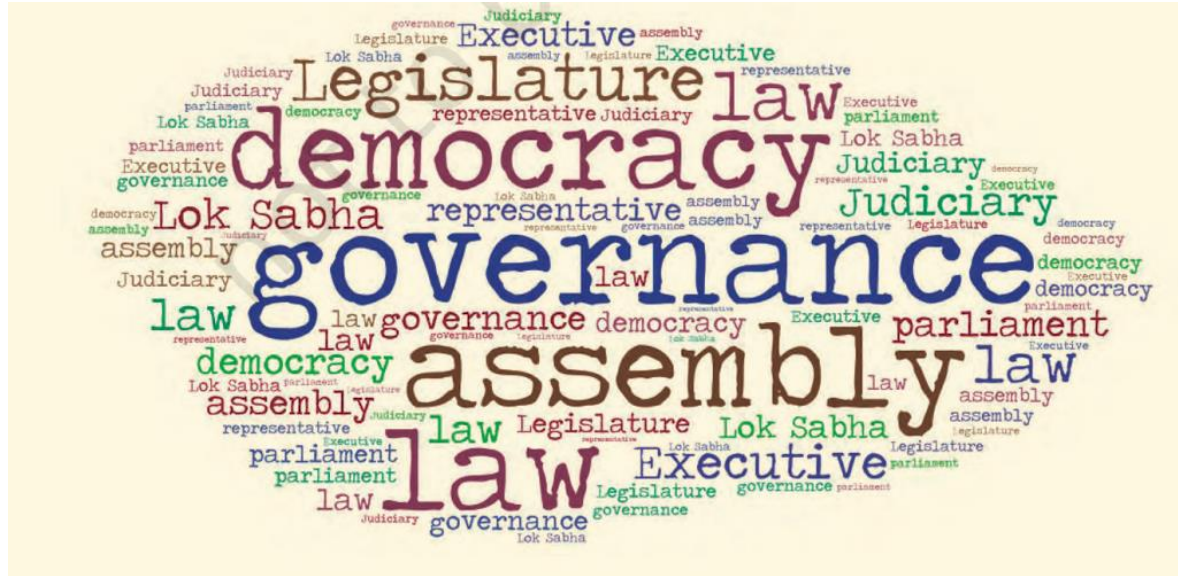




CLASS: VI

SUBJECT: SOCIAL SCIENCE

CHAPTER: 10 GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY — PART 1: GOVERNANCE

BOOK: EXPLORING SOCIETY: INDIA AND BEYOND

The Big Questions?

01

What is the meaning of 'governance'?

02

Why do we need a government?

03

What is the meaning of 'democracy'? Why is it important?



Introduction

- **Human beings** have lived in **communities** for a long time, and with large groups of people living together, disagreements and disorder are natural.
- To maintain **order** and **harmony** in society, rules become essential.

Examples of rules include:

Home rules that everyone is expected to follow.

School rules for students and teachers.

Examination rules for students in higher classes.

Traffic rules that drivers must obey.

Workplace rules, where employees follow guidelines set by their employers, and employers follow rules that ensure the well-being of their employees.



What would happen if no one followed those rules?

A simple answer is that society would not be able to function.



Who makes the rules and why?

- The process of making decisions, organizing society with rules, and ensuring they are followed is called **governance**.
- The **government** is the group of individuals or the system responsible for making rules and ensuring they are followed.
- Some of the most important rules are called **laws**.



Rules and laws

- Rules and laws are not permanent and can change over time.
- Just like you might discuss a rule at home with your parents or request a change in school or university rules, **citizens** also have a role in shaping the laws and rules of society.



Three Organs of Government

Digital technologies have significantly transformed how societies function around the world.

In **India**, about 30 years ago, people had to physically queue up at the **Post Office** to send a **money order** to a distant relative or go to the **bank** for a **demand draft** to make a payment.

These processes took time, and people would then send these items by post.

Today, due to digital advancements, we can **instantly transfer money** using online platforms, and terms like **money order** and **demand draft** are less commonly used by the younger generation.

Cybercriminals

The rise of digital technologies has also led to the emergence of a new class of **cybercriminals**, who can steal people's money without leaving their desks.

