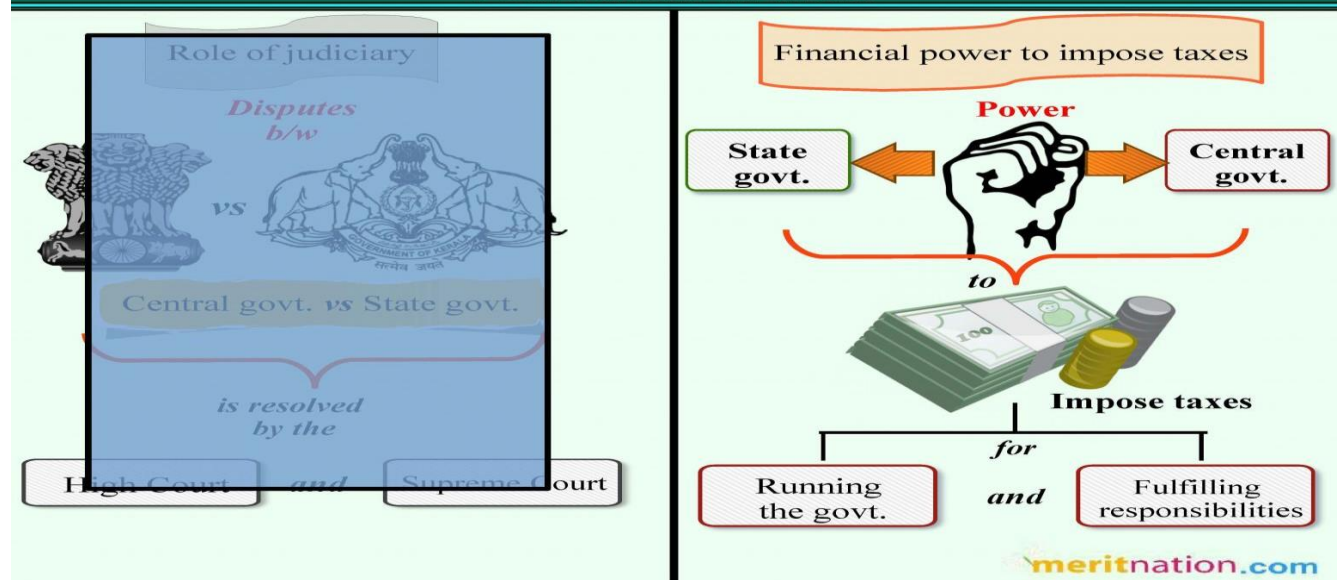


Interpretation of Constitution

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Each level of government in India is also given the financial autonomy.

## Federalism in India



How India maintains its federal feature

### RECAP

In the last unit we learnt how federalism prevails in India

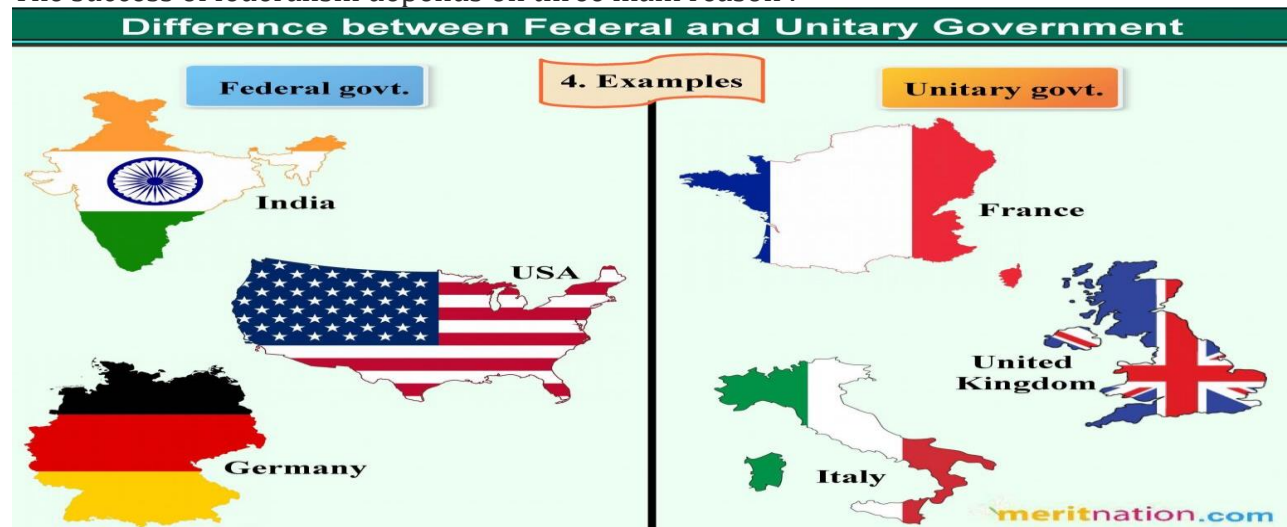
Features of the Indian state	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. there are three tiers of the government i.e. Central, state and at local level.</li> <li>2. The financial autonomy is distributed amongst the three tiers.</li> <li>3. Each tier has its own jurisdiction.</li> </ol>
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*But how has this system worked out so well in our country? Do you know ?*

