



**BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY**

**Tiruchirappalli- 620024,  
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**PROGRAMME: FIVE-YEAR INTEGRATED M.A. HISTORY**

**COURSE TITLE: MODERN GOVERNMENTS**

**COURSE CODE: A1C01**

## **UNIT - II**

**Unitary State - Features of the Unitary State -Federal  
State – Characteristics of a Federal State**

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# Unitary state

## Classification

- Territorial classification
- Functional classification

## Territorial classification

- Unitary state
- Federal state

# **Unitary state**

- **Unitary state is a system of political organization in which most or all of the governing power resides in a centralized government.**
- **In a unitary state, the central government commonly delegates authority to sub national units and channels policy decisions down to them for implementation.**

# Salient features of Unitary state

- **Single Citizenship**
- **A Strong centre**
- **Appointment of Governors by the President**
- **Emergency provisions**
- **Integrated Judiciary**
- **Centralized Electoral Machinery**
- **Financial Dependence of States**

# Merits of Unitary state

- **Suitable for small countries.**
- **There is no conflict of authority and responsibility.**
- **A unitary government will make prompt decisions and take speedy action.**
- **There is unity, uniformity of law, policy and administration.**

# Demerits of Unitary state

- **Not suitable for big countries.**
- **The central government will have to tackle so many complex problems that lead to administrative delay.**
- **Unequal growth and development in the states.**
- **Slow growth and development of the country.**
- **Local problems, local interests and initiatives may get unnoticed.**

# Important countries following the Unitary form of Government

- **France**
- **United Kingdom**
- **China**
- **Romania, etc.**

# FEDERALISM

- 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.
- In federal systems, political authority is divided between two autonomous sets of governments, one national and the other subnational, both of which operate directly upon the people.



# Formation of Federalism under its circumstances

## Centrifugal Federalism

- In Centrifugal Federalism, the flow of rights is from Union (Centre) to States meaning Union is Stronger than states.

## Centripetal Federalism

- In Centripetal Federalism, the flow of rights is from States to Union (Centre) meaning states are stronger than Union.

# Nature of Federalism

- **Dual Polity – the union at the centre and the states at the periphery**
- **Written and Supremacy of the Constitution**
- **Independent judiciary headed by the Supreme Court.**
- **Bicameral legislature**

# Merits of Federalism

- **Reconciles national unity with local diversity and autonomy**
- **Dual Citizenship**
- **Administrative efficiency**
- **Very little chance for the central government to become despotic**
- **Economically beneficial**
- **Favorable to democracy**

- **Preserving Diversity and Pluralism**
- **Safeguarding Autonomy and Rights**
- **Improving Quality and Efficiency of Governance**
- **Promoting Balanced and Inclusive Development**
- **Fostering Harmony and Cooperation**

# Demerits of Federalism

- Not able to change according to immediate requirements
- Scope for conflicts between the national and local interest
- More expensive because it demands double set of government
- Due to division in the law making power between the centre and the states, there is always the possibility of a variety of laws on the same matter

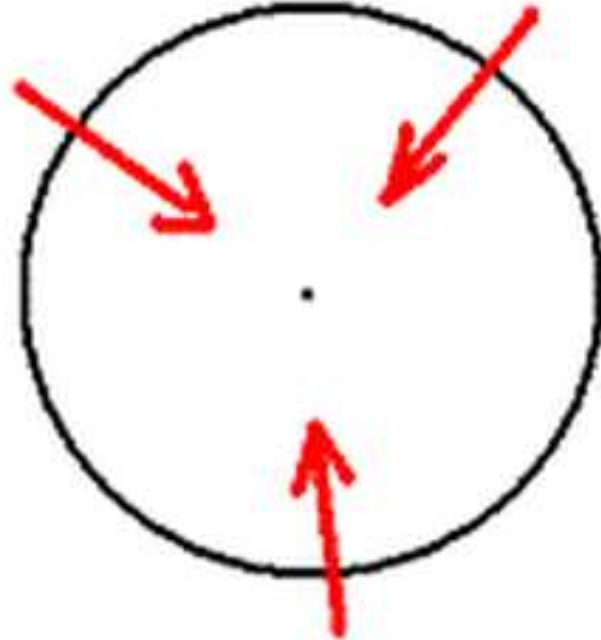
# Important countries following the Federal form of Government

- **Russia**
- **Canada**
- **United States**
- **Brazil**
- **Australia**
- **India**

# Centrifugal vs. Centripetal



**Centrifugal Force**  
(away from the center)



**Centripetal Force**  
(toward the center)