

FEDERALISM

Federalism :- vertical division of power among different levels of government;

Federalism is a system of govt. in which the same territory is controlled by two levels of govt.

* Federalism is a system of govt. in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country.

UNITARY SYSTEM

- * only one level of govt.
- * the central govt. can pass on orders to the provincial governments
- * state govt. are subordinate or never exist
- * centralization of powers
- * not much democratic
- * it may or may not have a constitution
- * no powers to Judiciary
- * no power sharing

Ex. United Kingdom
Sri Lanka

FEDERAL SYSTEM

- * two or more levels of govt.
- * the central govt. can't pass on orders to state govt.
- * state govt. exist and aren't subordinate
- * de-centralization of powers
- * pure democratic
- * It must have a constitution
- * Judiciary solves the disputes
- * Power sharing

Ex. India
Belgium

On the basis of balance of power between the central and the state govt., we classify federations into-

'Coming together' federations

'holding together' federations

* independent states come together on their own to form a bigger unit

* States usually have equal powers & are strong as federal govt.

* → all units have equal powers

* objective - security & ^{sovereignty} identity

* Eg. USA ; Switzerland ; Australia

* when a large country divides its power between the national govt. and the constituent units to hold the country together

* the central govt. tends to be more powerful than the states

* → different units of federation have unequal powers

* objective - unity, ^{cohesion} virginity

* Eg. India ; Spain ; Belgium

Key features of Federalism / Indian Federalism

1. more than one level of govt. / multi levels of govt.
e.g. 3 tier system in India
2. each tier has its own jurisdiction & different tiers govern the same citizens
e.g. 3 fold distribution of powers in Union list, state list & Concurrent list
3. Constitutional guarantee
e.g. provisions are mentioned in Indian Constitution
4. fundamental provisions can't be unilaterally changed
e.g. 2/3 majority in houses & consent of 50% states is required
5. Independent judiciary
e.g. court acts as an umpire & solve the disputes of diff. levels
6. Financial autonomy
e.g. sources of revenue for each level is specified

How is federalism practiced?

1. Linguistic States - creation of states on the basis of languages; States are also created based on culture, ethnicity or geography
e.g. Nagaland, Uttarakhand & Jharkhand
→ It has made administration easy
2. Language Policy - Hindi as official language;
22 scheduled languages;
e.g. Tamil Nadu
3. Centre - State relations - Coalition govt.

Decentralisation in India

* When powers are taken away from Central & State govt.s. and given to local govt.s., it is called decentralisation.

73rd Amendment Act, 1992

- ① regular elections mandatory
- ② reservations for the SC, ST, OBC & women [1/3]
- ③ creation of State Election Commission (SECI)
- ④ financial powers