In a federal system of governance, Government working at National level is called Central Government or Union Government which is government of India in our country. Regional government is known as State government i.e. our government of Rajasthan. In Federal System of governance, powers are equally distributed between Centre and State Government. We have 29 State and 7 Union Territories in our country at present. We have studied about State government in previous classes. Now we will study about Union government in detail.
Federal System of Government

Generally when all the powers of a country are centralised at one level, is a form of governance, known as unitary government. Contrary to this, in federal system all the powers are clearly defined between Centre and State.

Salient Features of Federal system in India-
- Supremacy of the Constitution
- Bicameral Legislature
- Written Constitution
- Clear division of governance powers between Centre and State
- Dual Government Polity means two different governments at the national and each state level.
- Independent Judiciary

We have federal structure of government in our country as above stated all the characteristics are integral part of our governance system. Our constitution has clearly distributed the powers and functions of Centre and State government under three categories, i.e. the Union List, state list and concurrent list of subjects. Union government is vested with more powers compared to state government. Despite having federal structure of government we have provision of single citizenship in India.

Activity:
State the distribution of power between Centre and the state according to union, state and concurrent list of subjects with the help of your teacher.

Parliamentary form of Government

India has a Parliamentary form of government in the federal structure because this system is comparatively better in the matter of responsibility. Here, the Executive is answerable to the Legislature. In this system, the President remains the formal head of the administration but actual powers are exercised by executive or council of ministers. There is a good coordination between executive and legislature in Parliamentary form of government.

Federal structure in India

- Executive
  - President,
  - Prime minister
  - and council of ministers

- Legislature
  - Parliament
    - President
    - Lok Sabha
    - Rajya Sabha
The President is the part of both executive and legislature because all the bills passed by the Parliament become laws only when signed by the President. The President enjoys all the executive powers given by the constitution. He summons the sessions of the Parliament and addresses the first session of the Parliament. So the President of India is an integral part of the Union Parliament.

The Parliament of the Union Government is competent to legislate on all matters that are enumerated in the Union List and the Concurrent List of the Constitution. Union executive implements the law passed by the parliament. The union executive consists of the President, Prime Minister and Council of Ministers.

**Indian Parliament**

Parliament is the supreme legislative body of India. The Parliament has the power of making law on union and Concurrent List in our country. In the Concurrent List, the Parliament and the State Legislatures have joint jurisdiction. However, in case of conflict over any law made under the Concurrent List, the Union Law will prevail upon the State Law. Like this Parliament had more power in making the law for the country. The Indian Parliament comprises of President, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. It has two Houses - Rajya Sabha (Council of States) and Lok Sabha (House of the People).

**Lok Sabha**

The Lok Sabha is composed of representatives of people chosen by direct election on the basis of Universal Adult Suffrage. It is also known as Lower House. The Maximum strength of the House as laid down in the Constitution is 552. Currently, there are 545 members in the Lok Sabha out of those 530 members to represents the States, 13 members to represent the Union Territories, and 2 members are nominated by the President. The term of the Lok Sabha is five years. It can be dissolved earlier by the President on the advice of Council of Ministers. For this reason it is also known as Temporary House.

A person who contest election for Lok Sabha –

- Should be an Indian citizen
- Should be above the age of 25 years
- Should not hold any office of profit
- Should not be a bankrupt or mentally unstable
The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are elected from among the member of Lok Sabha. The Speaker is the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha and he presides over the house.

**Rajya Sabha**

The second house of the Parliament is the representative of states. It is also known as upper house of the Parliament. Members of this house are elected by the members of State and Union Territories legislatures. Rajya Sabha can have at the most 250 members in it. 238 members of Rajya Sabha are elected by the members of State legislatures and 12 members are nominated by the President of India. The nominated members are the persons who have distinguished themselves in the field of Art, Literature, and Science & Social service. Rajya Sabha is a permanent body; unlike Lok Sabha it cannot be dissolved. The term of each member of the Rajya Sabha is Six years. One third of its members retires after every two years and new members are elected to fill up the vacancies. To be eligible for membership in the Rajya Sabha, a person must be a citizen of India and must be 30 years of age or older. He should not hold any office of profit. He must be mentally sound and should not be bankrupt and criminally convicted.

