



# STANDARD NINE

# CIVICS



# UNIT

## 1

# Forms of Government and Democracy

## Learning Objectives

- Know the forms of government
- Understand the meaning of democracy
- Know the merits and demerits of democracy
- Know the challenges to Indian democracy



## Introduction

We are going to learn from this lesson how various forms of government have developed globally. Today, many countries of the world follow different types of governments, but the modern world prefers democracy.

## 1.1 Forms of Government

The governance of nations differs significantly based on who has power. There are different forms of government: aristocracy, monarchy, autocracy, oligarchy, theocracy, democracy and republic.

### 1.1.1 Aristocracy

A form of government in which power is in the hands of a small privileged ruling class (nobels).

Example: United Kingdom, Spain

### 1.1.2 Monarchy

A system of government in which one person reigns supreme, usually a king or queen (constitutional monarchy).

Example: Bhutan, Oman, Qatar

### 1.1.3 Autocracy

A system of government by one person with absolute power.

Example: North Korea, Saudi Arabia

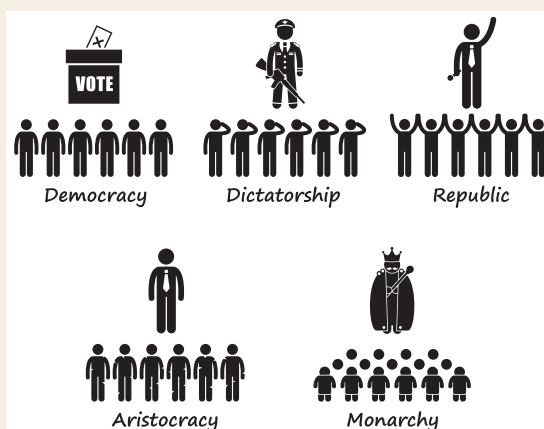
### 1.1.4 Oligarchy

A small group of people having control of a country or organisation.

Example: Former Soviet Union, China, Venezuela North Korea.

### 1.1.5 Theocracy

A system of government in which religious doctrines form the basis of



Forms of Government

government headed by a priest who rules in the name of God or proclaims himself as a God.

Example: Vatican.

### 1.1.6 Democracy

A system of government in which eligible members in the population vote to elect their elected representatives, and the party or individual who obtains the majority votes forms the government.

Example: India, USA, France

### 1.1.7 Republic

A state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives and which has an elected or nominated President rather than a monarch.

Example: India, Australia

**DO YOU KNOW?** The term 'republic' was first coined in 500 BCE in Rome. It is derived from *res publica*, a Latin word meaning public matter.

India became a Republic on 26 January 1950. It is governed in accordance with the Constitution adopted on 26 November 1949, which came into force on 26 January 1950.

## 1.2 What is Democracy?

- Democracy is a form of government that allows people to choose their rulers.
- Only leaders elected by people should rule the country.
- People have the freedom to express views, freedom to organise and freedom to protest.

### 1.2.1 Meaning of Democracy

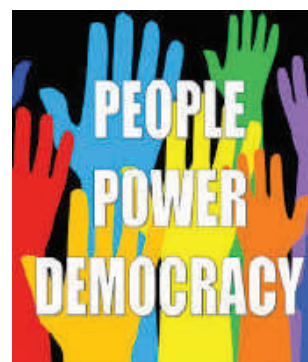
Democracy is a system of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people of a country and people elect their

representatives either directly or indirectly through fair and free elections, which are usually held periodically.

**DO YOU KNOW?** The term 'democracy' is derived from two Greek words: *DEMOS* meaning people and *cratia* meaning power. Thus, literally democracy means "the power of the people".

### 1.2.2 Definition

According to Mahatma Gandhi, "True democracy cannot be worked by twenty men sitting at the centre. It has to be worked from below by the people of every village."



### 1.2.3 Salient Features of Democracy

1. Elected representatives of people and final decision-making power to the representatives.
2. Free and fair elections.

Abraham Lincoln, one of the Presidents of USA, defines democracy as a government of the people, by the people and for the people.



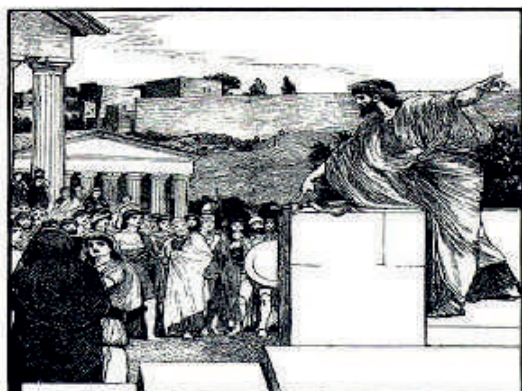
Abraham Lincoln

3. voting right is with equal value to those who have attained the age of 18
4. Fundamental rights and protection of individual freedom.

### 1.2.4 Evolution of Democracy

Democracy began 2,500 years ago in some of the city-states of ancient Greece. It is important to know that democratic institutions existed in India as early as the Vedic period. Chanakya's *Arthashastra* tells us that in ancient India, an autonomous village community was the basic unit of the local government. during the later chola preiod ancient Tamil Nadu, Kudavolai system was a

DEMOCRACY IN ANCIENT ATHENS.  
V<sup>th</sup> CENTURY BCE



very notable and unique feature of the village administration of the Cholas. The evolution towards a democracy is represented by the following values: freedom, equality, fraternity, accountability, transparency and trust.

### 1.2.6 Types of Democracy

There are two types of democracies:

1. Direct democracy
2. Indirect (representative) democracy

The types of democracy refers to the kind of government or social structures which allow people to participate equally.

#### Direct Democracy

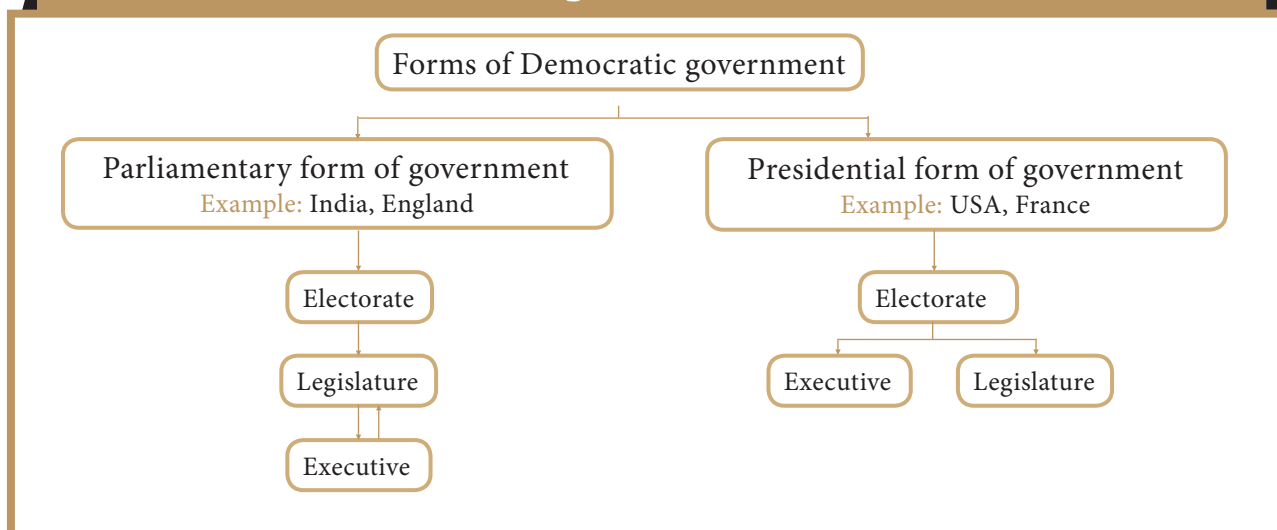
When the people themselves directly express their will on public affairs, the type of government is called pure or direct democracy.

Example: Ancient Greek city-states, Switzerland

#### Indirect Democracy / Representative Democracy

When the people express their will on public affairs, through their elected representatives, the type of government is called indirect or representative democracy.

### 1.2.5 Forms of Democratic government



Example: The prevailing system of democracy in India, USA and UK

### 1.2.7 Merits and Demerits of Democracy

#### Merits

1. Responsible and accountable government
2. Equality and fraternity
3. Sense of responsibility among common people
4. Local self-government
5. Development and prosperity for all
6. Popular sovereignty
7. Sense of cooperation and fraternal feeling

#### Demerits

1. Indirect or representative nature of democracy
2. Lack of interest in democratic process and hence lower turnout in elections
3. Instability in governance due to fractured mandate
4. Delay in decision-making process.

### 1.2.8 Democracy in India


India has a parliamentary form of democracy. The Indian Parliament comprises the elected representatives of people and makes the laws for the country. The participation of people in the decision making and the consent of citizens are the two important elements of the parliamentary form of government in India.



Parliament of India

India is the largest democratic country in the world. Democracy in India works on five basic principles. These are sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, republic.

Every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than 18 years of age can exercise their right to vote in India, based on universal adult suffrage. There is no discrimination based on a person's caste, creed, religion, region, gender and education when it comes to providing the right to vote.



The Parliament House in India was designed by the British architects Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker in 1912-13 and construction began in 1921 and ended in 1927

### 1.2.9 Elections in India

India has a quasi-federal government, with elected representatives at the federal, state and local levels. The general elections are conducted by the Election Commission of India. At the national level, the President of India, appoints the Prime Minister, who enjoys majority in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament of India.

		Two Houses of Parliament	
Lok Sabha / Lower House / House of People		Rajya Sabha / Upper House / Council of States	

All members of the Lok Sabha are directly elected through general elections, which take place once in every five years, in normal circumstances. Two Anglo Indian members can be nominated by the President of India to the Lok Sabha.



Members of the Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of the Indian Parliament, are elected by an electoral college consisting of elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states and the Union Territories of India. The President of India nominates 12 members for their contributions to art, literature, science and social services.

### 1.2.10 The First Elections in Democratic India

General elections to the first Lok Sabha since independence were held in India between 25 October 1951 and 21 February 1952. The Indian National Congress



Elections in India

emerged victorious by winning 364 of the 489 seats. Jawaharlal Nehru became the first democratically elected Prime Minister of the country.



#### British India –General elections, 1920

General elections were held in British India in 1920 to elect members to the Imperial Legislative Council and the Provincial Councils. They were the first elections in the country's history.

### 1.2.11 Major challenges to Indian Democracy

Democracy is the dominant form of government in the contemporary world. It

has not faced a serious challenge or a rival so far. In the last hundred years, there has been an expansion of democracy all over the world. The various aspects of democracy and its challenges are:

1. Illiteracy
2. Poverty
3. Gender discrimination
4. Regionalism
5. Casteism, communalism and religious fundamentalism
6. Corruption
7. Criminalisation of politics
8. Political violence

### 1.2.12 Conditions for the Success of Democracy in India

- Empowerment of the poor and illiterates to enjoy the goodness of democracy.
- Willingness among the elected people not to misuse their powerful position and public wealth.
- Eradication of social evils and dangers from which democracy suffers.
- An impartial and efficient press to form public opinion.
- Presence of strong public opinion.
- Feeling of tolerance and communal harmony among the people.
- Awareness among the people of the fundamental rights that they are entitled to enjoy.
- Conscious check and vigilance on the working of the elected representatives.
- Powerful and responsible opposition.

Indian democracy can be successful and vibrant only when its citizens imbibe and reflect in their behavior the basic democratic values like equality, freedom, social justice, accountability and respect for all. Their mindset, thinking and behavior are expected to be in tune with the essential conditions of democracy. They have to appreciate the opportunities for their desired roles like participation, making the system accountable,

fulfilling obligations, and playing proactive roles to actualize the goals of democracy.

