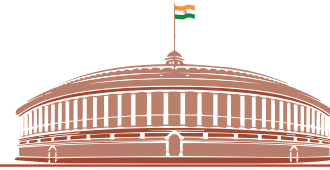




## UNIT

# 6

## Forms of Government



### 6.1 Introduction



The Government is the main agency of the state. It comprises several members belonging to political and administrative wings. It serves as the instrument for delegation and execution of the state policies for the welfare of the people. It formulates, expresses and realises the will of the state. It exercises certain legislative, executive and judicial powers based on the constitution and the laws. There are three organs in government, namely – Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. These organs carry out the activities of the state. Governments are classified under Unitary, Federal, Parliamentary and Presidential forms.

#### ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT

Legislature

Executive

Judiciary



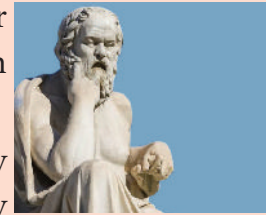
#### Learning Objectives

Students will be able to

- ❖ define Government
- ❖ understand the purpose of Government
- ❖ describe different types of Government
- ❖ understand the relationship between individual and Government; critically analyze the performance of the Government

#### Think about the following statements

a. What comes to your mind when you hear the term Government?



b. In what way you, your family or the citizen are connected with government?

c. Can you identify the role of government in your day to day life?

d. Do you think the government is inevitable or citizen can survive without the government?

e. Can you differentiate the role of elected representatives and appointed Bureaucrats' role in the functioning of government?

f. Identify some government departments and segregate into central government, state government and local government.

g. Try to describe your own definition of Government .....




#### Quotable quote

No man undertakes a trade he has not learned, even the meanest: At everyone thinks himself sufficiently qualified for the hardest of all trades, that of government.

*-Socrates*



## CHECKS AND BALANCES (PRESIDENTIAL FORM)

<b>Executive Branch</b> (President carries out laws) 	<b>Checks on the Legislative Branch</b> Can propose laws Can veto laws Can call special sessions of Congress Makes appointments Negotiates foreign treaties	<b>Checks on the Judicial Branch</b> Appoints federal judges Can grant pardons to federal offenders
<b>Legislative Branch</b> (Congress makes laws) 	<b>Checks on the Executive Branch</b> Can override President's veto Confirms executive appointments Ratifies treaties Can declare war Appropriate money Can impeach and remove President	<b>Checks on the Judicial Branch</b> Creates lower federal courts Can impeach and remove judges Can propose amendments to overrule judicial decisions Approves appointments of federal judges
<b>Judicial Branch</b> (Supreme Court interprets laws) 	<b>Checks on the Executive Branch</b> Can declare executive actions unconstitutional	<b>Checks on the Legislative Branch</b> Can declare acts of unconstitutional

### Approaches to the study of Government

Studying governments from different approaches help us to understand government from its evolution to its performance in the contemporary times. The approaches to study the Government are...

#### 1. Comparative-Historical Approach

This approach studied the western political institutions from ancient to modern times, this approach is descriptive in nature, Aristotle, Montesque and Locke adopted this approach to study and analyse governments in those days. For instance before writing his monumental work politics Aristotle studied 158 constitutions. Montesque studied the working of the British constitution and came to the conclusion that the stability of British constitution was due to the adherence to the principle of separation of powers.

#### 2. Legal-Institutional Approach

Scholars like *Bentham*, *Austin* and *Dicey* adopted this approach, This

approach focuses on formal legal structure of political institutions. They helped to develop certain theories which explain the relationship and interconnection between government and Law. *Bentham* is the distinguished legal reformer in England Likewise *Austin* provided a legal base to sovereignty which is indivisible, inalienable and absolute. *A.V.Dicey* judged the government on the basis of law and its applicability to different branches of government.

#### 3. Political Economy Approach

This approach deals with economic aspects of the government which gives economic interpretation of politics also deals with role of market, mode of production and delivering goods to the society. This approach is classified into liberal political economy and the Marxist political economy approach.

#### 4. Political Sociology Approach

This approach derived its ideas from sociology and anthropology also known as systems approach. Political sociology

asserts that government or political system is a sub system of a larger social system. This approach examines the interaction between the larger and the sub systems.

Early **Montesque** proposed a three-fold division of Government namely Republican, Monarchical and Despotic government

**Republican Government:** “People possess the sovereign Power”.

**Monarchical Government:** “Rule by one single person and governed by fixed and established laws”.

**Despotic government:** “Rule by one single person but there is no fixed rule for governance, everything conducted by his will. According to **Montesque** the survival of the government depends on “persistence in given society of that particular spirit which is characteristic of the form”.

## 6.2 Meaning, Definition and Nature of Government

Government refers to the executive functions of the state. It denotes a body having authority to make and enforce laws applicable to the civil, corporate, religious, academic or other groups. The term Government is derived from an old French word “governor”, derived from Latin word “gubernare” which means to direct, rule, guide, govern.

### Which is the oldest form of government?

#### Aristotle's Classification of Governments

**Aristotle** identified a combination of two criteria to classify the constitution that he analysed.



Monarchy is the oldest form of government in the United Kingdom. In a monarchy, a king or queen is the Head of State. The British monarchy is known as a constitutional monarchy. This means that, while The Sovereign is Head of State, the ability to make and pass legislation resides with an elected Parliament.

