

Grassroots Democracy — Part 1: Governance

Class VI — Social Science (Exploring Society: India and Beyond) — Chapter 10

NCERT Comprehensive Notes 2025-26

01 Chapter Overview

Chapter 10 of the NCERT textbook "Exploring Society: India and Beyond" introduces students to the fundamental concepts of governance, government, and democracy. This chapter — titled "Grassroots Democracy — Part 1: Governance" — forms the foundation for understanding how societies organise themselves, make rules, and ensure order. It explains why rules and laws are essential for any community, how the three organs of government (Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary) function together, and how the Indian government operates at three distinct levels — Central (National), State, and Local. The chapter also introduces the concept of democracy, tracing the word to its Greek origins, and distinguishes between direct democracy and representative democracy. India, with approximately 970 million voters in 2024, is highlighted as the world's largest democracy. The chapter sets the stage for deeper study of local self-government in the subsequent chapters.

★ USP Key Points

- ★ India is the world's largest democracy with approximately 970 million voters as of 2024.
- ★ All Indian citizens above the age of 18 have the right to vote in elections.
- ★ The Indian government functions at 3 levels — Central (National), State, and Local.
- ★ There are 3 organs of government — Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary — working through a system of separation of powers.
- ★ The word 'democracy' comes from Greek words: *dēmos* (people) + *kratos* (rule/power).
- ★ India's Parliament has 2 houses — Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha — at the national level.
- ★ The Government of India's motto is "Satyameva Jayate" meaning "Truth alone triumphs."

02 Governance & Government — Why Do We Need Rules?

The Need for Rules in Society

Human beings have been living in communities for a very long time. When a large number of people live together, disagreements and disorder can arise. To maintain order and harmony in society, rules become necessary. Rules exist at every level of our daily lives — at home, in school, on the road, and in workplaces. Students appearing for examinations must follow certain rules; drivers on roads are expected to obey traffic rules; employees follow rules set by their employers, while employers must also follow rules they have committed to their employees.

If no one followed the rules, society would simply not be able to function. Imagine a busy road with no traffic rules — there would be chaos, accidents, and no orderly movement of vehicles and pedestrians. Similarly, without rules in schools, classrooms would be disorderly and learning would become impossible.

Key Idea: Rules are essential at all levels of society — from families and schools to the entire nation. Without rules, communities cannot function smoothly and there would be disorder and conflict.

What is Governance?

The process of taking decisions, organising the society's life with different sets of rules, and ensuring that they are followed, is called **governance**. Governance involves the entire system of decision-making that affects how people live, work, and interact with each other.

Governance

The process of taking decisions, organising the society's life with different sets of rules, and ensuring that they are followed.

What is Government?

The group of individuals or the system that makes the rules and ensures that they are followed is called a **government**. The government has the authority and power to create laws, implement policies, and maintain order. Some of the more important rules are called **laws**.

Government

The group of individuals or the system that makes the rules and ensures that they are followed.

Laws

The more important rules of a society, made and enforced by the government, that all citizens are expected to obey.

Rules Can Change

Rules and laws are not set once and for all. Just as you might discuss a particular rule at home with your parents, or as a student body might ask the school or university management to change a rule, citizens also have a say in the laws and rules governing the society. In a democracy, people can influence, debate, and even change the rules through their elected representatives.

Remember: Governance refers to the broader process of rule-making and decision-making, while government refers to the specific body or system that carries out these tasks. No country can run without governance and government.

Functions of the Government

The government plays an important role in almost every aspect of our daily lives. It is responsible for building and maintaining roads and railways, running the postal service, providing education in schools, maintaining law

and order through the police, protecting the nation through the armed forces, providing healthcare, ensuring fire safety and disaster management, and much more. The government collects taxes from citizens and uses this money to fund public services for the welfare of all.

