



CBSE • CLASS 10 • SOCIAL SCIENCE

POLITICAL SCIENCE

CHAPTER 02

Federalism



CHAPTER NOTES

FEDERALISM AND UNITARY GOVERNMENT

FEDERALISM

- Power is divided between a central authority and constituent units, such as States.
- Usually, one level governs the whole country and another governs its regions.
- Each level has its own powers and responsibilities.
- Each is answerable to the people.

UNITARY GOVERNMENT

- There may be only one level, or regional units may be subordinate to the central government.
- The central government can give orders to regional governments.

THE MAIN DIFFERENCE

In a federation, the central government cannot simply take over powers constitutionally assigned to States.

TEXTBOOK CASES

- **Belgium** moved from a unitary system to a federal system through constitutional change in 1993.
- **Sri Lanka** retained a unitary system, while Tamil leaders demanded a federal arrangement.

These examples describe the chapter's historical comparison.

KEY FEATURES OF FEDERALISM

1 TWO OR MORE LEVELS

- There are two or more levels of government.

3 CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEE

- The Constitution guarantees the powers and existence of each level.

5 ROLE OF COURTS

- Courts interpret the Constitution. The highest court settles disputes between levels.

7 UNITY AND DIVERSITY

- The system combines national unity with respect for regional diversity.

2 SAME CITIZENS, SEPARATE JURISDICTIONS

- Different levels govern the same citizens, but have separate jurisdictions.

4 CHANGE REQUIRES AGREEMENT

- One level cannot change the fundamental division of powers by itself; agreement of both levels is needed.

6 REVENUE SOURCES

- Revenue sources are specified so that each level can have financial autonomy.

JURISDICTION

The geographical area or subjects over which an authority has legal power.

SUCCESS NEEDS

Mutual trust and agreement to live together.

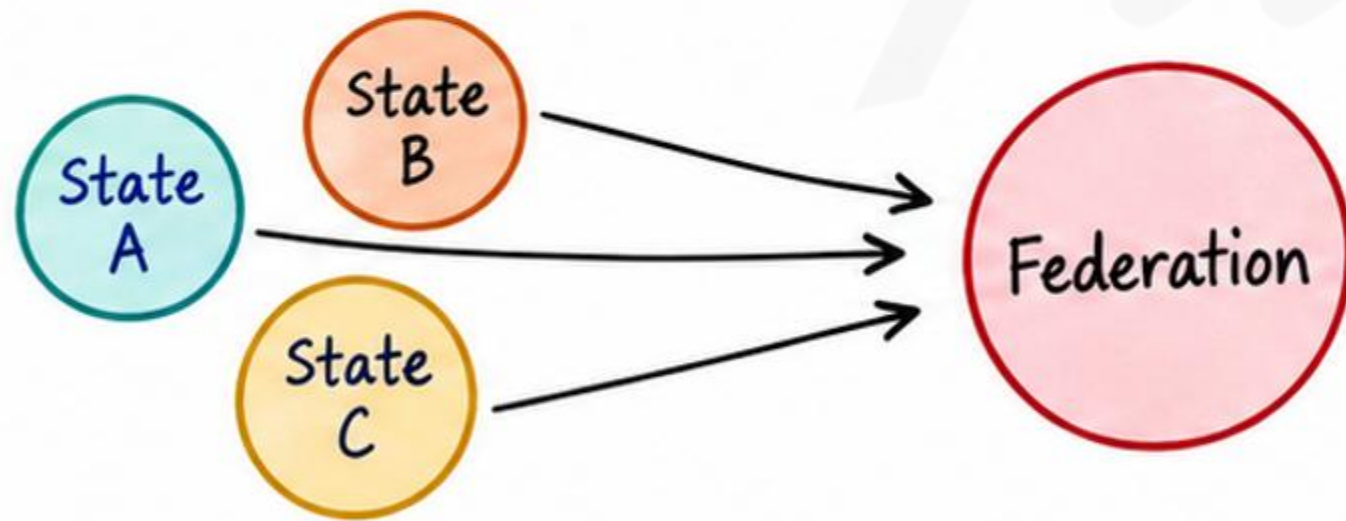
DUAL OBJECTIVE

Safeguard the unity of the country AND accommodate regional diversity.