#### Criteria One:

Number of People having Power – One, Few, Many; Thus he distinguished between Monarchy, Aristocracy and Polity

#### Criteria Two:

To whose interest the Government works for – Working in General Interest, Working in Personal Interest. The respective perverted forms of the three types are Tyranny, Oligarchy and Democracy

No of People having Power	Working in General Interest	Working in Personal Interest
One	Monarchy	Tyranny
Few	Aristocracy	Oligarchy
Many	Polity	Democracy or Mobocracy

#### ACTIVITY



“Every activity of individuals from ‘Womb to tomb’ is regulated and controlled by the State agencies.”

## DEBATE



Organise a debate on - Compare Aristotle's Classification of Government with contemporary Indian system of Government by discussing the following points namely

1. Whether our government is working on general interest or Personal interest
2. Do our Indian Democracy really represent General will or Personal will of a Few?

### 6.3 Unitary Form of Government

A unitary system of government, is a sovereign state governed as a single entity. The central government is supreme, and the administrative divisions exercise only powers that the central government has delegated to them. In a Unitary form of government all authority and power vested in a single centre **examples of Unitary Form of governments are England, France, Japan, Sri Lanka.**

#### Definition:

**A.V.DICEY:** "Habitual exercise of supreme legislative authority is by one central power"

**GARNER:** "Where the whole power of government is conferred by the constitution upon a single central organ"

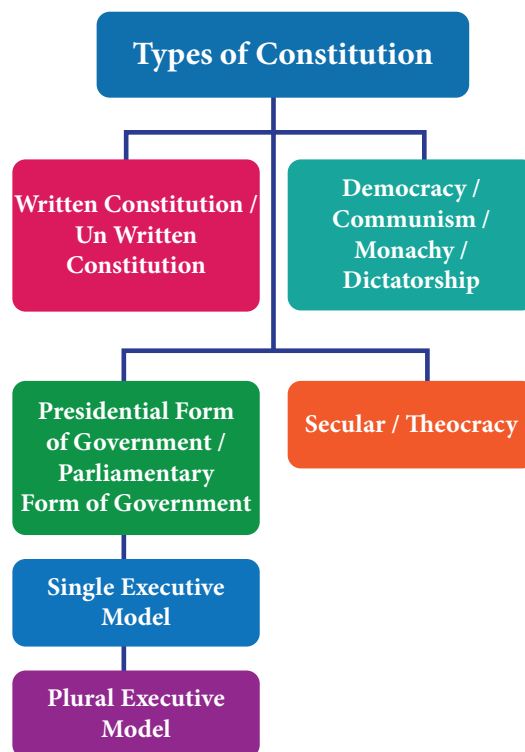
**C.E.STRONG:** "Two important qualities of the Unitary Government".

They are:-

1. The supremacy of the central government;
2. The absence of the subsidiary sovereign bodies.

Can you list out some activities which are rendered by the government... womb to tomb

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



#### Merits Of Unitary Form Of Government

- a. Suitable for small countries.
- b. There is no conflict of authority and responsibility.
- c. A unitary government will make prompt decisions and take speedy action.
- d. A unitary government is less expensive.
- e. Amendments to the constitution are easy.
- f. There is unity, uniformity of law, policy and administration.

#### De-Merits of Unitary Form Government

- a. It is not suitable for big countries.
- b. The central government will have to tackle so many complex problems that lead to administrative delay.





- c. The central government will not concentrate on local problems, local interest and initiative.
- d. The concentration of powers may pave way for the despotism of the central government.

## **Unitary Features Of Indian Constitution**

### **i. Strong Centre**

The division of powers is in favour of the Centre and highly inequitable from the federal angle. Firstly, the Union List contains more subjects than the State List. Secondly, the more important subjects have been included in the Union List. Thirdly, the Centre has overriding authority over the Concurrent List.

### **ii. Central Government's control over state territory**

The Parliament of India can by unilateral action change the area, boundaries or name of any state.

### **iii. Single Constitution**

The Constitution of India embodies not only the Constitution of the Centre but also those of the states. Both the Centre and the states must operate within this single-frame.

### **iv. Flexibility of the Constitution**

The bulk of the Constitution can be amended by the unilateral action of the Parliament, either by simple majority or by special majority.

### **v. Unequal representation of states**

In a federation states are given with equal representation with regard to upper house, but in India states are not given with equal representation with regard to Rajya Sabha.

## **vi. Emergency Provisions**

During an emergency, the Central government becomes all powerful and the states go into the total control of the Centre. It converts the federal structure into a unitary one without a formal amendment of the Constitution. This kind of transformation is not found in any other federation.

### **vii. Single Citizenship**

India adopted the system of single citizenship. There is only Indian Citizenship and no separate state citizenship. All citizens irrespective of the state in which they are born or reside enjoy the same rights all over the country. The other federal states like US, Switzerland and Australia have dual citizenship, that is, national citizenship as well as state citizenship.

### **viii. Single Integrated Judiciary**

It means that all the courts of India are in a hierarchical order from the lower courts to the Supreme Court of India. Courts in India have Original and Appellate Jurisdiction.