The constitutional provisions cannot just be credited for the successful establishment of federalism in India. It is also the democratic politics practiced in our country which can be called as the ***backbone of federalism in India.***

Let us discuss the points in greater detail:

The success of federalism depends on three main reason :



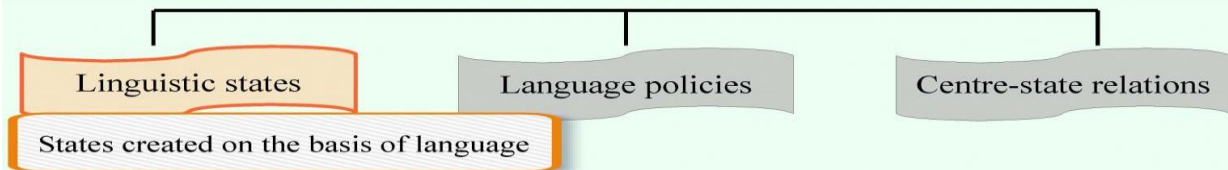
Let's have a quick revision.



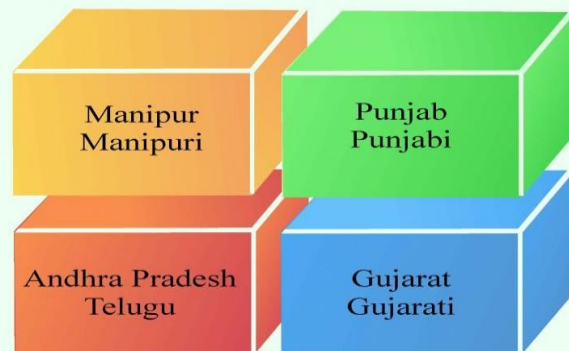
