

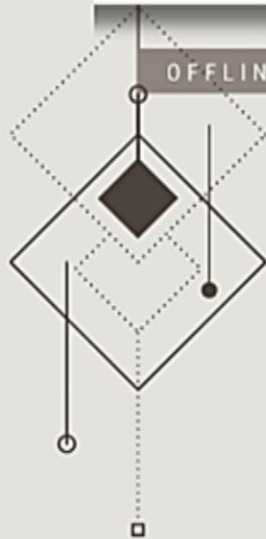


POLITICAL
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FEDERALISM

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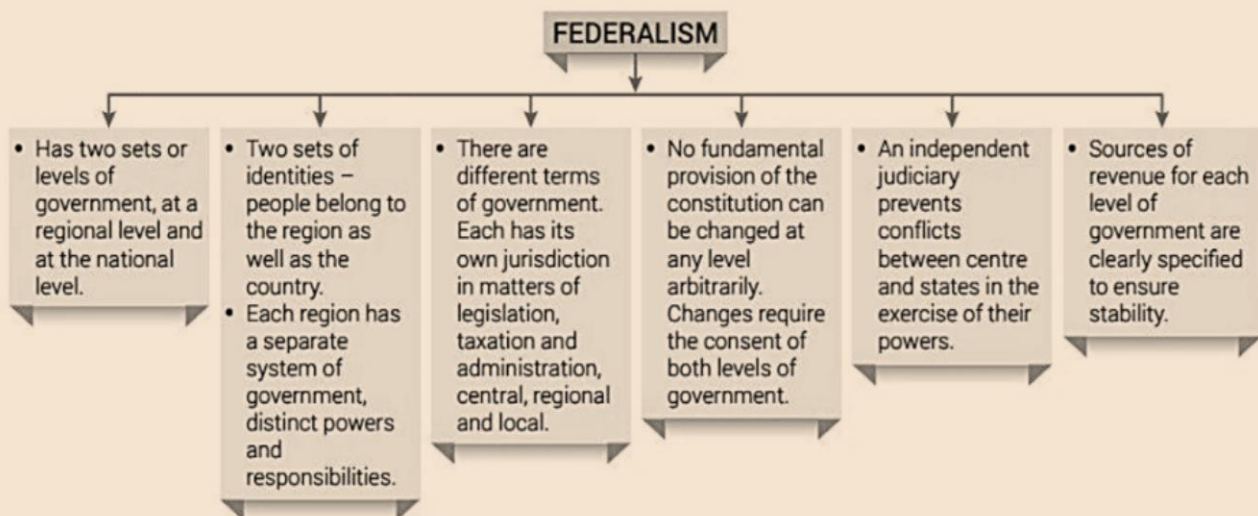
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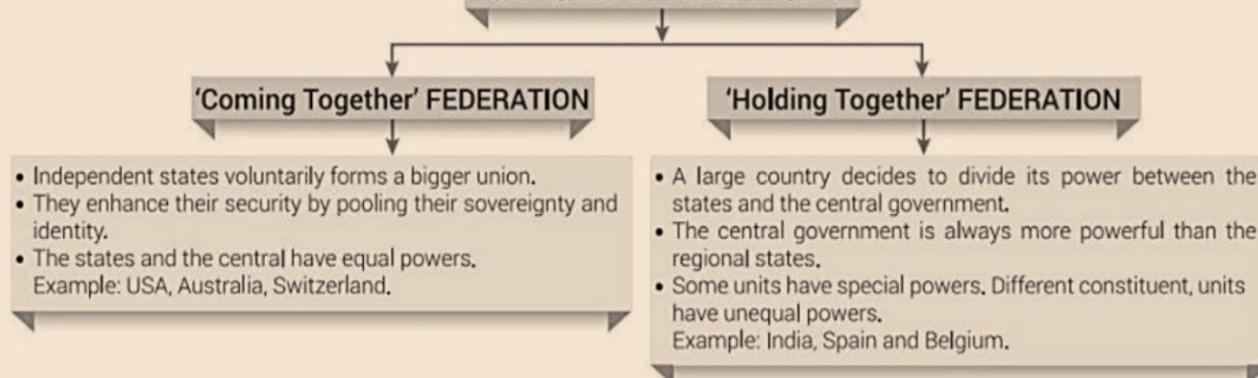
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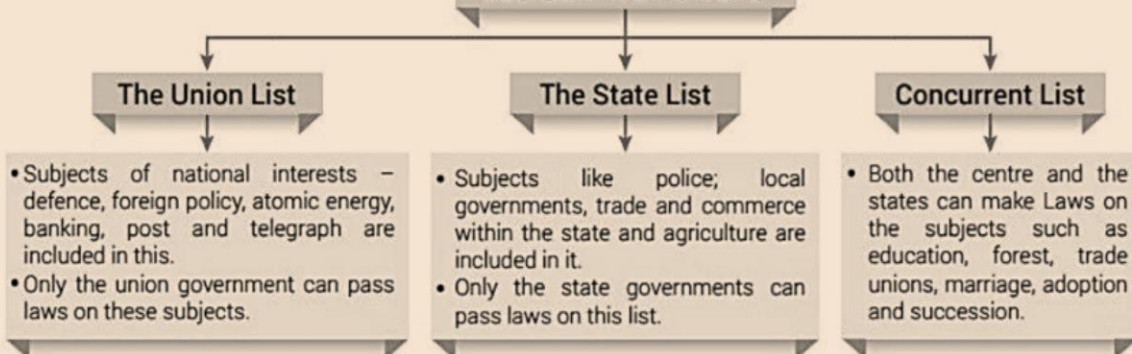
BASIC CONCEPTS – A FLOW CHART