### **ix. All India Services**

It has the features of All India Services or Central Services, and the State Civil Services. The Central and All India services promotes uniform administrative system and process throughout India.

### **x. Appointment of Governor**

The governor of a state is not elected but appointed by the president and holds office at the pleasure of the president. He is the head of the executive in the state. He has powers like Legislature, Executive Judicial and emergency powers.

## 6.4 Federal Form of Government

The classification of governments into unitary and federal is based on the nature of relations between the national government and the regional governments. A federal government is one in which powers are divided between the national government and the regional governments by the Constitution itself and both operate in their respective jurisdictions independently. US, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, Russia, Brazil, Argentina have the federal form of government. In a federal model, the national government is known as the Federal government or the Central government or the Union government and the regional government is known as the state government or the provincial government.

### Federal Features Of Indian Constitution

#### a. Dual Government

The Indian Constitution establishes a dual polity consisting the Union at the Centre and the states at the periphery. Each is endowed with sovereign powers to be exercised in the field assigned to them respectively by the Constitution.

#### a. Written Constitution

The articles of the Constitution are written and cannot be easily changed without due parliamentary approval.

#### a. Division of Powers

The Constitution divided the powers between the Centre and the states in terms of the Union List, State List and Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule.

#### a. Supremacy of the Constitution

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. The laws are enacted by the

Centre and the states must confirm to its provisions.

#### b. Rigid Constitution

Amendment of the Constitution is by a procedure of 2/3rd majority in each of the house and laws cannot be easily changed by any ruling party.

#### c. Independent Judiciary

The Judiciary is separated from the Executive and Legislature. The Judiciary given its national and state level jurisdictions, exercises Original, Appellate and Judicial Review functions. It functions independently of the Executive and Legislature.

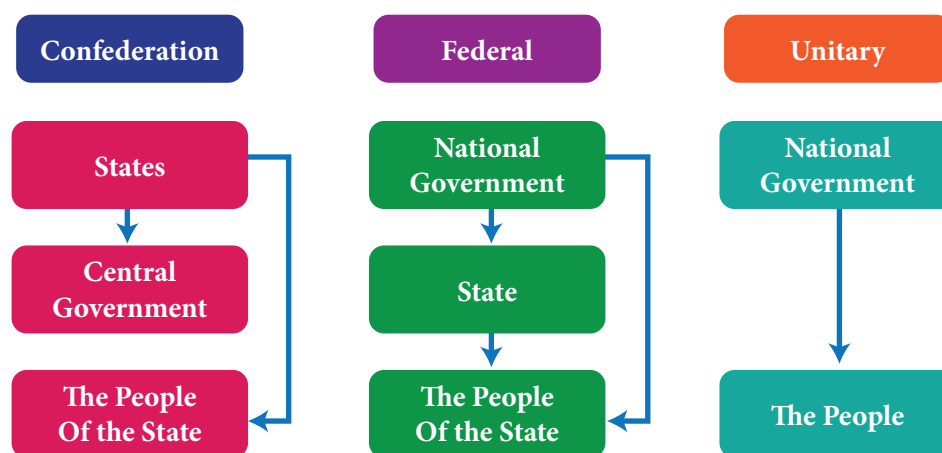
#### d. Bicameralism

It provides for a two-house legislature that has an Upper chamber and Lower chamber. With the Lower house having powers of enacting financial legislation.

### Merits Of Federal Form Government

- a. Reconciliation of local autonomy with national unity.
- b. Division power between centre and states leads to administrative efficiency.
- c. It gives rise to big states.
- d. Distribution powers checks the despotism of central government.
- e. More suitable for bigger countries.
- f. It is good for economic and cultural progress.
- g. De-Merits Of Federal Form Government.
- h. Federal government is weaker when compared to the unitary government.
- i. Federal government is more expensive.

- j. Provincial tendencies are very common.
- k. lack of uniformity in Administration.
- l. Threat to national unity.
- m. Distribution powers between centre and states lead to conflict.
- n. Double Citizenship.
- o. Rigid constitution cannot be amended easily for the changing needs.
- p. The state governments sometimes place hindrances in the foreign policy.



### Difference between Unitary form and Federal form of Government

S. No	Unitary Form of Government	Federal Form of Government
1.	Only one Level of Government or Subunits	Two Levels of Government
2.	Mostly Single Citizenship	Dual Citizenship
3.	Sub Units cannot operate Independently	Federal Units are answerable to Central Government
4.	No Division of Power	Division of Power
5.	Centralisation of Power	Decentralisation of Power

S.No	Country	Name of Parliament
1.	Israel	Knesset
2.	Germany	Bundestag
3.	Japan	Diet
4.	Norway	Stortinget
5.	Nepal	Rashtriya Panchayat
6.	Pakistan	National Assembly
7.	Russia	Duma
8.	U.S.A	Congress
9.	South Africa	Parliament
10.	Switzerland	Federal Assembly

