

# **WELCOME TO THE VIRTUAL CLASS**

## **SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**SUBJECT : CIVICS**  
**CHAPTER NUMBER: 02**  
**CHAPTER NAME : FEDERALISM**

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**CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW**

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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. Usually, a federation has two levels of government.
- One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a few subjects of common national interest.
- The others are governments at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state.
- Both these levels of governments enjoy their power independently.

# FEDERAL V/S UNITARY GOVERNMENT

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- There are usually more than two levels of government who execute their authority independent of each other.
- In a federal system, the central government cannot order the state government to do something.
- State government has powers of its own for which it is not answerable to the central government.
- Both these governments are separately answerable to the people.

## UNITARY GOVERNMENT

- Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the central government.
- The central government can pass on orders to the provincial or the local government.

# FEATURES OF FEDERALISM

1. There are two or more levels (or tiers) of government.
2. Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own JURISDICTION in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
3. The jurisdictions of the respective levels or tiers of government are Specified in the constitution. So the existence and authority of each tier of Government is constitutionally guaranteed.
4. The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government. Such changes require the consent of both the levels of government.
5. Courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of different levels of government. The highest court acts as an umpire if disputes arise between different levels of government in the exercise of their respective powers.
6. Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy
7. The federal system thus has dual objectives: to safeguard and promote unity of the country, while at the same time accommodate regional diversity.

# TYPES OF FEDERALISM

## COMING TOGETHER

- The first route involves independent States coming together on their own to form a bigger unit, so that by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity they can increase their security.
- This type of 'coming together' federations include the USA, Switzerland and Australia.
- In this first category of federations, all the constituent States usually have equal power and are strong vis-à-vis the federal government.

## HOLDING TOGETHER

- The second route is where a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent States and the national government.
- India, Spain and Belgium are examples of this kind of 'holding together' federations.
- In this second category, the central government tends to be more powerful vis-à-vis the States.
- Very often different constituent units of the federation have unequal powers. Some units are granted special powers.

**THANKING YOU**  
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