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Governing Our Country

Lesson Plan

Contents

- ▶ How is India constituted?
- ▶ What are its parts?
- ▶ What kind of government does it have?
- ▶ The Union Government and its Parliament – the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha
- ▶ The President of India
- ▶ How is the Government formed and operated?
- ▶ The State Government
- ▶ The Judiciary

Objectives

- ▶ Learning about the states India is made up of and how it is organised and governed.
- ▶ The Constitution and what Government it provides for – Central/ Union and State.
- ▶ The three types of work done by a government.
- ▶ The Union Government and its Parliament – its three wings: the President of India, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- ▶ How the Governments are formed – Democracy.
- ▶ The State Government – its Legislative Assembly, Governor, Legislative Councils.
- ▶ The Judiciary

Teacher's Aids

- ▶ A political map of India showing the States and Union Territories.
- ▶ Prepare organisational charts or draw them on the blackboard to show:
 - (a) States and UTs of India
 - (b) The three types of work done by Government – a) Making Laws and rules b) Executing and enforcing laws and policies c) Getting justice for people [The Legislature (Parliament and Assemblies), the Executive (Bureaucracy, etc.) and the Judiciary (Courts and judges)]
 - (c) The Union Government: The Parliament – Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha. The President of India.
 - (d) The State Government: Legislative Assembly; in some states, Legislative Councils as well.
 - (e) Judiciary: The Supreme Court – High Courts – District Courts – Lower Courts.

- ▶ The internet has pictures and working of the Parliament and practically of all states and central departments and ministries.
- ▶ Show students the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha channels of Doordarshan to see the Parliament working.

/// **Tips for Teacher**

- ▶ This session can be made interesting with the charts, shows, etc., mentioned above.
- ▶ Also a mock session of Parliament-like debate can be held in class with one half as the government and the other as the opposition. Make sure of a healthy debate and not a verbal skirmish as often happens in real life!

/// **Gear Up and Background**

- ▶ This picture shows a lady preparing to cast her vote during elections on an electronic voting machine.
- ▶ What is an election and its importance in a democracy?
- ▶ Discuss other types of governments to explain the benefits of democracy – Monarchy; totalitarian government; oligarchy; monarchy + democracy; Presidential system + democracy; theocracy.
- ▶ Read aloud the lesson and explain with the aid of diagrams and maps.
- ▶ India has 29 states and 7 Union Territories including the National Capital Territory of Delhi. Explain the difference – the state control of some issues by States and the central control of the UTs on some issues.
- ▶ What is a Constitution? India's Constitution lays down basic guidelines for the formation of government, its powers and functions.
- ▶ Population – and making sure that benefits reach all 125 crore people. Explain the magnitude involved.
- ▶ The relations between Centre and State governments and the three types of work they do: a) make laws and rules; b) enforce the laws; c) get justice for people.

/// **The Union Government**

- ▶ Union or Central government makes laws for the whole country – through the Parliament
- ▶ Three wings of the Parliament: Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and the President of India.

/// **Lok Sabha**

- ▶ Main law-making body: 545 Lok Sabha constituencies in the country. Maximum members – 552.
- ▶ One member elected from each – any Indian over 25 years of age can be elected.
- ▶ Election Commission of India conducts the elections.
- ▶ Members elected directly by people – anyone over 18 years of age eligible to vote.
- ▶ Speaker of Lok Sabha – Chairman – elected by the members of the Lok Sabha.

/// **Rajya Sabha**

- ▶ The Upper House of the Parliament – 250 members. Not elected directly by the people.
- ▶ 238 elected by State Assemblies and 12 nominated by the President of India. Elected/nominated for 6 years.
- ▶ Permanent body – cannot be dissolved – 1/3rd of its members retire every two years. New members elected.
- ▶ Chairman – Vice President of India.

/// **The President of India**

- ▶ Head of the country – elected for 5 years – not directly but by members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and the State Assemblies.
- ▶ Minimum age for President – 35 years.
- ▶ Vice President – elected by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for 5 years.

/// **Forming the Government**

- ▶ India – world's largest democracy. In Gear Up and background, you have explained democracy – brush up.
- ▶ Many political parties – put up candidates for elections in constituencies.
- ▶ The Election Commission of India – conducts elections.
- ▶ Party that wins over 50 % seats [272] invited by the President to form government.
- ▶ Single party if clear majority. Coalition government if political parties join for 50% seats.
- ▶ The single party or coalition parties elect leader, who is invited to form the Union Cabinet or the Council of Ministers by the President.
- ▶ Leader is Prime Minister – Union Cabinet can be from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

/// **The State Government**

- ▶ Every state – Legislative Assembly – Members of Legislative Assembly called MLAs – elected for 5 years.
- ▶ MLAs – elected by people – 18 years old or more and belong to the same state.
- ▶ Political party with over 50% seats forms State Government.
- ▶ Leader of the winning party – invited by Governor to form government – is Chief Minister of State.
- ▶ Governor – head of the State Government for 5 years – appointed on recommendation of the Union Government – by the President of India.
- ▶ Speaker of the Legislative Assembly – elected by MLAs. Some states have also Legislative Councils.

/// **Judiciary**

- ▶ Constitution provides for an independent judiciary – explain why there is a need for independence in the justice system.

- ▶ The Supreme Court of India in New Delhi – highest judicial body.
- ▶ Judges of the Supreme Court – appointed by the President of India – seniormost is the Chief Justice of India. The judgement of the Supreme Court final in legal matters.
- ▶ States – High Courts – 18 now with some taking matters of more than one state, like Punjab and Haryana High Court at Chandigarh.