

Sub: CIVICS
Assignment-2

Ch 2: Government.

What is government?

A group of people managing the affairs of a country is called Government. The government takes various decisions and performs various functions.

1. The government builds roads, hospitals, educational institutions, parks, museums, etc.
2. Makes arrangements for supplying electricity, cooking gas, water, etc.
3. Government takes decisions on how to deal with problems like poverty, unemployment, etc.
4. Trains, bus services, postal services are run by the government.
5. It provides safety to the people and maintains law and order within the country. It employs policeman for this.
6. It also maintains armed forces to defend the borders of our country.
7. It also organizes rescue work during floods, earthquakes, pandemics like COVID 19, etc.

Why do we pay the government?

To understand this- why do you pay fees to the school? For various reasons, for example: to have neat and clean classrooms, good playgrounds, smart classes, computers for each student when they visit the lab, etc.

When we want something nice, you have to pay for it. Similarly, when we want our country to perform all the functions, keep us safe, give us cleaner and smart cities, we need to pay our government- in the form of taxes – so that they are capable of taking care of us.

Have you ever been to Taj Mahal? Or Red Fort? You need to pay a small fee to enter it. Why do you think you need to? So that the Taj Mahal keeps looking beautiful, the lawns are maintained, the fountains have water supply and are clean- in short, so that you can have a memorable experience and a beautiful picture to bring back home.

But do we pay any fee to enter a shopping mall? No. we pay it when we are entering a museum or a boarding a train or a flight. Mostly for public properties. **Public Property** does not belong to any one person but it is a joint property of all those who pay for its maintenance.

Levels of Government

In India, we have government, basically at two levels: *National Level* and *State Level*. There are also local self-governments in cities, towns and villages.

The government at the national level is called the **Central Government**. And the government in each state is called the **State Government**.

Laws and the Government

We learnt that government makes laws. So how does it do it? The head of our country has allotted a part of the government to take care of this. It is called the **Legislature**.

- Our **Parliament** is the central legislature of our country.

Parliament = Lok Sabha + Rajya Sabha

The members of the Parliament are called Members of Parliament (MPs)

- Parliament makes laws for the entire country.
- Each state in the country has its own legislature, which makes rules **ONLY** for their own state. It is called the **State Legislature**.

State Legislature= Legislative Assembly + Legislative Council

The members of the state legislature are called Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs)

- The laws that the Parliament makes, are implemented by the **Executive- headed by the President of India**. But the Prime Minister and his/her council of minister also do the work.
- The **Executive in the state** is headed by the **Governor**; which is run by Chief Minister and his/her council of minister.
- **The Judiciary** makes sure that all the laws are followed and settles disputes.
- The Supreme Court, the High Court and the various Lower Courts.
- The Supreme Court is the **highest** court in the country.
- The High Court is the **highest** court in a state.
- **Legislature, Executive and Judiciary** are the three organs of the government.

Types of Government

There are three main types of government:

MONARCHY	DICTATORSHIP	DEMOCRACY
A monarch (a king or queen) has the absolute	All the power rests in the hands of one person or a	People have the ultimate power to govern

power to run the country. When the monarch dies, the power automatically passes to the eldest child, usually the eldest son.	small group of people.	themselves.
People have no right to choose their ruler.	Power is often obtained by force.	Each adult has the right to vote for his/her leader.
Monarch decides how much freedom the people will have.	People who challenge the dictator are severely punished and government rarely gives freedom to the people.	People have freedom.
Example: Bhutan	Example: Pakistan had this type of government in the past for a long time.	Example: India

Democracy, or the Representative Democracy that we have; can be further be divided into **two** types.

- o **Parliamentary System**, in which the government is actually run by the **Prime Minister** and other members of the Parliament. Example: India
- o **Presidential System**, in which a **President** heads the government. Example: USA

Universal Suffrage

- The right to vote is called **Suffrage** or **Franchise**.
- In India, we have **Universal Adult Franchise**, which means all adults citizens have the right to vote.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Which organisation employs policeman?
2. Name three organs of the Government.
3. Who is the official head of India's central executive?
4. Which is the highest court in India?
5. What is Public Property?

6. What is Monarchy?
7. What are the two types of Representative Democracy? Explain with example.