# Success of Federalism in India



## Success of Federalism in India



States created on the basis of language

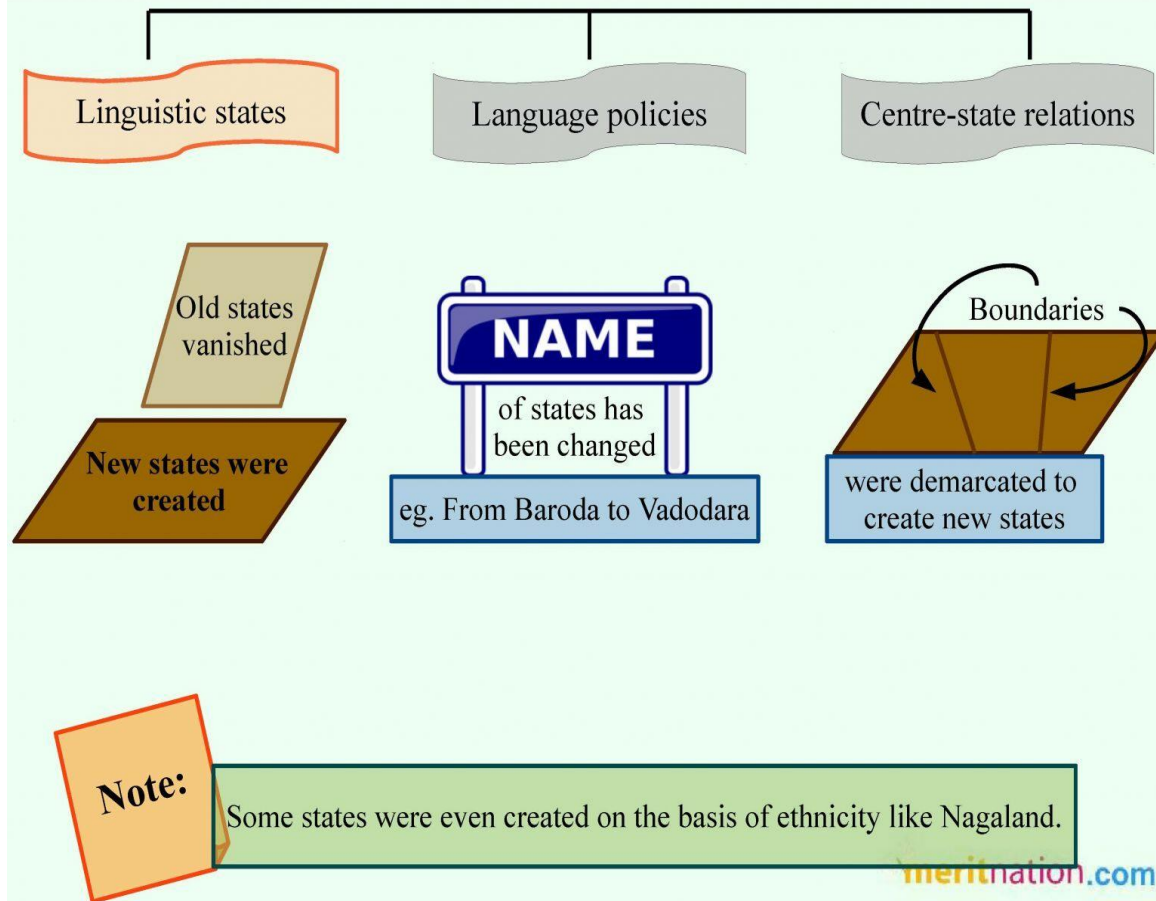


**Ans.** This was done to ensure that people who spoke the same language lived in the same state.

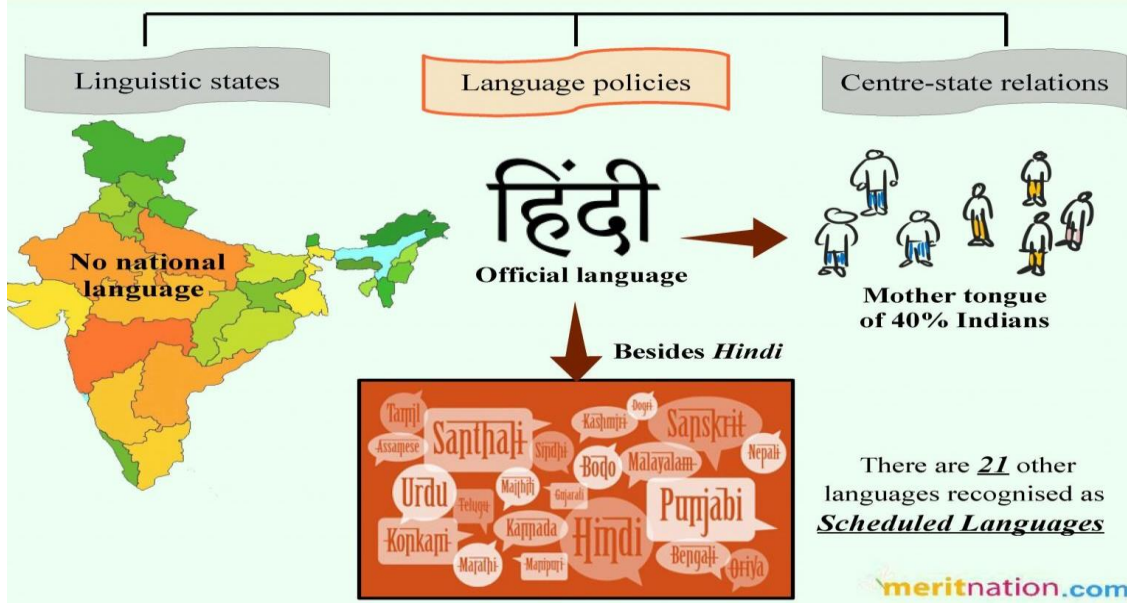
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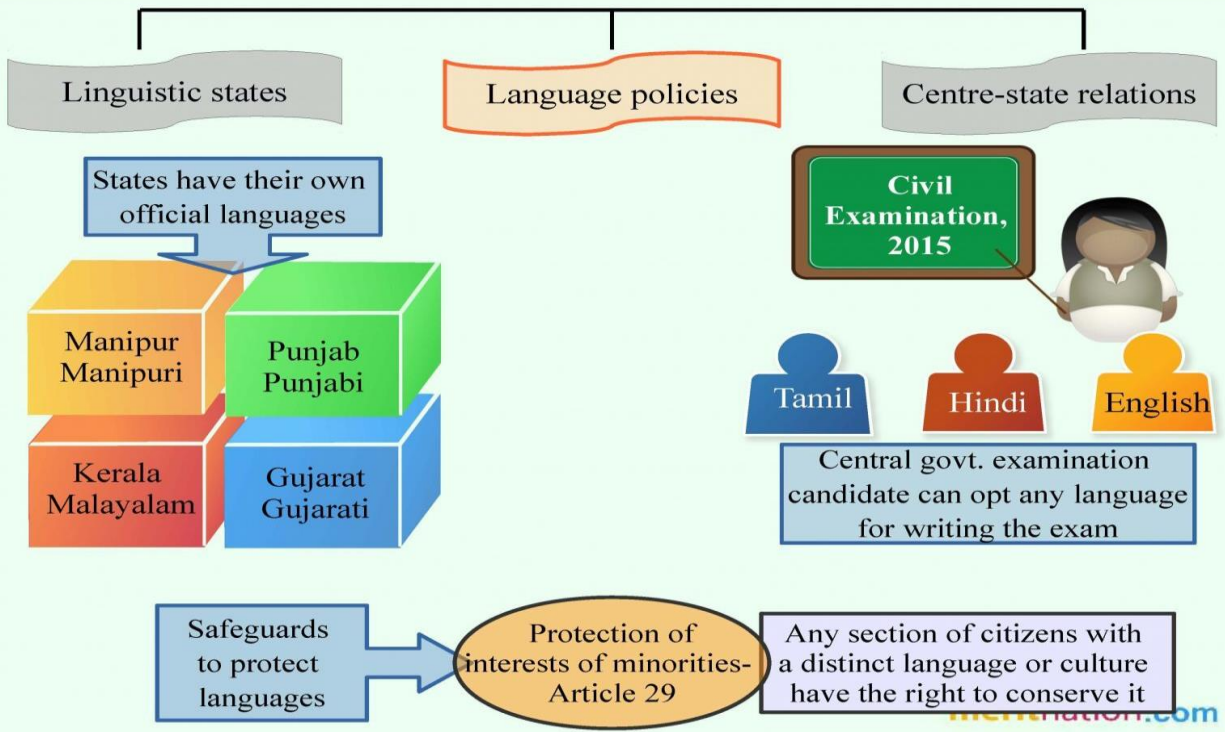
## Success of Federalism in India