PUBLIC SERVICE	ROLE OF GOVERNMENT
Road Construction & Transport	Building highways, maintaining roads, running railways and public transport
Defence & Security	Protecting the nation through the armed forces and border security
Healthcare	Running hospitals, clinics, and public health programmes
Education	Establishing schools, setting curricula, training teachers
Fire & Disaster Management	Running fire stations, rescue teams, and disaster relief operations
Law & Order (Traffic, Police)	Maintaining police force, managing traffic, preventing crime
Judiciary (Courts)	Resolving disputes, delivering justice through courts like the Supreme Court
Postal Services	Running post offices for mail delivery across the country

03 Three Organs of Government

All over the world, digital technologies have been transforming the way societies function. The chapter uses the example of cybercrime to explain how the three organs of government work together. In earlier times, people sent money through money orders at the Post Office or demand drafts from banks. Today, digital payments have made money transfer instant. However, this has also led to a new class of criminals — cybercriminals — who use digital means to steal people's money. This example illustrates how the three branches or 'organs' of a government work together to address new challenges.

1. The Legislature

The **Legislature** is the organ of the government that makes new laws (or 'legislates'). Sometimes it also updates or removes existing laws. This is done by an assembly of representatives of the people. In the cybercrime example, the legislature passes new laws to fight such criminal activities. The legislature is the law-making body of the government.

Legislature

The organ of government that makes new laws. It is an assembly of elected representatives of the people. It may also update or remove existing laws.

2. The Executive

The **Executive** is the organ of the government that implements (or 'executes') the laws. This includes the head of state (who may be a president, a prime minister, or a chief minister), the ministers, and any agency responsible for enforcing 'law and order'. In the cybercrime example, the cyber police (an executive agency) investigates and arrests the criminals.

Executive

The organ of government that implements or 'executes' the laws. It includes the head of state, ministers, police, and all agencies responsible for enforcing law and order.

3. The Judiciary

The **Judiciary** is the system of courts which decides whether someone has broken the law and, if so, what course of action should be taken, including punishment if necessary. Sometimes it also examines whether a decision taken by the executive is right, or whether a law passed by the legislature is well conceived and fair to all. In the cybercrime example, the courts convict the criminals and decide their punishment – usually a fine and jail time.

Judiciary

The system of courts that decides whether someone has broken the law, determines appropriate punishments, and also checks whether executive decisions and legislative laws are fair and just.

ORGAN OF GOVERNMENT	MAIN FUNCTION	EXAMPLE (CYBERCRIME)
Legislature	Makes new laws; updates or removes existing laws	Passes new laws against cybercrime
Executive	Implements and enforces laws	Cyber police investigates and arrests criminals
Judiciary	Interprets laws; decides punishments; checks fairness	Courts convict cybercriminals and sentence them

Separation of Powers

In a good system of governance, these three organs must be kept separate, although they interact with each other and work together. This separation is called the '**separation of powers**'. It is intended to provide a system of **checks and balances**. This means that each organ of the government can check what the other is doing and restore balance if one organ acts beyond its expected role.

Why Separation of Powers Matters: If all three organs were under the control of the same group of people, there would be no accountability. The people making the laws would also enforce and judge them, leading to potential abuse of power and injustice. The separation ensures that no single group has unlimited power.

Separation of Powers

The principle that the three organs of government (Legislature, Executive, Judiciary) should be kept separate to prevent abuse of power and ensure a system of checks and balances.

Checks and Balances

A system where each organ of the government can check what the other is doing and restore balance if one organ acts beyond its expected role.

04 Three Levels (Tiers) of Government

Any government operates at two levels at the least — local and national. In many countries, including India, it functions at three levels or tiers — **local, state or regional, and national**. Each level deals with different matters. The textbook uses the analogy of fixing a light bulb problem: first you check the bulb and switch at home (local level), then you call an electrician (intermediate level), and if the problem is beyond your home, you go to the Electricity Board (higher level). These represent three levels of dealing with a problem.

The Three Tiers in India

LEVEL / TIER	GOVERNMENT BODY	SCOPE
National Level (1st Tier)	Central Government / Union Government	Deals with matters concerning the entire country
State Level (2nd Tier)	State Government	Deals with matters concerning a particular state
Local Level (3rd Tier)	Local Government (Panchayat / Municipality)	Deals with matters concerning a town or village

How the Three Levels Respond to a Crisis — Flood Example

The chapter uses the example of a flood to explain how the three levels of government work. After heavy rain causes a flood:

Local Level: If the flood is not too severe, local authorities may be able to deal with it on their own.

State Level: If the flood involves several towns and many villages, the State Government steps in and sends rescue teams to help affected people.

National Level: If it is a massive flood affecting vast areas, the Central Government may also come to help by sending relief supplies, the army, etc.