## Recap

- Government is a group of people who govern a community or unit.
- Monarchy is a system of government in which one person reigns supreme, usually a king or queen.
- Types of democracy refer to kind of government or social structures which allow people to participate equally, either directly or indirectly.
- When the people themselves directly express their will on public affairs, the type of government is called pure or direct democracy.
- Based on universal adult suffrage, every Indian citizen, above 18 years of age, can exercise the right to vote in India.



## EXERCISE



### I. Choose the correct answer:

1. A system of government in which one person reigns supreme, usually a king or queen, is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (a) autocracy
  - (b) monarchy
  - (c) democracy
  - (d) republic
2. A system of government with absolute power.
  - (a) Aristocracy
  - (b) Theocracy
  - (c) Democracy
  - (d) Autocracy
3. Former Soviet Union is an example for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (a) aristocracy
  - (b) theocracy
  - (c) oligarchy
  - (d) republic
4. Select the odd one
  - (a) India
  - (b) USA
  - (c) France
  - (d) Vatican
5. Abraham Lincoln was the President of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (a) USA
  - (b) UK
  - (c) USSR
  - (d) India
6. Kudavolai system was followed by
  - (a) Cheras
  - (b) Pandyas
  - (c) Cholas
  - (d) Kalabhras
7. Direct Democracy in olden times existed
  - (a) In the republics of ancient India
  - (b) Among the USA
  - (c) In the city-state of ancient Greece
  - (d) Among the UK
8. From which language was the term "Democracy" derived?
  - (a) Greek
  - (b) Latin
  - (c) Persian
  - (d) Arabic
9. In democracy the final authority rests with
  - (a) The Parliament
  - (b) The People
  - (c) The council of Ministers
  - (d) The President
10. Which one of the country has Presidential form of government
  - (a) India
  - (b) Britain
  - (c) Canada
  - (d) USA
11. The largest democratic country in the world is
  - (a) Canada
  - (b) India
  - (c) USA
  - (d) China
12. **Assertion (A):** Direct democracy is practised in Switzerland.  
**Reason (R):** People directly participates in decision making.
  - (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) explains (A)
  - (b) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) does not explain (A)
  - (c) (A) is correct and (R) is false
  - (d) (A) is false and (R) is true



**13. Assertion (A):** India has parliamentary form of democracy.

**Reason (R):** Indian parliament comprises two houses.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) explains (A)
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) does not explain (A)
- (c) (A) is correct and (R) is false
- (d) (A) is false and (R) is true

**14.** The meaning of Franchise is

- (a) Right to elect
- (b) Right to vote for the poor
- (c) Right to vote
- (d) Right to vote for the rich

**15.** The grant of universal franchise creates

- (a) Social equality
- (b) Economic equality
- (c) Political equality
- (d) Legal equality

**16.** Prime Minister of India is appointed by

- (a) Lok Sabha                      (b) Rajya Sabha
- (c) Speaker                        (d) President

**17.** The President of India can nominate

- (a) 12 members to Lok Sabha
- (b) 2 members of Rajya Sabha
- (c) 12 members to Rajya Sabha
- (d) 14 members of Rajya Sabha

**18.** The First general elections after independence in India were held in

- (a) 1948-49                      (b) 1951-52
- (c) 1957-58                      (d) 1947-48

## II. Fill in the blanks:

- 1. The Constitution of India was finally adopted on \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. The two types of democracy are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. An example for direct democracy is \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. India has a \_\_\_\_\_ form of democracy.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ was the first Prime Minister of independent India.

6. The first general elections were held in British India in the year \_\_\_\_\_

7. The Parliament House in India was designed by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

## III. Match the following:

- 1. Autocracy - 18
- 2. Right to vote - Arthashastra
- 3. Chanakya - Vatican
- 4. Theocracy - North Korea

## IV. Give short answers:

- 1. Give Abraham Lincoln's definition for democracy.
- 2. Mention the forms of democracy.
- 3. Distinguish between direct and indirect democracy.

## V. Answer in detail:

- 1. What are the challenges to Indian democracy? explain.
- 2. Explain the conditions necessary for the success of democracy in India.
- 3. What is your opinion about democracy in India?

## VI. Project and Activity

- 1. Discuss in the class what is universal adult franchise? Why is it important?
- 2. "Democracy is the power of majority which respects minority." Discuss.
- 3. Conduct a mock election in your class.
- 4. A group discussion on the merits and demerits of democracy of India in the classroom.

## VII. HOTS

- 1. Will you have the right to equality under dictatorship? What would be the attitude regarding public opinion in such a country?
- 2. How does democracy lead to a peaceful and a harmonious life among the citizens? Explain.



## VIII. Life Skills

Select a group of countries. Research each country and tell what type of government it has: Aristocracy, Monarchy, Autocracy, Oligarchy, Theocracy, Democracy, Republic. Then, provide characteristics of this country that helped you determine the type of government.

Country name	Type of government	Characteristics of the country's government



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- Type the URL link given below in the browser OR scan the QR code. You can also download the “child line” from the given URL.
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- On the menu bar select vulnerability map.
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# UNIT 2

## Election, Political Parties and Pressure Groups

### Learning Objectives

- Know about the electoral system in India
- Know the different types of elections in India
- Understands the meaning of political party
- Know the functions of state party and national party
- Understand the pressure groups in India



### Introduction

An election is a formal decision-making process by which a people chooses an individual to hold public office by voting.

### 2.1 Electoral System in India

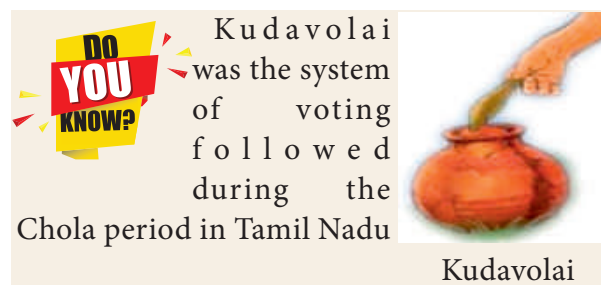
The electoral system in India has been adapted from the system followed in the United Kingdom. India is a socialist, secular, democratic republic and the largest democracy in the world. The modern India the constitution of India came into force on 26th January, 1950

Articles 324 to 329 in part XV of the Constitution make the following provisions with regard to the electoral system in our country.

- Article 324 of the Indian Constitution provides for an independent Election Commission in order to ensure free and fair elections in the country. At present, the commission consists of a Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
- The Parliament may make provision with respect to all matters relating to elections to the Parliament including

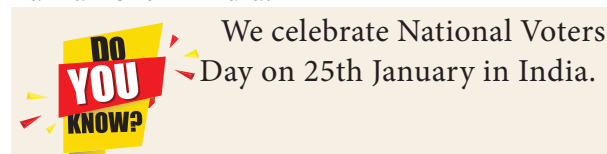
the preparation of electoral rolls, the delimitation of constituencies and all other matters necessary for securing their due constitution.

- The state legislatures can also make provisions with respect to all matters relating to elections to the state legislatures including the preparation of electoral rolls and all other matters necessary for securing their due constitution.



#### 2.1.1 Election Process

At the national level, the head of government, the Prime Minister, is elected by members of the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament in India.



In representative democracy like ours, elections are extremely important. Voting in elections are the best way to make your 'voice' heard.

### 2.1.2 Introduction of the NOTA Option

If the people in a democratic country are not willing to elect any candidate, they can vote for the option called NOTA (None Of The Above). Rule 49-O in the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, of India describes this procedure.



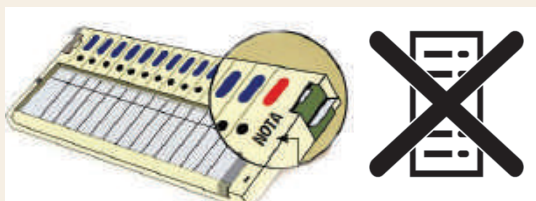
Voters Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)



Voters Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) is the way forward to enhance credibility and transparency of the election process. This system was first introduced in the 2014 General Election.



NOTA was first introduced in the General Elections held in 2014. India is the 14th country in the world to introduce NOTA.



Symbol used with NOTA option on electronic voting machines in India

### 2.1.3 Types of Elections in India

Elections are classified into two types: direct and indirect elections.

#### Direct Elections

People directly vote for the candidates in the fray and elect their representatives. The following are examples of direct elections in which people over the age of 18 years participate in the electoral process by casting their votes.

- (i) Lok Sabha elections, in which the Members of Parliament are elected.
- (ii) Elections to the state Legislative Assemblies, in which the Members of Legislative Assemblies are elected.
- (iii) Elections to the local governing bodies, i.e. such as village panchayat, town panchayat, municipalities, municipal corporation are conducted by the state election commission.

#### Merits

- (i) As the voters elect their representatives directly, direct elections are considered to be a more democratic method of election.



- (ii) It educates people regarding the government activities and helps in choosing the appropriate candidates. Also, it encourages people to play an active role in politics.
- (iii) It empowers people and makes the rulers accountable for their actions.

#### Demerits

- (i) Direct elections are very expensive.
- (ii) Illiterate voters sometimes get misguided by false propaganda. Campaigning based on caste, religion and various other sectarian considerations pose serious challenges.

- (iii) Since conducting direct elections is a massive exercise, ensuring free and fair elections at every polling station is a major challenge to the Election Commission.
- (iv) There are instances of some political candidates influencing the voters through payments in the form of cash, goods or services.
- (v) Election campaigns sometimes results in violence, tension, law and order problems and affects the day-to-day life of people.

### Indirect Elections

Voters elect their representatives, who, in turn, elect their representatives this method of election is followed for the election of president of India.

### Merits

- (i) Indirect elections are less expensive.
- (ii) It is more suited to elections in large countries.

### Demerits

- (i) If the number of voters is very small, there exists the possibility of corruption, bribery, horse trading and other unfair activities.
- (ii) It is less democratic because people do not have a direct opportunity to elect, but they instead do it through their representatives. So, this may not reflect the true will of the people.

## 2.2 Political Parties

Political parties are an essential part of democracy. Parties are the link between government and the people.

### 2.2.1 Meaning of Political Party

A political party is an organisation formed by a group of people with a certain ideology and agenda to contest elections and hold power in the government. A political party has three components: a leader, active members and the followers.



### How is the President of India elected?

The President of India is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of

1. The elected members of both Houses of Parliament
2. The elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of all the states and Union territories in India

NOTE: The members nominated to either House of Parliament or the Legislative Assemblies of states are not eligible to be included in the electoral college.

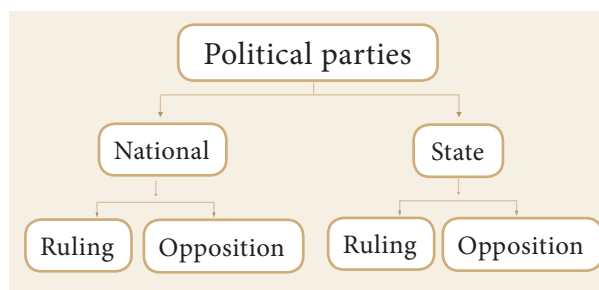
### 2.2.2 Types of a Party System

There are three types of party system in the world namely.

- i. Single-party system in which one ruling party exists and no opposition is permitted. China, Cuba, the former USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) are the examples for the single-party system.
- ii. Two-party system in which only two major parties exist, for example, USA, UK.
- iii. Multi-party system in which there are more than two political parties, for example, India, Sri Lanka, France and Italy.

