**Session4**

**The levels of government, Indian Federation**

India is a “Union of States”, i.e. it has federal structure. There are two levels of government: a central authority looking after the major affairs of the country and the other is a local government which looks after the functioning and activities of specific regions. At center the Union government, and at State level, we have the individual State governments.

The Government at the center: *Lok Sabha* and the *Rajya Sabha*. Then come the various state governments, the *Vidhan Sabhas*, and the *Vidhan Parishad*. And finally, we have the Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, and the *Panchayats*, which are local governing bodies.

Constitution clearly demarcates legislative powers and jurisdictions of these government bodies. This is understood through following lists:

Union List: Includes subjects of national importance, like defense, finance, railways, banking etc. Only the Central Government is allowed to make laws.

State List: Includes all matters pertaining to particular state like transport, Trade, Commerce, agriculture etc. The state government is the deciding authority for framing laws for these matters.

Concurrent List: Includes topics on which both the Union and the state government can make laws: education, forests, trade unions etc. In case of conflict with respect to laws, the decision of the Union Government will prevail as it is the final authority.

**Question 1: How do you think the federal system of government is essential/beneficial for the smooth governance? (5 Marks)**

**Ans**: Federalism is part of the basic structure of the Indian constitution which cannot be altered or destroyed through constitutional amendments under the constituent powers of the Parliament without undergoing judicial review by the Supreme Court.

Federalism in India describes the distribution of legal authority across national states and local government in India. It is embedded from the Canadian model of Federalism.

This Federalism is asymmetric as the developed powers of the constituent units are not all the same.

Federal system has two levels of governance in the in the country. There can even be more that is the entire power is not concentrated with one government.

After the removal of Article 370, India has become a fully federal country because all the states and the Union Territories have same power and follows the same constitution unlike Jammu and Kashmir that have different rules and regulation

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