To combat these crimes, many **governments** have passed **new laws** to address **cybercrime**.

Criminals involved in cybercrime, who steal from innocent people instead of using their skills for societal good, have been **arrested** and **convicted** in court.

They are often **fined** and **sentenced to jail** for their illegal activities.

Branches or organs of government

Through the example of cybercrime, we can see how the **three branches** or **organs** of government work together:





Legislature

- **The Legislature:**
 - The **legislature** makes new **laws** (or **legislates**).
 - It can also **update** or **remove** existing laws.
 - This is done by an assembly of **representatives** of the people.
-

Executive

- **The Executive:**
 - The **executive** is responsible for **implementing** (or **executing**) the laws.
 - This includes the **head of state** (such as a **president**, **prime minister**, or **chief minister**), **ministers**, and any agency responsible for **enforcing law and order**.
 - In this case, the **cyber police** would be the agency executing the law related to cybercrime.

Judiciary

- The **judiciary** is the system of **courts** that decides whether someone has **broken the law**.
- If a law has been broken, the judiciary determines the **course of action**, including any necessary **punishment**.
- The judiciary also **reviews decisions** made by the **executive** to ensure they are **correct**.
- It can also examine whether a **law** passed by the **legislature** is **fair** and **just** for all.



Separation of powers

- In any good system of governance, the **three organs of government** (legislature, executive, and judiciary) must be kept **separate**, though they interact and work together. This separation is called the '**separation of powers**'.
- The purpose of this separation is to provide a **system of checks and balances**, meaning:
- Each organ of the government can **check** the actions of the others.
- If one organ acts beyond its expected role, the others can **restore balance** and ensure no single organ becomes too powerful or oversteps its authority.