TWO KINDS OF FEDERATIONS



LEGISLATIVE POWERS



DECENTRALISATION IN INDIA

Union Government

State Government

Local Government

REASONS FOR DECENTRALISATION

- In a big country like India, it is essential to have an elected government at the local level also.
- Local people have better knowledge of local problems.
- Local people have better ideas of where to spend money and how to manage things more effectively.
- Common citizens can be involved in decision-making process, concerning their needs and how to plan development.
- People can approach a local government for solving their problems easily and quickly. The cost is also reduced to the minimum.
- Local governments at grassroot level ensures stability, strength and health of democracy.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Rural

Urban

- Zilla Parishad (Cover the entire district).
- Gram Samitis (Intermediary or middle level).
- Gram Panchayats (Village or groups of villages).

- Municipal Corporations (Large Urban Areas).
- Municipal Councils (smaller urban areas).

IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES

• Mandatory to hold regular elections to the local government bodies.

• Reservations of seats for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes.

• 1/3 of positions reserved for women.

• A state finance commission examines the financial position.

• A State Election Commission has been created in each state to conduct Panchayat and municipal elections.

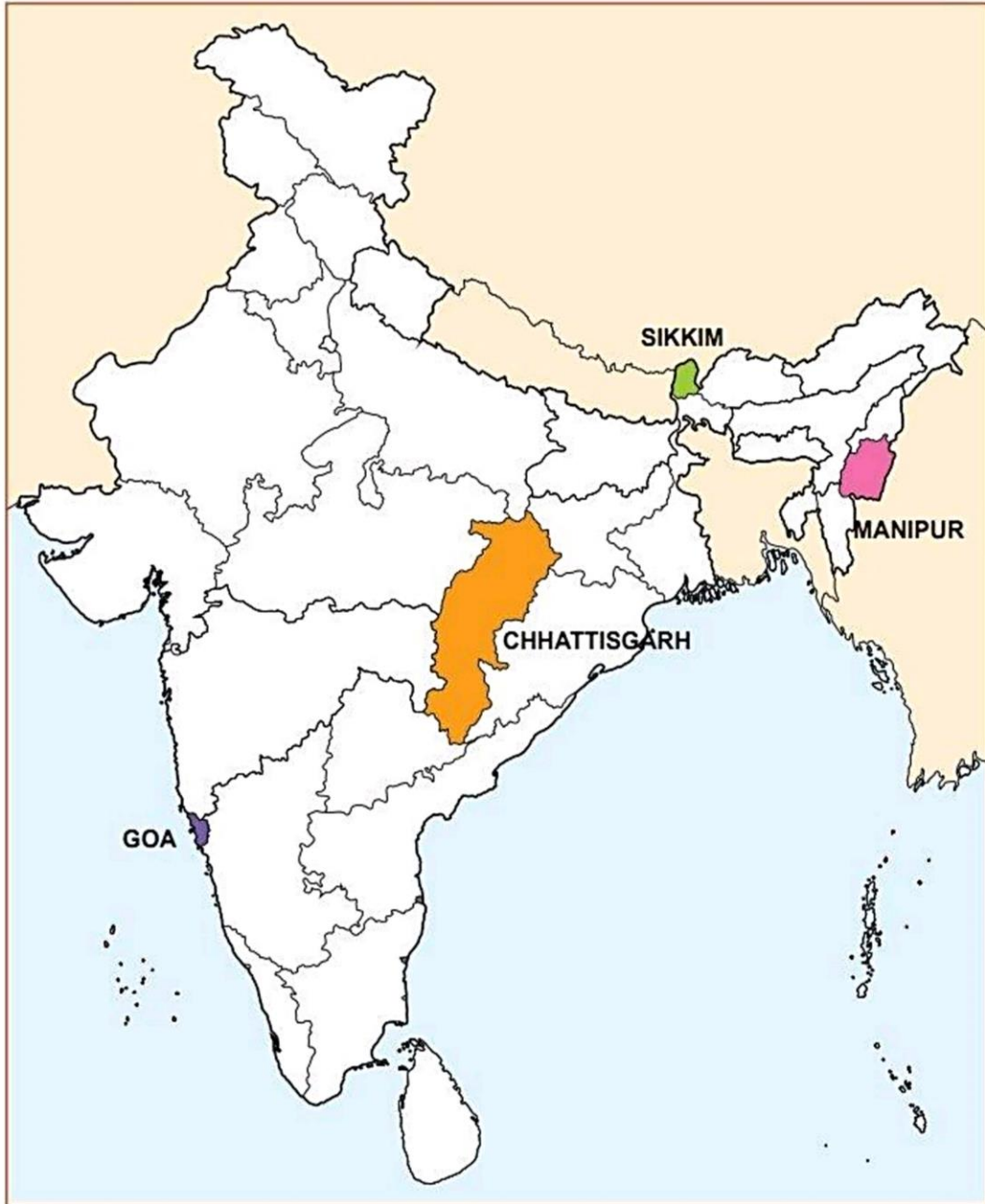
IMPORTANT TERMS

1. **Jurisdiction:** The official power to make legal decisions and judgements.
2. **Federal:** having or relating to a system of government in which several states form a unity but remain independent in internal affairs.
3. **Federalism:** The federal principle or system of government.
4. **State Government** or provincial government is the government of a country subdivision in a federal form of government, which shares political power with the federal or national government.
5. **Central Government:** The central government is the political authority that governs an entire nation.