Functions at National and State Levels

The textbook provides a detailed table (Fig. 10.5) showing the framework of government organs at the national and state levels. Here is a comprehensive summary:

ORGAN	NATIONAL LEVEL	STATE LEVEL
Judiciary	Supreme Court of India	High Court
Legislature	Two houses — Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha — formulate national laws	One State Assembly or Vidhan Sabha (most States have a single assembly; a few have two)
Executive (Head)	President of India (nominal head & Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces); Prime Minister as executive head	Governor (nominal head); Chief Minister as executive head

Functions of the Central and State Executive

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS	STATE GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS
Defence	Police, law and order
Foreign Affairs	Adaptation and implementation of Central laws at State level
Atomic Energy	Public health
Communications	Education
Currency	Agriculture
Interstate Commerce	Irrigation
Education	Local government
Formulation of National Policies	—

Nominal Head

A head of state in name only. In India, the President of India and the Governor of a State are nominal heads — they do have certain powers under special circumstances, but normally do not interfere in the affairs of the Central or State government.

House

An assembly where laws are discussed or passed. India's Parliament has two houses — Lok Sabha (House of the People) and Rajya Sabha (Council of States).

★ Important Mottos

- ★ Government of India's motto: "**Satyameva Jayate**" — meaning "Truth alone triumphs."
- ★ Supreme Court's motto: "**Yato Dharmastato Jayah**" — meaning "Where there is dharma, there is victory."
- ★ These mottos are inspired by the wisdom of ancient Indian texts.

The word '**democracy**' comes from two Greek words — **dēmos** meaning 'people', and **kratos** meaning 'rule' or 'power'. So 'democracy' literally means the '**rule of the people**'. Democracy is one of the foundation stones of the system of governance adopted by most countries of the world.

Democracy

A system of governance where the power to rule lies with the people. The word comes from Greek: *dēmos* (people) + *kratos* (rule/power), literally meaning 'rule of the people'.

Why Do We Need Representatives?

Can all people actually rule? It is clearly not possible for every citizen to be involved in every decision. The textbook uses the example of a school class: if there is a problem that a class wants to bring to the principal's attention, it would not be practical for the entire class to go together. Instead, a class monitor or class representative is elected by the whole class, and that representative speaks on behalf of everyone. The same principle applies at the State and national levels.

Direct Democracy vs Representative Democracy

FEATURE	DIRECT DEMOCRACY	REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY
Meaning	Every citizen directly participates in decision-making	Citizens elect representatives who make decisions on their behalf
Example	A class voting by show of hands to decide a picnic destination	Citizens electing MLAs and MPs through elections
Feasibility	Practical only in small groups	Practical for large nations with millions of citizens
India's System	Not used at the national level	India is a representative democracy

Elections and Representatives

Through elections, people vote for representatives, who become the elected members of their respective assemblies. They are generally called '**Members of Legislative Assembly**' (MLAs) at the State level, and '**Members of Parliament**' (MPs) at the national level. All these members discuss laws, problems, and solutions in the assemblies, and through dialogue and debate, try to convince each other whenever there are different opinions.

India — The World's Largest Democracy: India is a representative democracy and also 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.

Representative Democracy

A system of democracy where citizens elect representatives (such as MLAs and MPs) who make laws and take decisions on behalf of the people.

Grassroots Democracy

The term **grassroots democracy** refers to a system that enables and encourages the participation of ordinary citizens — the base of the pyramid. In such a system, the citizens can have a say in decisions which affect them. This is the essence of local self-governance, which is explored further in subsequent chapters.

Grassroots Democracy

A system that enables and encourages the participation of ordinary citizens at the local level, allowing them to have a say in decisions that directly affect their lives.

Voting

The process by which people express their choice or preference in an election or decision-making situation, typically by raising hands, using ballots, or electronic voting machines.

06 Key Personalities & Inspirational Figures

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (1931–2015)

The chapter features a dedicated section on Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, one of India's most beloved leaders. Born in a humble family in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, in 1931, Dr. Kalam was a renowned scientist, popularly known as the 'Missile Man of India' for his crucial role in the development of India's space programme, missile programme, and nuclear capabilities.

