

- The State, the Government, and You

The State, the Government, and You

“The greatest punishment for being unwilling to rule is being ruled by someone worse than oneself.” – Socrates, Greek philosopher (in ‘The Republic’)

The government supports the community in many ways such as fire safety, organizing group activities, waste management, postal services, children.





Fig. 6.1



The Big Questions?

- What is the difference between a state and a government?
- What is the difference between a democracy and a republic? What makes India a democratic republic?
- How do citizens engage with the government in day-to-day life? How can one make government work for the people?

What is a State?

A state (or a nation) is a political organisation that has the authority to govern a defined territory and its population. It has four important pa

- **People:** The citizens who live in the country.
- **Land:** A fixed area or territory that belongs to the state.
- **Government:** The system or organisation that runs the country.

- **Sovereignty:** The full power to make laws and decisions without interference from outside forces.

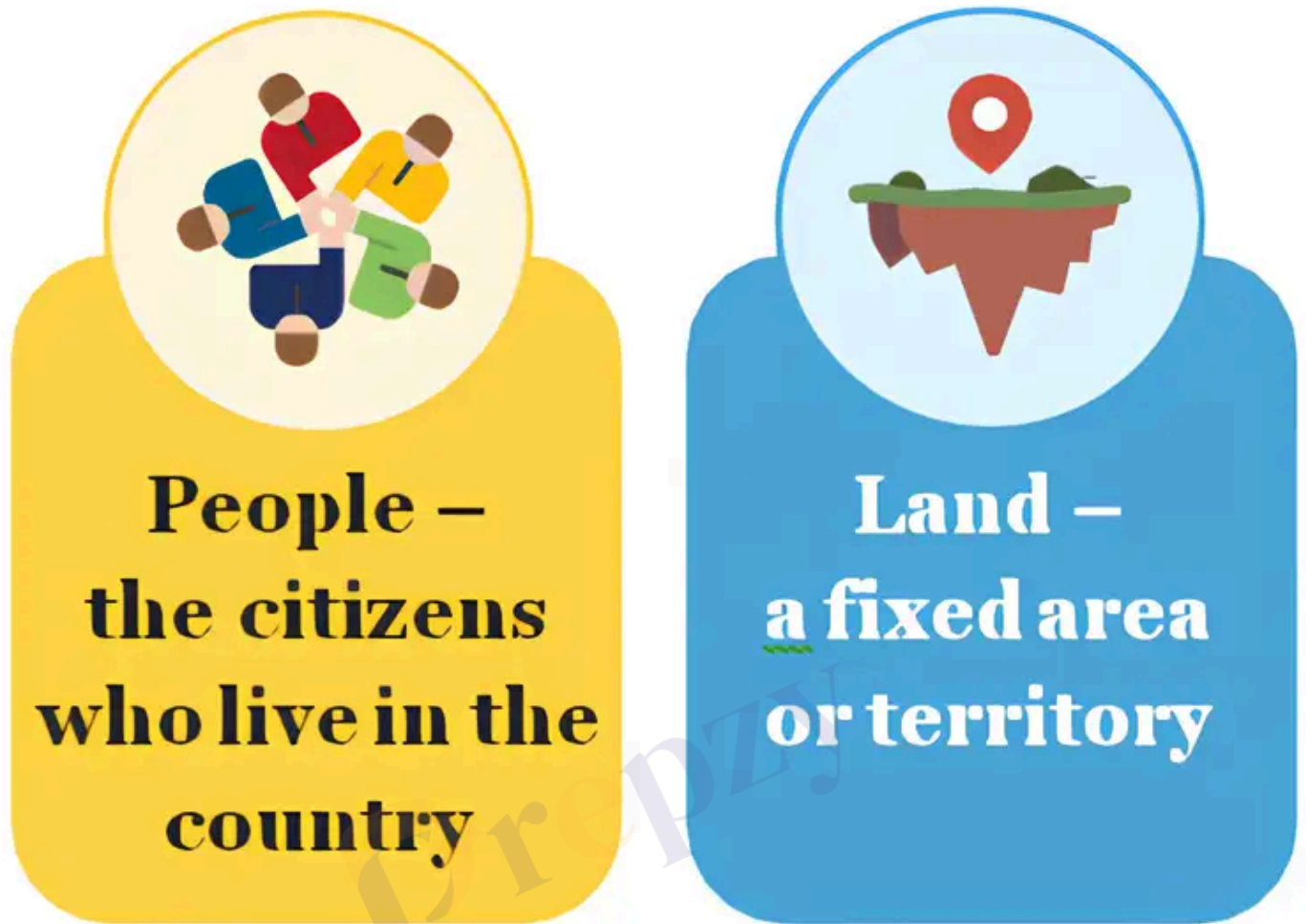


Fig. 6.3. The four i

Though the words 'state' and 'government' are often used interchangeably, they are different. The state is a larger concept including the population, but the state remains the same.

Roshini didi, today we had a class on I am a bit confused. Since you are st why it is important to have a perman state not be a place where people can



First, without people, meaning a popu go visit and then move on then they are not anything that is common and should identify with a place or a territory, a population. Such a group of people — culture and society, which also identif

place where they live.

What exactly is a geographically defined territory?