### 2.2.3 Types of Political Parties

Political parties in India are classified according to their area of influence into two main types: (1) national and (2) state parties.





## National Parties

A party which is recognised as a state party in at least four states is recognised as a national party. Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission while the Commission treats all the parties equally. It offers some special facilities to state and national parties. These parties are given a unique symbol. Only the official candidate of the party can use that election symbol. In 2017, there were seven recognised national parties.

## State Parties

Other than the seven national parties, most of the major parties of the country are classified by the Election Commission as 'state parties'. These are commonly referred to as regional parties. A party is recognised as a state party by the Election Commission of India based on certain percentage of votes secured or a certain number of seats won in the Assembly or Lok Sabha elections.

## Recognition to the Parties

For getting recognition as 'national party', a party has to fulfill any one of the following criteria:

- i. At least 6% votes in at least four states and members to the Lok Sabha.
- ii. In the election of Lok Sabha, at least 2% members from at least three states are elected to Lok Sabha.
- iii. Recognition as a state party at least four states.

## Functions of Political Parties

- Parties contest elections. In most democracies, elections are fought mainly among the candidates put up by political parties.
- Parties put forward their policies and programmes before the electorate to consider and choose.
- Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country. Formally, laws are debated and passed in the legislature.

- Parties form and run the governments.
- Those parties that lose in the elections play the role of the Opposition to the party or a group of coalition parties in power, by voicing different views and criticising the government for its failures or wrong policies.
- Parties shape public opinion. They raise and highlight issues of importance.
- Parties function as the useful link between people and the government machinery.

### 2.2.4 Role of Opposition Parties in a Democracy

In a democracy, there may be a two-party system like in the USA or a multi-party system like in India and France. The ruling party may have received the mandate of the majority people and the Opposition party represented the remaining people. The Leader of the Opposition party occupied a prominent place in all democratic forms of the government. He enjoys the rank of a Cabinet Minister. He opposes the wrong policies of the ruling party, which affects the general public. As the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee questions the functioning of the government departments and examines the public money used for the well-being of the people. Similarly, he plays an important role to select the Chairman and members of the Central Vigilance Commission, Chairperson and members of the Information Commission. The Opposition Parties reflect genuine demands and concern of the people to play a constructive role in a democracy.

## 2.3 Pressure Groups

The term 'pressure group' originated in the USA. A pressure group is a group of people who are organised actively for promoting and defending their common interest. It is so called as it attempts to bring a change in the public policy by exerting pressure on the government.

The pressure groups are also called 'interest groups' or vested groups. They are different from

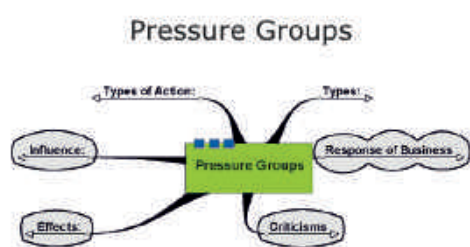


the political parties in that they neither contest elections nor try to capture political power.



### 2.3.1 Pressure Groups in India

A large number of pressure groups exist in India. But, they are not developed to the same extent as in the USA or the Western countries like Britain, France, Germany and so on.



The pressure groups in India can be broadly classified into the following categories:

1. Business groups
2. Trade unions
3. Agrarian groups
4. Professional associations
5. Student organisations
6. Religious organisations
7. Tribal organisations
8. Linguistic groups
9. Ideology-based groups
10. Environmental protection groups



### Functions of Pressure Groups in India

Pressure groups are the interest groups that work to secure certain interest by influencing the public policy. They are non-aligned with any political party and work as an indirect

yet powerful group to influence the policy decisions. Pressure groups carry out a range of functions including representation, political participation, education, policy formulation and policy implementation.



### Examples for Pressure Groups

1. Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
2. All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)
3. All India Kisan Sabha
4. Indian Medical Association (IMA)
5. All India Students Federation (AISF)
6. All India Sikh Students Federation
7. Young Badaga Association
8. Tamil Sangam
9. Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam
10. Narmada Bachao Andolan

### Political Participation

Pressure groups can be called the informal face of politics. They exert influence precisely by mobilising popular support through activities such as petitions, marches, demonstrations and other forms of political protest. Such forms of political participation have been particularly attractive to young people.

### Education

Many pressure groups devote significant resources by carrying out research, maintaining websites, commenting on government policy and using high-profile academics, scientists and even celebrities to get their views across, with an emphasis to cultivate expert authority.

### Policy Formulation

Though the pressure groups themselves are not policy-makers, yet it does not prevent many of them from participating in the policy-making process. Many pressure groups are vital sources of information

and render advice to the government and therefore they are regularly consulted in the process of policy formulation.

## 2.4 Mobilisation and People's Participation

### 2.4.1 Mobilisation

Mobilising people towards socially productive activities that lead to the overall betterment of people's lives is essential. Sometimes earthquakes, tsunamis, floods and other such natural disasters on a massive scale occur and people's immediate mobilisation for evacuation and emergency relief becomes most essential.

### 2.4.2 Democratic Participation

Democracy can succeed only when smaller local groups and, in fact, every citizen can take action that supports the tax and revenue collection systems, observance of national norms in environmental protection, cleanliness, health and hygiene, sanitary drives and immunisation programmes like pulse polio.

However, we must keep in mind that there is no better form of government than Democratic government. To create a better society and nation, the people of India along with the union and state governments should come together to fight against the miseries of human life.

### Recap

- The Prime Minister is elected by members of the Lok Sabha.
- There are two types of elections: direct and indirect elections.
- A political party has three components: a leader, active members and the followers.
- Political parties in India are classified into two types: (1) National Parties (2) State Parties.
- In 2017, there were seven recognised national parties.
- The term 'pressure group' originated in the USA.
- A large number of pressure groups exist in India.



### EXERCISE



#### I. Choose the correct answer:

1. India has adapted the electoral system followed in the  
 (a) USA (b) United Kingdom  
 (c) Canada (d) Russia
2. The Election Commission of India is a / an  
 (a) Independent body  
 (b) Statutory body  
 (c) Private body  
 (d) Public corporation
3. Which Article of the Constitution provides for an Election Commission?  
 (a) Article 280 (b) Article 315  
 (c) Article 324 (d) Article 325
4. Which part of the constitution of India says about the election commission?  
 (a) Part III (b) Part XV  
 (c) Part XX (d) Part XXII
5. Who accords recognition to various political parties as national or regional parties?  
 (a) The President  
 (b) The Election Commission  
 (c) The Parliament  
 (d) The President in consultation with the Election Commission
6. **Assertion (A)** : Indian Constitution provides for an independent Election Commission  
**Reason (R)**: To ensure free and fair elections in the country.  
 (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) explains (A)  
 (b) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) does not explain (A)  
 (c) (A) is correct and (R) is false  
 (d) (A) is false and (R) is true



7. NOTA was introduced in the year  
(a) 2012 (b) 2013  
(c) 2014 (d) 2015
8. The term pressure groups originated in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) USA (b) UK  
(c) USSR (d) India
9. **Assertion (A):** A large number of pressure groups exist in India.  
**Reason (R):** Pressure Groups are not developed in India to the same extent as in the USA  
(a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) explains (A)  
(b) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) does not explain (A)  
(c) (A) is correct and (R) is false  
(d) (A) is false and (R) is true

## II. Fill in the blanks:

1. The Election Commission of India is a body of \_\_\_\_\_ members.
2. National Voters day has been celebrated on \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In India \_\_\_\_\_ party system is followed.
4. In 2017, there were \_\_\_\_\_ recognised national parties.
5. Narmada Bachao Andolan is a \_\_\_\_\_.

## III. Match the following:

- |                        |   |                 |
|------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. National party      | - | a. Trade unions |
| 2. Single-party system | - | b. USA          |
| 3. Two-party system    | - | c. China        |
| 4. Pressure groups     | - | d. Seven        |

## IV. Give short answers:

1. Explain the electoral system in India.
2. Give the meaning of a political party.
3. Distinguish between two-party system and the multi-party system.
4. What is a pressure group?

## V. Answer in detail:

1. Discuss merits and demerits of direct elections?
2. What are the functions of political parties?
3. What are the function of Pressure groups in India?

## VI. Project and Activity

1. Compare the policies, programmes and achievements of a national party and a state party.

## VII. HOTS

1. "Elections are considered essential for any representative democracy". Why?
2. What is the principle of universal adult franchise? What is its importance?
3. Discuss merits and demerits of democracy.
4. Discuss the multi-party system.

## VIII. Life Skill

Conduct a mock poll in your classroom.

# UNIT

## 3

# Human Rights



## Learning Objectives

- To know about the international efforts for protecting human rights
- To understand the basic human rights ensured in the Indian Constitution
- To understand about the functions of institutions and issues involved in human rights
- To know about the types of human rights



## Introduction

The lesson travels through the history of organisations for human rights. The rights ensured by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights being highlighted. Fundamental rights are enshrined in the Indian Constitution and fundamental duties incorporated in the Constitution along with the introduction to National and State Human Rights Commissions and their functions are explained. Extended rights like child rights, SC and ST rights, women rights, labour rights, etc., are also discussed.

On 7th June 1893, while a person was on his way to Pretoria, in South Africa a white man objected the person's presence of a

non-white man in a first class carriage and the person was ordered to move to a van compartment at the end of the train. The man who had the first-class ticket refused to leave and was thrown off the train at Pietermaritzburg. Shivering in the winter night in the waiting room of the station changed the course of his life. He took up the fight against racial oppression. The spirit for active non-violence started from that moment.



Gandhi in South Africa

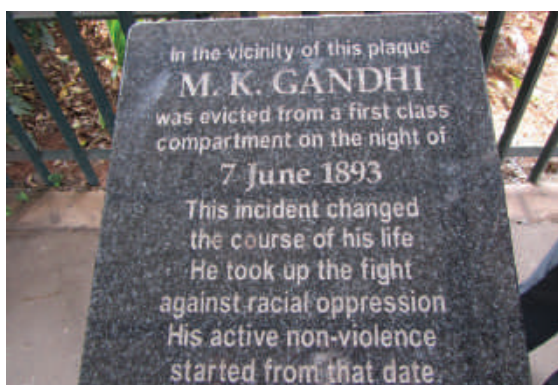
Mahatma Gandhi made the momentous decision to stay on in South Africa and fight



racial discrimination against the Indians. Out of that struggle emerged his unique way of protest nonviolent Satyagraha.

As a human being, Gandhi had all the rights to travel in the first class compartment. But he was discriminated because of his skin colour. Discrimination is not only based on colour, it is on the basis of race, gender, place of birth, caste, religion and so on.

Due to these discriminations, people are prohibited from enjoying their basic human rights.



Inscription at the railway station

### 3.1 What are Human Rights?

The U.N.O defines Human rights as “The right inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, gender, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion or any other status. Every one is entitled to these rights without discrimination.”

Human Rights day is celebrated every year on 10th December

The history of human rights has roots in all the great events of the world and it has sustained the struggle for freedom and equality everywhere. The United Nations Organisation (U.N.O) was formed on 24th October 1945 after the Second World War. It proposed to deal with the consequences of war and to prevent such happenings in the future.

October 24 is UNO day

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights(UDHR) has played a crucial role in promoting human rights.

### End of Apartheid



Mandela raises his fist soon after his release from jail after 27 years

Apartheid was the highest form of discrimination that existed in South Africa. Places of residence were determined by racial classification.

It was the governing policy in the country by the minority whites over the majority non-whites. The people of South Africa protested against racial discrimination.

