

Federalism

UNITARY

Only one level of government. The sub-units are subordinate to central government

Independent states comes together to form a bigger unit

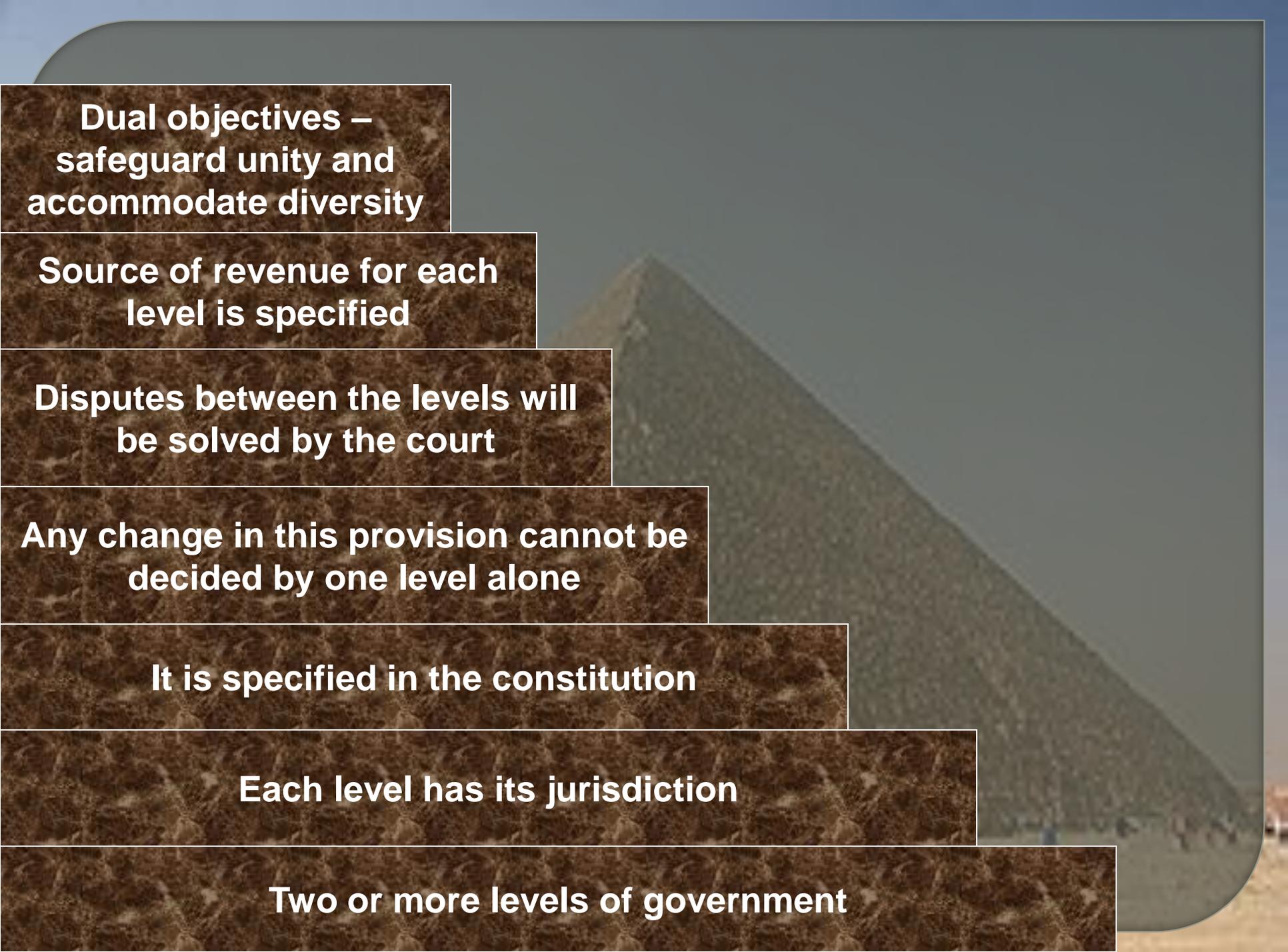
FEDERALISM

Power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country

Coming together