## Summary

S.No	Category	Types	Countries
1.	Forms of government	Presidential form of government	U.S.A
		Parliamentary form of government	U.K,India
		Direct democracy	Switzerland
		Indirect democracy	India
		Monarchy	Absolute Monarchy - Bahrain
			Constitutional Monarchy -Japan
			Commonwealth Realms - Australia
		Authoritarian	Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy
2.	Role of religion	Secularism	India
		Theocracy	Pakistan, Iran, Vatican City, Nepal
3.	Distribution of power:territorial	Unicameral	China
		Bi-cameral	U.K, U.S.A, India
4.	Types of executive	Single Executive Model	U.S.A
		Plural Executive Model	France
5.	Types of judiciary	Independent	All Democratic Countries
		Committed	Erstwhile U.S.S.R
6.	Nature of Constitution	Rigid &Written	U.S.A
		Flexible &Un-Written	U.K
		Partly Flexible Partly Rigid	India
7.	Nature of state (In terms of Objectives, Ideology, Policies)	Capitalism	America
		Communism	Cuba, China, North Korea
		Socialism	Russia



## 6.5 Parliamentary form of government

Modern democratic governments are classified into parliamentary and presidential on the basis of nature of relations between the executive and the legislative organs of the government.



The parliamentary system of government is the one in which the executive is responsible to the legislature for its policies and acts. The presidential system of government, on the other hand, is one in which the executive is not responsible to the legislature for its policies and acts, and is constitutionally independent of the legislature in respect of its term of office.

The parliamentary government is also known as cabinet government irresponsible government or Westminster model of government and is prevalent in Britain, Japan, Canada, India among others.

**Ivor Jennings** called the parliamentary system as ‘cabinet system’ because the cabinet is the nucleus of power in a parliamentary system. The parliamentary government is also known as ‘responsible government’ as the cabinet (the real executive) is accountable to the Parliament and stays in office so long as it enjoys the latter’s confidence.

It is described as ‘Westminster model of government’ after the location of the British Parliament, where the parliamentary system originated. In the past, the Brit-

ish constitutional and political experts described the Prime Minister as ‘primus inter pares’ (first among equals) in relation to the cabinet. In the recent period, the Prime Minister’s power, influence and position have increased significantly vis-a-vis the cabinet. He has come to play a ‘dominant’ role in the British politico-administrative system.

### Features of parliamentary form of government

**Nominal and Real Executives:** The President is the nominal executive (de jure executive or titular executive) while the Prime Minister is the real executive (de facto executive). Thus, the President is head of the State, while the Prime Minister is head of the government.

**Majority Party Rule:** The political party which secures majority seats in the Lok Sabha forms the government. The leader of that party is appointed as the Prime Minister by the President; other ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the prime minister. However, when no single party gets the majority, a coalition of parties may be invited by the President to form the government.

**Collective Responsibility:** This is the bedrock principle of parliamentary government. The ministers are collectively responsible to the Parliament.

**Double Membership:** The ministers are members of both the legislature and the executive.

**Leadership of the Prime Minister:** The Prime Minister plays the leadership role



in this system of government. He is the leader of council of ministers, leader of the Parliament and leader of the party in power. In these capacities, he plays a significant and highly crucial role in the functioning of the government.

### **Merits of the parliamentary form of government**

**Harmony between Legislature and Executive:** The greatest advantage of the parliamentary system is that it ensures harmonious relationship and cooperation between the legislative and executive organs of the government. The executive is a part of the legislature and both are inter dependent at work. As a result, there is less scope for disputes and conflicts between the two organs.

**Responsible Government:** In the parliamentary system establishes a responsible government. The ministers are responsible to the Parliament for all their acts of omission and commission. The Parliament exercises control over the ministers through various devices like question hour, discussions, adjournment motion, no confidence motion, etc.

**Prevents Despotism:** under this system, the executive authority is vested in a group of individuals (council of ministers) and not in a single person. This dispersal of authority checks the dictatorial tendencies of the executive. Moreover, the executive is responsible to the Parliament and can be removed by a no-confidence motion.

**Wide Representation:** In a parliamentary system, it is possible to provide representation to all sections and regions in the government. The prime minister while selecting his minister scan take this factor into consideration.

### **Demerits of the parliamentary form of government**

**Unstable Government:** The parliamentary system does not provide a stable government. There is no guarantee that a government can survive its tenure. The ministers depend on the majority legislators for their continuity and survival in office. A no-confidence motion or political defection or evils of multiparty coalition can make the government unstable.

