

CHAPTER - 2

Federalism

Unitary System

- Either, there is only one level of govt. or the sub units are subordinate to central govt.
- The central govt. can pass on orders to the provincial or the local govt.
- Local govt. do not enjoy any freedom or power
- Ex. - UK, China, etc.

Federal system

- Power is divided between a central authority and its various constituents
- The central govt. can not order ~~other~~ states govt. to do something.
- Local govt. enjoy freedom and power
- India, USA etc.

★ Key features of federalism:

- i) Two or more levels (or tiers) of govt. exist.
- ii) Each level of govt. has its own jurisdiction.
- iii) The jurisdiction of the respective levels of govt. are specified in constitution.
- iv) Courts have power to interpret the constitution and the powers of different levels of govt.
- v) The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be changed by one level of govt. ~~it~~ on its own.
- vi) Sources of revenue for each level of govt. are clearly specified.
- vii) The federal system, thus have dual objective:
 - a) To safeguard and promote unity of the country.
 - b) Accomodate regional diversity.

Coming together federation

- Independent states come together on their own to form a bigger unit.

- All the constituent states usually have equal power.

- By pooling sovereignty and retaining identity, they can increase their security.

- Ex. - USA, Switzerland and Australia.

Holding together federation

A large country decides to divide its power between constituent states and national govt.

The central govt. tends to be more powerful.

They divide their resources as per the requirements of the central and state units.

Ex. - India, Spain and Belgium.

Q.1. What makes India a Federal country?

Ans. → The distribution of powers between the union and the state govt. makes India a federal country.

- India has a federal system, where the Union and state govt. have their own spheres of authority.
- Written constitution.

- Independent judiciary.
- Decentralization of power.

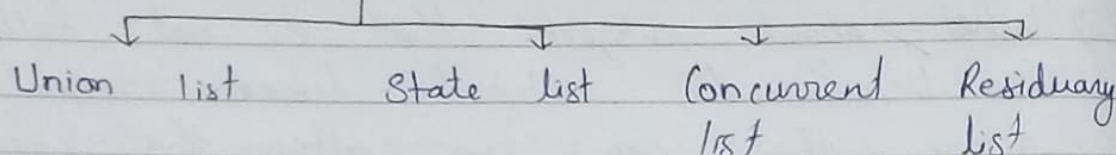
Q 2 What about subjects that do not fall in any 3 lists? Or subjects like computer software that came up after the constitution was made?

Ans: In such cases:

- The central govt. has the power to legislate on any matter not specified in any of the 3 lists (residual power).
- The parliament can also make laws on matters not mentioned in the lists.
- * In the case of computer software, specifically:
 - The central govt. has enacted laws like Information Technology Act (2008) to regulate software and cyber activities.
 - The govt. has also set up bodies like the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) to promote software exports and development.

Features of Indian Federation

① Three list system



② Special status to some states

Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram

Smaller units enjoy limited power.

Ex - Chandigarh and Delhi.

③ By lateral decision

④

How Federalism is practiced in India

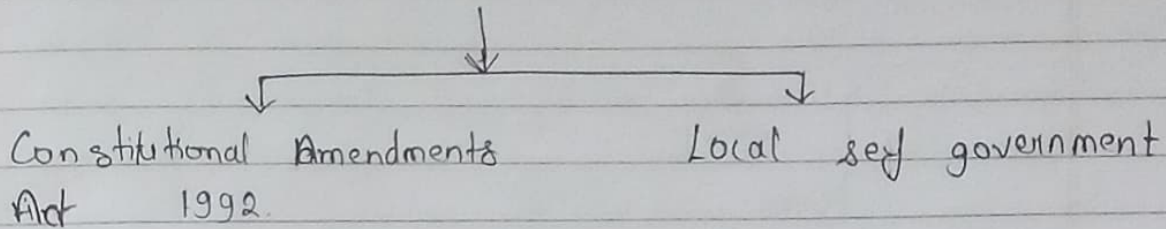
i) Linguistic state

ii) Language policy

iii) Centre state relations

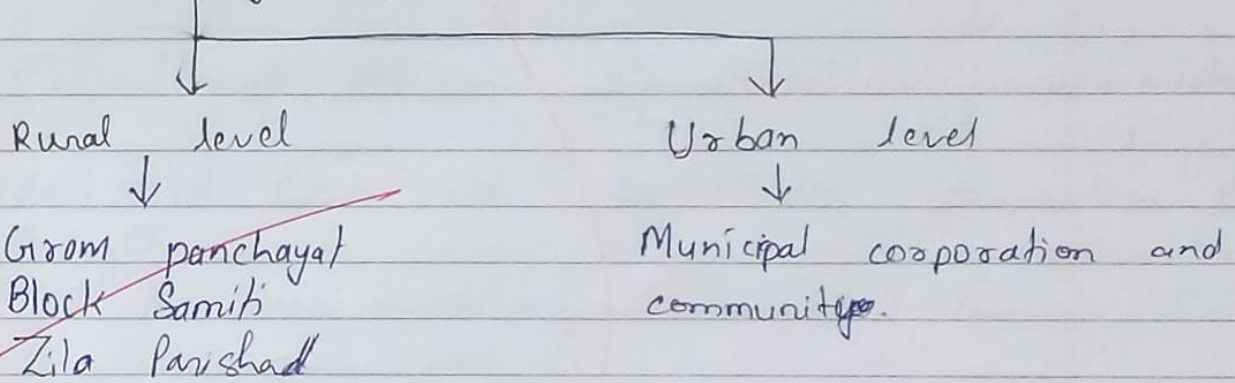
iv) Decentralization

* Decentralisation in India



- Mandatory regular election
- State election commission
- Seats for women and SCs / STs (73rd amendment)
- Share of revenue with local govt.

Local self govt.



District level → Zila Parishad
Block level → Block Samiti
Village level → Gram Panchayat