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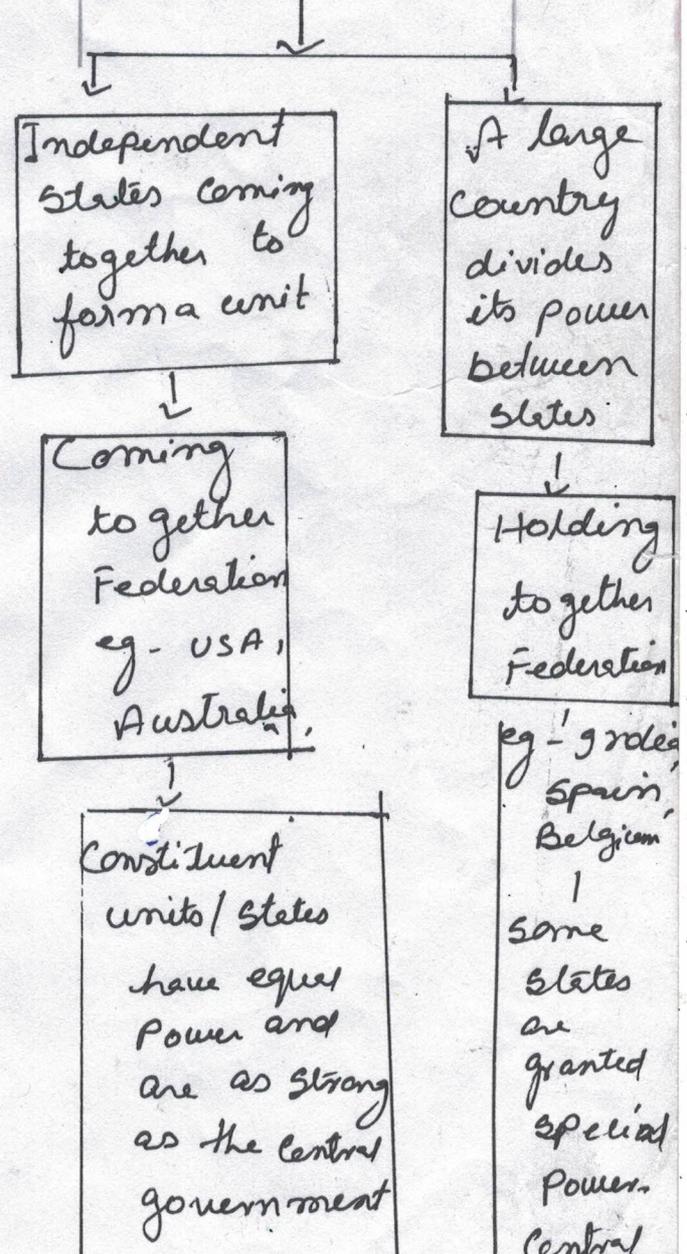
Federalism is a System of government in which Power is divided between a Central government and state government.



Features

1. There are two or more levels of government
2. Each tier has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of taxation, legislation and administration.
3. Jurisdiction of the respective levels/tiers of Government are specified in the Constitution.
4. Require the consent of both the levels of Government to change the Fundamental Provision.
5. Courts have the power to interpret the Constitution and powers of different levels of Government
6. Two aspects of an ideal Federal System - mutual trust and agreement to

Routes to Federation



Federalism in India

Constitution originally provided for a two tier system of Government - Central Government and State Government.

Third tier added in the form of Panchayats and municipalities.

Constitution provided a three fold distribution of legislative powers between the Union Government and the State Government:

1. Union list - Defence, banking, Foreign affairs etc.
2. State list - Police, trade, commerce.
3. Concurrent list - education, Forest

Practice of Federalism in India

1. Linguistic States:

After independence (1950) boundaries of many States were changed to create new States so that the people who speak same language, have common culture etc could live in the same State.

2. Language Policy:

Indian Constitution did not give the status of national language to any of language.

Central Government agreed to continue the use of English along with Hindi as

3. Centre - State Relations -
Improving the Centre - state Relations is another way in which Federalism has been strengthened in Practice.

After 1990's due to emergence of many regional parties - no single party got a clear majority - which lead to beginning of the era of Coalition government

Decentralisation in India

⇒ some of the Powers are taken away from Centre and state government and given to local government i.e., village Panchayats, Municipal Committees and Municipal Corporations

Advantages of Decentralisation.

1. Locals have better knowledge.
2. Direct Participation of the People.
3. Foundation of Democracy
4. Reduction of the burden of the State/Central Government

Major Steps under the Act of 1992

- (a) Regular elections.
- (b) Reservation of seats
- (c) State Election Commission
- (d) Source of