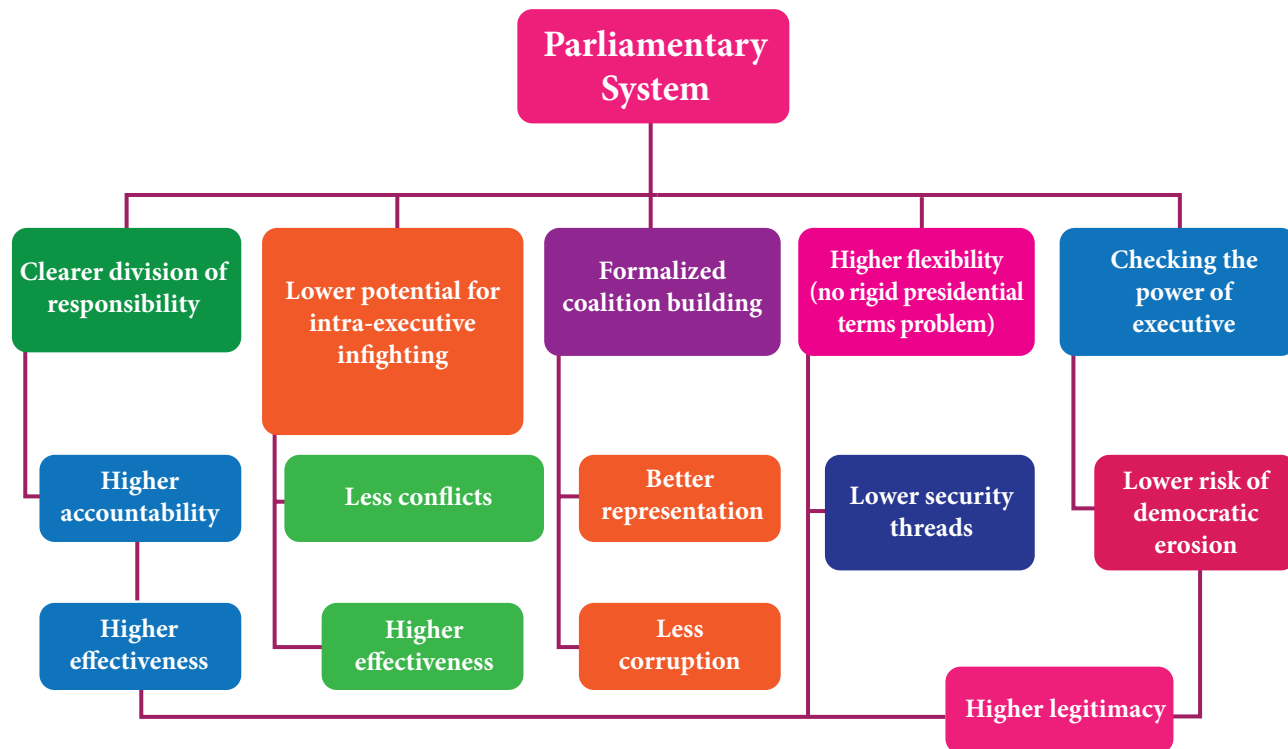
**No Continuity of Policies:** The parliamentary system is not conducive for the formulation and implementation of long-term policies. This is due to the uncertainty of the tenure of the government. A change in the ruling party is usually followed by changes in the policies of the government.

**Dictatorship of the Cabinet:** When the ruling party enjoys absolute majority in the Parliament, the cabinet becomes autocratic and exercises nearly unlimited powers.

*Harold J Laski* says that the parliamentary system gives the executive an opportunity for tyranny.

*Ramsay Muir*, the former British Prime Minister, also complained of the 'dictatorship of the cabinet'.

**Against Separation of Powers:** In the parliamentary system, the legislature and the executive are together and inseparable. The cabinet acts as the leader of legislature as well as the executive. Hence, the whole system of government goes against the letter and spirit of the theory of separation of powers.



### Why the framers of the Indian Constitution adopted for the Parliamentary Form of Government?

1. Familiarity with the System
2. Preference to More Responsibility
3. Need to Avoid Legislative—Executive Conflicts
4. Nature of Indian Society, India is one of the most heterogeneous States and most complex plural societies in the world. Hence, the Constitution-makers adopted the parliamentary system as it offers greater scope for giving representation to various section, interests and regions in the government. This promotes a national spirit among the people and builds audited India.

### 6.6 Presidential Form of Government

The Presidential Form Of Government is also known as non-responsible or non-parliamentary or fixed

executive system of government basically built on the principle of separation of power, and is prevalent in USA, Brazil, Russia, Sri Lanka among others.

### Features of Presidential Form of Government

The American President is both the head of the State and the head of government. As the head of State, he occupies a ceremonial position. As the head of government, he leads the executive organ of government. The President is elected by an electoral college for a fixed tenure of four years. He cannot be removed by the Congress except by impeachment for a grave unconstitutional act. The President governs with the help of a cabinet or a smaller body called 'Kitchen Cabinet'. It is only an advisory body and consists of non-elected departmental secretaries. They are selected and appointed by him, are responsible only to him, and can be removed by him any time.

The President and his secretaries are not responsible to the Congress for their acts. They neither possess membership in the Congress nor attend its sessions. The President cannot dissolve the House of Representatives—the



### Difference between Parliamentary Form of Government and Presidential Form of Government

S. No	Presidential Form of Government	Parliamentary Form of Government
1.	President is directly elected by the People	Prime Minister is the leader of majority Party
2.	President is Supreme	Central Legislature is supreme
3.	Separation of Powers	Absence of Separation Powers Centralization
4.	Independent branches	Independent branches with Overlapping functions
5.	President - head of the State	President - head of the State
6.	President - head of the Government	Prime Minister - head of the Government
7.	Individual Leadership	Collective leadership
8.	President is not accountable to Congress	Collective and Individual Responsibility

lower house of the Congress. The doctrine of separation of powers is the basis of the American presidential system. The legislative, executive and judicial powers of the government are separated and vested in the three independent organs of the government.

### “World Bank - World Development Report 1997 : The State In A Changing World”.

The report is devoted to the role and effectiveness of the state: what it should do, how it should do it, and how it can improve in a rapidly changing world. Governments with both centrally-planned and mixed economies are shrinking their market role because of failed state interventions.

