



**CLASS X**  
**POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**UNIT 2**  
**POWER SHARING**

**NOTES**

In a democracy, power does not rest with any organ of the state. It needs intelligent power sharing among the three organs of the government – **Legislature, Executive and Judiciary.**

**Power Sharing:**

Power sharing is a mechanism in which different organs of the government, different levels of government and various social groups exercises power in their respective areas under a democratic constitution.

**Two broad reasons of Power Sharing:**

- **Prudential reasons** - It reduces the possibility of conflicts between social groups. Since social conflicts often lead to violence and political instability, power sharing is a good way to ensure the political stability.
- **Moral reasons** - Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy. People have the right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.

**Forms of Power Sharing:**

- **Horizontal power sharing** - Power sharing among different organs of the government.
- **Federal division of power** - Power sharing between Central Government and State Governments.
- **Vertical distribution of power** - Power sharing among Central, State and Local Governments.
- Power sharing among different social groups.
- Power sharing among political parties, pressure groups, and social movements.

**Federalism:**

Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between the Central Government and the State Governments or units.

**Features of federalism:**

- There are two or more levels or tiers of government.
- The same citizens are governed by different forms of government. But each tier has its jurisdiction in administration.
- The constitution clearly lays down the jurisdiction of the respective levels of government.
- The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be amended unilaterally. For such changes the consent of both the levels of government is required.
- To ensure financial autonomy sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified.



### Two routes of forming a Federation:

- **Coming together** - Independent states come together to form a bigger unit. Example: USA.
- **Holding together** - A large country decides to divide its powers between the constituent states and the national government. Example: India.

### Federal Division of Power in India:

It is the sharing of power among different levels of government.

### Union List:

Union list includes subjects of national importance such as defence, foreign affairs, communications and currency. It contains **97 items**.

### State list :

It contains subjects of state and local importance such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation. It contains **66 items**.

### Concurrent list:

It includes subjects of common interest to both the Union Government and the State Governments such as **education**, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession etc. The list contains **47 items**.

### Political decentralization:

When some power is taken away from Central and State Governments and given it to local governments, it is called decentralization.

### Steps taken towards Decentralization in 1992:

- Now it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
- There are reserved seats in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for the ST, SC and OBC.
- At least one-third of all seats are reserved for women.
- An independent institution called the State Election Commission has been created in each state to conduct panchayat and municipal elections.
- The State Governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies. The nature of power sharing is different from state to state.

### Panchayati Raj:

Panchayati Raj is the popular name of rural local government. The three levels of Panchayati Raj are- **Village level, Block level and District level**.



## **RURAL AREAS:**

### **Gram panchayat (Village level):**

It is a council consisting of several ward members often called Panch and a President or Sarpanch and is the decision making body for the entire village.

### **Gram Sabha:**

It is the general body to approve the annual budget of the panchayat and to review the performance of the Gram Panchayat.

### **Panchayat Samiti/Mandal (Block Level):**

Few gram panchayats are grouped together to form a panchayat samiti or mandal.

### **Zilla Parishad (District Level):**

All the Panchayat Samitis or Mandals in a district together constitute the Zilla Parishad.

## **URBAN AREAS:**

**Municipalities and Municipal Corporations:** In smaller cities, there are Municipalities whereas big cities have Municipal Corporations.

**Hill districts of Manipur:** In the hill districts of Manipur, they have village authorities as local bodies and Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) at district level.

### **Main provisions of the New Panchayati Raj Act,1993:**

- A three tier structure for Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- 30% of the seats are reserved for women.
- The tenure of the Panchayat bodies is to be 5 years.
- Grand-in aid sought is to be given to Panchayats from the Consolidated Fund of the States.
- To undertake other activities for the welfare of the society such as child welfare, welfare of weaker sections of society etc.

### **Drawbacks of the Panchayati Raj:**

- Election for the Gram Sabha are not held regularly
- Most State Governments including that of Manipur have not transferred significant power to the local government.
- They have not been given adequate resources.

### **Significance of the Panchayati Raj System:**

- The Panchayati Raj system helped in strengthening democracy at the grass root level.
- The system created awareness regarding the working of the democratic institutions at the lowest level.
- It created opportunities for gaining experience as leaders at the grass root level.
- It inculcated the habit of democratic participation to the local people.