Holding together

A large country decides to divide its power between central and sub-units



**Dual objectives –
safeguard unity and
accommodate diversity**

**Source of revenue for each
level is specified**

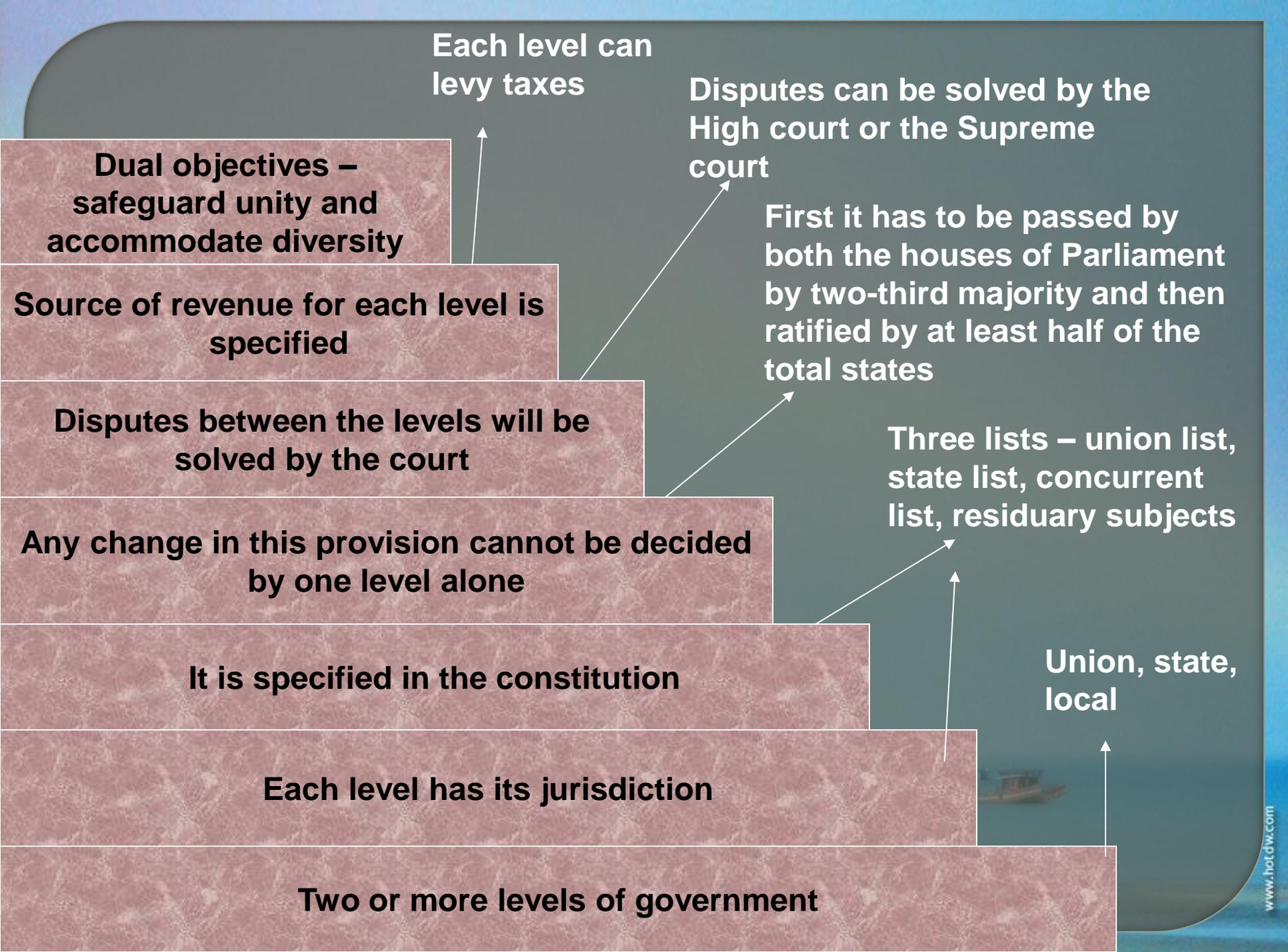
**Disputes between the levels will
be solved by the court**