TWO ROUTES TO A FEDERATION

COMING TOGETHER

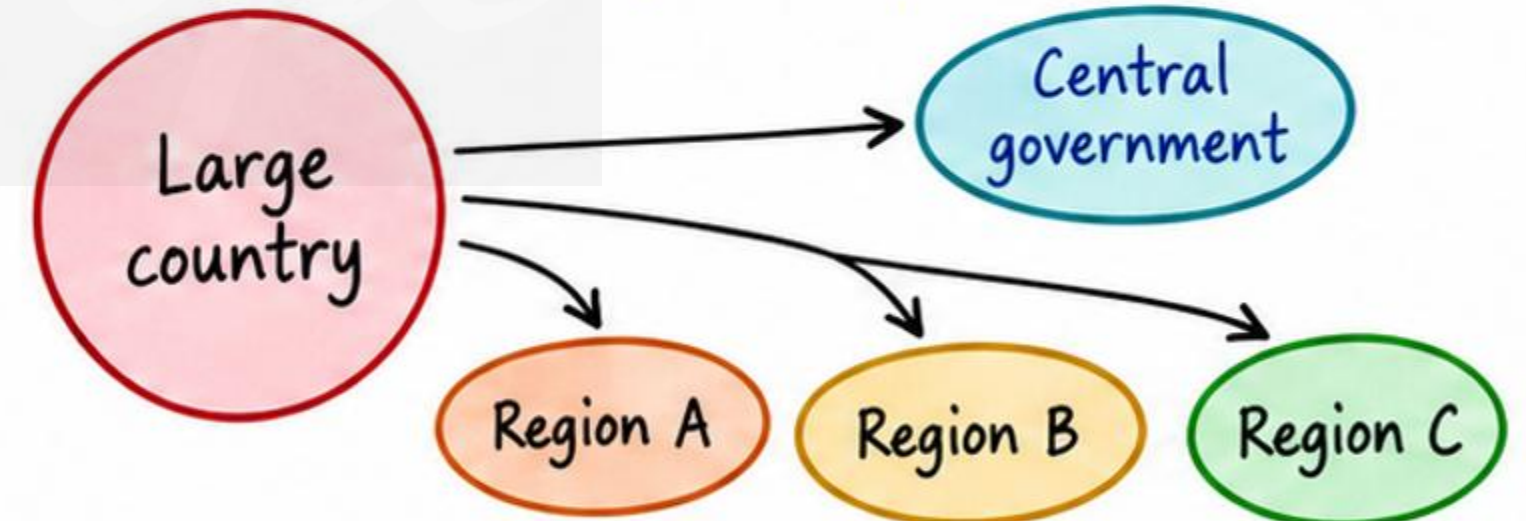
- Independent States join together to form a larger country.
- They pool sovereignty while retaining their identities.
- This helps increase their security.
- Constituent States usually have equal power and are strong in relation to the Centre.



Examples: USA, Switzerland and Australia.

HOLDING TOGETHER

- A large country divides power between the central government and its regions.
- The purpose is to keep a diverse country united.
- The Centre usually has greater power.
- Constituent units may have unequal powers; some may receive special powers.