Dr. Abdul Kalam served as the **11th President of India from 2002 to 2007**. Despite his high status, he remained deeply connected to the people, and the youth in particular, through his passion for good education and innovation. He inspired millions with his humility, dedication to social causes, and commitment to the nation. He tirelessly encouraged young Indians to dream big and work hard to achieve their goals.

Significance in the Chapter: Dr. Kalam is mentioned in this chapter to illustrate that even though the position of the President of India is nominal (ceremonial), a person can still play an important role and impact countless lives through leadership, vision, and dedication.

Quotes Featured in the Chapter

SOURCE	QUOTE / CONCEPT
The Mahābhārata	"The ruler protects dharma and dharma protects those who protect it." (rājānam dharmagoptāram dharmo rakṣhati rakṣhitah)
Rigoberta Menchú Tum	On the interconnection between peace, justice, equality, development, and democracy — emphasising respect for the identity and dignity of cultures and peoples.
Government of India	"Satyameva Jayate" — "Truth alone triumphs."
Supreme Court of India	"Yato Dharmastato Jayah" — "Where there is dharma, there is victory."

This chapter lays the foundation for understanding governance and democracy in India. Here is a consolidated summary of all the key concepts covered:

★ Complete Chapter Summary — Key Points

- ★ Rules are essential for maintaining order and harmony in any society — from homes and schools to the entire nation.
- ★ **Governance** is the process of taking decisions, organising society's life with rules, and ensuring they are followed.
- ★ **Government** is the group of individuals or system that makes and enforces rules. Important rules are called **laws**.
- ★ Rules and laws are not permanent — citizens can have a say in changing them through democratic processes.
- ★ A modern government has **3 organs**: Legislature (makes laws), Executive (implements laws), and Judiciary (interprets laws and delivers justice).
- ★ The **separation of powers** ensures checks and balances among the three organs to prevent abuse of power.
- ★ India's government operates at **3 levels**: Central (National), State, and Local.
- ★ At the national level, the Legislature comprises Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha; the Executive is led by the Prime Minister (President is nominal head); and the Judiciary is headed by the Supreme Court.
- ★ At the state level, the Legislature is the Vidhan Sabha; the Executive is led by the Chief Minister (Governor is nominal head); and the Judiciary is the High Court.
- ★ **Democracy** means 'rule of the people' (from Greek: *dēmos* + *kratos*).
- ★ India is a **representative democracy** — citizens elect MLAs (state level) and MPs (national level) to make decisions on their behalf.
- ★ **Direct democracy** involves every citizen voting on issues directly (feasible only in small groups).
- ★ **Grassroots democracy** encourages ordinary citizens to participate in decisions affecting their lives at the local level.
- ★ India is the world's largest democracy with approximately **970 million voters** (2024).
- ★ All Indian citizens above **18 years** of age can vote in elections.

Quick Comparison — Three Organs at a Glance

ASPECT	LEGISLATURE	EXECUTIVE	JUDICIARY
Main Role	Making laws	Implementing laws	Interpreting laws & delivering justice
National Body	Parliament (Lok Sabha + Rajya Sabha)	President, Prime Minister, Ministers	Supreme Court of India
State Body	Vidhan Sabha	Governor, Chief Minister, Ministers	High Court
Key Principle	Law-making through debate	Enforcement through agencies (police, etc.)	Justice through courts

"Before We Move On" – Chapter Summary (from NCERT)

- No country can run without governance and government.
- A modern government has three organs – legislative, executive and judiciary – which need to work together.
- The Indian government functions at three levels – Centre or national, State and local.
- Democracy is the overall framework for this system. It functions through elected representatives, both at the State and the national levels.

08 Glossary – Key Terms & Definitions

Governance

The process of taking decisions, organising society's life with different sets of rules, and ensuring that they are followed.

Government

The group of individuals or the system that makes the rules and ensures that they are followed.

Laws

The more important rules made by a government that all citizens are expected to obey.

Legislature

The organ of government that makes, updates, or removes laws. In India, it is Parliament at the national level and Vidhan Sabha at the state level.

Executive

The organ of government that implements and enforces laws, including the head of state, ministers, police, and other agencies.

Judiciary

The system of courts that interprets laws, decides punishments for law-breakers, and checks whether laws and decisions are fair.