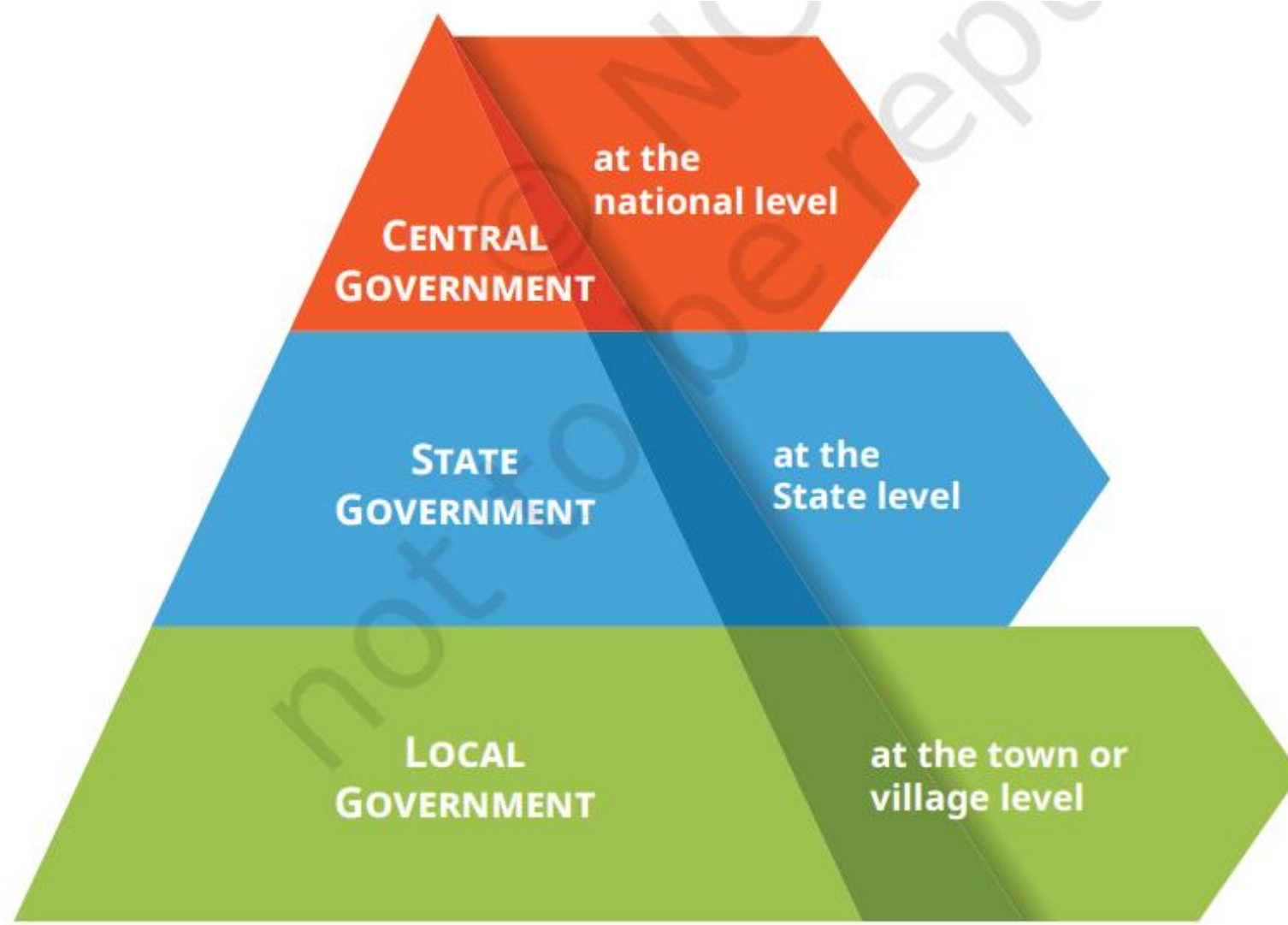
Branches or organs of government





Three Levels of Government:

- Governments typically operate at **two levels**: local and national. However, in many countries, including India, the government functions at **three levels** or **tiers** — local, state (or regional), and national. Each level is responsible for handling different issues:
-



**Three Levels
of
Government.**

Functions of the three Levels of Government.

- In India, the government operates at **three levels**:
- **Local Government:** Deals with issues closest to the community, such as floods in a small area. Local authorities can take action if the problem is manageable within the town or district.
- **State Government:** If the issue (like a flood) affects multiple towns or villages, the state government steps in to coordinate a larger response, such as sending rescue teams.
- **Central/Union Government:** In case of a large-scale disaster, like a massive flood affecting vast regions, the central government may intervene by providing resources such as relief supplies, deploying the army, and coordinating with other national agencies.



A general framework of the main functions of the government's three organs at the national and State levels.

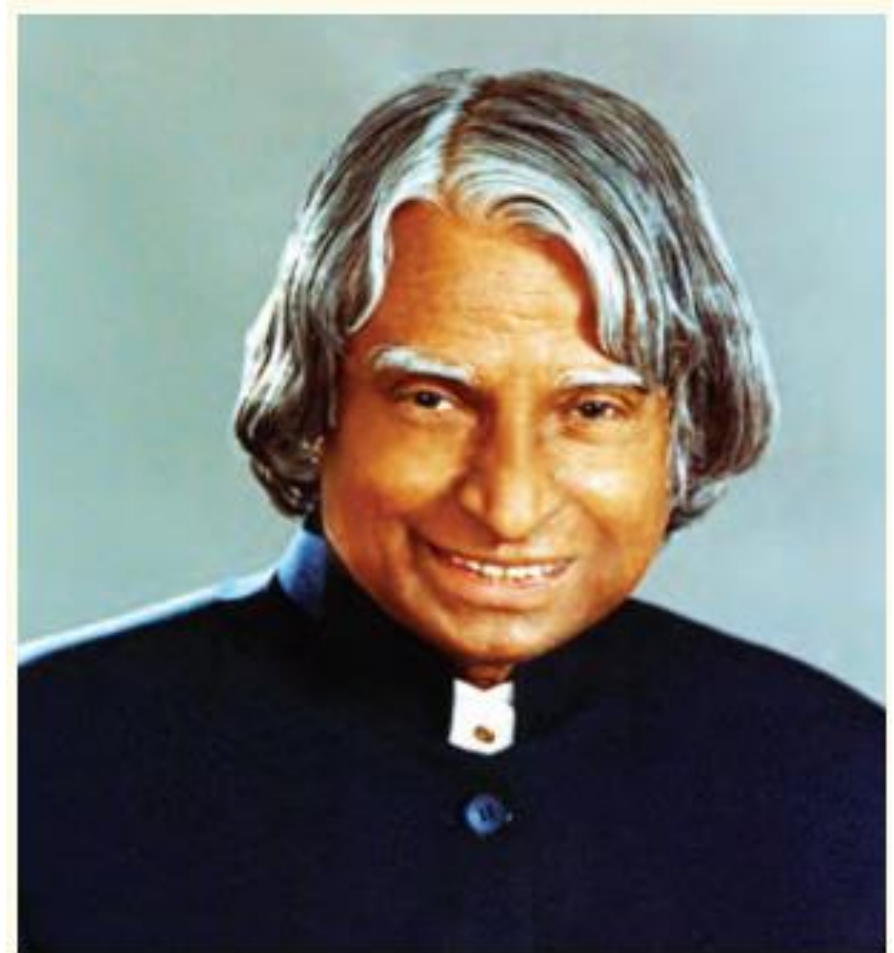
	ALL INDIA	STATE LEVEL
Judiciary	Supreme Court of India	High Court
	NATIONAL LEVEL	STATE LEVEL
Legislature	Two houses – Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha – formulate national laws	One State Assembly or Vidhan Sabha (Note that most States have a single assembly; a few States have two)