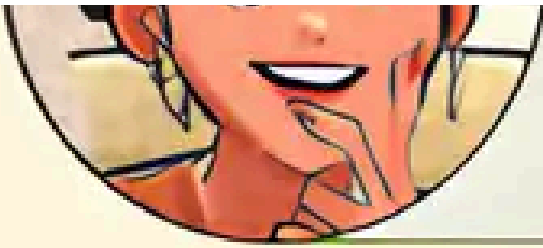
It is a geographically defined territory that has boundaries. Boundaries are necessary features that are the result of that set of states.



What does sovereignty mean and why is it important for a state?



Sovereignty means that a state is able to manage its own affairs and is able to meet its own needs. No other state can interfere with its internal or external affairs.



internal affairs of the
feature of a state.

What is a Government?

The government is a group of people or a system that runs the country. It includes leaders, ministers, and officials who:

- Make laws
- Enforce laws
- Resolve disputes

The government acts on behalf of the state and is the face of the state that people interact with daily. It runs the daily work of the state and i

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Fig. 6.5. A *Parliam*

The Parliament of India is where lawmakers meet to make and pass laws. It has two houses: the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

People, Police, and the Government

The police maintain law and order within each state and are part of the state government. They work with courts and prisons and contribute

The Constitution,
laws and courts
protect people's
rights and ensure
justice

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Fig. 6.6. A simplified diagram illustrating

people, police and diffe

Branches of Government

Governance is divided into three branches to maintain balance and fairness:

- **Legislature:** Makes laws.
- **Executive:** Enforces laws and runs day-to-day government.
- **Judiciary:** Interprets laws and ensures justice.

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Difference Between Democracy and Republic

A **democracy** means rule by the people, where citizens have the power to choose their government through free and fair elections.

A **republic** is a form of government where the head of state is elected (directly or indirectly) and not hereditary. The powers of rulers are limited.

India is both a democracy and a republic because its head of state, the president, is elected and the government is accountable to the people.

India, a Republic that Protects the Rights of All

India's constitution guarantees fundamental rights to all citizens and limits the power of the government to protect these rights. This prevent

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and to secure to all
JUSTICE, social
LIBERTY of the
workday

EQUALITY of
and to promote
FRATERNITY
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IN OUR CONST
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CONSTITUTION

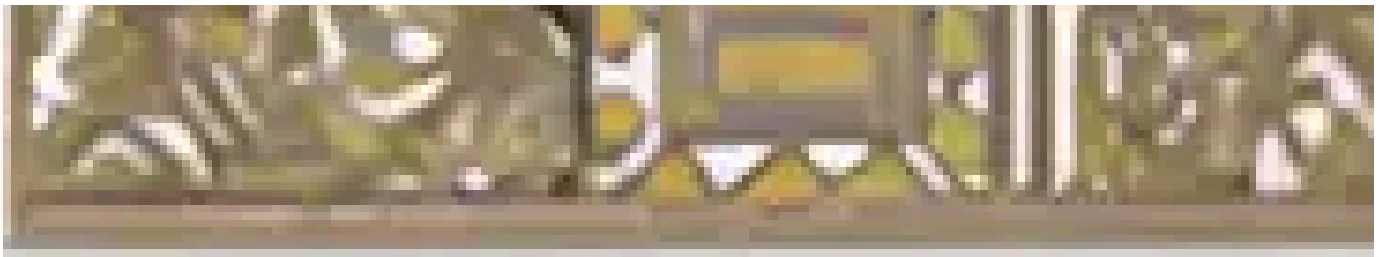


Fig. 6.7.

the Co

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The Preamble to the Constitution declares India to be a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic and promises justice, liberty, equa

Dominance of the Majority

This is a situation where the interests of the majority are pursued at the expense of minority rights. The Constitution protects against this by e