6. **Coming together Federation:** It involves independent states **coming together on** their own to form a bigger unit so that by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity, they can increase their security.
7. **Holding together Federation** is a type of **federation**, where a large country decides to divide its power between the centre and its constituent parts such as states or provinces.
8. **Constitution:** A body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organisation is acknowledged to be governed.
9. **Three List:** The constitution clearly provides a three fold distribution of legislative powers between Union Government and the State government. Thus, it contains three lists –
 - **Union List:** In this list subjects of national importance are included, such as defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, communications, and currency.
 - **State List:** It includes subjects of state and local importance such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation.
 - **Concurrent List:** It includes subjects of common interest to both the Union and state governments such as education, forest, trade unions, marriages, adoption and succession.
10. **Supreme Court:** It's the highest judicial court in a country or a state.
11. **High Court:** It's the second highest judicial court in India.
12. **Union Territory** is a type of administrative division in the Republic of India. Unlike the states, which have their own elected governments, union territories are ruled directly by the Union Government (Central Government), hence the name 'union territory'.
13. **Linguistic:** Relating to language or study of language.
14. **Coalition Government** is a cabinet of a parliamentary **government**, in which several political parties cooperate, reducing the dominance of any one party within that coalition.
15. **Decentralisation:** When power is taken away from Central and State governments and given to local government.
16. **Panchayat:** A village council
17. **Municipal Council** is the local government of a **municipality**.