Nelson Mandela raised his voice against apartheid. When he organised defiant campaigns against the government, he was imprisoned. Amid growing domestic and international pressure and with the fear of a racial civil war, President F. W. de Klerk released him in 1990.

The efforts taken by Mandela and de Klerk put an end to apartheid. In 1994, a multiracial general election was held, in which Mandela led the African National Congress to victory and became President.

### 3.2 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a milestone document in the history of human rights. It was drafted by the representatives with different legal and cultural back grounds from all regions of the world. The Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10th



December 1948 (General Assembly resolution 217A) as a common standard of achievement of all people and all nations. The first time it sets out the fundamental human rights to be universally protected and the UDHR has been translated into many languages.

There are 30 articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and it guarantees freedom of expression as well as civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights. These rights apply to all people, irrespective of their race, gender and nationality, as all people are born free and equal.

### 3.2.1: Social, Economic and Cultural Rights:

Social, economic and cultural rights are integral part of the human rights law that was developed due to the aftermath of World War II.

Social rights are necessary for full participation in the society. Economic rights guarantee every person to have conditions under which they are able to meet their needs. They are a part of a range of legal principles through which economic equality and freedom are preserved in a State.

Cultural rights are human rights that aim at assuring the enjoyment of culture and its components in conditions of equality, human dignity and non-discrimination.

### 3.2.2 Civil and Political Rights:

Civil and political rights protect an individual's freedom from infringement by the government, social organizations and private individuals. These rights ensure one's ability to participate in the civil and political life of the society and state.

The term 'Civil rights' refers to the basic rights afforded by laws of the government, to every person regardless of race, nationality, colour, gender, age, religion etc.,

Political rights exercised in the formation and administration of a government. They are given to the citizens by law. These rights give power to the citizens to participate either directly or indirectly in the administration.

## 3.3 Fundamental Rights in India

Fundamental rights are required for the all round development of a human being. They make the life of people meaningful by giving them rights like speech and to live in an area of their choice.

**The fundamental rights are :**

- Right to Equality
- Right to Freedom
- Right against Exploitation
- Right to Freedom of Conscience and Religion
- Cultural and Educational Rights for minorities
- Right to Constitutional Remedies

### 3.3.1 Right to Equality:

It refers to equality before law and equal protection of law. Prohibition or discrimination on the grounds of religion, caste, races, gender or place of birth is offensive and one can seek justice from court.



Share your views about this picture

### 3.3.2. Right to Freedom

Six different types of freedom are mentioned in the Constitution.

They are:

- Freedom of speech and expression.
- Freedom to assemble peacefully without arms.
- Freedom to form associations and unions.
- Freedom to reside and settle in any part of India.
- Freedom to move freely throughout the territory of India.
- Freedom to practice any profession and carry on any occupation, trade or business.



### 3.3.3 Right against Exploitation:

It is against the law to employ children below 14 years of age in mines, factories or other occupations. Neither contractor nor an employer can force a worker to do a job against their will.



### 3.3.4 Right to Freedom of Conscience and Religion:

This right gives the citizens freedom to follow and practice a religion of their choice.



All citizens have the freedom of conscience or ideas. The citizens also have the freedom to follow their own ways for practicing any religion.

### 3.3.5 Cultural and Educational Rights:

The Constitution gives us the right to preserve, protect and promote culture. We have the right to open schools, associations and societies to preserve and promote our tradition and culture. Similarly a group of people may open a school for imparting religious education to children. The government also promotes such activities

#### Differences Between Human Rights and Fundamental Rights

Human Rights	Fundamental Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rights that a human being deserves to survive with respect and freedoms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The elemental rights of the citizens of a country, which are listed in the constitution and enforceable under the law is known as fundamental rights.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human rights include those rights which are basic to a real life and are absolute, i.e. it cannot be taken away.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fundamental rights includes only those rights which are basic to a normal life.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human rights are recognised at international level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fundamental rights are guaranteed under the constitution of the country.</li> </ul>

Human rights as declared by the UN, suggest minimum standards of rights to be adopted by Government and these serve more or less like Directive Principles.

by giving grants. However, such institutions cannot deny admission to anyone based on their caste, colour, creed or even religion.

WRIT is a written order from the court or other legal authority ordering to do an act or not to do it.

### 3.3.6 Right to Constitutional Remedies

Fundamental Rights are guaranteed by the Constitution. By this right, a person can adopt Constitutional means and approach a court if he is denied the Fundamental Rights. The court then issues orders which are called 'Writs' to the government to restore the rights to the citizen. The Constitutional Remedies put to right anything which may be wrong in terms of the Constitution. This right therefore protects and safeguards all other rights.

Preethika Yashini won her right of employment by approaching the court according to the Right to Constitutional remedies.

#### As Yashini takes last step towards her SI dream, it's a giant leap for 3rd gender



### 3.4 Fundamental Duties

These are in the form of duties and responsibilities of citizens. "The original Constitution which came into force with effect from 26th January, 1950 did not contain Fundamental Duties.

These were incorporated in the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment Act in 1976. The Constitution states eleven Fundamental Duties as given below:

1. Respect for the Constitution and its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.

2. To follow and cherish the noble ideals which inspired our National Struggle for freedom.
3. To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.
4. To defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so.
5. To promote harmony and spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India, transcending religious, linguistic, regional or sectional diversities, to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.
6. To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture.
7. To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and have compassion on living creatures.
8. To develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform.
9. To safeguard public property and to abjure from violence.
10. To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity, so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievements.
11. To provide opportunities for education by the parent and guardian to their child or ward upto the age of 14 years.



Maintenance and welfare of parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 is a legislation passed in 2007 by the Government of India. This Act is a legal obligation for children and heirs to provide maintenance to senior citizens and parents.



### 3.5 National Human Rights Commission





The National Human Rights Commission is an autonomous body constituted on 12th October 1993 under the protection of Human rights Act, 1993. It consists of a chairman and few other members. 3 from judiciary and 4 from other department NHRC is responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights in India defined by the Act as rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the international covenants the office is located in New Delhi.

### Functions of NHRC

- To inquire into the violation of human rights or negligence in the prevention of such violation by a public servant
- To intervene in court proceedings relating to human rights
- To undertake and promote research in the field of human rights
- To engage in human rights education among various sections of society
- To encourage the effects of NGOs and institutions working in the field of human rights.

## 3.6 State Human Rights Commission (SHRC)



Every state in India has a State Human Rights Commission established in accordance with the power conferred on the state under section 21 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. The protection and promotion of human rights constitute the principal concern of the Commission. Moreover, the procedures adopted by the Commission to conduct its proceedings, the suo motu actions taken on complaints regardless of the sources received and the transparency of the proceedings of

the SHRC add strength to its functioning in a state. The office of the Human Rights is located in Chennai.

### Functions of SHRC

- The SHRC shall enquire into violation of human rights in respect of matters specified in the state and concurrent lists.
- Its objectives and duties are the same as NHRC, but confined only to the state. It has a chairman and two members.
- It has the power of a civil court and can take cognizance of cases if received or in suo motu.
- It can also recommend compensation to victims.

### 3.6.1 Child Rights

Apart from the fundamental rights described by the Constitution, we have to ensure certain other rights.

A child is a person who has not completed the age of 18 years i.e. a minor as per UNO. This principle is exhibited in Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Based on these principles, the declaration of the Rights of the child was accepted and adopted in the UN General Assembly on 20th November, 1989.

- Right to life
- Right to family environment
- Right to Education
- Right to benefit from Social security
- Right against sexual exploitation
- Right against sale or trafficking
- Right against other forms of exploitation like Child labour.

#### Right to life

A child has the right to survive even before its birth. The right to survival also includes the right to be born, the right to basic needs of food, shelter and clothing and a dignified living.

#### Right to Family Environment

A child has the right to live a normal childhood in a family environment. Children who have been left destitute, abandoned or orphaned also have the right to live. These children can be given for adoption to caring families.

### Right to benefit from Social security

Children should get financial support from the country when their parents or guardians are unable to provide them with a good standard of living by themselves, due to any illness, disability or old age.

### Right to Education

Right to Education Act is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted in 2009 for free and compulsory education for children from 6 to 14 years of age as under Article 21A of the Constitution.

**Malala** - Nobel Peace prize laureate says

"I loved school. But everything changed when the fundamentalist



took control of our town in Swat Valley.

They said girls could no longer go to school. I spoke out publicly on behalf of girls and our right to learn. And this made me a target.

In October 2012, on my way home from school, a masked gunman boarded my school bus and asked, "Who is Malala?" He shot me on the left side of my head. I woke up 10 days later in a hospital in Birmingham, England. After months of surgeries and rehabilitation, I joined my family in our new home in the U.K. I determined to continue my fight until every girl could go to school.

Every day I fight to ensure all girls receive 12 years of free, safe, quality education. With more than 130 million girls out of school today, there is more work to be done. I hope you will join my fight for education and equality. Together, we can create a world where all girls can learn and lead.

If you were Malala, what would you have done?

Is Malala's fight necessary?

Are girl children treated and given education equally?

The Right of children To free and compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, means that every child has a right to formal Elementary Education. This right of children provides free and compulsory education till the completion of elementary education in a neighbourhood school. The child need not pay any kind of fee for completing elementary education.

### Right against sale or trafficking of children

Children should be treated as individuals with fundamental human rights. Children are vulnerable. There are root causes such as poverty, gender discrimination, broken families etc., behind the sale or trafficking of children.



The Kavalan SOS App is launched by the Government of Tamil Nadu for public use during emergencies. Anyone in a critical situation, not only women, can easily and directly access the State Police Control Room using this App.

Children are subjected to sale or trafficking for various reasons – economic exploitation, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, drug trafficking and child labour.

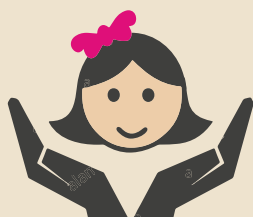


Have you heard about child trafficking?  
Conduct a debate on this topic in your class.

### Right against sexual exploitation

The state should protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse, when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities physically or mentally.

POCSO Act - Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act  
The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 regards the best interest of the child as being of paramount importance at every stage.



### Salient features of POCSO Act

- The Act defines a child as any person below eighteen years of age, to ensure the healthy, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development of the child.
- When the abuse is committed by a person in a position of trust or authority vis-à-vis the child, like a family member, neighbours or any other acquaintances.
- The statement of the child is to be recorded exactly as the child narrates.
- A child not to be called repeatedly to testify.

An ordinance providing the death penalty for rapists of girls below 12 years of age and other stringent penal provisions for rape has been promulgated in April 2018. The Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 2018, amended the Indian Penal Code. Another salient feature of this amendment is that the fine imposed shall be just and reasonable to meet the medical expenses and rehabilitation of the victim.



**1098**

Childline is India's first 24 hours free emergency phone service for children in need of assistance. Special care is given for vulnerable children like those affected by child labour, child marriage and children affected by any abuse.

### Right against other forms of exploitation like Child labour

Children are often employed in several industries. These children are deprived of their childhood, health and education. This will lead to a life of poverty and want. These children are made to work in glass, match-box, lock-making factories, rag-picking, carpet – making industry, beedi - rolling, mining, stone quarrying, brick kilns and tea gardens etc.

Work is mostly gender – specific, with girls performing more home – based work, while boys are employed as waged labour. Since these children work in agricultural fields, restaurants, motor repair workshops and home – based industries, elimination of child labour remains a challenge.



Kailash Satyarthi is a Nobel Peace Prize recipient and the founder of Bachpan Bachao Andolan, and many other child rights organisations.