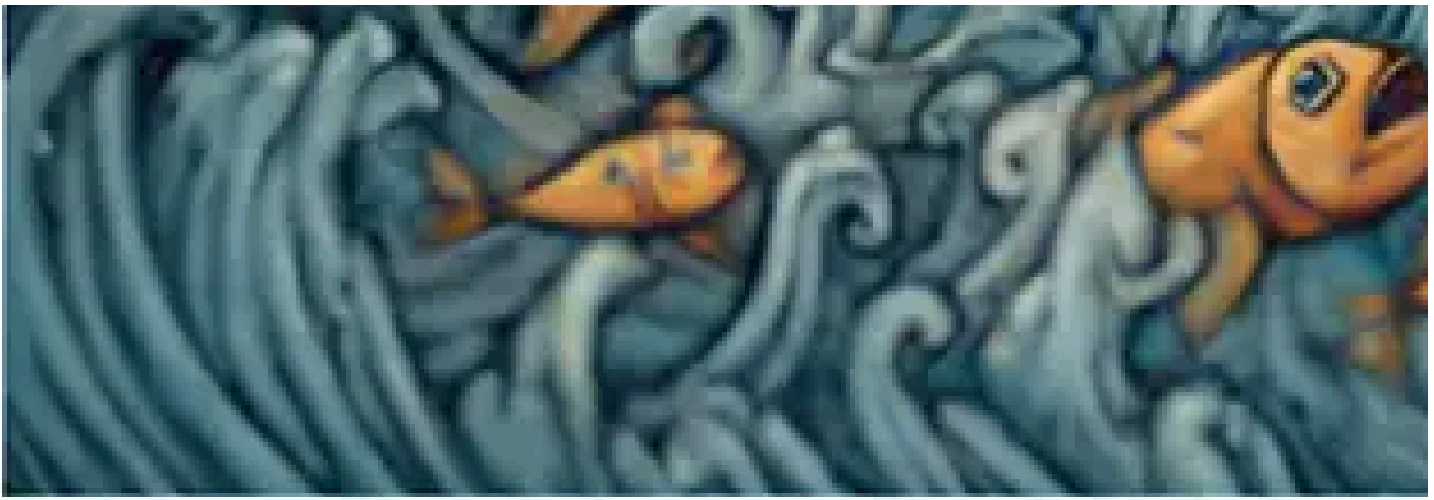


Fig. 6.9. 'Matsya nya and order, the big fis

The concept of *Matsya Nyaya* warns that without law and order, the powerful (big fish) will dominate and harm the weak (small fish), highlig

Legislature: The Lawmaking Body

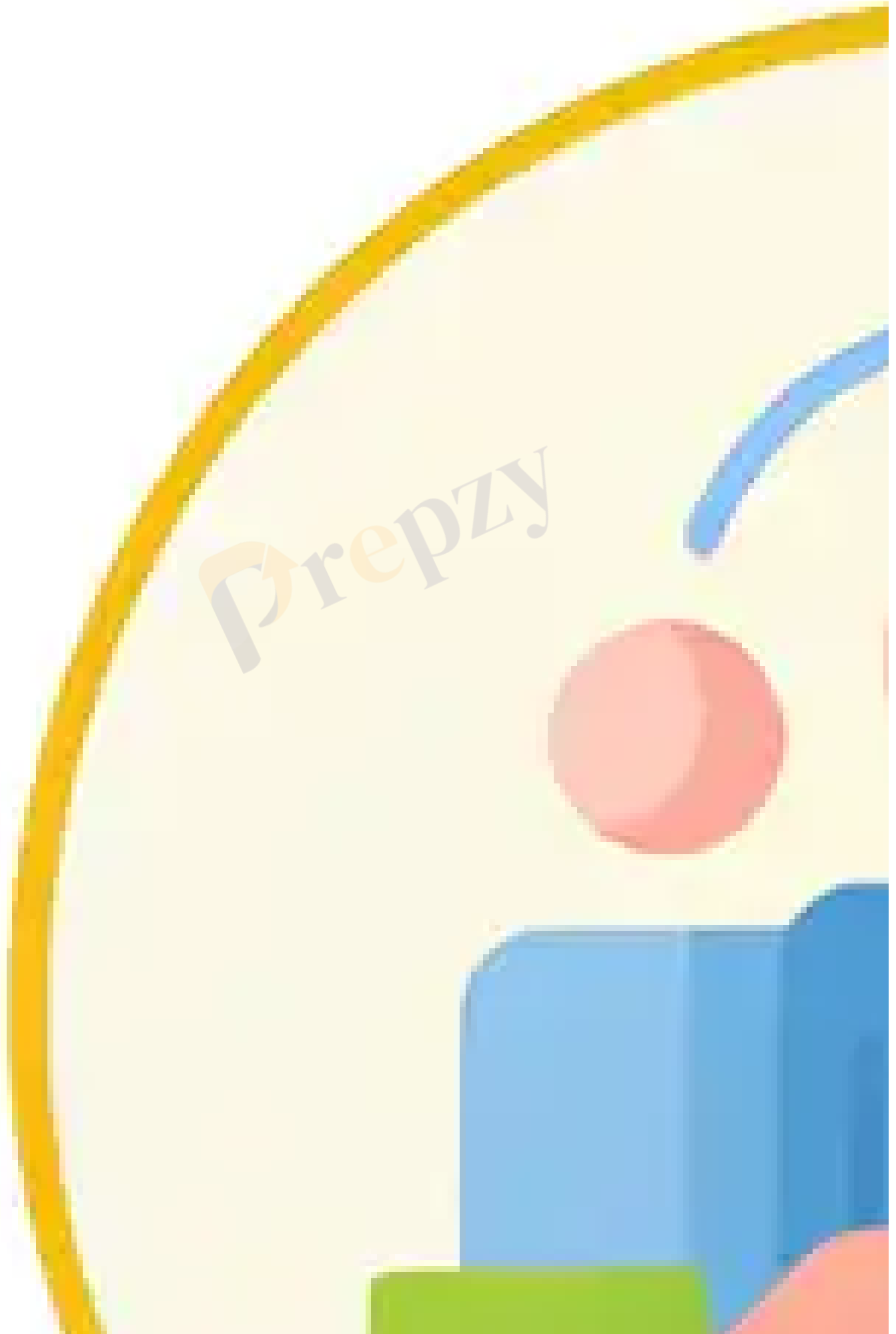
The legislature makes laws for the country and represents the people. States have their own legislatures to make laws for the state.