**Any change in this provision cannot be
decided by one level alone**

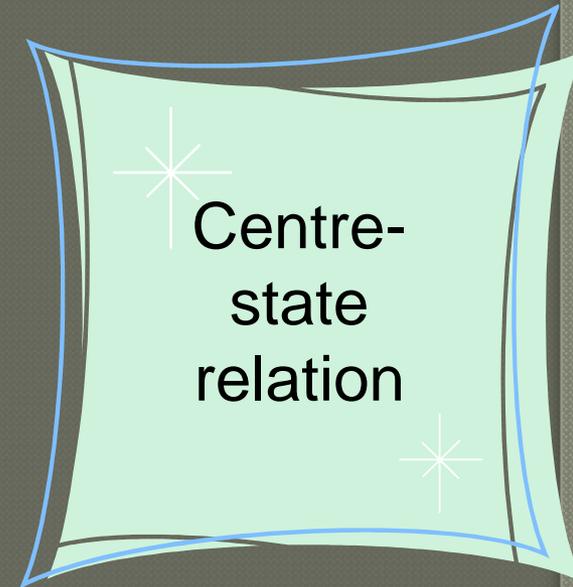
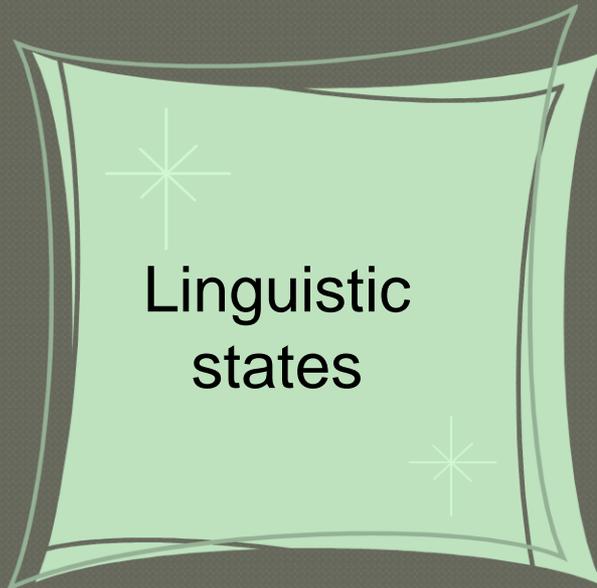
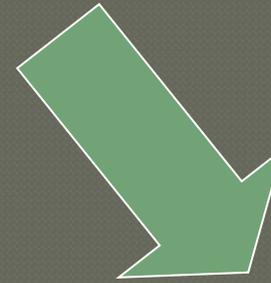
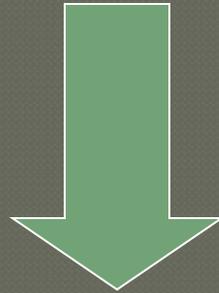
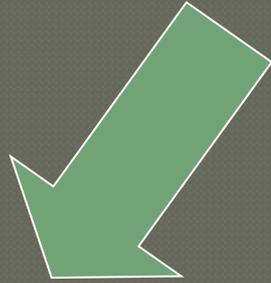
It is specified in the constitution

Each level has its jurisdiction

Two or more levels of government



Practice of federalism



INDIA AFTER REORGANISATION ADMINISTRATIVE MAP 1961



Note: This illustration is not a map drawn to scale and should not be taken to be



Reorganization
of Indian States

Linguistic States

- In 1947 boundaries were changed to ensure that people who spoke the same language lived in the same state.
- Some states were created to recognize differences based on culture, ethnicity or geography – eg: Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand
- Foramtion of linguistic states made the country more united and made administrative work more easier.

