

CIVICS

CHAPTER 2

FEDERALISM : When powers are divided between two or more levels of the government.

***FEATURES OF FEDERALISM**

1. There are two or more levels of the govt. 2. Each level of govt. has its own jurisdiction. 3. Powers of each level of the govt. are divided by the constitution. 4. Courts solve disputes between different levels of the govt. 5 Changes require the consent of both the levels of the govt.

***DIFFERENCE BETWEEN UNITARY AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:**

-**Unitary form**: 1. There is only one level of the govt. 2. Subunits are subordinate to central govt. 3. Central govt. can pass orders to lower level of govt. 4. For ex UK, France, China.

- **Federal form**: 1. There are two or more levels of govt. 2. State govt. has power of its own. 3. Central govt. cannot pass orders to the state govt. 4 For ex India, US, Canada.

***TWO TYPES OF FEDERATIONS**

- **Coming together**: 1. Independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit. 2. All states have equal powers as the federal govt. 3. For ex USA, Australia, Switzerland.

- **Holding together**: 1. A bigger unit decides to divide its power between states. 2. States do not enjoy equal powers. 3. For ex India, Belgium, Spain.

***THREE FOLD DISTRIBUTION OF LEGISLATIVE POWERS**

- **Union List**: Central govt. only can make laws on these subjects that are of national importance like currency, defence, foreign affairs etc.

- **State list**: State govt. can make laws on these subjects like police, trade etc.

-**Concurrent List**: Both Union govt. and state govt. can make the laws on these subjects like education, forest etc.

***Residuary subjects**: Subjects that do not come in any of the three lists. Union govt. can make laws on them like computer software.

*** Some states enjoy special status**: Jammu and Kashmir has its own constitution. Many provisions of the Indian constitution are not applicable here.

*** WHAT ARE UNION TERRITORIES**: These are the areas which are too small to become an independent state but they cannot be merged with other state. They do not have the power of the state. They are under the control of the Union Govt. For ex Chandigarh, Delhi etc.

*** HOW IS FEDERALISM PRACTICED?**

- **LINGUISTIC STATES:** 1. Many new states have been created. 2. Many old states have been vanished.

3. Some states were created on the basis of language, culture, ethnicity and geography. For ex Nagaland, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand.

- **LANGUAGE POLICY:** No status of national language to anyone language. 2. There are 21 other languages recognized as scheduled languages. 3. States have their own official language. 4. Both Hindi and English are recognized as official language.

*** CENTRE- STATE RELATIONS BEFORE 1990**

1. The state govt. could not work as independent units. 2. The central govt. could dismiss the state govt. in arbitrary manner. 3. The state govt. were treated as subordinate to central govt.

***CENTRE STATE RELATIONS AFTER 1990**

1. State govt. work as autonomous units. 2. State govt. now enjoys power of their own. 3. Central govt. cannot dismiss the state govt. in arbitrary manner.

-**WHY CENTRE- STATE RELATIONS CHANGED AFTER 1990:** 1. Growing importance of regional parties. 2. Era of coalition govt. started. 3. Supreme Court made it difficult for the central govt. to dismiss state govt.

***DECENTRALISATION:** When power is taken away from central and state govt. and given to local govt.

*** BASIC IDEA/ IMPORTANCE/ SIGNIFICANCE OF DECENTRALISATION:**

1. Problems can be solved properly at the local level. 2. People have better knowledge of problems in their localities. 3. They know where to spend money. 4. People directly participate in decision making. 5. Inculcate habit of democratic participation.

*** Local self government/ Decentralization before 1992-**

1. Panchayats were directly under the control of state govt. 2. Elections were not held regularly. 3. Local govt. did not have the powers of their own.

*** Local self government/ Decentralization after 1992 / Constitutional amendment to make local govt. or three tier of democracy more powerful-**

1. It is mandatory to hold regular elections. 2. Seats are reserved for SCs and STs. 3. 2/3 seats are reserved for women. 4. State Election Commission has been created. 5. The state govt. will share some powers and revenue with local govt.

*** STRENGTHS OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT:** 1. There are about 36 Lakhs elected representatives in the local govt. 2. Helps to deepen democracy. 3. Increase women's representation in democracy.

*** PROBLEMS/DIFFICULTIES FACED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DEMERITS):** 1. Meetings of Gram Sabha are not held regularly. 2. State govts. have not transferred powers to local govts. 3. Local govts. do not have adequate resources.

- **Gram Panchayat** - It consists of several members and Sarpanch. 2. Its members are directly elected by the people. 3. It works under gram sabha.

- **Panchayat Samiti / Block / Mandal**- 1. Few Gram Panchayats form Panchayat Samiti. 2. Members are elected by the panchayat members.

- **Zila Parishad**- 1. All the Panchayat Samitis in the district form Zila Parishad. 2. Most of the members are elected. 3. MP and MLA of that area are also its members.

- **Municipalities**- They are set up in towns. 2. Big cities have Municipal Corporation 3. Members are directly elected by the people. 4. Chairperson is known as Mayor.