A general framework of the main functions of the government's three organs at the national and State levels.

	CENTRAL GOVERNMENT	STATE GOVERNMENT
Executive	Led by the President of India (nominal head and Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces), Prime Minister as the executive head	Led by the Governor (nominal head), Chief Minister as the executive head
Functions and responsibilities of the Executive (the list is not exhaustive)	• Defence • Foreign Affairs • Atomic Energy • Communications • Currency • Interstate Commerce • Education • Formulation of National Policies	• Police, law and order • Adaptation and implementation of laws made by the Central government at the State level. • Public health • Education • Agriculture • Irrigation • Local government

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

- Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, born in 1931 in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, was a renowned scientist and the 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007.
- Known as the 'Missile Man of India,' he played a key role in India's space, missile, and nuclear programs.
- Despite his prestigious position, he remained humble and deeply connected to the people, particularly the youth, promoting education and innovation.



Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam



Dr. Kalam inspired millions with his dedication to social causes and his belief in the power of dreams.
He encouraged young Indians to aim high and work diligently to achieve their goals.



His influence extended beyond his presidential term, showing that even a ceremonial position could have a lasting impact on the nation.

Let us
meditate on a
few of his
inspiring
thoughts:

"Look at the sky. We are not alone. The whole universe is friendly to us and conspires only to give the best to those who dream and work."

"To succeed in your mission, you must have single-minded devotion to your goal."

"If you fail, never give up because F.A.I.L. means 'First Attempt In Learning'. End is not the end, in fact E.N.D. means 'Effort Never Dies'. If you get 'no' as an answer, remember N.O. means 'Next Opportunity'. So let's be positive."

"Dream is not that which you see while sleeping; it is something that does not let you sleep."

"If four things are followed — having a great aim, acquiring knowledge, hard work, and perseverance — then anything can be achieved."



Democracy

- **Democracy** is derived from two Greek words:
- *Dēmos* meaning "people"
- *Kratos* meaning "rule" or "power"
- **Democracy** literally means the "rule of the people."
- It is a system of governance where power lies with the people.
- Citizens participate in the political process, typically through **elected representatives**.

The goal of democracy



The goal of democracy is to ensure that the laws and policies reflect the will of the people.



Elections are a key feature, allowing people to choose their leaders and make decisions.



In democracy, authority to govern is granted by the people, ensuring their voices shape governance.

Representative Democracy

Democracy implies the rule of the people, but it is impractical for all people to directly participate in decision-making.

For instance, if the entire class wanted to raise an issue with the principal, it would be inefficient for everyone to go.

Instead, a **representative** is chosen to voice the concerns or suggestions of the entire group.