Constitution of India – Language policy

<http://www.constitution.org/cons/india/const.html>

India

- ❧ The status of national language not given to any language
- ❧ Hindi is the official language
- ❧ 21 other languages are recognized as scheduled languages.
- ❧ A candidate writing an examination conducted by central government can attempt in any of these languages
- ❧ Every state can have their own official language
- ❧ English is used as link language for communication between center and state

Language policy

Sri Lanka

Sinhala made as the national language giving no importance to Tamil language. They didn't show any flexibility in their language policy as a result it led to conflict between two language communities.

India Railway Minister Dinesh Trivedi resigns

India's Railway Minister Dinesh Trivedi has resigned after his party protested against his decision to increase passenger fares. Last week's fare rises prompted protests from his Trinamul Congress party, a key ally of the federal government. His party wants him to roll back the increase, but he refused to do so.

India's state-owned railway operates 7,000 passenger trains and carries some 13 million passengers daily.

Mr Trivedi raised the fares in Wednesday's railway budget by a maximum of 30 paise (\$0.006; £0.0038) per km, saying the network was passing through a "difficult phase".

However, within hours of the announcement, Mamata Banerjee, the chief of the Trinamul Congress party, rejected the increase and sought the resignation of the minister.

Ms Banerjee has already asked Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to replace Mr Trivedi with another party MP, Mukul Roy.

Centre –State relations

The constitutional arrangements for sharing power work in reality depends to a large extent on how the ruling parties and leaders follow these arrangements

Before 1990 –

- For a long time, the same party ruled both at the Centre and in most of the States. This meant that the State governments did not exercise their rights as autonomous federal units.
- As and when the ruling party at the State level was different, the parties that ruled at the Centre tried to undermine the power of the States.
- The Central Government would often misuse the Constitution to dismiss the State governments that were controlled by rival parties. This undermined the spirit of federalism

After 1990

- This period saw **the rise of regional political parties** in many States of the country.
- This was also the beginning of **the era of Coalition governments at the Centre**. Since no single party got a clear majority in the Lok Sabha, the major national parties **had to enter into an alliance with many parties including several regional parties** to form a government at the Centre.
- A **major judgment of the Supreme Court** made it difficult for the Central Government to dismiss state governments in an arbitrary manner.

WHAT IS DECENTRALIZATION?

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

BENEFITS OF DECENTRALIZATION

- The basic idea behind decentralization is that there are a large number of problems and issues which are best settled at the local level.
- People have better knowledge of problems in their localities.
- They also have better ideas on where to spend money and how to manage things more efficiently.
- Besides, at the local level it is possible for the people to directly participate in decision making.
- This helps to inculcate a habit of democratic participation.

Constitutional amendment 1992

- Now it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
- Seats are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.
- At least one-third of all positions 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
- sharing varies from State to State.