More than 86,000 children in India have been liberated by him and his team members from child labour, slavery and trafficking. An 80,000 km long Global March against Child Labour was led by Kailash in 1998 which turned the world's attention towards the issue of Child labour. He received Nobel prize for peace in the year 2014.



The findings of an international survey reveals that children with disabilities are 3.4% more sexually abused than normal children.

### Child Rights in the Indian Constitution

**Article 24** – No child below the age of 14 must be employed in hazardous employment.

**Article 45** – Free and compulsory education for all children until they attain the age of 14 years.

Children are the foundation of any nation. When girls get married early, they lose many privileges like childhood happiness, availing education and a healthy life. The society in turn gets affected by child marriage. Thus child marriage should be avoided at any cost.

### 3.6.2 Women Rights

The National Commission for Women (NCW) is constituted in India to review the Constitutional and legal safeguards for women, recommends remedial measures and advises the government on all matters of policy affecting the welfare and development of women in the country.

In modern India, women have held high offices including that of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Leader of the Opposition, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and Governors.

In Tamil Nadu, ancestral property rights were given to women through Hindu Succession (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act 1989.

The Central Government amended the Hindu Succession Act in 2005. By this amendment, women are now given equal shares in inheritance of the undivided property.

Women's rights under the Constitution of India mainly include equality, dignity, and freedom from discrimination; additionally, India has various statutes governing the rights of women. In 1924 at Vaikkom in Kerala Periyar E.V. Ramasamy agitated for temple entry for Dalits. In 1925 he started the self-respect movement.

**Women Labourers' Welfare and Ambedkar**  
Dr B.R. Ambedkar framed many laws for women workers in India such as the 'Mines Maternity Benefit Act', 'Women Labour Welfare Fund', 'Women and Child Labour Protection Act', 'Maternity Benefit for Women Labour', and 'Restoration of Ban on Employment of Women on Underground Work in Coal Mines'.

### Reservations

The state of Tamil Nadu provides 69% of reservation to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Most Backward Classes / Denotified Communities and Backward Classes in public employment and in educational institutions. Backward class Muslims are granted separate reservation.

The following table gives us a very clear picture of the percentage of reservation for various communities by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Communities	Reservation in (%)
Backward Classes	26.5
Backward Class Muslims	3.5
Most Backward Classes/Denotified Communities	20
Scheduled Castes	18
Scheduled Tribes	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>

Under each reserved category and in General category 30% is reserved for women and 4% is reserved for differently abled persons. Special reservation to Arunthathiyars has been granted by preferential allotment of seats within the seats reserved for Scheduled castes. For persons studied in Tamil medium 20% seats are offered under each category on priority basis.

In Tamil Nadu Transgenders have been classified under Most Backward Classes.

### 3.6.3 Right to Information Act (RTI)

The Right to Information Act is a revolutionary act that aims to promote transparency in the government institutions in India. This act was enacted in October 2005.

A common man can demand any government organization to provide information. The information must be provided within thirty days. If not, a fee will be collected as penalty from the concerned official.



### RTI Activists



**Aruna Roy**

**Nikil Dev**

It is one of the most powerful laws of the country. This act is people friendly; even an illiterate person can ask any Public Information Officer to write it down for him. All government agencies like Municipal Corporations, Government departments, Government Schools, Road Authorities, etc., come under this Act.

Through RTI one can get even copies of government documents such as records, reports, papers, etc., Personal information of individuals and organisations related to the country's defence and intelligence, such as BSF, CRPF, Intelligence Bureau are exempted from the RTI.

- Sign the Application form with your full name and address along with the date and send it through a registered post to the office of the concerned authority.
- If a reply is not received within 30 days, an appeal can be filed with the Appellate Authority.

#### 3.6.4 Labour Rights

The Constitution ensures right to equality, equality of opportunity in public employment, right to form associations and unions, right to livelihood, prohibits trafficking, forced labour and child labour. Article 39(d) ensures equal wages to male and female workers for equal work.

“The rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened” said John F. Kennedy. Civilized nations of the world insist on equality. Nations pay more attention on human rights to ensure equality. This helps in maintaining peace, harmony and development of the country.

#### Activity

List out various jobs in the format given below and fill in the amount of wages for male and female employees.

S. No	Job / Occupation	Wages of male employee	Wages of female employee
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

#### Contribution of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar

Dr.B.R. Ambedkar's contribution to labourers.

- Reduction in Factory Working Hours (8 hours a day)
- Compulsory Recognition of Trade Unions
- Employment Exchange in India
- Employees State Insurance (ESI)
- Minimum Wages for labourers
- Coal and Mica Mines Provident Fund



It is a great victory for female workers who stand all the time more or less 12-14 hours per day while they are working in shops and commercial malls

Female workers who are working in shops and commercial malls are not allowed to sit or even lean on the wall. They were allowed only 5 minutes of break two times a day to take rest.

There was a strong voice against this inhuman practice among women workers for a long time. Considering this, the Government of Kerala has decided to redress by amending the Shops and Commercial Establishment Act in July 2018.



## Recap

- Discrimination is the partial treatment of people.
- UNO's definition of human rights.
- History of human rights has its roots from the aftermath of second world war.
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Indian Constitution ensures six fundamental rights and eleven duties of a citizen.
- Formation and functions of National and State Human Rights Commissions.
- Extended rights such as child rights, SC and ST rights, women rights, Right to Information Act (RTI) and labor laws.



### EXERCISE



#### I Choose the correct answer

1. 'Apartheid' was followed by \_\_\_\_\_  
a) South Sudan      b) South Africa  
c) Nigeria            d) Egypt
2. \_\_\_\_\_ right exercises in the formation and administration of a government.  
a) Social              b) Economic  
c) Political            d) Cultural
3. A 10 year old boy is working in a shop. Which right can you use to recover him?  
a) Right to equality  
b) Right to freedom  
c) Right against child labour exploitation  
d) Right to freedom of Religion
4. What is the time limit to get the information from RTI Act 2005?  
a) 20 days            b) 25 days  
c) 30 days            d) 35 days
5. Which of the following statements are true?  
i) The State Human Rights commission was established in 1993.  
ii) It has the power of a civil court.  
iii) Its power extend beyond the state.  
iv) It can also recommend compensation to victims.  
a) i and ii are true  
b) i and iii are true

- c) i, ii and iii are true  
d) ii, iii and iv are true

#### 6. Consider the following statements.

**Assertions (A):** Rights and duties are the two sides of the same coin.

**Reason (R):** We have a right to freedom of religions. We have to promote harmony and the spirit of the people of other religions.

- a) Both A and R are correct and R explains A  
b) Both A and R are correct but R does not explain A  
c) A is correct but R is false  
d) A is false but R is correct

#### 7. According to the UNO a child is a person who has not completed the age of \_\_\_\_\_ years.

- a) 12      b) 14      c) 16      d) 18

#### 8. Kailash Satyarthi and Malala have been awarded Nobel Prize for \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Literature            b) Peace  
c) Physics              d) Economics

#### II Fill in the blanks

1. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights Contains \_\_\_\_\_ articles.
2. The fundamental Duties were incorporated in the Constitution by \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment Act.



3. The National Human Rights commission was established on \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Indian state to implement women ancestral property Act in 1989 was \_\_\_\_\_.

### III Match the following

- |   |                             |                            |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Right to Vote               | Cultural Rights            |
| 2 | Right to form union         | Right against exploitation |
| 3 | Right to preserve tradition | Political Rights           |
| 4 | The Hindu Succession Act    | Right to freedom           |
| 5 | Child labour                | 2005                       |

### IV Give short answers

1. What is Human Right?
2. What are the fundamental rights?
3. What are the Child Rights defined by the UNO?
4. Write a short note on the Right to Constitutional Remedies.
5. Define: POCSO
6. Why do children need special attention?
7. What are the contributions to labourers by B.R. Ambedkar?
8. 'All are equal before law'. But we have enacted a separate law for women – Justify
9. Write about the Right against exploitation.
10. Differentiate: Fundamental Rights and Human Rights.

### V Answer in detail

1. Write a paragraph about UDHR.
2. What are fundamental duties? How would you follow these in your school premises?
3. How does the National Human Rights Commission protect our rights?
4. What are the benefits for workers provided by labour law?
5. How do you enjoy the fundamental rights in your life?

### VI Project and Activity

1. How do you protect yourself from child abuse / sexual exploitation and trafficking.
2. Write an article titled "My country, My Rights".



## UNIT

# 4

## Forms of Government



### Learning Objectives

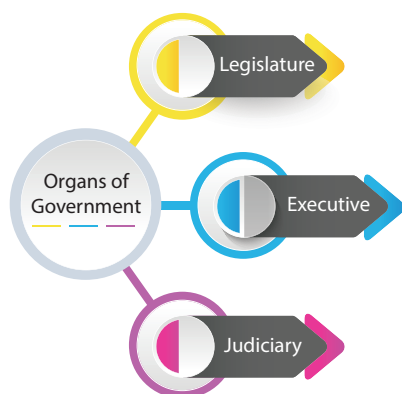
- To know about the type of constitutions
- To understand the forms of government
- To learn the merits and demerits of the different forms of government
- To understand the differences between the Unitary and Federal, Presidential and Parliamentary forms of governments



### Introduction

Government is the main agency of the state. It comprises of 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 into unitary, federal, parliamentary and presidential forms.



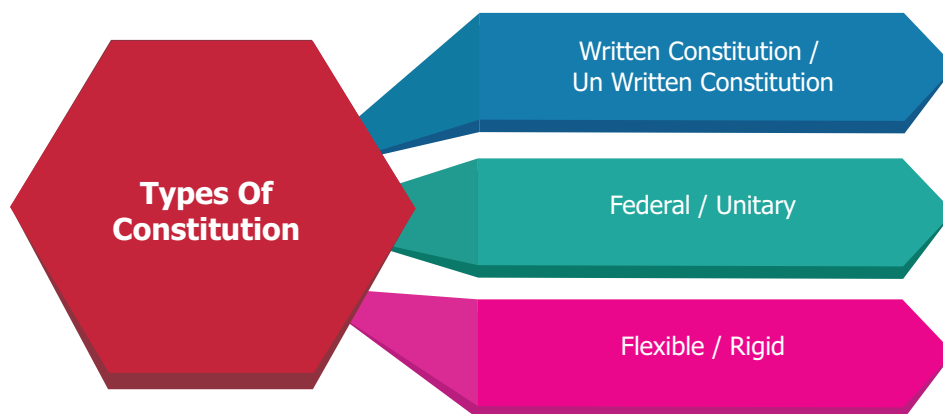
### Which is the oldest form of government?

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

## 4.1 Meaning

'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.

## 4.2 TYPES OF CONSTITUTION



### 4.2.1: Unitary Form of Government

A unitary system of government or unitary state, 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.

England, France, Japan and Sri Lanka are examples of Unitary Form of governments.

The term Government is derived from Old French 'governor', derived from Latin 'gubernare' to direct, rule, guide, govern".

In a Unitary form of government, all the authority and power is vested in a single centre, whereas in a federal form of government authority and power is distributed between centre and the constituent units. Even in a Unitary form of Government, there might be a lot of decentralisation of authority, but we cannot claim it as a federal system.

#### Merits of unitary form of government

- Suitable for small countries.
- There is no conflict of authority and responsibility.





- A unitary government will make prompt decisions and take speedy action.
- A unitary government is less expensive.
- Amendments to the constitution are easy.
- There is unity, uniformity of law, policy and administration.