In many schools, this representative is called the **class monitor** or **class representative**.

The representative is elected by the class and acts as their voice, making it more efficient for dealing with school-related matters.

This is an example of how **representation** works in a democracy, where elected individuals act on behalf of larger groups.

Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of Parliament (MPs)



At the **State** or **national** levels, people vote for **representatives** to make decisions on their behalf.



These representatives are called **Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs)** at the State level, and **Members of Parliament (MPs)** at the national level.



MLAs and MPs meet in **assemblies** (State Assemblies or Parliament) to discuss **laws**, **problems**, and **solutions** for the welfare of the people.



In these assemblies, they engage in **dialogue** and **debate** to address different opinions and reach a consensus.



This system of representation ensures that citizens' voices are heard through their elected representatives.

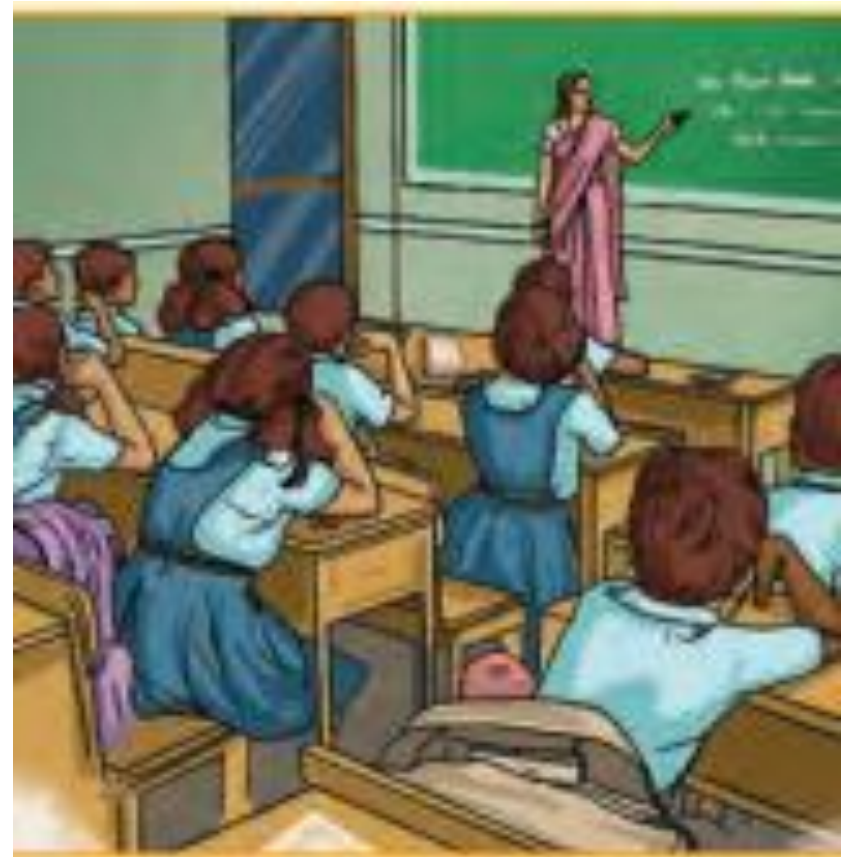
Representative democracy

- India is a **representative democracy**, where citizens elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf.
- It is the **world's largest democracy**, with approximately **970 million voters** in 2024.
- In principle, **all Indian citizens above the age of 18** have the **right to participate** in elections.



Voting

- **Voting** is a process used to make decisions in a democratic way.
- In this example, the class is deciding between **two picnic places**, A and B.
- The teacher uses **voting** to resolve the decision:
- Students in favor of place A raise their hands.
- Students in favor of place B raise their hands.
- The place with the **larger number of raised hands** wins, and that's where the picnic will be held.
- This is an example of **direct democracy**, where **every student's opinion** is taken into account to make a final decision.





Grassroots democracy

- **Grassroots democracy** refers to a system that encourages the **active participation** of ordinary citizens in decision-making processes.
- It operates at the **local level**, involving people at the base of the **political pyramid**.
- In this system, citizens have a direct role in decisions that **affect their lives** and communities.

THANK YOU

