

UNIT 1

Forms of Government and Democracy

Learning Objectives

- Know the forms of government
- Understand the meaning of democracy
- Know the merits and demerits of democracy
- Know the challenges to Indian democracy



Introduction

We are going to learn from this lesson how various forms of government have developed globally. Today, many countries of the world follow different types of governments, but the modern world prefers democracy.

1.1 Forms of Government

The governance of nations differs significantly based on who has power. There are different forms of government: aristocracy, monarchy, autocracy, oligarchy, theocracy, democracy and republic.

1.1.1 Aristocracy

A form of government in which power is in the hands of a small privileged ruling class (nobels).

Example: United Kingdom, Spain

1.1.2 Monarchy

A system of government in which one person reigns supreme, usually a king or queen (constitutional monarchy).

Example: Bhutan, Oman, Qatar

1.1.3 Autocracy

A system of government by one person with absolute power.

Example: North Korea, Saudi Arabia

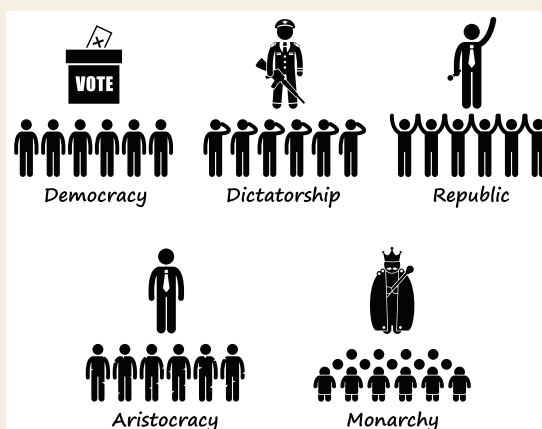
1.1.4 Oligarchy

A small group of people having control of a country or organisation.

Example: Former Soviet Union, China, Venezuela, North Korea.

1.1.5 Theocracy

A system of government in which religious doctrines form the basis of



Forms of Government