#### **De-merits of unitary form of government**

- It is not suitable for big countries.
- The central government will have to tackle so many complex problems that lead to administrative delay
- The central government will not concentrate on local problems, local interest and initiative.
- The concentration of powers may pave way for the despotism of the central government.

#### **Unitary features of the indian constitution**

- Strong Centre
- Central Government's control over state territory
- Single Constitution
- Flexibility of the Constitution
- Unequal representation of states
- Emergency Provisions
- Single Citizenship
- Single Integrated Judiciary
- All India Services
- Appointment of Governor by the central government

### **4.2.2 Federal form of government**

The classification of governments into unitary and federal is based on the nature of relations between the national 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. U.S.A, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, Russia, Brazil, Argentina have federal form of governments.

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.

#### **Merits of federal form of government**

- Reconciliation of local autonomy with national unity
- Division of power between centre and states leads to administrative efficiency
- It gives rise to big states
- Distribution of powers check the despotism of central government
- More suitable for bigger countries
- It is good for economic and cultural progress

#### **De-merits of federal form of government**

- Federal government is weaker when compared to the unitary government.
- Federal government is more expensive
- Provincial tendencies are very common
- Lack of uniformity in Administration
- Threat to national unity
- Distribution of powers between centre and states lead to conflicts
- Double Citizenship
- Rigid constitution cannot be amended easily for changing needs
- The state governments sometimes place hindrances in the foreign policy

#### **Federal features of the Indian constitution**

- Dual Government
- Written Constitution
- Division of Powers
- Supremacy of the Constitution

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. The laws enacted by the Centre and the states must conform to its provisions.

- Rigid Constitution
- Independent Judiciary
- Bicameralism

## Difference between Unitary form and Federal form of Government

Unitary Form of Government	Federal Form of Government
Only one Level of Government or Sub units	Two Levels of Government
Mostly Single Citizenship	Dual Citizenship
Sub Units cannot operate independently	Federal Units are answerable to Central Government
No Division of Power	Division of Power
Centralisation of Power	Decentralisation of Power

### 4.2.3: Parliamentary form of government

Modern democratic governments are classified into parliamentary and presidential on the basis of the 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 parliamentary government is also known as cabinet government or responsible government or Westminster model of government and is prevalent in Britain, Japan, Canada and India among others.

Country	Name of Parliament
Israel	Knesset
Germany	Bundestag
Denmark	Folketing
Norway	Storting
U.S.A	Congress
Japan	Diet
Britain	Parliament

#### Features of parliamentary form of government

- Nominal and Real Executives
- Majority Party Rule
- Collective Responsibility
- Dual Membership
- Leadership of the Prime Minister

#### Merits of the parliamentary form of government

- Harmony between Legislature and Executive
- Responsible Government
- Prevents Dictatorship
- Wide Representation

#### Demerits of the parliamentary form of government

- Unstable Government
- No Continuity of Policies
- Dictatorship of the Cabinet
- Against Separation of Powers

### 4.2.4 The presidential form of government

The Presidential Form Of Government is also known as non-parliamentary or fixed executive system of government, basically built on the principle of separation of power and is prevalent in the USA, Brazil, Russia and Sri Lanka among others.

#### Features of presidential form of government

The President as the head of State, he occupies a ceremonial position.

The President is elected by an electoral college for a fixed tenure of four years.

The President governs with the help of a cabinet or a smaller body called 'Kitchen Cabinet'.

The legislative, executive and judicial powers of the government are separated and vested in three independent organs of the government.

#### Merits of the presidential system of government

- Democratic
- Effective Control by the President
- Facilitate decision-making
- State government



### Demerits of the presidential system of government

- Can degenerate into Dictatorship
- Strain relationship between executive and legislature
- Lack of Harmony between the Legislature and Executive

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

Presidential Form of Government	Parliamentary Form of Government
President is directly elected by the People	Prime Minister is from the majority party
President is Supreme	Central Legislature is supreme
Separation of Powers	Absence of Separation Powers Centralisation
Independent branches	Independent branches with Overlapping functions
President - Head of the State	President - Head of the State
President - Head of the Government	Prime Minister - Head of the Government
Individual Leadership	Collective leadership
President is not accountable to Congress	Collective and Individual Responsibility

### The relationship between the Centre and the State in India

India is a union of States where the power is shared between the centre and the states, as per the procedures mentioned in the Constitution of India. Though the powers are shared between the Central and State Governments, the final decision is by the Central government in all matters. The relationship between the centre and the states are

1. Legislative relations (Articles 245-255)
2. Administrative relations (Articles 256-263)
3. Financial relations (Articles 268-293)

Both the Central and State governments have the power to make laws, but the matters differ. The centre can make laws applicable to the whole nation on certain matters called as the union list. The States have the powers to make laws in some matters only, applicable to their own state, called as the State list. The concurrent list includes the subjects on which both Central and State government have the power to make laws.

**Union List:** Union list has 100 subjects. These include Foreign affairs, Defence, Armed forces, Posts and Telegraphs, inter-state trade and commerce and so on.

**State List:** The state list consists of 61 subjects, which include Public order in the state, police, prisons, Local Governments, agriculture and so on.

**Concurrent List:** The Concurrent list has 52 subjects which include Criminal and Civil procedures, marriage and divorce, economic and special planning, newspapers, books and printing presses, population control and so on.

## 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 tenets are: "Sustainable and equitable socio-economic development; environmental conservation; preservation and promotion of culture; and good governance".

GNH is distinguishable by valuing collective happiness as the goal of governance and by emphasising harmony with nature and traditional values.

### Recap

- Government refers to the executive function of the state.
- Legislature, Executive, Judiciary are the three organs of government.
- The four important forms of Governments are Unitary, Federal, Parliamentary and Presidential forms.
- India practises a Parliamentary form of Government.
- Governance is the process of decision making and the process by which they are implemented.



### Exercise

#### I. Fill in the blanks

1. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ are a few examples for unitary form of government.
2. The Parliamentary government is also known as \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In the parliamentary form of government \_\_\_\_\_ is the leader of the majority party.



## II. Fill in the blanks

Country	Name of the Parliament
1. USA	_____
2. Norway	_____
3. _____	Folketing

## III. Distinguish Between

1. Unitary and federal forms of government.
2. Parliamentary and presidential forms of government.

## IV. Give short note on

1. Unitary form of government

## V. Answer the following

1. List out the types of constitution.
2. What are the merits of a federal government?
3. Write down the differences between unitary form of government and federal form of government.

## VI. Answer in detail

1. Write about the merits of unitary form of government.
2. Write about the presidential form of government and what is the difference between presidential and parliamentary forms of government.



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## UNIT

## 5

# Local Self Government



### Learning Objectives

- To study and understand the development of local self government before and after Indian independence
- To learn about the rural and urban local governments
- To learn about the nature and working of Panchayat Raj system in India
- To understand the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts, 1992
- To know about the historical origin and development in local self governments in Tamil Nadu



### 5.1 Meaning of Local Self Government

Local Self-Governments are institutions that look after the administration of an area or a small community such as a village, a town or a city. Local Self-Government operates at the lowest level of society. It works at the grassroot level, close to the people, touching their everyday life. Local Self-Government is the management

of local affairs by such local bodies which have been elected by the local people. These local bodies provide services to the local community as well as act as an instrument of democratic self-government.

### 5.2 Historical Background

The idea of local self government is a very old concept in India. It was at its peak under the later Cholas or the Imperial Cholas of Tanjore.

There are historical records of references to local self government under Mauryan administration. Local self government existed throughout the country with its own diverse characteristics of ancient India. During the medieval period, local self governments had somewhat declined due to the onslaught of feudalism. It was revived during the British period in the last quarter of the 19th century, with Western orientation of training in democracy with Lord Ripon's Resolution in 1882. Lord Ripon was known as the 'Father of Local Government' for laying the foundations of local self governments in modern times.

Under the Government of India Act, 1935 provincial autonomy was introduced. This Act came into force in 1937. In the provinces where the Congress formed its Government, rural development received special attention. It was an essential part of Gandhi's programme that Panchayat Raj institutions would be built from villages to the highest level.

After Independence, the Gandhian ideal of Grama Swaraj (Village Republic) greatly influenced the constitution makers. India being the land of villages, the creation of village panchayats became a social movement. Restoration of panchayats has become an article of faith during our freedom struggle.

### Lord Ripon

Lord Ripon was the one who gave Indians the first taste of freedom by introducing the Local Self Government in 1882.

Ripon took some steps towards liberalizing the administration in India. He formulated the local self government and made it clear that he was advocating for the decentralization of administration.

He tried to remove obstacles in the sphere of Local Self government by his resolution of 1882. He led a series of enactments



**Lord Ripon**

in which larger powers of the local self-government were given to the rural and urban bodies and the elected people received wider rights.

## 5.3 Local Self Governments since Independence

The conceptualisation of the system of local self-government in India took place through the formation and effort of four important committees from the year 1957 to 1986. The Community Development Programme (1952) and National Extension Service (1953) became a basis for 'The Great Charter on Panchayat Raj' in 1957. The panchayatraj system was inaugurated on October 2, in Nagaur district of Rajasthan by the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

### Salient Features of the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Acts (1992)

- Panchayats and Municipalities will be 'institutions of self-government'.
- Grama Sabhas (Villages) and Ward Committees (Municipalities) comprising .
- Three-tier system of panchayats at village, taluk and district levels.
- Seats at all levels filled by direct elections.
- Seats reserved for chairpersons of the Panchayats at all levels also shall



be reserved in proportion to their population.

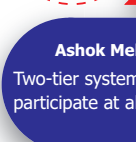
- One-third of the total number of seats reserved for women.
- Uniform five year term.

## Committees and Recommendations



### Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957)

Three-tier Panchayati Raj system – gram panchayat at village level (direct election), panchayat Samiti at the block level and Zila Parishad at the district level (indirect election).



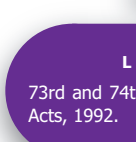
### Ashok Mehta Committee (1977-1978)

Two-tier system and political parties should participate at all levels in the elections.



### G V K Rao Committee (1985)

Appointed by the Planning Commission, the committee concluded that the developmental procedures were gradually being taken away from the local self-government institutions, resulting in a system comparable to 'grass without roots'.



### L M Singhvi Committee (1986)

73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts, 1992.



## Salient Features of the Tamil Nadu Panchayat Raj Act, 1994

The New Panchayati Raj System came into being in Tamil Nadu after the enactment of a new law for local body institutions in the year 1994. The salient features of the new Act are as follows: (a) A three-tier system (b) Gram Sabha (c) Establishment of Election Commission (d) Constitution of Finance Commission (e) Reservation of seats for SC/ST's proportionate to their population One third reservation of seats for women and (g) Constitution of District Planning Committees.

## 5.4 Village Panchayat

Local governments which are function in villages are called Village Panchayats. The President and ward members are

directly elected by the people. (Those who have attained the age above 18 to contest in the election one must have attained the age of 21 years) and their term of office is five years. District Collector act as the Inspector of Village Panchayat. Village Panchayats are constituted in each and every village wherever the population is above 500.

## Functions of the Village Panchayat

- Supply of drinking water
- Maintenance of street lights
- Maintenance of roads
- Maintenance of village libraries
- Maintenance of small bridges
- Granting permission to the housing plots
- Maintenance of drainage
- Construction of group houses
- Cleaning of streets
- Maintenance of burial grounds
- Maintenance of common lavatory facilities

## Voluntary Functions.

According to the Tamil Nadu Local Government Act passed in 1994, the following functions to be performed as voluntary functions by the local governments.