Separation of Powers

The principle that the three organs of government should be kept separate to prevent concentration of power and ensure accountability.

Checks and Balances

A system where each organ of government can check the other and restore balance if any organ exceeds its expected role.

Democracy

A system of governance where the power to rule lies with the people. From Greek words *dēmos* (people) and

Representative Democracy

A type of democracy where citizens elect representatives (MLAs, MPs) who make laws and take

kratos (rule/power).

decisions on their behalf.

Direct Democracy

A form of democracy where every citizen directly participates in decision-making, such as voting by show of hands. Feasible only in small groups.

Grassroots Democracy

A system that encourages ordinary citizens at the local level to participate in decisions that directly affect their lives.

Nominal Head

A head of state in name only. In India, the President and State Governors are nominal heads who have certain powers under special circumstances but normally do not interfere in government affairs.

House (Legislative)

An assembly where laws are discussed or passed. India's Parliament has two houses — Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Cybercrime

Criminal activities carried out using digital or computer technologies, such as online fraud, data theft, and digital financial crimes.

Voting

The process by which people express their choice in an election or decision-making situation, typically by show of hands, ballots, or electronic machines.

09 Questions & Answers, MCQs, and Case Studies

NCERT Exercise Questions with Detailed Answers

Q1. What is the meaning of democracy? What is the difference between direct democracy and representative democracy?

Meaning of Democracy: Democracy is a system of governance where the power to rule lies with the people. The word 'democracy' comes from two Greek words — 'dēmos' meaning 'people' and 'kratos' meaning 'rule' or 'power'. So democracy literally means the 'rule of the people'. It is the system adopted by most countries of the world.

Difference between Direct Democracy and Representative Democracy:

Direct Democracy: In a direct democracy, every citizen directly participates in the decision-making process. For example, when a class votes by show of hands to decide a picnic destination, it is a case of direct democracy where every student's opinion is taken. This system is practical only in small groups.

Representative Democracy: In a representative democracy, citizens elect representatives who make laws and take decisions on their behalf. Through elections, people vote for MLAs (at the State level) and MPs (at the national level). These elected representatives then discuss laws, problems, and solutions in assemblies. India is a representative democracy — the world's largest, with approximately 970 million voters in 2024. All Indian citizens above the age of 18 have the right to vote.

Q2. Recall the three organs of government. What are their different roles?

The three organs of government are the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary. Each plays a distinct and important role:

1. Legislature: The Legislature is the law-making organ of the government. It makes new laws, updates existing laws, and sometimes removes outdated laws. In India, the national legislature is the Parliament, which has two houses — the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States). At the state level, the legislature is the Vidhan Sabha (State Assembly).

2. Executive: The Executive is the organ that implements or 'executes' the laws made by the Legislature. It includes the head of state, the prime minister or chief minister, ministers, and agencies responsible for maintaining law and order, such as the police. At the national level, the President of India is the nominal head and the Prime Minister is the executive head. At the state level, the Governor is the nominal head and the Chief Minister is the executive head.

3. Judiciary: The Judiciary is the system of courts which decides whether someone has broken the law and, if so, what action should be taken, including punishment. It also examines whether a decision taken by the Executive is right, or whether a law passed by the Legislature is fair and just. At the national level, the Supreme Court of India is the highest court, while at the state level, the High Courts function as the apex judicial authority.

These three organs work together but are kept separate through the principle of 'separation of powers', which ensures a system of checks and balances so that no single organ gains too much power.

Q3. Why do we need three tiers of government?

We need three tiers (levels) of government because different problems and issues need to be addressed at different levels. No single level of government can effectively manage all the affairs of a vast and diverse country like India. The three tiers are:

1. Local Government: Handles local issues like water supply, sanitation, street lighting, and local roads at the village or town level. It is closest to the people and understands local needs best.

2. State Government: Deals with matters concerning a particular state, such as police and law enforcement, state education policies, public health, agriculture, and irrigation. It handles problems that are too large for local authorities but are specific to the state.

3. Central (National) Government: Handles matters of national importance such as defence, foreign affairs, atomic energy, currency, communications, and interstate commerce.

The chapter illustrates this with the example of a flood: a minor flood can be handled by local authorities; a larger flood affecting several towns requires State Government intervention with rescue teams; and a massive flood affecting vast areas requires Central Government support including relief supplies and the army. This layered system ensures efficient governance at every level and that different types of problems get appropriate attention from the right authority.