This report takes an opposite stance: that state's role in the institutional environment underlying the economy, that is, its ability to enforce a rule of law to underpin transactions, is vital to making government contribute more effectively to development. It argues against reducing government to a minimalist state, explaining that development requires an effective state that plays a facilitator role in encouraging and complementing the activities of private businesses and individuals.

The report presents a state reform framework strategy: First, focus the state's activities to match its capabilities; and second, look for ways to improve the state's capability by re-invigorating public institutions.

According to this report, five fundamental tasks are core of every government's mission, without which sustainable, shared and poverty reducing development is impossible.



### They are...

1. Establishing a foundation of law
2. Maintaining macroeconomic stability
3. Investing in basic social services and infrastructure
4. Protecting the vulnerable
5. Protecting the environment

### 6.7 The Concept of Governance from Government to Governance

Good governance is an indeterminate term used in the international development literature to describe how public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources. Governance is “the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented”. “Government” and “governance” are synonyms, both denoting the exercise of authority in an organization, institution or state. Government and governance became distinguished along the following dimensions:

- a. What activities are encompassed in the act of governing?
- b. What actors are involved in governance?
- c. What processes have made this redefinition necessary?
- d. What criteria are used to evaluate good governance?
- e. What capacities should be developed to achieve it?

Governance is the exercise of political, economic and administrative authority to manage a nation's affairs...Governance embraces all of the methods – good and bad – that societies use to distribute power and manage public sources and problems (UNDP, 1997):

Governance is the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's social and economic resources for

development (ADB, 2000) The movement from government to governance is not merely a task of creating new institutions but also that of refurbishing old ones. The state has to be strengthened to play a new role. It is also for the civil society to accept that democracy is not going to polls every five years but being vigilant and monitoring institutional performance and holding them accountable throughout these years.

### Partnership with civil society

In the shift of government to governance the role of civil society has been very significant. There have been two kinds of strands in this role,

- a. Social Movements
- b. Non-Governmental Organizations

Social Movements which works for the cause of poor and marginalized do influence the governments to be responsive to their needs through changes in institutions, laws and procedures. NGO's have taken up diverse roles that also involve implementation of government programmes. Social movements and NGO's occupied new spaces in the political process and delivering public services.

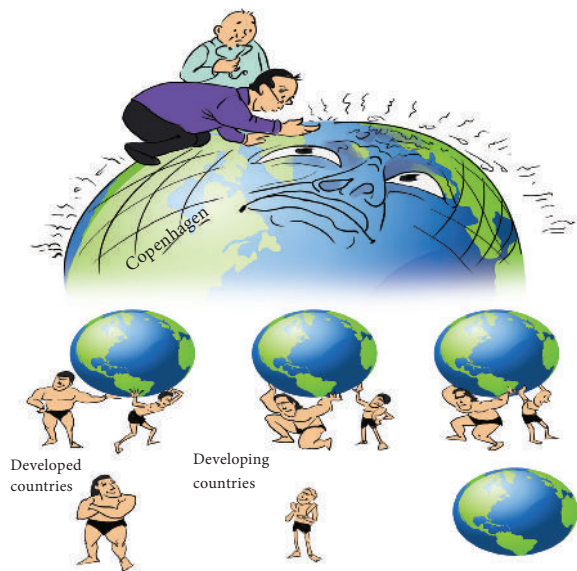


### ACTIVITY



**Cartoons cape Thinking about a global perspective**





Copenhagen and Climate summit /  
09.12.2009 / P.8 and 18.12.2009/ P.10

### 197 Nations agree to phase out AC greenhouse gases.

Legally – binding deal to tackle global warming, reduce use of gas 1,000 times worse than CO<sub>2</sub>

## 3 GROUPS OF NATIONS

**Developed countries including the US must slash their use of HFCs' by 10 percent by 2019 from 2011-2013 levels, and then by 85 percent by 2036.**

A second group of developing countries, including China and Africa nations, are committed to launching the transition in 2024. A reduction of 10 percent compared with 2020-2022 levels should achieved by 2029, to be extended to 80 percent by 2045.

**A third group of developing countries, which include India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and Gulf nations, must begin the process in 2028 and reduce emissions**

**by 10 percent by 2032 from 2024-2026 levels, and them by 85 percent by 2047**

## KIGALI (RWANDA)

In a major step toward curbing global warming, envoys from nearly 200 nations reached and agreement on Saturday to phase out potent greenhouse gases used in refrigerators and air conditioners. Under the amendment to the 1987 Montreal Protocol on protecting the ozone layer, rich countries are to take action sooner than developing nations.

The agreement was greeted by applause from exhausted envoys who had worked through the night in the Rwandan capital Kigali to put the final touches on the deal to phase our production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)

But some representatives voiced regret that countries such as India, Pakistan, and Gulf nations would begin the transition later than others. "It may not be entirely what the islands wanted, but it is a good agreement," said a representative of the tiny pacific nation of the Marshall Islands. The elimination of HFCs could reduce global warming by 0.5 degrees by 2100, according to a 2015 study.