Executive: The Law-Implementing and Policymaking Body

The executive implements laws made by the legislature and makes policy decisions. It has two parts:

- **Political executive:** Elected leaders like the prime minister and ministers who make decisions and represent the country.
- **Permanent executive:** Bureaucrats or civil servants who are appointed and implement policies regardless of which party is in power.

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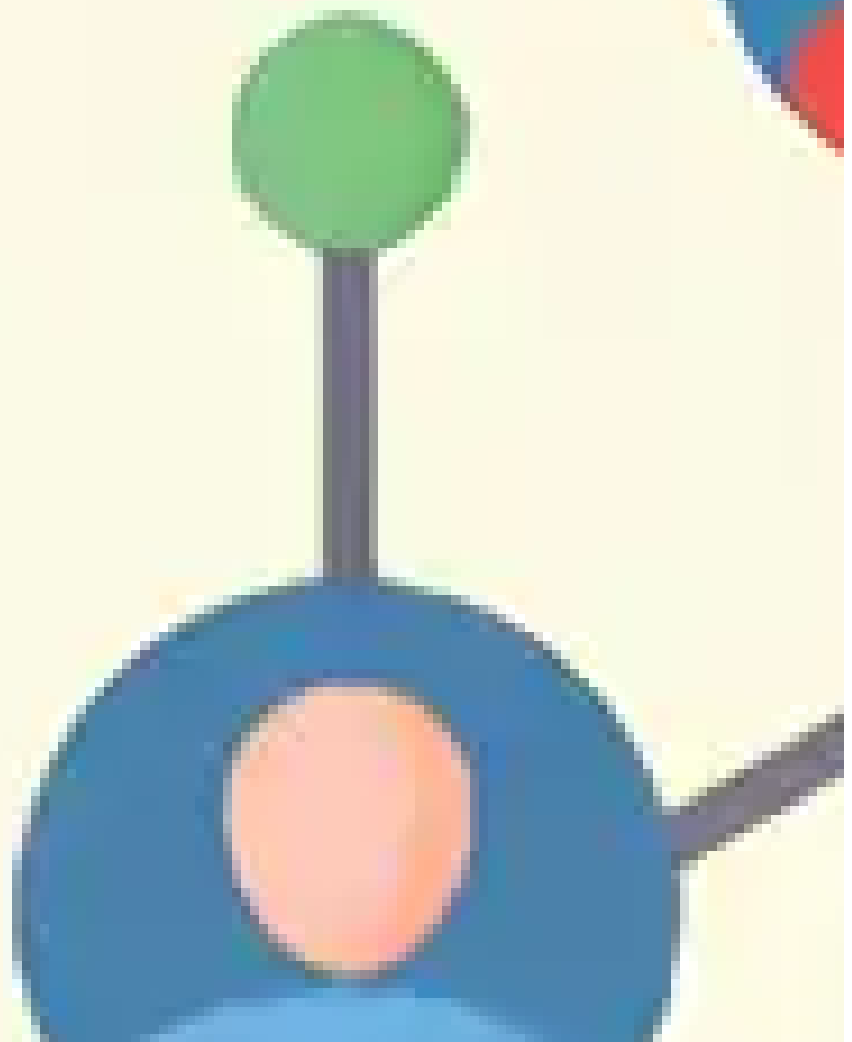




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Bureaucrats implement laws and schemes, connect citizens with the government, and keep records of government work.