The Vice President of India presides over Rajya Sabha. He is the ex-officio chairperson. The members of Rajya Sabha elect the deputy chairperson from among themselves.

The members of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha i.e. Parliament are called Member of Parliament (M.P.).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity: Complete the following index with the help of your teacher.</th>
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**Power and Functions of Indian Parliament**

1. The primary function of Parliament is to make laws for governance of the country.
2. The Parliament exercises control over the Executive through question-hour, zero hour, calling attention motion, Adjournment Motion, No- Confidence Motion and other discussions.
3. The Government can neither impose any tax upon the public nor can it spend the money without the approval of the Parliament. The Government places the budget before the start of the financial year. The Parliament discusses the budget & gives its assent to the Bill.

4. The Parliament has the power to make amendment in the constitution.

5. The Parliament participates in the election of the President, the Vice-President and its members to various Committees of the Parliament.

6. The Parliament can remove the President and the judges of the High Courts and Supreme Court from office through impeachment for violation of the Constitution.

**Activity:**
Arrange a mock session of Parliament in your class and discuss on increasing pollution problem of India.

**The Union Executive**

The union executive consists of the President, Prime Minister and Council of Ministers. The union executive executes or puts into action the laws passed by the legislature.

**Election of the President**

The President is the head of Union executive and of the administration of India. He is the first citizen of India. President of India is elected indirectly by an electoral college which consists of the elected members of both the Houses of the Union Parliament, and the elected members of all State & Union Territories Legislative Assemblies.

The following qualifications are essential for a candidate seeking election to the office of the President-

- He should be a citizen of India.
- He should be of 35 years or above of age.
- He should be qualified for becoming a member of the Lok Sabha.
- He should not hold any office of profit.

**Tenure of the President**

The President is elected for a term of five years. He can be removed from office through a process of impeachment by the Parliament before completion of his tenure.
Only for Reading

Procedure for the Election of the President

The Constitution provides for the election of the President by the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. The voting is done through secret ballot. After the voting, correct value is ascertained on the basis of valid ballot papers. Under the Proportional Representation system any member who secures the necessary quota of votes is declared elected. There are several ways of finding out the quota, but the most common method is to divide the total number of valid votes cast by the total number of seats in the constituency plus one and adds one to the quotient.

(a) The value for MLA is calculated based on the formula

\[
\text{Value of an MLA vote} = \frac{\text{Total population of the state}}{\text{Total number of elected members} \times 100}
\]

(b) Similarly, the value calculation for MP is done as

\[
\text{Value of an MP} = \frac{\text{The sum of vote value of elected members of all the Legislative Assemblies}}{\text{The sum of elected members of both the houses of Parliament}}
\]

(c) The winning candidate has to secure the required quota of votes to be declared elected. The formula may be represented as follows:

\[
\text{Quota} = \frac{\text{Total number of valid votes cast}}{\text{Total number of seats to be filled} + 1}
\]

Powers and Functions of the President

The power and functions perform by President are divided in two category-Routine or General Powers and Emergency Powers.

General Powers

1. The President summons sessions of th Parliament and addresses the first session of the Parliament.
2. He signs the bills passed by the Parliament. The President promulgates ordinances when the Parliament is not in session.
4. He appoints Prime Minister, Council of Ministers, Governors of the states, judges and chief justices of the high court and the Supreme Court.
5. All the International Treaties and negotiations with other countries are signed on his behalf.
6. He lays the Union budget before the Parliament.
7. The President is the supreme commander of the armed forces and appoints the three chief of the Army, Navy and Air Force. He is also empowered to declare war and sue for peace.
8. The President can reduce or commute any kind of sentence. He can pardon the death sentence awarded to a convict on receiving a petition for mercy.