Q4. (Project) Many of you will remember the lockdown that took place during the COVID-19 pandemic. Make a list of all the actions that were taken at that time? Which tiers of government were involved in managing the situation? What was the role of each of the organs of government?

Actions taken during COVID-19 lockdown: Nationwide lockdown was imposed, schools and offices were closed, travel restrictions were put in place, masks were made mandatory, vaccination drives were conducted, hospitals were set up for COVID patients, free food grains were distributed to the poor, and online education was promoted.

Tiers of Government Involved:

- **Central Government:** Announced the national lockdown, coordinated the vaccination programme (like CoWIN portal), provided economic relief packages, managed production and supply of vaccines, and issued national guidelines.
- **State Government:** Implemented lockdown rules within their states, managed state-level healthcare, set up containment zones, ran state-specific relief programmes, and coordinated with district authorities.
- **Local Government:** Enforced quarantine at the local level, distributed rations, conducted door-to-door health surveys, managed sanitisation of public areas, and set up local vaccination centres.

Role of Each Organ:

- **Legislature:** Passed emergency laws and ordinances related to disaster management and epidemic control.
- **Executive:** Implemented lockdown rules, managed healthcare infrastructure, coordinated vaccine distribution, deployed police for enforcement, and provided financial relief.
- **Judiciary:** Ensured citizens' rights were protected during the lockdown, heard cases related to lockdown violations, and issued orders regarding healthcare access and migrant welfare.

Additional Short Answer Questions

Q5. What is the difference between governance and government?

Governance refers to the broader process of taking decisions, organising society's life with different sets of rules, and ensuring that they are followed. It is a process or activity. **Government**, on the other hand, refers to the specific group of individuals or the system that makes the rules and ensures that they are followed. In simpler terms, governance is the 'what' (the process of ruling), while government is the 'who' (the body that does the ruling). Governance can also include non-governmental actors, while government specifically refers to the formal state authority.

Q6. What is meant by 'separation of powers'? Why is it important?

'Separation of powers' is the principle that the three organs of government — Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary — should be kept separate from each other, although they interact and work together. This means no single organ or group of people should control all three functions of making, implementing, and interpreting laws.

It is important because it provides a system of **checks and balances**. Each organ can check what the other is doing and restore balance if one organ acts beyond its expected role. Without separation of powers, if the same group of people controlled all three organs, they could make any law, enforce it however they wished, and judge themselves — leading to dictatorship, corruption, and injustice. The separation ensures accountability, fairness, and protection of citizens' rights.

Q7. Explain the significance of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in the context of this chapter.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (1931–2015) served as the 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007. He was a renowned scientist known as the 'Missile Man of India' for his work on India's space and missile programmes. In this chapter, Dr. Kalam is highlighted to illustrate that even though the President of India holds a **nominal** (ceremonial) position — meaning the President does not exercise real executive power in day-to-day governance — a person can still make a tremendous impact on the nation. Dr. Kalam inspired millions of young Indians through his passion for education, innovation, humility, and dedication to social causes. His example shows that leadership is not just about formal power but about the ability to inspire and positively influence people's lives.

Q8. What is grassroots democracy? Why is it important?

Grassroots democracy refers to a system that enables and encourages the participation of ordinary citizens — the base of the pyramid — in the democratic process at the local level. In such a system, citizens can have a direct say in decisions which affect their daily lives, such as matters related to water supply, sanitation, local roads, health services, and education in their village or town.

It is important because it brings governance closest to the people. When ordinary citizens participate in decision-making, the solutions are more practical and relevant to local needs. It strengthens democracy by ensuring that power is not concentrated only at the top levels of government but is distributed to the local level where people can actively engage in self-governance. In India, Panchayati Raj institutions and urban local bodies are examples of grassroots democracy.

Q9. Why are rules necessary in a society? Give examples.

Rules are necessary in a society to maintain order and harmony among people. When a large number of people live together, there can be disagreements and disorder, and rules help prevent chaos and ensure smooth functioning of society.