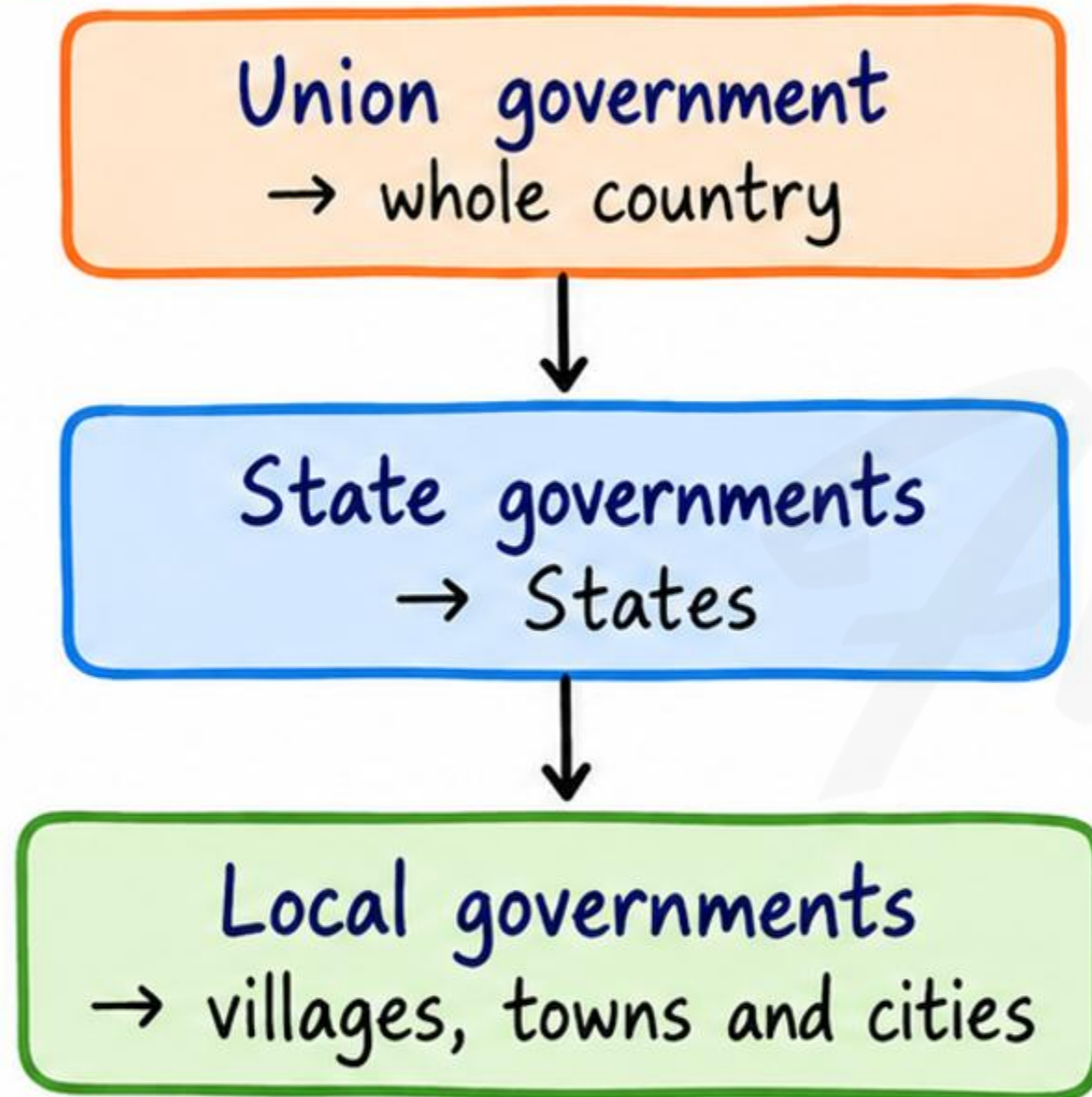
Examples: India, Spain and Belgium.

REMEMBER

Coming together begins with independent units joining. Holding together begins with one large country sharing its power internally.

INDIA: A UNION OF STATES

THREE LEVELS



- The original Constitution provided two levels. Local government later became a constitutionally recognised third tier.

CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS

- After Independence and Partition, India brought together British Indian provinces and princely States.
- The Constitution declares India a Union of States.
- It does not use the word federation, but follows federal principles.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Article 371 provides special arrangements for some States, including Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

- Such arrangements can protect local land, culture and employment interests; details differ by State.

UNION TERRITORIES

- Areas such as Chandigarh, Lakshadweep and Delhi have different administrative arrangements from States.
- The Union government has special authority over their administration.

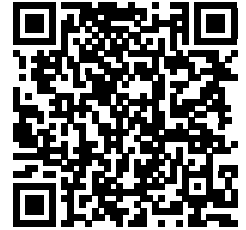


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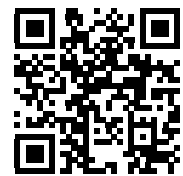


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