- Maintenance of street lights in the villages
- Maintenance of markets and fairs
- Implantation of trees
- Maintenance of play grounds
- Maintenance of parking vehicles, slaughter houses and cattle sheds
- Control over places of exhibition

## Revenue

Village Panchayat was the only local government which was empowered to levy taxes in the three-tier system of Village Panchayat.



## Historical Origin and Development of Local Self Government in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu has a long history of local self-governance as is evident from the Uthiramerur stone inscriptions of Paranthaka Chola I, in Kanchipuram District. Village republics, reached its peak during the reign of Cholas. These Village Councils had effective links with the Chola rulers. “Kuda Olai Murai” was the name of the secret ballot method exercised to elect members to the Village Councils. With the downfall of Cholas, the state experienced a decline of the village autonomy and rise of the centralized feudal administrative system. This continued till



British rules introduced local self-governance primarily as an administrative convenience for the colonial British Government.



In the post independence era, the first enactment in democratic decentralization in the state was the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950. Pursuant to the White Paper on the 'Reform of Local Administration' in 1957, the Madras Panchayats Act, 1958 and Madras District Development Council Act were enacted with the following salient features.



### Taxes

- Property Tax
- Professional Tax
- House Tax
- Taxes for connection of drinking water
- Land Tax
- Taxes levied on shops

Go to the local government office in your village and know about the levying of taxes.

meeting of the Grama Sabha, the income and expenditure and the beneficiary of the schemes in the village are discussed.



**Grama Sabha**

### Meeting of Gram Sabha

In each and every village, the people living within its jurisdiction will be the members of Panchayat. The President of the Panchayat will preside over its meetings. In the

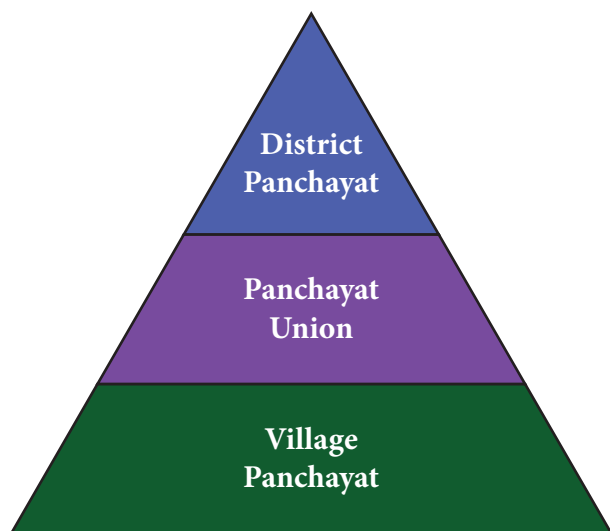
**Meetings of the Grama Sabha are conducted four times a year**

1. January 26 - Republic Day
2. May 1 - Labourer Day

3. August 15 - Independent Day
4. October 2 - Gandhi Jayanthi

### Panchayat Union

Panchayat Union is formed by grouping of villages. Members of the Panchayat Union are directly elected by the people. The Chairman of the Panchayat Union is chosen from among the members.



### Functions of the Panchayat Union

- Supply of drinking water
- Maintenance of Village Health Centres
- Maintenance of roads
- Establishment of Maternity Homes
- Establishment of Public fairs
- Establishment of Veterinary hospitals
- Maintenance of Social forests
- Repairing of Primary School buildings

Where will you report if street lights are not functioning and drinking water is not available in the tap in your village?

The district collector, Planning officer, concerned Block Development Officer are empowered to supervise the developmental functions of the Panchayat Union.

### District Panchayat

A District Panchayat is constituted in each district. One district Panchayat is constituted for every 50,000 people and the ward members are directly elected by the people. The Chairman is elected from one among its members and their term is 5 years.

### Functions of District Panchayat

- Advising the government about the developmental schemes of the Village Panchayat and Panchayat Union.
- Supervising the functions of District Planning Commission.

### Urban Local Government

- Town Panchayat
- Municipality
- Corporation

### Gandhi's Concept of Gram Swaraj

Gandhi really wanted 'Swaraj', the self rule by the people of India who represent the rural mass. He observed 'India's soul lives in the village'. He dreamt of village republics in terms of Panchayat in free India.



Mahatma Gandhi advocated Panchayat Raj, a decentralized form of government, where each village is responsible for its own affairs, as the foundation of India's political system.

In simpler words, Gandhi's ideal village should be basically self-reliant, making provision for all necessities of life—food, clothing, clean water, sanitation, housing, education, and other requirements, including government and self-defense.

### Town Panchayat

The area where more than 10,000 people live is called a Town Panchayat. Members and President of the town Panchayat are directly elected by the people. There is an Executive Officer to look after the administration of the Town Panchayat and their term of office is 5 years and he is appointed by the government.

### Municipality

The area where more than 1,00,000 people live is called a Municipality. The Members and the Chairman of the Municipalities are directly elected by the people and their term of office is five years. A Municipal Commissioner is appointed by the government to administer the Municipality.

### Corporation

Municipal corporations are established in big cities where the city has many lakhs of population. The Municipal Commissioner is the Administrative Officer. The Mayor is the Chairman of the corporation. The term of office of the Mayor and other members is five years.

In Tamil Nadu, there are 12 Corporations. They are in Chennai, Kovai, Madurai, Trichy, Tirunelveli, Salem, Erode, Vellore, Tuticorin, Tirupur, Tanjore, Dindigul.

The Municipal Commissioner will be a person from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). All the decisions of the Corporation Council will be implemented by him. He will be assisted by the office of the corporation.

Name the British Viceroy after whom the building of Chennai Corporation is name.



Corporation of Chennai

### Important functions of the Mayor

- He acts as a bridge between the members of the corporation and the government
- He presides over the meetings of the Corporation Council
- He receives the dignitaries from foreign countries

### Types of other Urban Panchayats

- Notified Area Committee
- Town Area Committee
- Cantonment Board
- Township
- Port Trust
- Special Purpose Agency

### Elections to the local government in Tamil Nadu

The State Election Commission conducts the elections to the local government like general elections. The electoral roll is prepared ward wise. Seats are reserved for the SC & ST and also for the women in proportion to the population by rotation basis.

### Problems and Challenges facing the Local Self Governments

Local self governments are the crucial basis for our democracy. The Constitutional status of local self governments adds more significance to their functioning. There are, however, a few critical concerns in the working of local self governments in India. Major problems and challenges may be mentioned as below:

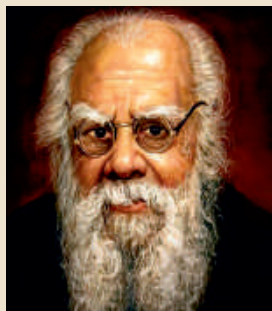
- Lack of clear demarcation of powers and functions of local bodies
- Allocation of funds and needs assessment are not matched
- Role of caste, class and religion in decision-making at the local self governments
- Poor accountability of elected members and officials at the grassroots levels of democracy





### Periyar as chairman of Municipality:-

Periyar E. V. Ramasamy became the Chairman of Erode Municipality in 1917. During his tenure in Erode Municipality, Periyar worked effectively for providing piped drinking water supply and health facilities to the people. Piped water supply scheme was implemented in 1919 by Periyar. This scheme was said to be first of kind in the history of Indian Municipal administration.



### Exercise



#### I Choose the correct answer.

- Which committee was appointed by the planning commission in 1985.  
a) Balwant Rai Mehta    b) Ashok Mehta  
c) G V K Rao    d) L M Singhvi
- The Uthiramerur stone inscription shows evidences of prevalent local self government during the \_\_\_\_\_ period in Tamil Nadu.  
a) Chola    b) Chera  
c) Pandiya    d) Pallava
- The 73rd and 74th constitutional Amendment Acts, was enacted during the year in \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) 1992    b) 1995  
c) 1997    d) 1990
- \_\_\_\_\_ act as the inspector of Village Panchayat.  
a) Commissioner    b) District Collector  
c) Councillors    d) Mayor

#### II Fill in the blanks.

- \_\_\_\_\_ is known as the 'Father of Local Governments'.
- Restoration of \_\_\_\_\_ has become an article of faith during our freedom struggle.
- \_\_\_\_\_ was the name of the secret ballot method exercised to elect members to the village councils during the Chola period
- Local Government which function in villages are called \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ will look after the administration of the Town Panchayat.

### Recap

- Local Self Government operates at the lowest level of society.
- Lord Ripon is known as the 'Father of Local Self Government'.
- 'Kuda Olai Murai' during the Chola rule was a ballot method to elect members to the village councils.
- The New Panchayat Raj system came into being in Tamil Nadu in the year 1994.
- Village Panchayats are local governments of villages.
- Meetings of the Grama Sabha are conducted four times a year.
- Panchayat Union is formed by grouping of villages.
- District Panchayat is constituted in each district.
- Corporations, Municipalities and Town Panchayats are urban local bodies.
- Mayor is the Chairman of the corporation.
- The state Election Commission conducts the elections to the local government.

### III. Match the following:

1. Zilla Parishad - Villages
2. Gram Sabhas - Mayor
3. Ward Committees - Chairman
4. Panchayat Union - District Collector
5. Corporation - Municipalities

### IV. Find out the correct statement

- (i). Panchayat Union is formed by grouping of Districts.
- (ii). District Panchayat is constituted in each village.
- (iii). The Municipal Commissioner will be a person from the Indian Administration Service (IAS).
- (iv). In Village Panchayat, the President and ward members are elected by the people.

### V. Give short note.

1. Name the taxes levied by the Village Panchayat.

2. List out the salient features of Tamil Nadu Panchayat Raj Act 1994.

3. Mention the important functions of the Village Panchayat.

4. Which are the voluntary functions of the local governments?

5. Name the Urban local governments.

### VI. Answer in detail.

1. Write in details about the salient features of the 73<sup>rd</sup> & 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act (1992).

2. Describe the major problems & challenges faced by the local self governments.

### VII. Activity

Meet your Panchayat President / Municipal Chairman and discuss with him how the local self government is being administered.



#### ICT CORNER

### LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

Official Website of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department of Tamil Nadu help to learn about Government Act, Schemes, Database Map and Administration.



#### Procedure

- Step – 1 Open the Browser and type the URL given below (or) Scan the QR Code.
- Step – 2 Click on Map and Select "Blocks" in Dropdown menu
- Step – 3 Click your district name to know about the number of blocks in the



\*Pictures are indicatives only.

## UNIT

## 6

# Road safety



### Learning Objectives

- To understand the increase of road accidents in our country
- To know the causes of road accidents
- To follow the road safety rules



### Introduction

In this lesson, We will learn about a road accident refers to any accident involving at least a vehicle, occurring on a road open to public transport, and in which at least one person is injured or killed. Intentional acts (murder, suicide) and natural disasters are excluded from road accidents.

Road accidents are the leading cause of death by injury and the tenth-leading cause of all deaths globally. An estimated 1.2 million people are killed in road crashes each year, and as many as 50 million people are injured.



With over 1,30,000 deaths annually India has the worst road accident rate worldwide.