However, swapping HFCs for alternatives such as ammonia, water or gases called hydrofluorolefins could prove costly for develop countries with sweltering summer temperatures, such as India. "There are issues of cost, there are issues of technology, there are issues of finances," said Ajay Narayan Jha of India's environment and climate change ministry before deal was announced. "We would like to emphasize that any agreement will have to be flexible from one side and not from the other," he had said.



HFCs' predecessors, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), were discontinued under the Montreal Protocol when scientists realized they were destroying the ozone layer. But it emerged that HFCs, while safe for the now healing ozone, are thousands of times worse for trapping heat than carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas.

The new Indian express: 16.10.2016

### Thinking about a global perspective

A global perspective asks you to think beyond yourself, your family, your school, your community, your village, your district, your state or country where you are living. Issues that are in the news are after global in nature for ex., environmental issue.

Often, a global issue or problem demands a global solution. It would not be possible to solve the global problem of climate change with a local solution, even though local courses of action might be taken to help towards a global solution. For the problem of climate change, for ex., a local course of action might be creating awareness through street play or exhibition or human chain or a poster campaign aimed at encouraging people think globally and act locally.

### Characteristics of good governance

#### i. Participation

All men and women should have a voice in decision-making, either directly or through legitimate intermediate institutions that represent their interests.

Such broad participation is built on freedom of association and speech, as well as capacities to participate constructively.

#### ii. Rule of Law

Legal frameworks should be fair and enforced impartially, particularly the laws on human rights.

#### iii. Transparency

Transparency is built on the free flow of information. Processes, institutions and information are directly accessible to those concerned with them, and enough information is provided to understand and monitor them.

#### iv. Responsiveness

Institutions and processes try to serve all stakeholders.

#### v. Consensus orientation

Good governance mediates differing interests to reach a broad consensus on what is in the best interests of the group and, where possible, on policies and procedures.

#### vi. Equity

All men and women have opportunities to improve or maintain their well-being.

#### vii. Effectiveness and efficiency

Processes and institutions produce results that meet needs while making the best use of resources.

#### viii. Accountability

Decision-makers in government, the private sector and civil society organizations are accountable to the public,

as well as to institutional stakeholders. This accountability differs depending on the organizations and whether the decision is internal or external to an organization.

### ix. Strategic Vision

Leaders and the public have a broad and long-term perspective on good governance and human development, along with a sense of what is needed for such development. There is also an understanding of the historical, cultural and social complexities in which that perspective is grounded.

**Source: UNDP (1997) Governance for Sustainable Human Development. United Nations Development Programme.**

### 6.8 How to evaluate the performance of a government?

It is difficult to evaluate the performance of a government with uni-factor analysis; the actual assessment can be done only after considering various aspects of governance, namely Socio, Cultural, Political, Economic, and Environmental factors. To evaluate the performance of a government the following factors can be considered.

#### Socio Cultural factors

- ❖ Gender Parity Index
- ❖ Religious Freedom
- ❖ Equality Based on caste
- ❖ Protection of religious and Linguistic Minority Rights
- ❖ Gender Budgeting

#### Political factors

- ❖ Effective functioning of Democracy
- ❖ Free and fair elections

- ❖ Corruption free Politics and Administration
- ❖ Transparency in Administration
- ❖ Independent Press
- ❖ Independent Judiciary
- ❖ Human Rights

#### Economic factors

- ❖ Human Development Index (HDI)
- ❖ Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- ❖ Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)
- ❖ Growth Vs Development
- ❖ Equal Distribution of Wealth

#### Environmental factors

- ❖ Sustainable Development Goals
- ❖ National Action Plan for Climate change(NAPC)
- ❖ Green Budget
- ❖ Disaster management

### Gross National Happiness (GNH):

Gross National Happiness is a developing philosophy as well as an “index” which is used to measure the collective happiness in any specific nation. The Concept was first mentioned in the constitution of Bhutan, which was enacted on 18 July 2008.

The term “gross national happiness” was coined by the fourth king of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, in the 1970s. The GNH’s central tenants are: “Sustainable and equitable socio-economic development; environmental conservation; preservation and promotion of culture; and good governance”.

GNH is distinguishable by for example valuing collective happiness as the goal of governance, and by emphasizing harmony with nature and traditional values.

## Activity

### Discuss the Recently Published Reports of the Following

- ❖ HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX,
- ❖ TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL,
- ❖ ECONOMIC SURVEY OF INDIA,
- ❖ Budget - Green Budget, Gender Budgeting,
- ❖ GENDER PARITY INDEX
- ❖ Annual Reports of following institutions
  - ❖ NHRC – National Commission for Human Rights
  - ❖ NCSC - National Commission for Schedule Castes
  - ❖ NCST - National Commission for Schedule Tribes
  - ❖ NCW – National Commission for Woman
  - ❖ NCPCR - National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

#### GOOD GOVERNMENT

CONSENSUS ORIENTED  
EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT  
FOLLOWS THE RULE OF LAW  
EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE  
ACCOUNTABLE PARTICIPATORY  
RESPONSIVE TRANSPARENT

## Glossary

### Aristocracy

Rule by an upper class.

### Checks and Balances

A principle of a system of government whereby each branch of the government can check the actions of the others. As originally conceived, this was true of the government of the USA.