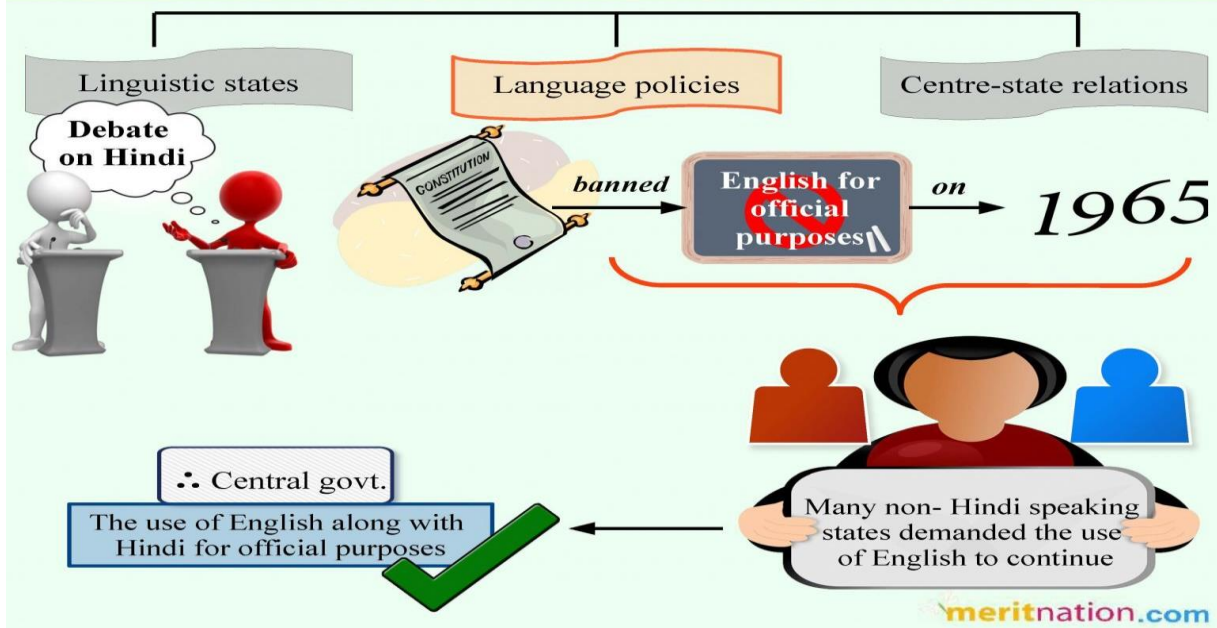
## Success of Federalism in India



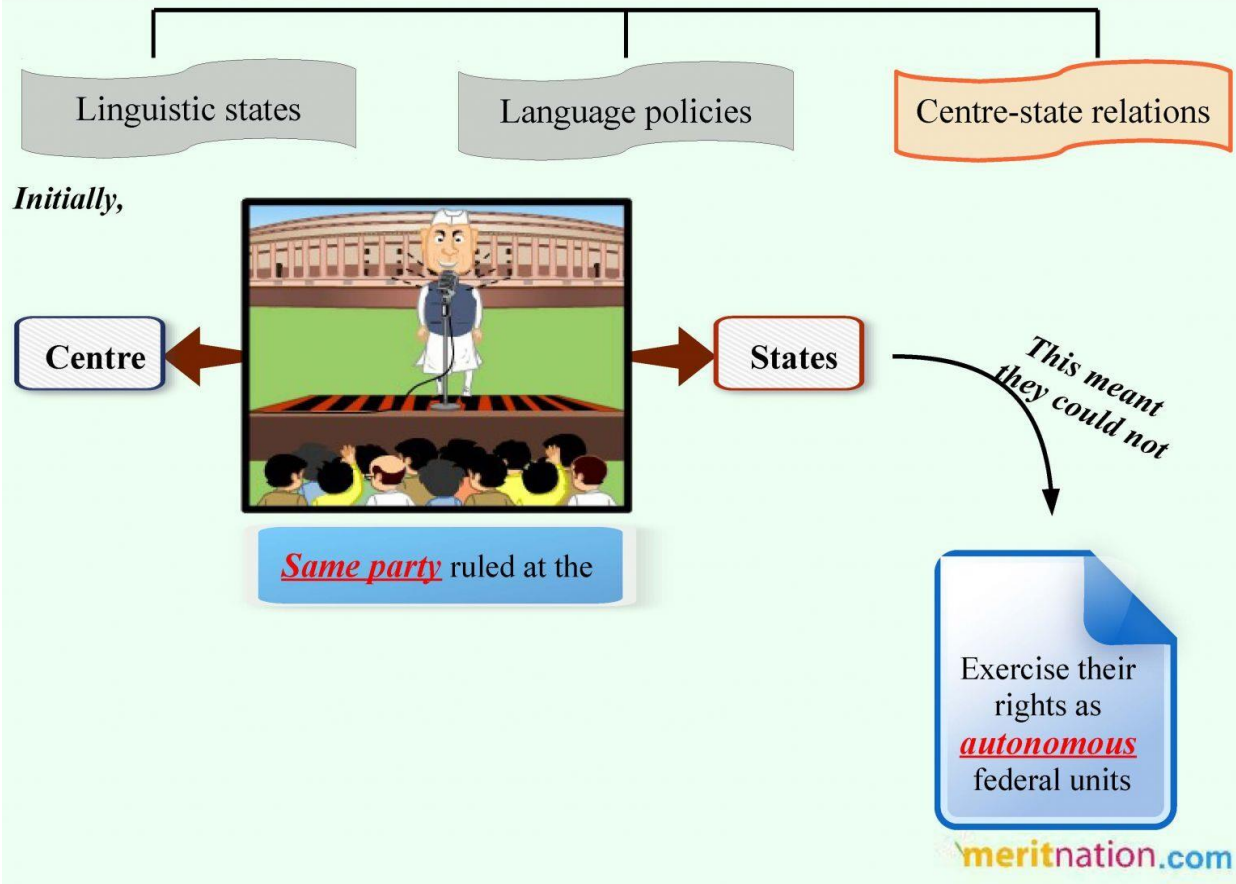
## Success of Federalism in India



## Success of Federalism in India



## Success of Federalism in India



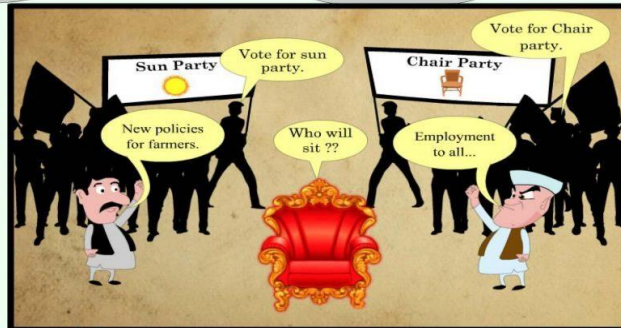


## Success of Federalism in India

Linguistic states

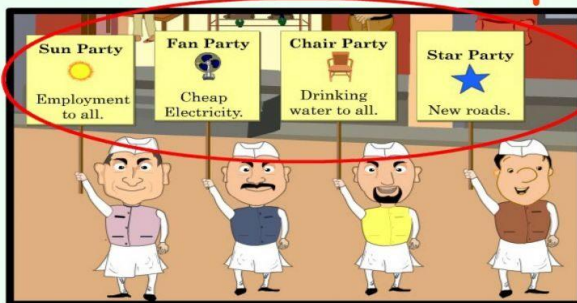
Language policies

Centre-state relations



*Post 1990  
changes,*

When no single party got a clear majority in the Lok Sabha



Major national parties entered into an alliance with many other parties to form a govt. at the Centre

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## Success of Federalism in India

