

## Ch-2 Federalism

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### What is Federalism?

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

### Features of Federalism

- There are two or more levels of government.
- Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each government have power independent of the other.
- The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be changed by one level of government.
- The judiciary prevents conflict between centre and regional government in the exercise of their powers.
- Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.

### Kinds of Federations

- ‘Coming together’ Federations: The independent States coming together on their own to form a bigger unit.
- ‘Holding together’ Federations: A large country decides to divide its power between the constituent States and the national government.

### What makes India a federal country?

- The Constitution originally provided for a two-tier system of government - Central Government, representing the Union of India and the State governments.
- Later, the third tier of federalism was added in the form of Panchayats and Municipalities.

The Constitution divides powers between the Union Government and the State

Governments within three lists:

- Union List includes subjects of national importance.
- State List contains subjects of State and local importance.
- Concurrent List includes subjects of common interest to both the Union Government as well as the State Governments, such as education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession.
- Residuary subjects: Those subjects which are not mentioned in any of the three lists or any other matter that arise with passage of time.

### **Features of Indian Federation**

- All states of India do not have equal powers.
- The Parliament cannot on its own change power sharing. These changes need the approval of both the Houses of Parliament with at least two-thirds majority.
- The judiciary oversee the implementation of constitutional provisions and procedures.

### **How is federalism practised?**

#### **Linguistic states**

In 1947, the boundaries of several old States of India were changed in order to create new States:

- On the basis of language.
- On the basis of culture.

#### **Language policy**

- Our Constitution has not made any language the national language of India.
- Hindi was identified as the official language.
- Besides Hindi, there are 21 other languages recognised as Scheduled Languages by the Constitution.

- States too have their own official languages.
- English along with Hindi used for official purposes.

### **Centre-State relations**

- The sharing of powers between Centre and States by the constitution has also strengthened federalism in India.