NCERT Textbook Questions

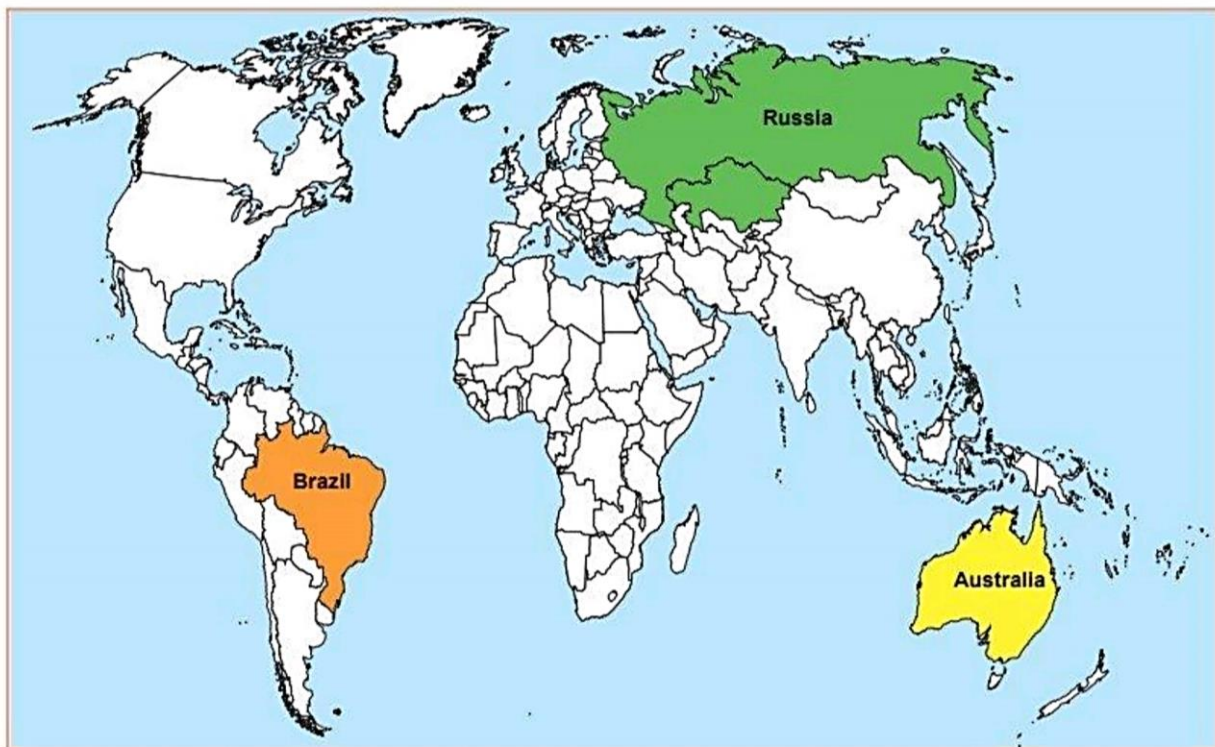
Q. 1. Locate the following States on a blank outline map of India:
Manipur, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh and Goa.

Ans.



Q. 2. Identify and shade three federal countries (other than India) on a blank outline map of the world.

Ans.



Q. 3. Point out one feature in the practice of federalism in India that is similar to and one feature that is different from that of Belgium.

Ans. One feature which is similar is that both countries practise 'holding together' federation model where the power is divided between the constituent States and the national government. One feature which is different is that in India, the National government holds more power as compared to the constituent States while in Belgium the state governments are not subordinate to the Central Government.

Q. 4. What is the main difference between a federal form of a government and a unitary one? Explain with an example.

Ans. Federal government is a type of national government in which government has powers to delegate the power to other elected members of the states and will have other tiers of government. Unitary government is a kind of government system in which a single power controls the whole government and will have only one tier of government. In India, there is a system of Central list, State list and Concurrent list which divides power among the Centre and State while in UK, the Royal government is the sole power.

Q. 5. State any two differences between the local government before and after the constitutional amendment in 1992.

Ans. The constitutional amendment of 1992 paved the way for further decentralisation in India by giving more power to the third tier of government, panchayats and municipalities. The two differences that occurred were:

- (i) Elections were not held regularly but after the amendment, State Election Commission was created to hold the elections regularly.
- (ii) Marginalised communities had no provision for power sharing but after the amendment, women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled tribes and other backward classes were given reserved seats in elected bodies.

Q. 6. Fill in the blanks:

Since the United States is a coming together type of federation, all the constituent States have equal powers and States are strong vis-a-vis the federal government. But India is a holding together type of federation and some States have more power than others. In India, the Union/Central government has more powers.

Q. 7. Here are three reactions to the language policy followed in India. Give an argument and an example to support any of these positions.

Sangeeta: The policy of accommodation has strengthened national unity.

Arman: Language-based States have divided us by making everyone conscious of their language.

Harish: This policy has only helped to consolidate the dominance of English over all other languages.

Ans. The statement by Sangeeta is correct. The policy of accommodation has strengthened national unity. By accommodating major languages as national languages, safeguarded sentiments and protected economic and social interests of the speakers. If like Sri Lanka, India would have imposed Hindi as the sole national language, it would have alienated other languages and their speakers thereby leading to divisions within the society.

Q. 8. The distinguishing feature of a federal government is:

- (a) National government gives some powers to the provincial governments.
- (b) Power is distributed among the legislature, executive and judiciary.
- (c) Elected officials exercise supreme power in the government.
- (d) Governmental power is divided between different levels of government.

Ans. (d) Governmental power is divided between different levels of government.