Linguistic states

Language policies

Centre-state relations

*Later,*



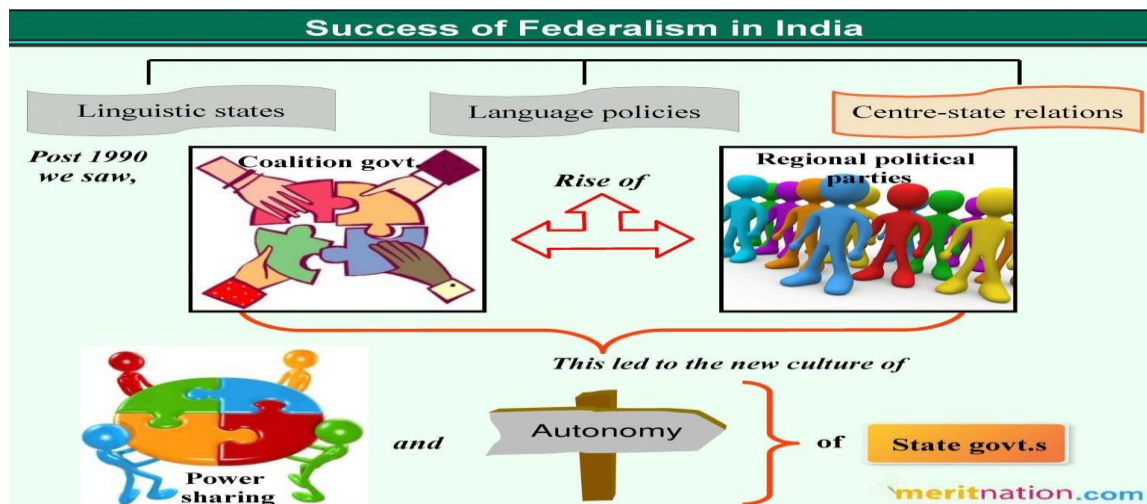
*Different or rival  
parties* ruling at the

*used to*



*Undermine  
the power of  
the states  
and dismiss  
the govt.*

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### Important Question

Now that we have discussed all the topics from this chapter, it's time to have a look at some important questions.

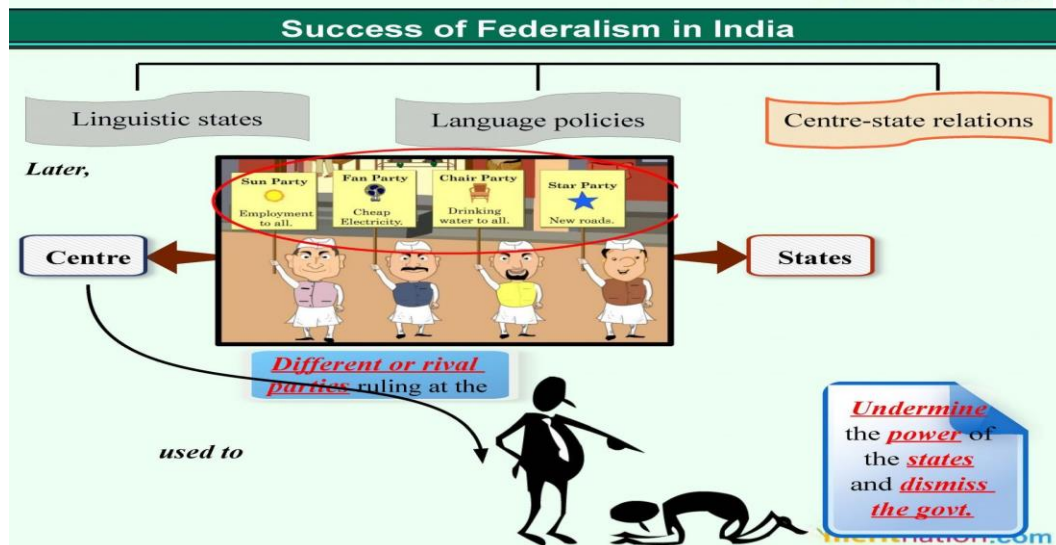
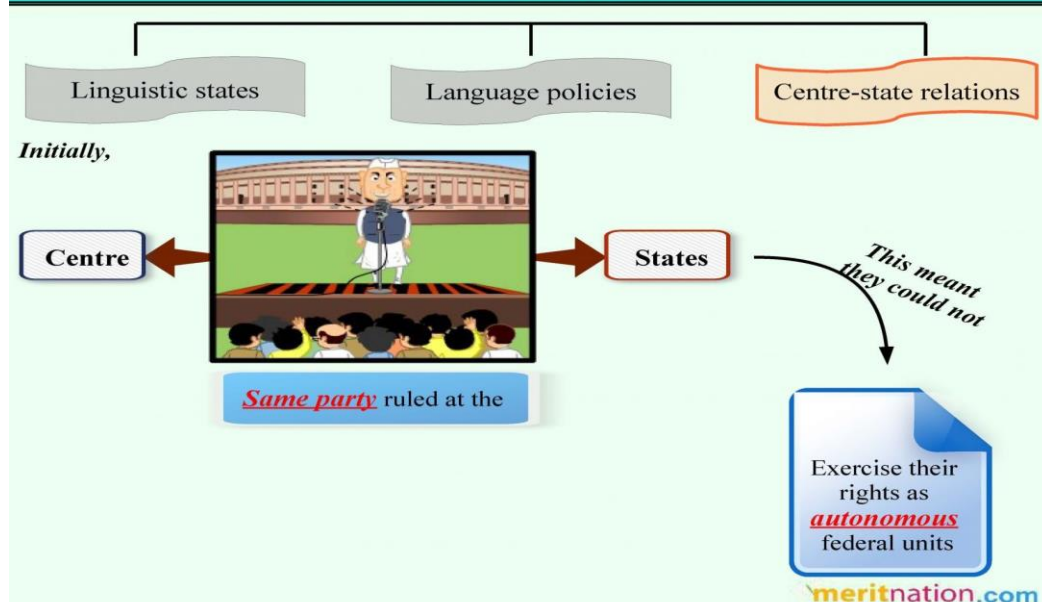
1. What values can be attached to Federalism in India?
2. What are the functions of the Municipal Cooperation?
3. What are the problems of rural local government ?
4. What is the difference felt in the local self Government after the amendment Act 1992?
5. What is Decentralisation and what is the idea behind it?
6. Indian federal system is a Quasi - Federal system". Explain the statement.

