INHERITANCE

In Java, Inheritance means creating new classes based on existing ones. A class that inherits from another class can reuse the methods and fields of that class.

Why Do We Need Java Inheritance?

- **Code Reusability:** The code written in the Superclass is common to all subclasses. Child classes can directly use the parent class code.
- **Method Overriding:** Method Overriding is achievable only through Inheritance. It is one of the ways by which Java achieves Run Time Polymorphism.
- **Abstraction:** The concept of abstract where we do not have to provide all details is achieved through inheritance. Abstraction only shows the functionality to the user.

Java Inheritance Types

Below are the different types of inheritance which are supported by Java.

1. Single Inheritance
2. Multilevel Inheritance
3. Hierarchical Inheritance
4. Multiple Inheritance
5. Hybrid Inheritance

1. Single Inheritance

In single inheritance, subclasses inherit the features of one superclass. In the image below, class A serves as a base class for the derived class B.

2. Multilevel Inheritance

In Multilevel Inheritance, a derived class will be inheriting a base class, and as well as the derived class also acts as the base class for other classes. In the below image, class A serves as a base class for the derived class B, which in turn serves as a base class for the derived class C. In Java, a class cannot directly access the grandparent's members.

3. Hierarchical Inheritance

In Hierarchical Inheritance, one class serves as a superclass (base class) for more than one subclass. In the below image, class A serves as a base class for the derived classes B, C, and D.

4. Multiple Inheritance (Through Interfaces)

In Multiple inheritances, one class can have more than one superclass and inherit features from all parent classes. Please note that Java does **not** support multiple inheritances with classes. In Java, we can achieve multiple inheritances only through Interfaces. In the image below, Class C is derived from interfaces A and B.

5. Hybrid Inheritance

It is a mix of two or more of the above types of inheritance. Since Java doesn't support multiple inheritances with classes, hybrid inheritance involving multiple inheritance is also not possible with classes. In Java, we can achieve hybrid inheritance only through Interfaces if we want to involve multiple inheritance to implement Hybrid inheritance.

However, it is important to note that Hybrid inheritance does not necessarily require the use of Multiple Inheritance exclusively. It can be achieved through a combination of Multilevel Inheritance and Hierarchical Inheritance with classes, Hierarchical and Single Inheritance with classes. Therefore, it is indeed possible to implement Hybrid inheritance using classes alone, without relying on multiple inheritance type.