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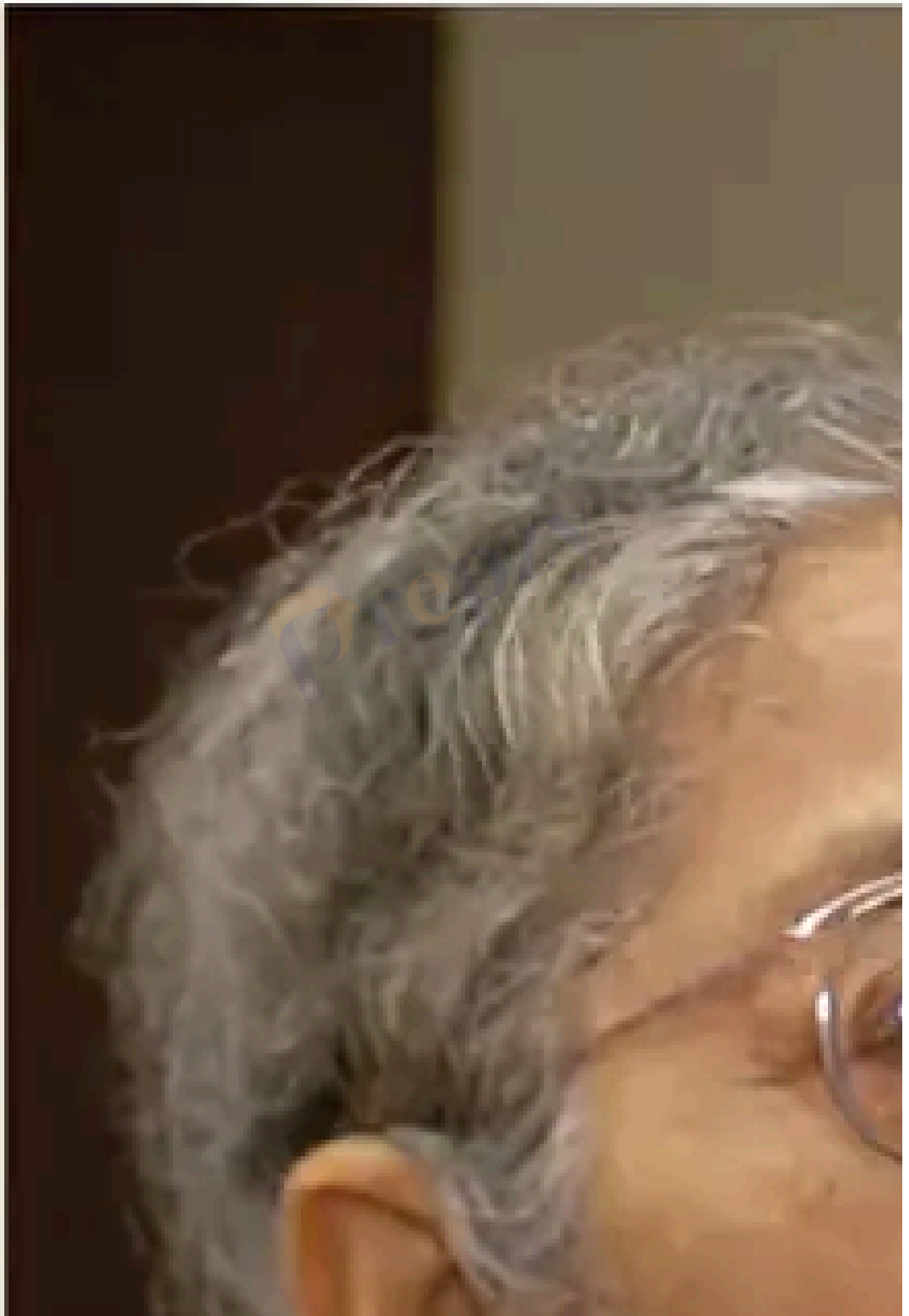




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The bureaucracy is hierarchical and works at various levels including district and block. Examples include the Indian Administrative Service (

Chonira Belliappa Muthamma was the first woman to join the Indian Foreign Service and fought against gender discrimination in public serv