### Centre state relations

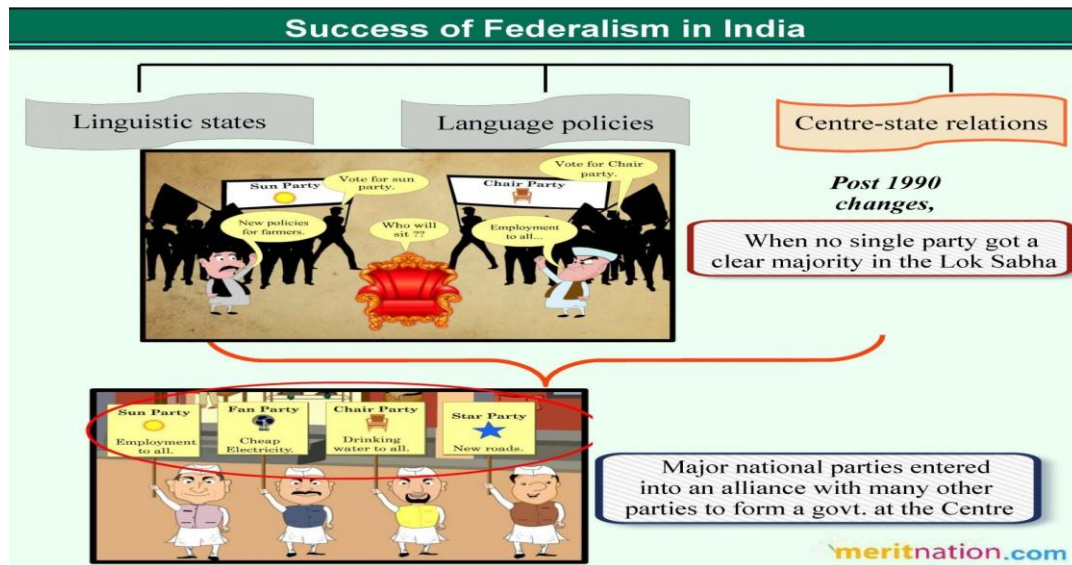
#### Centre-State Relations :

- The central government in India has the power to dissolve the state government on grounds of inefficiency and impose the President's rule in the state.
- Before 1990, the central government often misused the Constitution to dismiss the state governments that were controlled by rival parties.
- After 1990, the era of coalition governments at the centre started. The major national parties had to enter into alliances with many regional parties for forming the government. This led to a new culture of power sharing and respect for the autonomy of state governments.

