

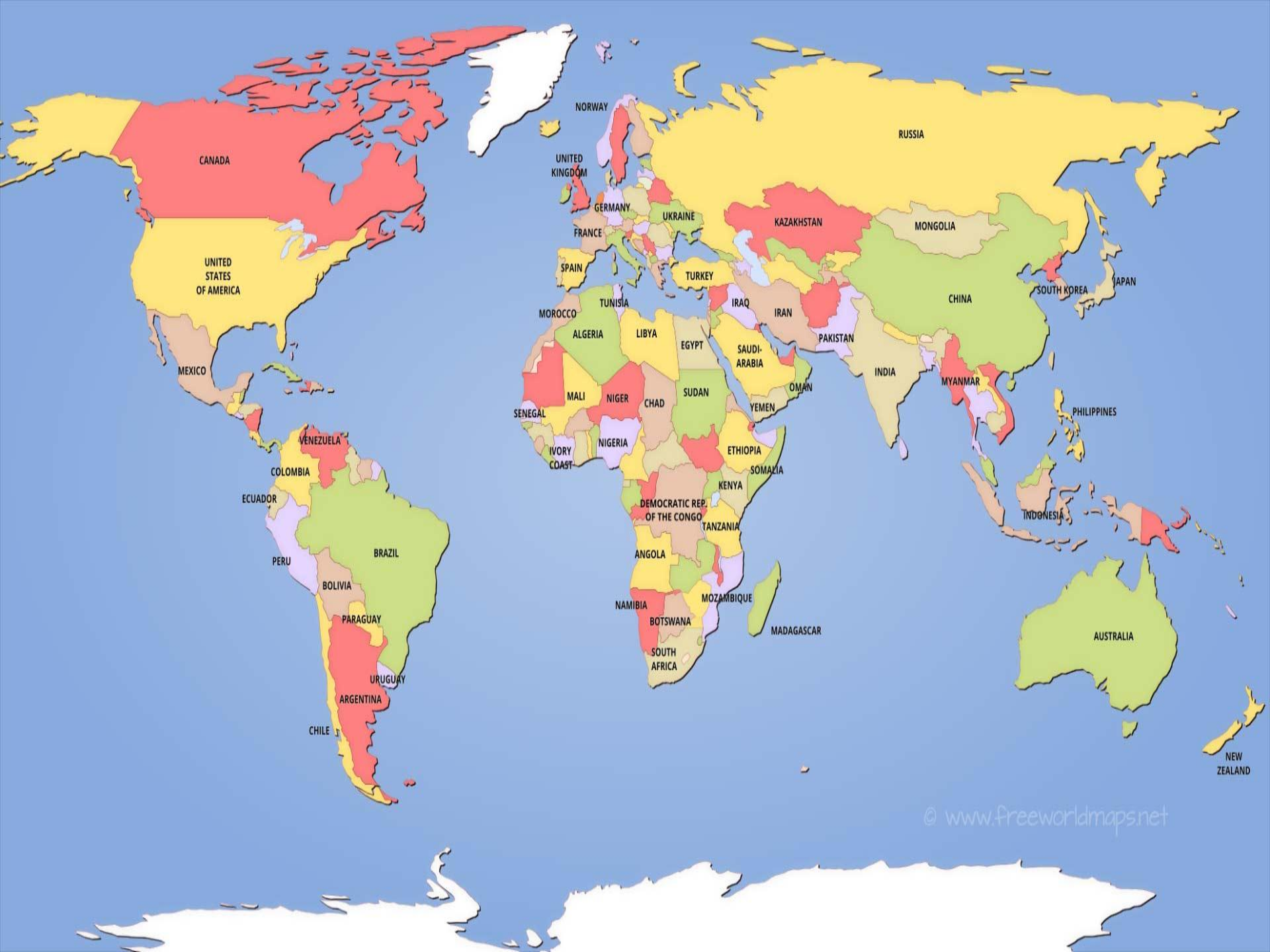
# FEDERALISM

By:- P Naik

TGT(SS)- AECS, Kakrapar

# What is federalism?

Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. Usually, a federation has two levels of government. One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a few subjects of common national interest. The others are governments at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state.



CANADA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MEXICO

VENEZUELA

COLOMBIA

ECUADOR

PERU

BRAZIL

BOLIVIA

PARAGUAY

ARGENTINA

CHILE

URUGUAY

NORWAY

UNITED KINGDOM

GERMANY

FRANCE

SPAIN

MOROCCO

ALGERIA

LIBYA

EGYPT

SENEGAL

MALI

NIGER

IVORY COAST

NIGERIA

CHAD

SUDAN

NAMIBIA

ANGOLA

DEMOCRATIC REP. OF THE CONGO

TANZANIA

MOZAMBIQUE

BOTSWANA

SOUTH AFRICA

MADAGASCAR

NORWAY

RUSSIA

UKRAINE

TURKEY

IRAQ

IRAN

PAKISTAN

SAUDI ARABIA

OMAN

YEMEN

ETHIOPIA

SOMALIA

KENYA

INDIA

CHINA

MONGOLIA

KAZAKHSTAN

SOUTH KOREA

JAPAN

MYANMAR

PHILIPPINES

INDONESIA

AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND

# Key features of federalism

1. There are two or more levels (or tiers) of government.
2. Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own JURISDICTION in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
3. The jurisdictions of the respective levels or tiers of government are specified in the constitution. So the existence and authority of each tier of government is constitutionally guaranteed.
4. The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government. Such changes require the consent of both the levels of government.

# Key features of federalism

5. Courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of different levels of government. The highest court acts as an umpire if disputes arise between different levels of government in the exercise of their respective powers.
6. Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy
7. The federal system thus has dual objectives: to safeguard and promote unity of the country, while at the same time accommodate regional diversity. Therefore, two aspects are crucial for the institutions and practice of federalism. Governments at different levels should agree to some rules of power sharing. They should also trust that each would abide by its part of the agreement. An ideal federal system has both aspects : mutual trust and agreement to live together.

# What makes India a federal country?

- The Constitution originally provided for a two-tier system of government, the Union Government or what we call the Central Government, representing the Union of India and the State governments. Later, a third tier of federalism was added in the form of Panchayats and Municipalities.
- The Constitution clearly provided a threefold distribution of legislative powers between the Union Government and the State Governments. Thus, it contains three lists:

# Union List

**Union List** includes subjects of national importance such as defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, communications and currency. They are included in this list because we need a uniform policy on these matters throughout the country. The Union Government alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the Union List.

# State List

**State List** contains subjects of State and local importance such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation. The State Governments alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the State List.



# Concurrent List

**Concurrent List** includes subjects of common interest to both the Union Government as well as the State Governments, such as education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession. Both the Union as well as the State Governments can make laws on the subjects mentioned in this list. If their laws conflict with each other, the law made by the Union Government will prevail.

# Residuary Subjects

What about subjects that do not fall in any of the three lists? Or subjects like computer software that came up after the constitution was made? According to our constitution, the Union Government has the power to legislate on these 'residuary' subjects.

Thank You!