Examples: At home, there may be rules about meal times, study hours, and household responsibilities. In school, rules exist for students (wearing uniforms, being punctual) and teachers (completing the syllabus, evaluating students fairly). On roads, traffic rules ensure that vehicles and pedestrians move safely. In workplaces, employees follow rules set by their employers, while employers must follow rules committed to their employees. Without rules, there would be disorder in all these areas — roads would be chaotic, classrooms would be disorderly, and communities would face constant conflicts. Rules create a framework within which people can live and work together peacefully.

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

1. The word 'democracy' comes from which language?

- (a) Latin
- (b) Sanskrit
- (c) Greek
- (d) French

✓ Answer: (c) Greek — from *dēmos* (people) and *kratos* (rule/power)

2. How many voters does India have approximately (as of 2024)?

- (a) 500 million
- (b) 750 million
- (c) 970 million
- (d) 1.4 billion

Answer: (c) 970 million

3. Which organ of the government makes new laws?

- (a) Executive
- (b) Legislature
- (c) Judiciary
- (d) Police

Answer: (b) Legislature

4. Who is the executive head of the Central Government of India?

- (a) President of India
- (b) Chief Justice of India
- (c) Prime Minister of India
- (d) Governor

Answer: (c) Prime Minister of India

5. The principle that prevents concentration of all power in one group is called:

- (a) Rule of Law
- (b) Federalism
- (c) Separation of Powers
- (d) Universal Suffrage

Answer: (c) Separation of Powers

6. "Satyameva Jayate" is the motto of:

- (a) Supreme Court of India
- (b) Government of India
- (c) Indian Army
- (d) Reserve Bank of India

Answer: (b) Government of India — it means "Truth alone triumphs."

7. At the State level, elected representatives are called:

- (a) Members of Parliament (MPs)
- (b) Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs)
- (c) Sarpanch

(d) Chief Ministers

Answer: (b) Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs)

8. The minimum age to vote in Indian elections is:

- (a) 16 years
- (b) 21 years
- (c) 18 years
- (d) 25 years

Answer: (c) 18 years

9. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam served as which President of India?

- (a) 10th
- (b) 11th
- (c) 12th
- (d) 13th

Answer: (b) 11th President of India (2002–2007)

10. Which of the following is NOT a function of the Central Government?

- (a) Defence
- (b) Foreign Affairs
- (c) Police and Law & Order
- (d) Currency

Answer: (c) Police and Law & Order — This is primarily a State Government function.

11. The Governor of a State is described as a:

- (a) Executive head
- (b) Judicial head
- (c) Nominal head
- (d) Military head

Answer: (c) Nominal head — The Chief Minister is the actual executive head at the State level.

12. A class voting by show of hands to decide a picnic spot is an example of:

- (a) Representative democracy
- (b) Grassroots democracy
- (c) Direct democracy
- (d) Constitutional monarchy

Answer: (c) Direct democracy — because every student's opinion was taken directly to finalise the decision.

Case-Based / Competency-Based Questions

Case Study 1: The Cybercrime Challenge

With the rapid growth of digital technology in India, people now send money instantly through mobile phones and apps instead of using money orders at Post Offices or demand drafts from banks. However, a new class of criminals — cybercriminals — has emerged. These criminals, without even leaving their desks, use digital means to steal people's hard-earned money. This has led governments to pass new laws to fight cybercrime. Many such criminals have been arrested by the cyber police and convicted in court, where they are usually fined and jailed for several years.

1. What is cybercrime as described in the passage?
2. How do the three organs of government respond to the problem of cybercrime?
3. Why did the government need to pass new laws against cybercrime?

Answers:

1. Cybercrime refers to criminal activities carried out using digital or computer technologies, such as stealing people's money through digital means without being physically present.
2. The three organs respond as follows: The **Legislature** passes new laws to fight cybercrime. The **Executive** (through cyber police) investigates cases, tracks criminals, and arrests them. The **Judiciary** (courts) tries the accused, convicts them if found guilty, and sentences them to fines and jail terms.
3. The government needed to pass new laws because digital technology created entirely new types of crimes that did not exist before. Existing laws were not sufficient to address crimes committed through computers and the internet, so new legislation was needed to define, prevent, and punish cybercrime.