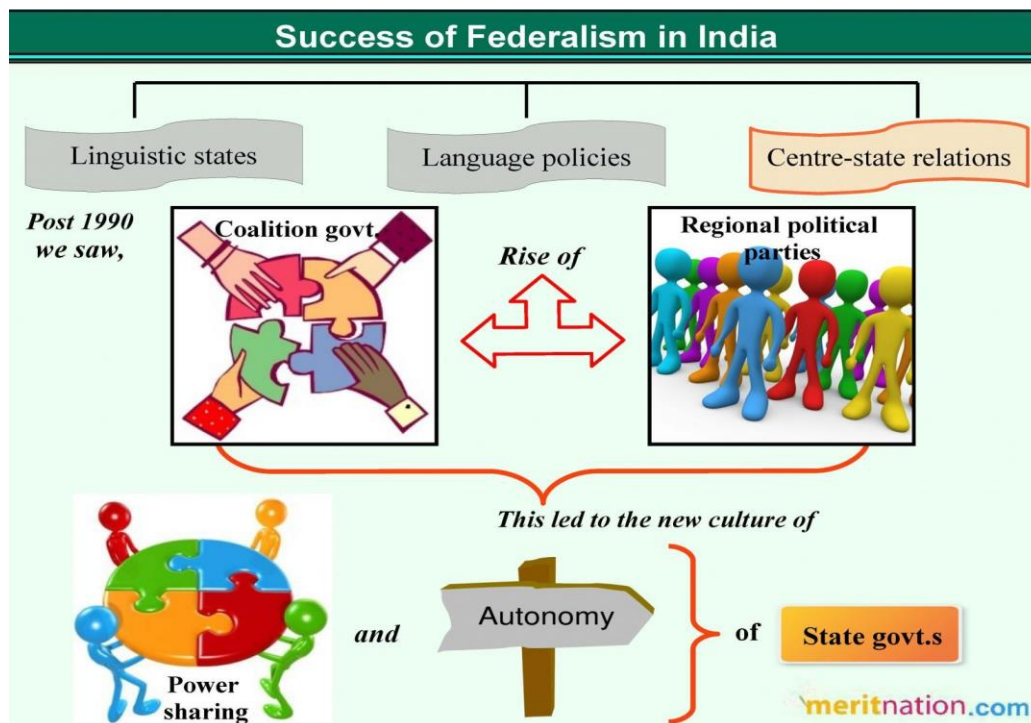
## Success of Federalism in India







This is known as coalition government.



## Decentralisation

### Decentralisation in India :

- It refers to the delegation of power to the local governments.
- Decentralisation makes the government more responsive to people's demands.
- It ensures people's direct participation in decision making.



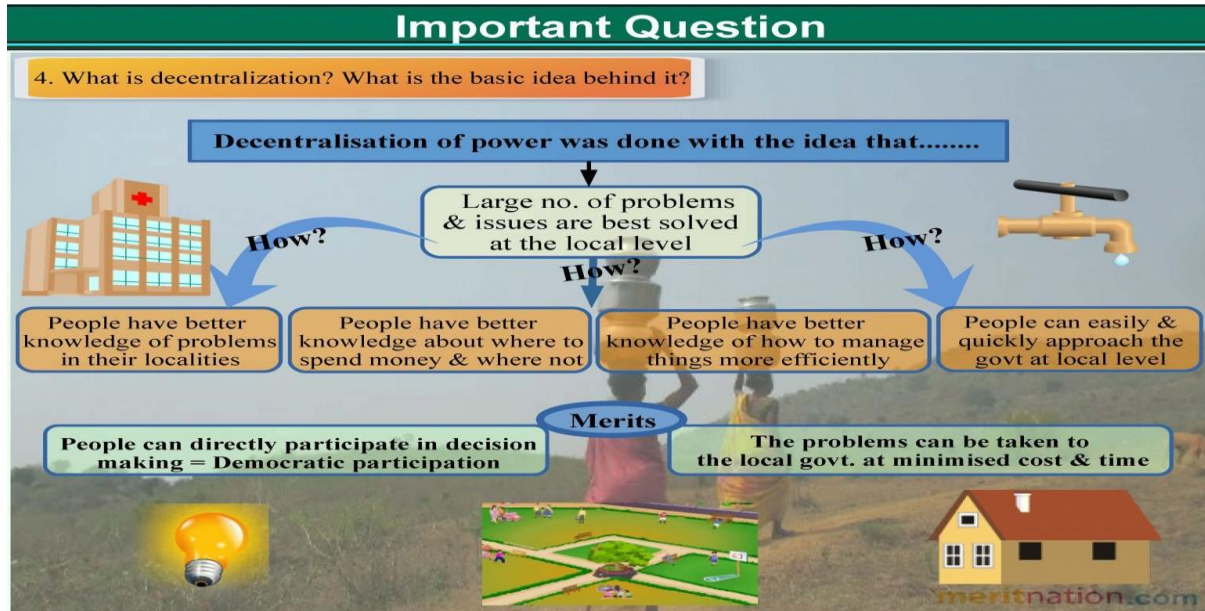
- In 1992, the Indian Constitution was amended to make the third-tier of democracy more powerful and effective.
- It is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections for local government bodies.
- Seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and Other Backward Classes.
- At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.
- The State Election Commission of every state conducts panchayat and municipal elections.
- The state governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies. The nature of sharing varies from state to state.
- Rural local government is known as Panchayati Raj.
- Local bodies that exist for the urban areas are known as municipalities. Big cities are constituted into municipal corporations. Both municipalities and municipal corporations are controlled by elected bodies consisting of people's representatives.
- Municipal Chairperson is the political head of the municipality. In a municipal corporation, such an officer is called the Mayor.

### Important Question

4. What is decentralization? What is the basic idea behind it?



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## Values of Federalism

The values associated with federalism are as follows :