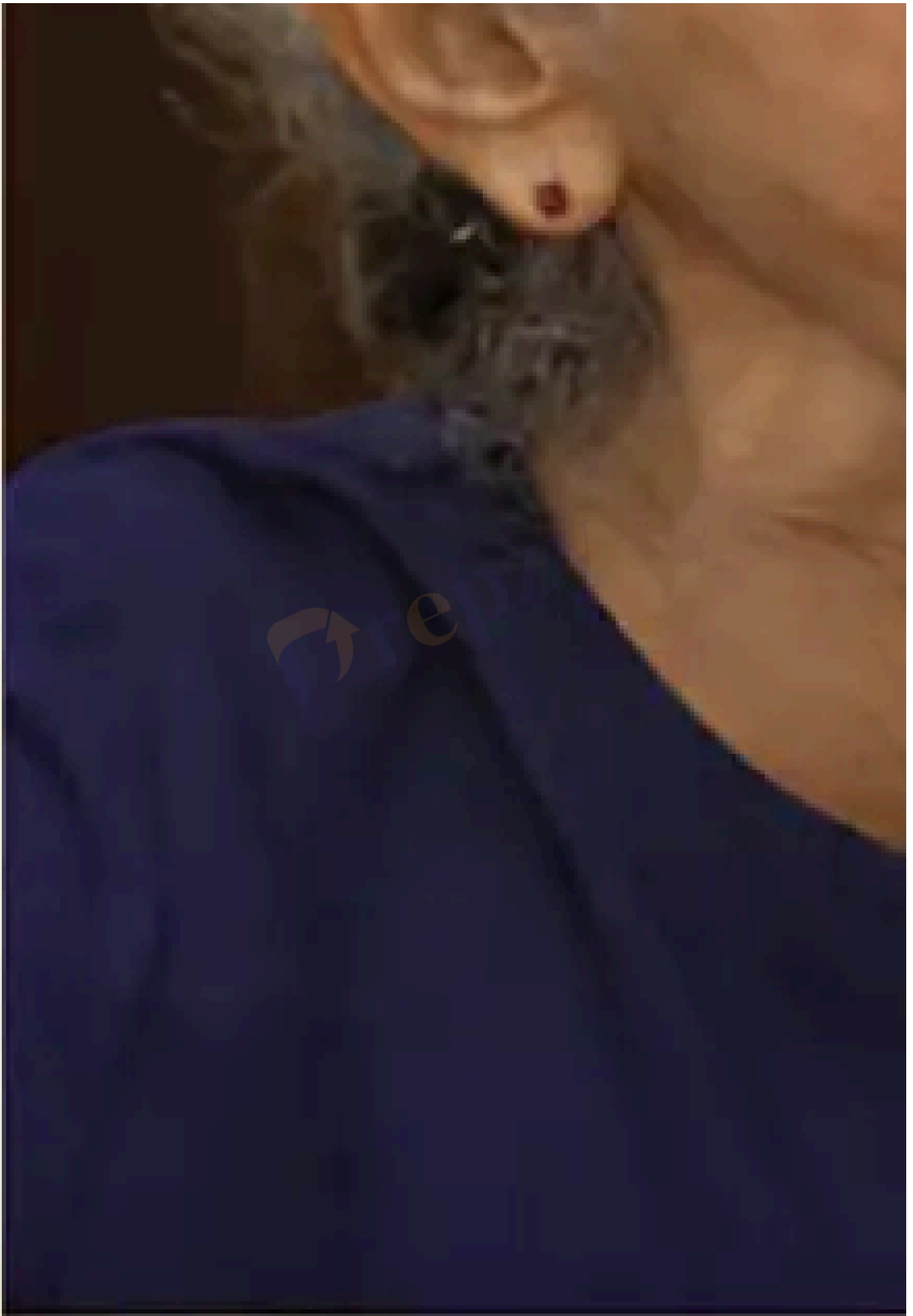


Fig. 6.1

Belliappa

Judiciary: The Watchdog

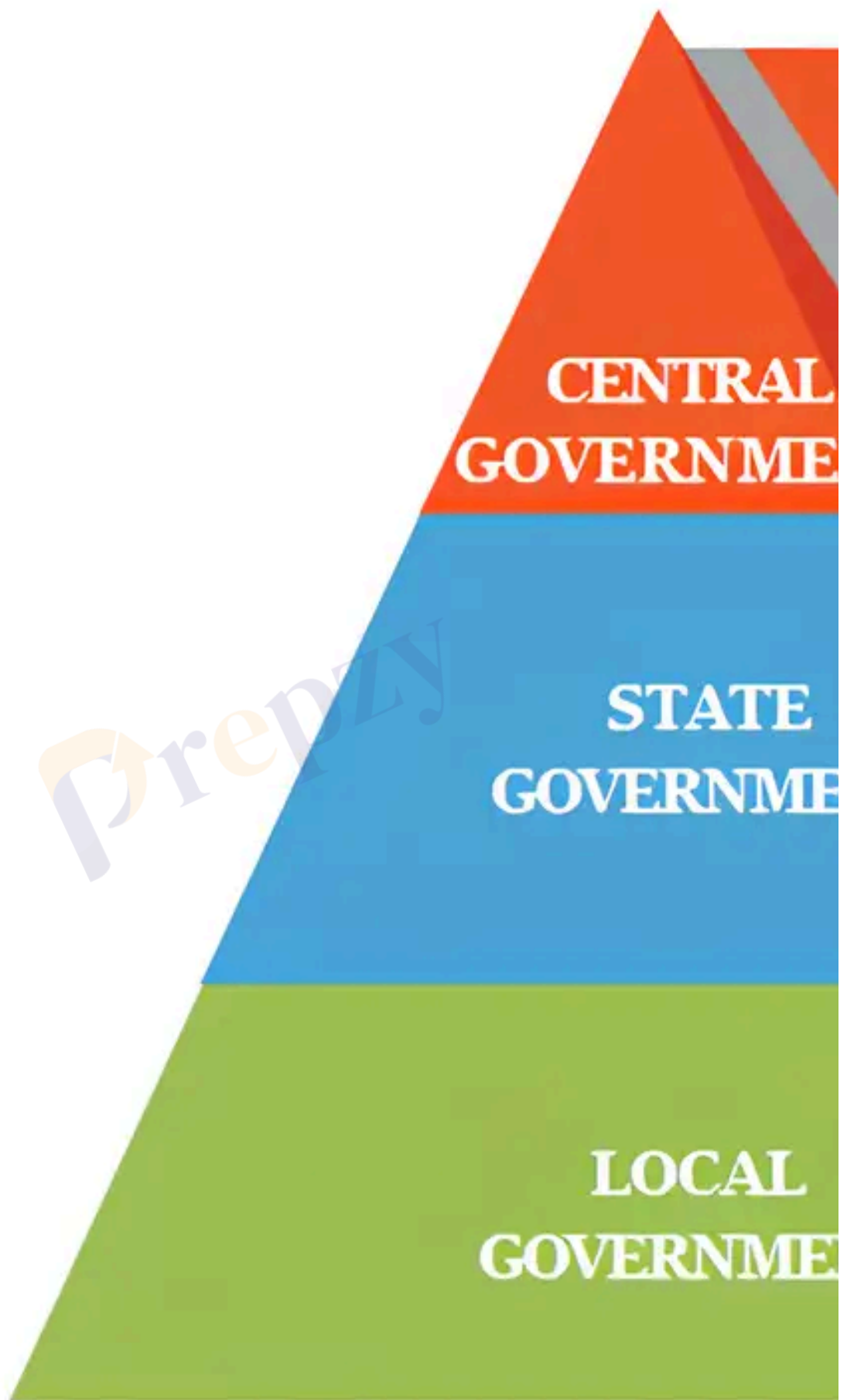
The judiciary ensures laws are followed, settles disputes, protects rights, and checks the fairness of laws. It is independent from the government.

The judiciary protects the rule of law, ensuring everyone, including the government, follows the law.