Case Study 2: The Great Flood

Following heavy rainfall for several days, a devastating flood hit a district. Initially, the local authorities tried to manage the situation by deploying local rescue teams and providing immediate relief to affected families. However, as the floodwaters spread across multiple towns and dozens of villages, the State Government stepped in, sending additional rescue teams, medical supplies, and food to the affected areas. When it became clear that the flood was one of the worst in decades, affecting vast areas across several districts, the Central Government also intervened by sending the army, relief supplies, and special emergency funds.

1. Identify the three levels of government that were involved in managing the flood crisis.
2. Why couldn't the local authorities alone handle the situation?
3. What does this example teach us about the three-tier system of government in India?

Answers:

1. The three levels of government involved were: (i) Local Government — first responders who deployed local rescue teams; (ii) State Government — sent additional rescue teams, medical supplies, and food when the flood spread across towns and villages; (iii) Central (National) Government — sent the army, relief supplies, and emergency funds when the flood became a massive disaster.

2. The local authorities could not handle the situation alone because the flood was too widespread and severe. It affected multiple towns and dozens of villages, requiring resources and manpower far beyond what local authorities possessed.

3. This example teaches us that different levels of problems need different levels of government. The three-tier system ensures that small, local problems can be handled quickly by local bodies, medium-scale problems can be managed by the State Government, and large-scale national emergencies can be addressed by the Central Government with its greater resources. Each tier has specific responsibilities and resources suited to the scale of the challenge.

Case Study 3: The Class Election

Class VI-B of Kendriya Vidyalaya wanted to propose a date for their annual field trip to the school principal. The class had 45 students, and everyone had different opinions about when and where to go. It was clearly not practical for all 45 students to go to the principal's office. So the class teacher suggested that they should elect a class representative. After campaigning and a vote, Meera was elected as the class representative. She met with the principal, presented the class's preferences, and negotiated a suitable date. The students who had voted for a different candidate accepted the decision because it was made through a fair and democratic process.

1. What type of democracy is illustrated in this example — direct or representative? Explain.
2. How is this school-level example similar to how democracy works at the national level in India?
3. Why did the other students accept the decision even if they had voted for a different candidate?


Answers:

1. This is an example of **representative democracy**. Instead of all 45 students going to the principal directly, they elected Meera as their representative. She spoke on behalf of the entire class. This mirrors how representative democracy works — citizens elect representatives to act for them rather than every citizen participating directly in all decisions.

2. At the national level, Indian citizens cannot all personally participate in making laws and decisions. Instead, they elect representatives — MLAs at the state level and MPs at the national level — through elections. These representatives then discuss laws and problems in assemblies, just as Meera represented the class's views to the principal. The elected representatives speak for the people who elected them.

3. The other students accepted the decision because the election was conducted through a fair and democratic process. In a democracy, the decision made by the majority through voting is accepted by all, even those who preferred a different option. This is a fundamental principle of democracy — respecting the outcome of a fair vote while having the freedom to voice different opinions.


Exam Tips — Score Maximum Marks!

-  Always define the three organs of government (Legislature, Executive, Judiciary) with their functions and give real-life examples like cybercrime for full marks.

- 🌐 Remember the Greek origin of the word 'democracy': *dēmos* (people) + *kratos* (rule/power) — this is frequently asked in exams.
- 🌐 Know the key data: India has approximately 970 million voters (2024); voting age is 18 years; Dr. Kalam was the 11th President (2002–2007).
- 🌐 Distinguish clearly between direct democracy and representative democracy with examples — a class vote (direct) vs. national elections (representative).
- 🌐 Memorise the functions of Central Government vs State Government from the Fig. 10.5 table — questions comparing them are common.
- 🌐 The concept of 'separation of powers' and 'checks and balances' is a favourite exam topic — explain both with a clear example of what could go wrong without them.
- 🌐 For 5-mark questions on the three tiers, always use the flood example from the chapter to illustrate how local, state, and central governments respond to different scales of crisis.
- 🌐 Remember both mottos: "Satyameva Jayate" (Government of India) and "Yato Dharmastato Jayah" (Supreme Court) — these appear in fill-in-the-blanks and MCQs.
- 🌐 The difference between 'governance' and 'government' is a commonly confused pair — governance is the process, government is the body that carries out the process.
- 🌐 For project/long answer questions about COVID-19 lockdown, mention all three tiers and all three organs with specific actions taken by each for comprehensive answers.

UNIQUE STUDY POINT

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