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Class Xth Subject Political science

Chapter 2 - Federalism

In Chapter 1, you have learned that the division of power among different levels of government is one of the major forms of power sharing in modern democracies. In this chapter, you will understand the theory and practice of federalism in India. Towards the end of the chapter, you will know about the local government, a new and third tier of Indian federalism.

What is federalism?

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

A federation has two levels of government. Both these levels of governments enjoy their power independent of the other.

One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a few subjects of common national interest.

Governments at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state.

Difference Between Unitary System and Federal System

Unitary SystemFederal System

There is only one level of government or the

sub-units are subordinate to the Central Government.

There are two or more levels (or tiers) of government.

The Central Government can pass on orders to the provincial or local government. The Central Government cannot order the state government to do something.

The central government is supreme, and the administrative divisions exercise only powers that the central government has delegated to them. Their powers may be broadened and narrowed by the central governmentState Government has powers of its own for which it is not answerable to the central government.

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