Three Levels of Government in India

India has three levels of government to manage its vast and diverse population:

- **Central (Union) government:** Handles national matters like defence and foreign affairs.
- **State governments:** Manage state issues like police, health, and agriculture.
- **Local governments:** Work in villages, towns, and cities to solve local problems like water supply and street lighting.



Why is decentralisation better?

More democratic:
People get a chance to be more involved in decisions that affect their daily lives.

Better knowledge:
Local leaders know the area and the needs of the people better than distant officials.

Local discussions:
Local issues (like water supply, roads, or schools) can be discussed and solved by people who face them every day.

Working of the Three Levels of the School Education System

Each level of government plays a role in education:

- **Legislature:** Makes laws like the Right to Education Act and approves budgets.
- **Executive:** Implements laws and policies through elected leaders and permanent officials.
- **Judiciary:** Protects children's rights and ensures laws are followed.

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**Legislative
(lawmaking)**

Parliament
for the whole
country and
State Legislature
for each state

* Make laws for
schools eg. Right
to Education
Act ** Approve
budgets

**Executive
implement**

**Political
Executive**
elected members
ministers at
and state level

**Permanent
Executive**
non-elected
bureaucrats
officers like
District and
Education Officers

How Citizens Can Engage with the Government

Citizens can make the government work for them by:

- Filing grievances through government offices or online portals like the Public Grievances Portal.
- Using the Right to Information Act to request information about government actions.
- Using media and social media to raise issues and communicate with officials.
- Joining or forming civil society organisations to advocate for change.
- Writing to political representatives.
- Voting in elections to choose responsible leaders.

Eg. all schools
must have
separate
toilets for boys
and girls

Eg. ensure
are followe
schools h
separate to
for girls and
boys, imp
teacher tra

* NCPCR = National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

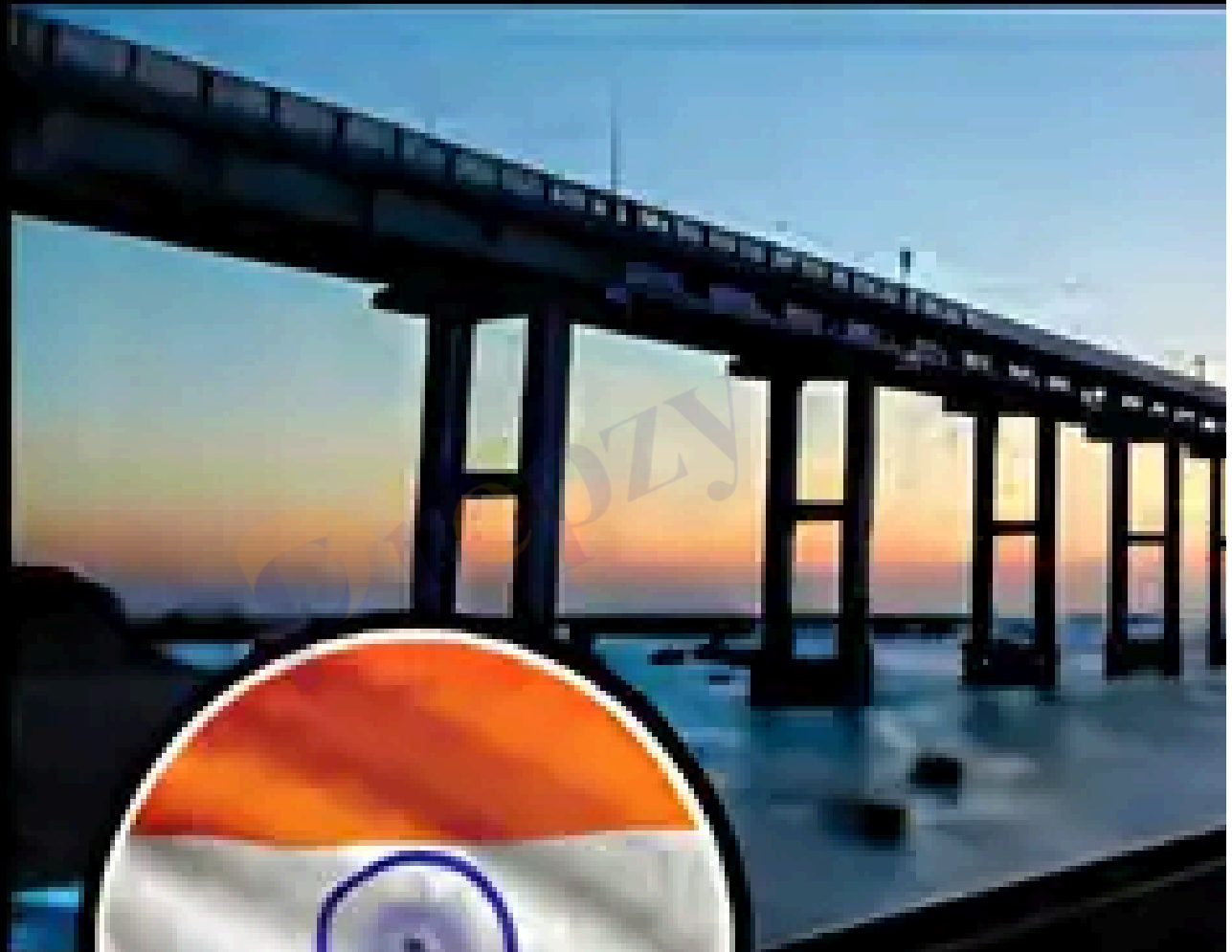
** SCPCR = State Commission for Protection of Child Rights

Fig. 6.19. A simplified diagram showing how citizens can engage with the government.