Q. 9. A few subjects in various Lists of the Indian Constitution are given here. Group them under the Union, State and Concurrent Lists as provided in the table below.

- A. Defence B. Police C. Agriculture D. Education E. Banking
 F. Forests G. Communications H. Trade I. Marriages

Ans.

Union List	A, E and G
State List	B, C and H
Concurrent List	D, F and I

Q. 10. Examine the following pairs that give the level of government in India and the powers of the government at that level to make laws on the subjects mentioned against each. Which of the following pairs is not correctly matched?

(a) State government	State List
(b) Central government	Union List
(c) Central and State governments	Concurrent List
(d) Local governments	Residuary powers

Ans. (d)

Q. 11. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:

List I	List II
1. Union of India	A. Prime Minister
2. State	B. Sarpanch
3. Municipal Corporation	C. Governor
4. Gram Panchayat	D. Mayor

	1	2	3	4
(a)	D	A	B	C
(b)	B	C	D	A
(c)	A	C	D	B
(d)	C	D	A	B

Ans. (c) ACDB

Q. 12. Consider the following statements.

- In a federation, the powers of the federal and provincial governments are clearly demarcated.
- India is a federation because the powers of the Union and State Governments are specified in the Constitution and they have exclusive jurisdiction on their respective subjects.
- Sri Lanka is a federation because the country is divided into provinces.
- India is no longer a federation because some powers of the states have been devolved to the local government bodies.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) A, B and C (b) A, C and D (c) A and B only (d) B and C only

Ans. (c) A and B only

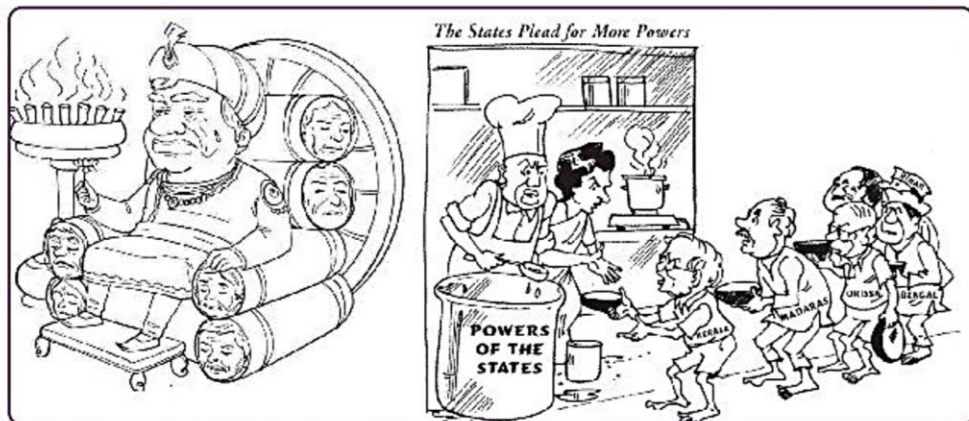
Multiple Choice Questions

Choose and write the correct option.

- Belgium shifted from a unitary form of government to:
 - democratic
 - federal
 - authoritarian
 - none of these
- In federalism, power is divided between various constituent units and:
 - central authority
 - states
 - both (a) and (b)
 - none of these
- In federal system, central government cannot order the:
 - principal
 - local government
 - state government
 - none of these
- State government has powers of its own for which it is not answerable to the:
 - central government
 - executive
 - both (a) and (b)
 - none of these
- Power to interpret the constitution is with the:
 - courts
 - central government
 - state government
 - none of these
- The coming together federation is:
 - India
 - Spain
 - USA
 - Australia
- Who can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the Union list?
 - Local government
 - State government
 - Union government
 - State and Union
- The municipal corporation officers are called:
 - Mayors
 - MLAs
 - Sarpanchs
 - none of these
- Federations have been formed with the two kinds of:
 - states
 - routes
 - people
 - none of these
- When power is taken away from Central and State governments and given to local government, it is called:
 - Centralisation
 - Decentralisation
 - Panchayat samiti
 - None of these