### Major Reasons of Road Accidents



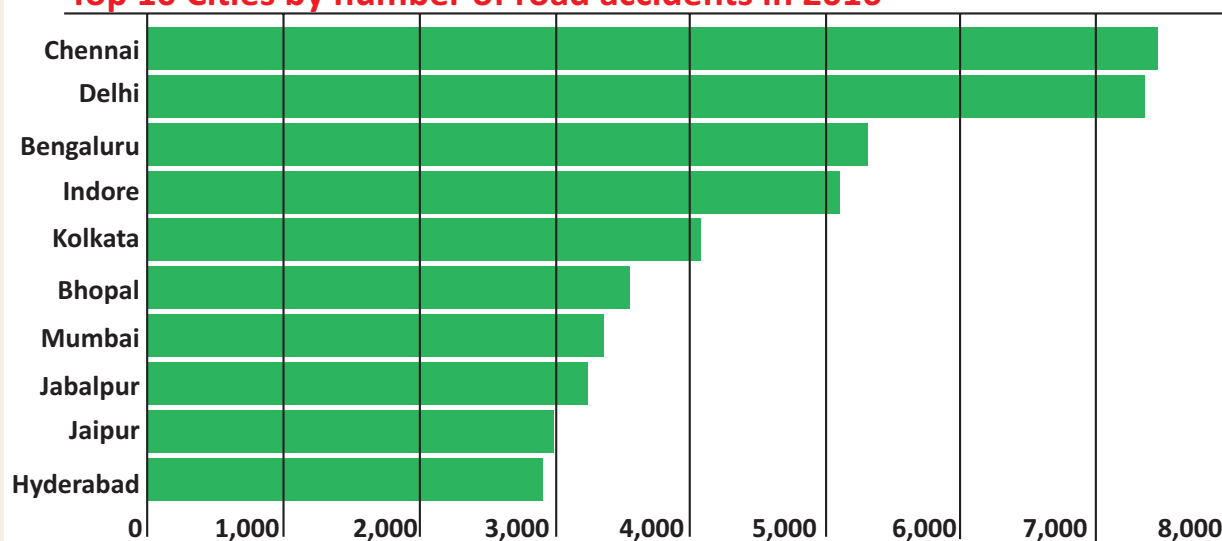


**Every three minutes a child is killed in an accident in the world.**

The main causes of death by road accidents include

1. Drunk and drive (40%), speeding (24%), car boom in India (16%), inefficient law enforcement (15%) and less use of helmets and seat belts (5%)
2. Distractions to Driver
3. Red Light Jumping
4. Overtaking in a wrong manner

### Top 10 Cities by number of road accidents in 2016



Source: Accidents India 2016 report

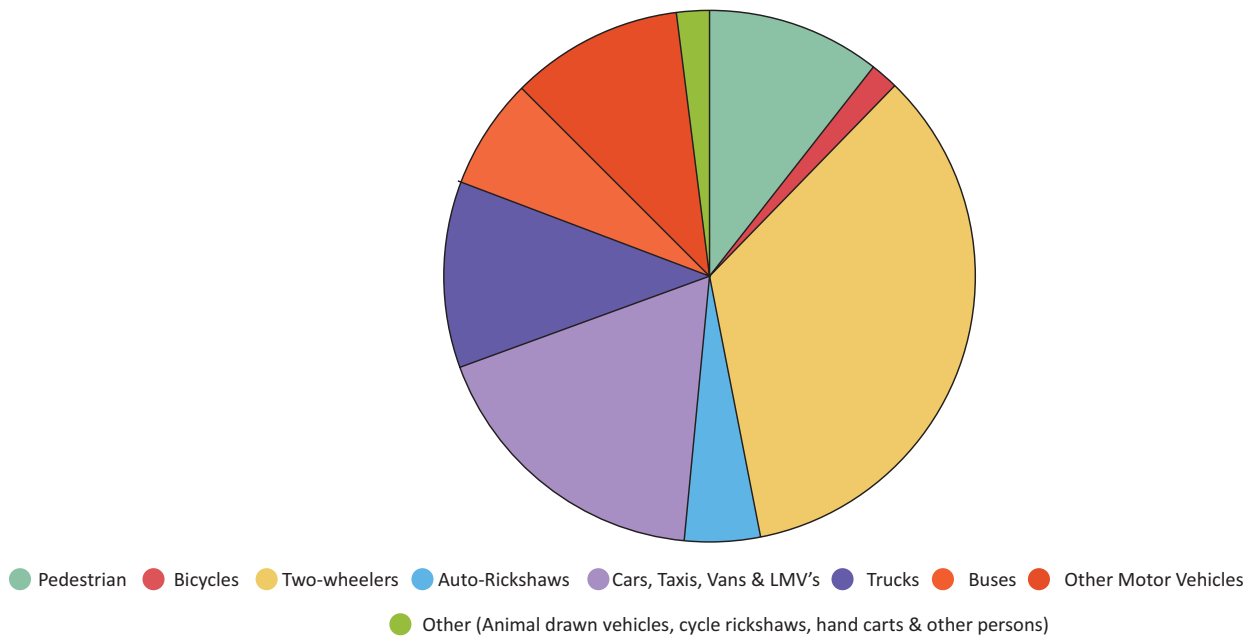
### DIFFERENT FACTORS TO ROAD ACCIDENTS:

- Drivers:** Over-speeding, rash driving, violation of rules, failure to understand signs, fatigue, alcohol
- Pedestrians:** Carelessness, illiteracy, crossing at wrong places, jaywalkers
- Passengers:** Projecting their body parts outside vehicles, talking to drivers, alighting and boarding vehicles from the wrong side, travelling on footboards, catching a running bus etc.
- Vehicles:** Failure of brakes or steering, tyre burst, insufficient headlights, overloading
- Road Conditions:** Potholes, damaged roads, eroded roads merging of rural roads with highways and illegal speed breakers
- Weather conditions:** Fog, snow, heavy rainfall, wind storms, hail storms.





### Break-up of persons killed by road use category in 2016



Source: Accidents India 2016 report

Look at the diagram given above and answer the following.

1. Which road use category causes the highest number of deaths? Could you give any three possible reasons? What would you suggest as the related safety rules?
2. How could pedestrians save themselves from road accidents?

#### Direct Consequences of Accidents:

1. Fatality (Death)
2. Injury
3. Damage to Property

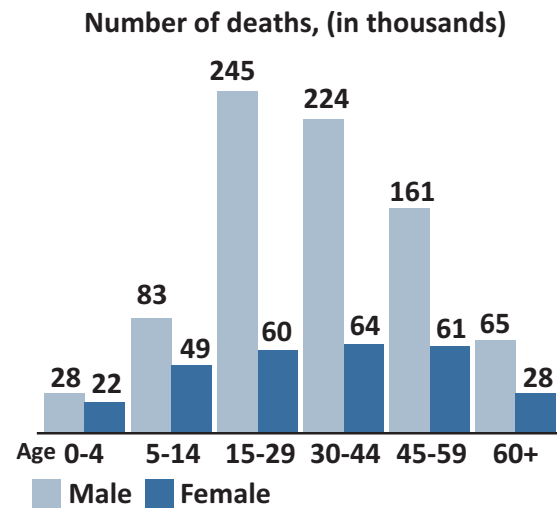
#### Preventive measures for accidents:

1. Education and awareness about road safety
2. Strict enforcement of law
3. Engineering:
  - (a) Vehicle design
  - (b) Road infrastructure



The chances of death by accident can be decreased by 51% with the proper use of seat belt and helmet.

### Road Traffic Deaths Worldwide by Sex and Age Group, 2002



Source: WHO Global Burden of Disease Project, Version 1 (2002).

Look at the above diagram carefully and answer the following.

1. Which age group tops the number of road traffic deaths worldwide? Why?
2. Give some inference on the striking difference between the number of road accident deaths of males and females.

## Rules to Ensure Road Safety for children

It is important for children to know about road safety rules and regulations. Here are a few basic road safety rules for children:

1. Know Your Signals
2. Stop, Look and Cross
3. Pay Attention – Listen
4. Don't Run On Roads
5. Always Use Sidewalks
6. Never Stick Hands outside the Vehicle
7. Never Cross Road at Bends
8. Don't Rush
9. Keep left
10. Crossing at zebra line.



### Exercise

#### I Answer the following:

1. What are the benefits of wearing helmet while driving?
2. List out the factors of road accidents.
3. Which colour in the signal means 'stop'?
4. List out any three road safety rules:

#### II Answer in detail.

1. Explain the factors involved in road accidents.
2. Explain in detail: The road safety rules.



## III. Activities

### Road Safety Games & Activities

Play is one of the best ways to make children learn important things. A few road safety tips will help the children learn about road safety.

1. **Crosswords** are excellent learning tools for older students. You can find road safety education crosswords for online.
2. **Play guessing games** play noises or sounds that they are likely to hear on the street and ask them what it is.
3. **Red Light, Green Light** Have the children run around and someone yells out, 'red light' and the children have to stop what they are doing until they hear 'green light'.



### REFERENCES

1. Dinesh Mohan, 'Road Safety in Less-Motorized Environments: Future Concerns', *International Journal of Epidemiology* 31, No. 3 (2002)
2. Christopher J.L. Murray and Alan D. Lopez, eds., *The Global Burden of Disease: A Comprehensive Assessment of Mortality and Disability from Diseases, Injuries and Risk Factors in 1990 and Projected in 2020* (Boston: Harvard School of Public Health, 1996).
3. Courtesy:- *Ministry of Road Transport & Highways*, Government of India

### GLOSSARY

<b>Abandoned</b>	Left
<b>Allocation</b>	An amount of a resource assigned to a particular recipient
<b>Amendment</b>	Changes made to an existing law
<b>Autonomy</b>	Self governing
<b>Cantonment</b>	A military garrison or camp
<b>Clusters</b>	A group of similar things or people
<b>Conceptualisation</b>	The action of forming a concept
<b>Compensation</b>	Amount awarded to someone for injury or loss
<b>Community</b>	A group of people living in the same place of having particular characteristics in common.



<b>Consensus</b>	General agreement on an issue
<b>Constituency</b>	A group of votes in a specified area who elect a representative to a legislative body.
<b>Decentralisation</b>	The transfer of authority from central to local government
<b>Democratic</b>	The government is elected by its citizens.
<b>Despotism</b>	Excercise of absolute power
<b>Dignitaries</b>	Persons considered to be of high rank or office
<b>Dissolution</b>	Formally ending or dismissing an assembly
<b>Executive</b>	Having to do with carrying out laws
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Belonging to a particular social group
<b>Fundamental</b>	Basic
<b>Government</b>	The group of people with the authority to govern a country or state; a particular ministry in office.
<b>Grass root level</b>	The most basic level
<b>Intervene</b>	Get involved
<b>Judicial</b>	Relating to the administration of justice
<b>Judiciary</b>	The judges of a court considered as a group
<b>Legislature</b>	Law making body
<b>Monarchy</b>	A form of government in which a single person is the hereditary head of the state
<b>NOTA</b>	The people in a democratic country are not willing to elect any candidate; they can vote for the option called NOTA (None Of The Above).
<b>Onslaught</b>	A fierce attack
<b>Pressure groups</b>	A group of people who are organised actively for promoting and defending their common interest.
<b>Pursuant</b>	Following
<b>Representatives</b>	A person chosen or appointed to act or speak for another or others.
<b>Republic</b>	The head of the state is elected directly or indirectly.
<b>Racial</b>	Related to a race of people
<b>Rejuvenated</b>	Restore
<b>Remedy</b>	Solution to an issue /problem
<b>Revitalisation</b>	To give new life
<b>Revived</b>	Re-establish
<b>Rigid</b>	Hard to change
<b>Secular</b>	Freedom to practice any religion or reject all.
<b>Self-Government</b>	A system in which the citizens rule themselves
<b>Slaughter</b>	Killing of animals for food
<b>Sovereign</b>	Free from the interference or control of any foreign power.
<b>Socialist</b>	Providing social and economic equality to all citizens.
<b>Tier</b>	A series of levels of a structure placed one above the other
<b>Trafficking</b>	Carry forcefully from a placeto another.
<b>Victim</b>	A person who gets harmed
<b>Voluntary</b>	Done of one's own free will