RailwaySeva 

4.21K posts



RailwaySeva 

@RailwaySeva

An Official Twitter Account for support

Joined December 17, 2017

132 Following 859.2K Followers

Such individuals are responsible for the following

Fig. 6.15. The reach out to @Ra

Example: The Silent Valley Movement successfully stopped a hydroelectric project to protect biodiversity, showing the power of citizen action

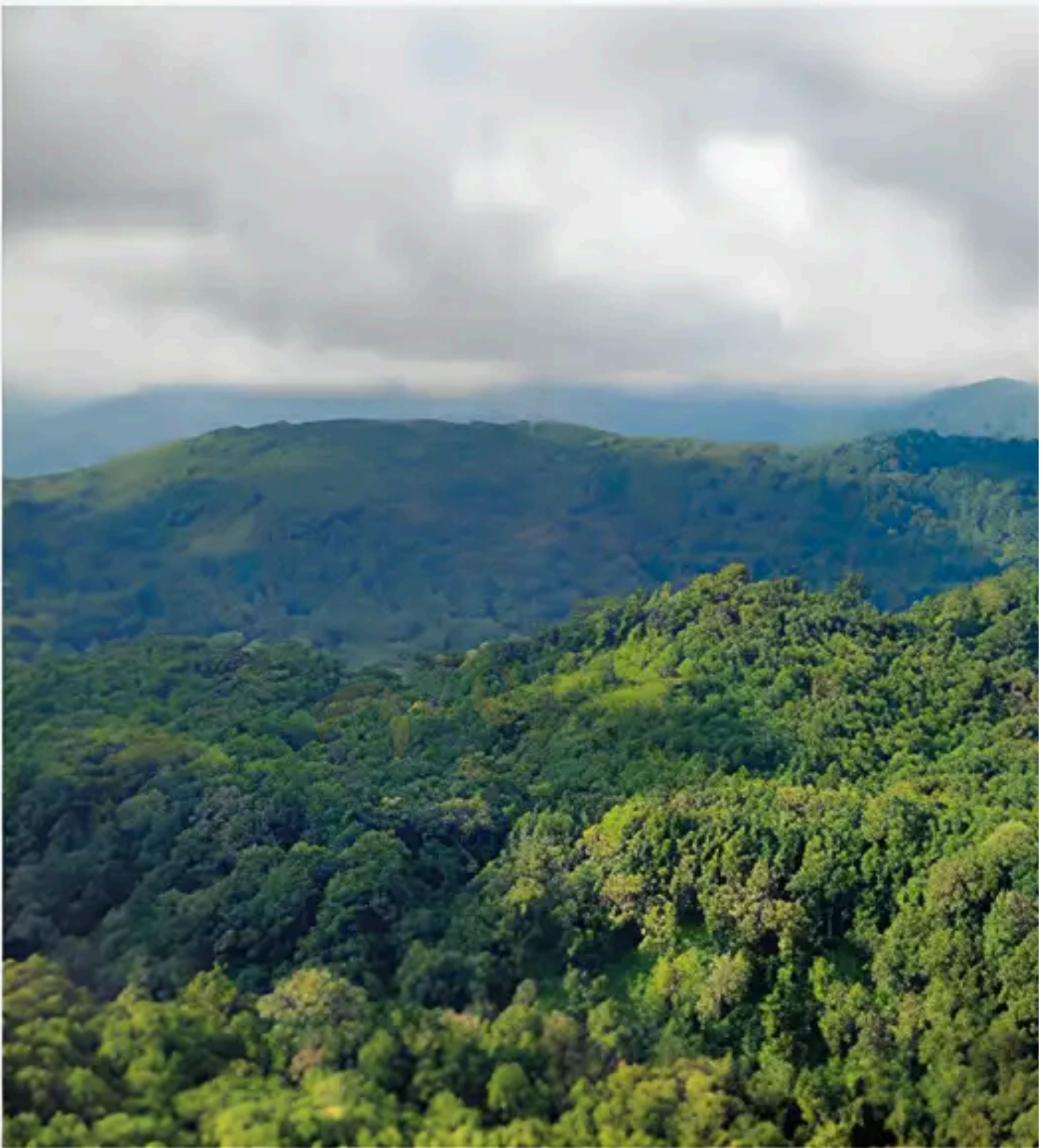


Fig. 6.16. The Silent Valley National Park, India, showing the result of the Silent Valley National Park Movement's success in protecting the forest.

Summary

- The state includes citizens, territory, government, and sovereignty.

- A republic elects its head of state and limits power through a constitution.
- The three pillars of government are legislature, executive, and judiciary.
- India has three levels of government: union, state, and local.
- The Constitution ensures checks and balances and cooperation among government organs and levels.
- The media and civil society play important roles in democracy.
- The permanent executive (bureaucracy) implements laws and policies.

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