11. Given are three reactions to the language policy followed in India. Which of the following holds true in the case of India?
- The policy of accommodation has strengthened national unity.
 - Language based states have divided us by making everyone conscious of their language.
 - The language policy has only helped to consolidate the dominance of English over other languages.
 - All the above
12. If there is a clash between the laws made by the state and the centre on a subject in the concurrent list:
- the central law prevails.
 - the state law prevails.
 - the supreme court has to intervene to decide.
 - both the laws prevail in their respective jurisdiction.
13. Which of the following subjects are included in the 'State list'?
- Police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation
 - Education, forests, trade unions, marriages, adoption and succession
 - Defense, foreign affairs, banking, currency and communications
 - Residuary subjects like computers
14. Consider the following statements on the practice of federalism in India. Identify those which hold true for decentralisation after 1992.
- Local governments did not have any power to resources of their own.
 - It became constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
 - The state governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies.
 - No seats are reserved in the elected bodies for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes.
- (a) B and C (b) A and C (c) A and D (d) B and D
15. An independent institution to conduct panchayat and municipal elections, in each state is called;
- State Election Commission
 - Central Election Commission
 - Local Election Commission
 - None of these
16. Which of the following is an example of 'holding together' federations?
- India
 - USA
 - Switzerland
 - None of these
17. Besides Hindi, there are _____ other languages recognised as scheduled languages by the constitution.
- 21
 - 24
 - 12
 - 31
18. In a federal system, the central government:
- can order the state government to take relevant action.
 - cannot order the state governments to take relevant action.
 - can order the state to take relevant action on certain occasions.
 - none of these
19. Gram Panchayats are grouped together to form:
- Gram Sabha
 - Panchayat Samiti
 - Zila Parishad
 - None of these
20. Which of the following BEST describes decentralisation in India?
- sharing of equal powers among the three levels of the government
 - dissolution of the powers of the state governments to strengthen the centre
 - taking some powers from the centre and the state and giving them to the local government
 - dissolution of powers of the Centre and strengthening of the state and the local governments

21.



Which one of the following options best signifies this cartoon?

- It shows relationship between the centre and states.
- It shows leaders begging for positions.
- It shows leaders getting rich.
- None of these

22. Match the following items given in Column A with those in Column B.

Column A

- Information Technology
- Police
- Education
- Defence

Column B

- Concurrent List
- Union List
- State List
- Residuary Subjects

Choose the correct answer from the option given below: [CBSE Sample Paper 2022 Term 1]

- I-4, II-3, III-1, IV-2
- I-3, II-4, III-1, IV-2
- I-4, II-1, III-3, IV-2
- I-4, II-2, III-1, IV-3

23. Which of the following options prove that India is a quasi-federal state?

- More powers with Centre
- Residuary subjects with Centre
- Equal subjects with Centre and State
- Currency and Railways with Centre

Options:

[CBSE Sample Paper 2022 Term 1]

- I, III & IV
- I, II & IV
- II, III & IV
- II, III & IV

24. Identify the correct statement/s about the theory of Federalism in the Indian Constitution.

- The Constitution declared India as a Union of States.
- Sharing of power between the Union Government and the State governments is basic to the structure of the Constitution.
- It is easy to make changes to this power sharing arrangement.
- The Parliament can on its own change this arrangement.

Options:

[CBSE Sample Paper 2022 Term 1]

- I & II
- II & III
- I & III
- II & IV

25. Match Column I with Column II and choose the correct option:

[CBSE 2022 (31/1/4)]

Column I

- Union List
 - State List
 - Concurrent List
 - Subsidiary Matters
- I-D, II-C, III-B, IV-A
 - I-D, II-C, III-B, IV-A

Column II

- Computer-related matter
 - Forest
 - Police
 - Defence
- I-A, II-B, III-C, IV-D
 - I-B, II-A, III-C, IV-D

26. Which of the following countries is an example of 'coming together' federation?

[CBSE 2022 (31/1/4)]

(a) United States of America

(b) India

(c) Spain

(d) Belgium

ANSWERS

- | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (a) | 3. (c) | 4. (a) | 5. (a) | 6. (c) | 7. (c) | 8. (a) |
| 9. (a) | 10. (b) | 11. (a) | 12. (b) | 13. (a) | 14. (a) | 15. (a) | 16. (a) |
| 17. (a) | 18. (b) | 19. (b) | 20. (c) | 21. (a) | 22. (a) | 23. (c) | 24. (a) |
| 25. (a) | 26. (a) | | | | | | |

Correct and Rewrite

Correct the following statements and rewrite them.

- Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent governments of the country.
- Where a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent States and the national government is known as coming together federation.
- State List includes subjects of national importance such as defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, communications and currency.
- In 1940, the boundaries of several old States of India were changed in order to create new States.

ANSWERS

- Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country.
- Where a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent States and the national government is known as holding together federations.
- Union List includes subjects of national importance such as defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, communications and currency.
- In 1947, the boundaries of several old States of India were changed in order to create new States.

Assertion-Reason Questions

The following questions consist of two statements — Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer these questions selecting the appropriate option given below:

- Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- A is correct but R is wrong.
- A is wrong but R is correct.