Emergency powers
1. He can declare national emergency on the grounds of war, external aggression or armed rebellion in the country. (Article 352)
2. State emergency can be imposed in a state if it fails to run constitutionally. (Article 356)
3. He can proclaim financial emergency if there is a likelihood of the financial instability in the country. (Article 360)

Activity:
Collect pictures of all the Presidents of India. Paste them on a Chart with their respective tenure and show in class.

Vice President
The office of the Vice President is the second highest constitutional post in India. The qualifications needed to become a Vice President of India are the following:
• He must be a citizen of India.
• He must be over 35 years of age.
• He must be qualified for election as a Member of the Rajya Sabha.

The members of both the houses of parliament elect the Vice President through an electoral college. Like the election of the President, the election of the Vice President is also held in accordance with the system of proportional representation, through the concept of a single transferable vote by secret ballot. The office of the Vice President is for a period of five years. The Vice President is the ex-officio chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The Vice President shall act as the President, in case of any vacancy in the office of the President by reason of his death, resignation, removal through impeachment or otherwise. Parliament can remove him before completion of his tenure.

Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers
President is just a signatory authority to union executive in the parliamentary form of government. Prime Minister is the real custodian of all executive authority. Actually all the powers of President are exercised by Prime Minister in practical. The President appoints the leader of majority party in Lok Sabha as the Prime Minister. On the recommendation of the Prime Minister, the President appoints the Council of Ministers.
The Council has three categories – Cabinet Minister, Minster of State and Deputy Minister. Cabinet includes Prime Minister and Cabinet Minister of important portfolios. The Council of Ministers can hold their position so long as they have confidence of majority in Lok Sabha.

The Important FUNCTIONS OF THE PRIME MINISTER

The powers and functions of prime minister as the head of Council of Ministers can be studied under the following heads:

1. He recommends persons who can be appointed as ministers by the president.
2. He allocates and reshuffles various portfolios among the ministers.
3. He presides over the meeting of council of ministers and influences its decisions. He also guides, directs, controls, and coordinates the activities of all the ministers.
4. He leads party of majority in Parliament so he acts as Leader of the house.
5. He is the principal channel of communication between the president and the council of ministers.
6. The Prime Minister advises the President on Constitutional matters and judgments of the executive on time to time.

Since the prime minister stands at the head of the council of ministers so the council of ministers automatically dissolves when the prime minister resigns or dies.

In this chapter we studied the federal government and parliamentary system of India. In addition to this we came to know about the function of parliament as legislature, and construction, powers and tenure of both the houses. We also get ourselves acquainted with President, Vice President, Prime Minster and Council of Ministers as part of union executive.

**Glossary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impeachment</td>
<td>Formal accusation and method of dismissal of President, Judges of High and Supreme Courts by Parliament.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Citizenship</td>
<td>Though India has a federal system of governance but Indian citizens are not entitled the citizenship of their respective state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinance</td>
<td>A government order; The President promulgates ordinances when the Parliament is not in session.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportional representation</td>
<td>To represent on the basis of certain ratio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single transferable vote</td>
<td>It means that each elector has only one vote, irrespective of the number of seats to be filled up. Every elector can mark as many preferences, as there are candidates contesting the election</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Choose the correct option-

(i) Characteristics of Federal system is:
   (a) Distribution of powers
   (b) Centralisation of power
   (c) Lack of independence of Judiciary
   (d) Tantalisation government

(ii) Which is not the part of the Parliament:
   (a) Rajya Sabha
   (b) Lok Sabha
   (c) President
   (d) Governor

2. How many States and Union Territories are there in India?
3. How many members are nominated by the President in the Lok Sabha?
4. To whom union Council of Minister are collectively responsible?
5. How is president elected in India?
6. Explain the composition of Lok Sabha?
7. Write two reasons for accepting parliamentary system in India.
8. What are the powers of the president?
9. Describe the powers of Prime Minister.