### Concurrent Powers

Powers held jointly by the national and state governments.

### Confederal System

A league of independent states, each having essentially sovereign powers. The central government created by such a league has only limited powers over the states.

### Democratic Republic

A republic in which the representatives elected by the people make and enforce laws and policies.

### Devolution.

Transfer of powers from the national or central government to state or local government. This happened in the United Kingdom in the late twentieth century.

### Direct Democracy

A system of government where political decisions are made by the people directly, rather than by their elected representatives.

### Federalism

A political system in which authority is shared between a central government and a state or regional government.



## **Liberal Democracy**

Democratic government that provides for the protection of individual human rights, in order to prevent a majority from oppressing a minority.

## **Liberalism**

Advocacy of positive government action to improve the welfare of individuals, support for civil rights, and tolerance for political and social change.

## **Limited Government**

A government whose powers are limited, particularly by institutional checks.

## **Presidential System**

Representative democracy where political power is vested in separately elected and appointed branches of national government. This system is used in the USA.

## **Representative Democracy**

A form of government in which representatives are elected by the people to make and enforce laws and policies. Political decisions are made by the officials elected by the people. [Some such democracies retain a monarchy in a ceremonial role.]

## **Republic**

A form of government in which sovereignty rests with the people (or a portion of the people), as opposed to a king or monarch or dictator. This form of

Representative Democracy was created by the framers of the US constitution.

## **Separation of Powers**

The division of governmental functions and powers among different branches of government, so that the various self-interests of each group would moderate those of the others.

## **Theocracy. [From Greek theos = god and krateron = to rule.]**

Rule by a god, which in practice means rule by a priesthood. No separation of church and state. Compare with aristocracy.

## **Totalitarian**

A regime of command by the government and obedience by the citizens. The regime controls all aspects of political and social life (as in George Orwell's 1984). In contrast with an authoritarian state, all social and economic institutions are under government control.

## **Unicameral Legislature**

A legislature that comprises a single part or chamber. In the USA (early 21st century) only the state of Nebraska has a unicameral legislature. Compare with bicameral legislature.

**Universal Suffrage.** [From Latin suffragium = voting tablet, vote.] The right and privilege of all adults to vote for their representatives.





## Evaluation



### I Choose the correct answer

1. "Parliamentary form of Government" is also known as
  - (a) Cabinet Government
  - (b) Responsible Government
  - (c) Westminster forms of government
  - (d) All of the above
2. Which of the following characteristics is not related to the federal government?
  - (a) Written Constitution
  - (b) Flexible Constitution
  - (c) Supremacy of the Constitution
  - (d) Independent Judiciary
3. The Federal System in India is based on the model of which country?
  - (a) Canada
  - (b) UK
  - (c) America
  - (d) Japan
4. Which three indicators are used in the Human Development Index (HDI)?
  - I. Standard of living
  - II. Education
  - III. Life expectancy
  - IV. Condition of environment
  - (a) Only I, II & IV
  - (b) Only I, II, & III
  - (c) Only I & II
  - (d) All of the above
5. Which of the following are the features on the basis of which the parliamentary system of government in India operates?
  - a. Nominal and real executives
  - b. Executive responsible to lower house
  - c. Prime Minister is the real executive
  - d. All of the above
6. Due to which of following reasons the founding fathers preferred the British parliamentary system?
  - 1) Familiarity with system.
  - 2) More responsibility.
  - 3) Separation of power.
  - 4) Heterogeneous Indian Society.
  - a. Only 1, 2, 4
  - b. Only 1, 2, 3
  - c. Only 2, 3, 4
  - d. All of the above
7. Which federal institution oversees the implementation of Constitutional provisions and procedures?
  - A) Legislature
  - B) Executive
  - C) Judiciary
  - D) Cabinet
8. In U.S.A. The form of government is:
  - A) Parliamentary
  - B) Presidential
  - C) Absolute monarchy
  - D) Limited monarchy
9. Which major country does not have a single, written constitution?
  - A. Russia
  - B. Iran
  - C. Germany
  - D. United Kingdom

## II Answer the following questions very shortly

1. Define Government.
2. Write about the merits of Unitary form of government.

## III Answer the following questions shortly

1. List out the Unitary features of Indian constitution.
2. List out the Merits and demerits of Federal form of government
3. Why the framers of the Indian constitution adopted for Parliamentary form of government?

## IV Answer the following questions in detail

1. Differentiate between parliamentary form of Government and presidential form of Government.

### Reference books

1. Vijayaragavan, Political Thought, New Delhi, Sterling Publications
2. D.D.Basu, Introduction to the Constitution of Indian, New Delhi, Lexisnexis
3. R.C.Agarwal, Political Theory, New Delhi, S.Chand



## ICT Corner FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

Through this activity you  
will learn about the different  
forms of Government.



### TYPES OF GOVERNMENT

#### Procedure:

- Step - 1** Use the URL or QR code to open the Types of Government page.
- Step - 2** A grid of slides explaining different forms of government are placed.
- Step - 3** Click on the explanation slide to know the form of Government.
- Step - 4** Click the play button on the top of the activity window to run a quiz and recall.

#### Types of Government URL:

<http://www.brainrush.com/lesson/play/types-of-government>

\*Pictures are indicative