1. Assertion(A) : Our Constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language.

Reason (R) : Restructuring the Centre-State relations is one more way in which federalism has been strengthened in practice.

2. Assertion(A) : A major step towards decentralisation was taken in 1992.

Reason (R) : The Constitution was amended to make the third-tier of democracy more powerful and effective.

3. Assertion(A) : The local government structure goes right up to the state level.

Reason (R) : A few gram panchayats are grouped together to form what is usually called a panchayat samiti or block or mandal.

4. **Assertion(A)** : Rural local government is popularly known by the name panchayati raj.
Reason (R) : Zilla parishad chairperson is the political head of the zilla parishad.
5. **Assertion(A)** : It is a rationale for decentralisation of power which resulted a Third-tier of government is local government.
Reason (R) : It made democracy weak.

ANSWERS

1. (b) 2. (a) 3. (d) 4. (b) 5. (c)

EXPLANATIONS OF SELECTED ASSERTION-REASON QUESTIONS

- Hindi was identified as the official language.
- The local government structure goes right up to the district level.
- Each village, or a group of villages in some states, has a gram panchayat.
- When power is taken away from central and state government and given to local government, it is called Decentralisation.

Source-based/Case-based Questions

Read the passages given below and answer the questions that follow:

PASSAGE-1

Unlike Sri Lanka, the leaders of our country adopted a very cautious attitude in spreading the use of Hindi. According to the Constitution, the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965. However, many non Hindi speaking States demanded that the use of English continue. In Tamil Nadu, this movement took a violent form. The Central Government responded by agreeing to continue the use of English along with Hindi for official purposes. Many critics think that this solution favoured the English speaking elite. Promotion of Hindi continues to be the official policy of the Government of India. Promotion does not mean that the Central Government can impose Hindi on States where people speak a different language. The flexibility shown by Indian political leaders helped our country avoid the kind of situation that Sri Lanka finds itself in.

- When was the use of English stopped for official purposes in India?
- Which other language was continued along with English for official purposes?
- Which state demanded the use of English to continue?

PASSAGE-2

The exact balance of power between the central and the state government varies from one federation to another. This balance depends mainly on the historical context in which the federation was formed. There are two kinds of routes through which federations have been formed. The first route involves independent States coming together on their own to form a bigger unit, so that by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity they can increase their security. This type of 'coming together' federations include the USA, Switzerland and Australia. In this first category of federations, all the constituent States usually have equal power and are strong vis-à-vis the federal government. The second route is where a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent States and the national government. India, Spain and Belgium are examples of this kind of 'holding together' federations. In this second category, the central government tends to be more powerful vis-à-vis the States.

- Which country is not an example of 'coming together' federations?
- Which countries is a good example of 'hold together' federations?
- What are the basic objectives of a federal system?

ANSWERS

- (i) In 1965

(ii) The Central Government responded by agreeing to continue the use of English along with Hindi for official purposes. Many critics think that this solution favoured the English speaking elite.

(iii) Tamil Nadu
- (i) India

(ii) India, Spain and Belgium

(iii) (a) To safeguard and promote unity of the country.
(b) To accommodate regional diversity.

Very Short Answer Questions

Each of the following questions is of 2 marks.

- Q. 1.** (i) What form of government was existing in Sri Lanka?
(ii) What is 'Federalism'?

Ans. (i) A unitary system, where the national government has all the powers.
(ii) A system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country.

- Q. 2.** (i) What is 'Unitary System'?
(ii) What does 'Jurisdiction' mean?

Ans. (i) Either there is only one level of government or the sub units are subordinate to the Central government.
(ii) The area over which government has legal authority, whether geographical boundaries or certain kinds of subjects.

- Q. 3.** What is Federal system of Government?

Ans. In a Federal system, the Central Government cannot order the state government to do something. State Government has powers of its own for which it is not answerable to the Central Government.

- Q. 4.** (i) What are the dual objectives of a federal system?
(ii) Which third tier was added later on the system of Indian Government?

Ans. (i) To safeguard and promote unity of the country and at the same time accommodate regional diversity.
(ii) Panchayats and Municipalities.

- Q. 5.** (i) Which subjects are included in the State list?
(ii) Give the subjects of Concurrent List.

Ans. (i) Police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation, subject to local importance.
(ii) This includes subjects of common interest to both the union government as well as the state government, such as education, forests, trade unions.

- Q. 6.** (i) What are Residuary Subjects?
(ii) What is the role of judiciary in power sharing arrangements?