Country

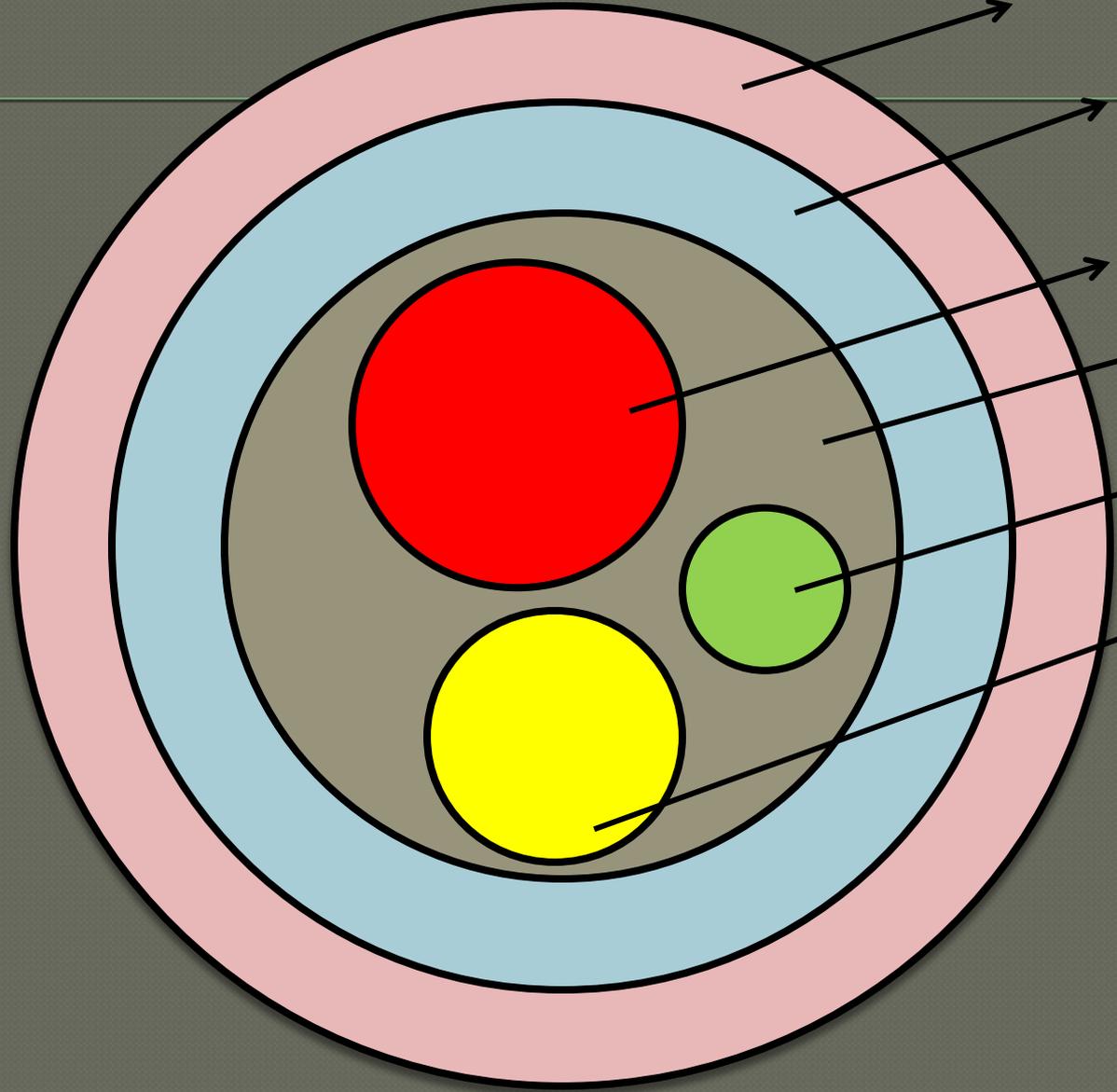
State

Big Cities

District

Village

Towns



Union

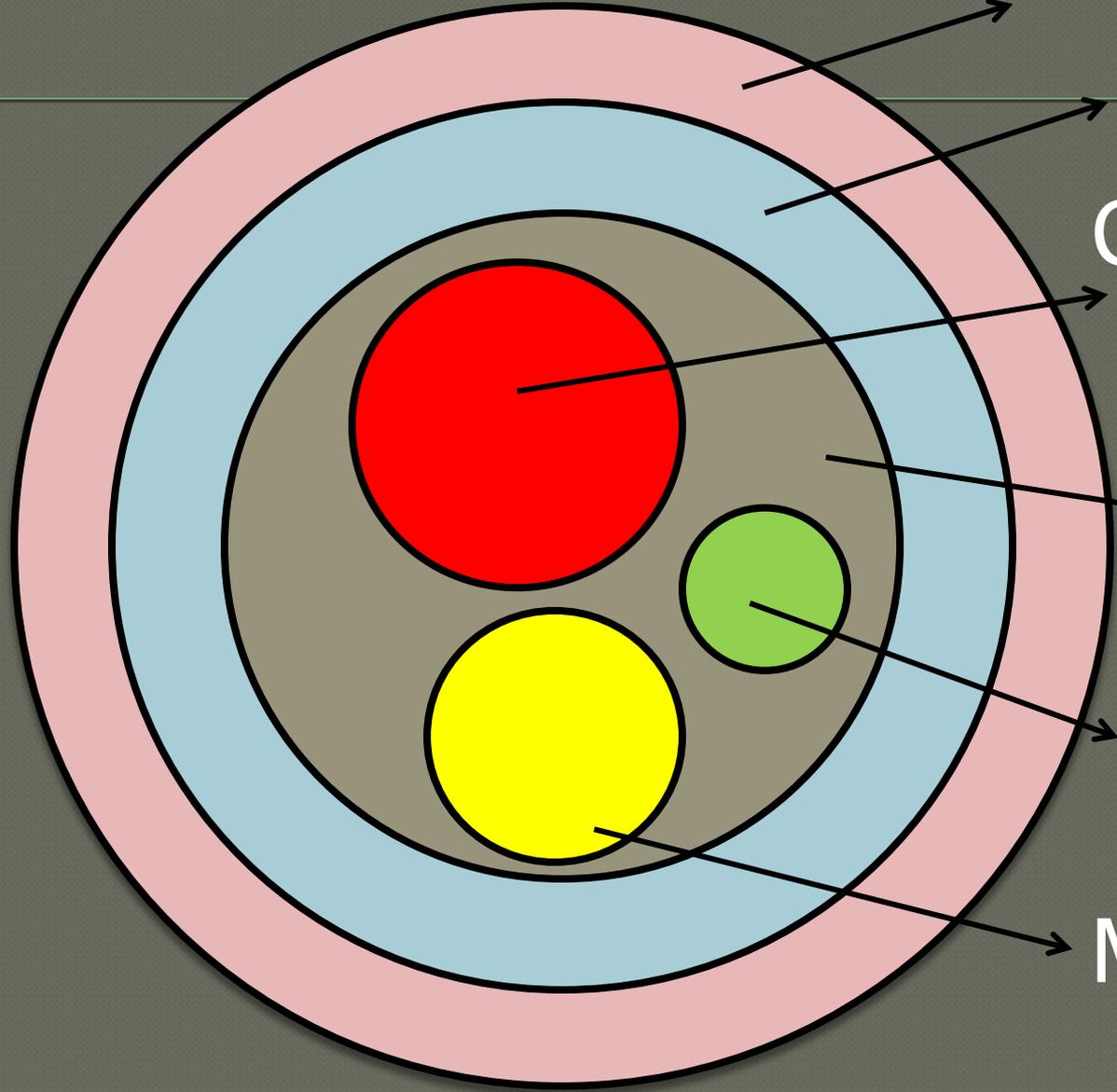
State

Corporation

District Council

Panchayat

Municipality



Panchayat

- *All adult members of the village forms Gram sabha*
- *Gram sabha elects the members of Gram Panchayat*
- *Village is divide into different wards and each ward elects a panch or panchayat member.*
- *Panchayat member elects a sarpanch among them*
- *Gram sabha meets twice or thrice to pass the budget, evaluate the functions of panchayat.*
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Panchayat Samiti & Zilla Parishad

- *A few gram panchayats are grouped together to form panchayat samiti or block or mandals . Members to blocks are elected by panchayat memebrebrs*
- *All the panchayat samitis or mandals in a district together to form Zilla Parishad or District council.*
- *Members of these bodies also include MP's, MLA's of that district.*

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- **Municipalities are set up in towns.**
- **Big cities are constituted into municipal corporations.**
- **Both municipalities and municipal corporations are controlled by elected bodies consisting of people's representatives.**
- **Municipal chairperson is the political head of the municipality.**
- **In a municipal corporation such an officer is called the mayor**

Administration in Towns

*Evaluation

Challenges :

While elections are held regularly and enthusiastically, gram sabhas are not held regularly. Most state governments have not transferred significant powers to the local governments. Nor have they given adequate resources.

Success

- * There are now about 36 lakh elected representatives in the panchayats and municipalities etc., all over the country. This number is bigger than the population of many countries in the world.
- * Constitutional status for local government has helped to deepen democracy in our country.
- * It has also increased women's representation and voice in our democracy.