Ans. (i) Subjects which do not fall into any of the three lists like computer software and its related issues.
(ii) Overseeing the implementation of constitutional provisions and procedures.

- Q. 7.** What are 'Union Territories'?

Ans. These areas are too small to become an independent state but they could not be merged with any of the existing states. These areas are called Union Territories.

Q. 8. How are changes made in power sharing arrangements of a country?

Ans. Any changes has to be first passed by both the Houses of Parliament with atleast two-thirds majority. Then it has to be ratified by the legislatures of at least half of the total states.

Q. 9. How is local government the best way to realise the principle of democracy at grass root level?

Ans. 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.

Q. 10. (i) What is Panchayati Raj?

(ii) What is a Zilla Parishad?

Ans. (i) Rural local government is popularly known as Panchayati Raj.

(ii) All the Panchayat Samitis or mandals in a district together constitute the Zilla Parishad.

Q. 11. (i) What are Municipalities and Municipal Corporations?

(ii) Who are the chairpersons of Municipalities and Municipal Corporations?

Ans. (i) These are the bodies in smaller towns and Municipal Corporations are meant for bigger towns.

(ii) Municipal chairman and Mayor.

Q. 12. Name any two subjects that are included in the Concurrent List. How are laws made on these subjects? Explain. [CBSE 2019, 32/2/3]

Ans. Concurrent list - Education, forest, marriage, adoption and succession (Any two)

Both the union as well as the state government can make laws on the subjects mentioned in this list if their laws conflict with each other the law made by the union government will prevail.

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2019 (32/2/3)]

Short Answer Questions

Each of the following questions is of 3 marks.

Q. 1. What are the two levels of federalism?

Ans. Federalism has two levels of government:

(i) One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a few subjects of common national interest.

(ii) The others are governments at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state.

Q. 2. What is the role of the judiciary in a federal system?

Ans. (i) The Judiciary plays an important role in overseeing the implementation of constitutional provisions and procedures.

(ii) In case of any dispute about the division of powers, the High Courts and the Supreme Court makes a decision.

(iii) The Union and State governments have the power to raise resources by levying taxes in order to carry on the government and the responsibilities assigned to each of them.

Q. 3. Why were the linguistic states created?

Ans. (i) The creation of Linguistic States was the first and a major test for democratic politics in our country.

(ii) Many old states had vanished and many new states had been created.

(iii) Areas, boundaries and names of the states had been changed.

(iv) In 1947, the boundaries of several old states of India were changed in order to create new states.

(v) This was done to ensure that people who spoke the same language lived in the same state.

Q. 4. How is Panchayat Samiti formed and at what level?

- Ans.** (i) Panchayat Samiti is formed at the block level.
(ii) The members of this representative body are elected by all the Panchayat members in that area.
(iii) A few Gram Panchayats are grouped together to form a Panchayat Samiti or Block or Mandal.

Q. 5. What difficulties are faced during local government elections?

- Ans.** (i) While elections are held regularly and enthusiastically, Gram Sabhas are not held regularly.
(ii) Most State governments have not transferred significant powers to the local governments.
(iii) Nor were they given adequate resources.

Q. 6. "The constitution did not use the word 'Federation' but the Indian Union is based on the principles of federations." Explain this statement.

Ans. The Constitution did not use the word 'Federation' but it has the division of powers into a three-tier system of the central government, the state governments and the local governments. The Constitution of India has also mentioned the distribution of legislative powers in the form of three lists namely—Union, State and Concurrent. So each level of the government has its own jurisdiction to legislate. But we have a centralised federation in which Union government carries more powers than the State governments. Union government also has the power to legislate on the residuary powers.

Q. 7. Describe any three features of 'unitary government.' [CBSE 2020, 32/1/1]

Ans. Features of Unitary Government:

- (i) All powers are centralised in the hands of the Central government.
- (ii) The sub-units are subordinate to Central Government.
- (iii) The Central Government can pass an order to provincial or the local government.
- (iv) Centre and state governments are separately answerable to the people.

Any other relevant point

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2020 (32/1/1)]

Q. 8. How was Belgian government shifted from a unitary to federal form of government?

- Ans.** (i) One of the key changes made in the constitution of Belgium was to reduce the powers of Central government and to give these powers to the regional governments.
(ii) The regional governments were given constitutional powers that were no longer dependent on the Central Government.
(iii) Thus, Belgium shifted from a unitary to federal form of government.

Q. 9. Which two aspects are crucial for the practice of Federalism?

- Ans.** (i) Government at different levels should agree to some rules of power sharing.
(ii) They should also trust that each would abide by its part of the agreement.

Q. 10. How is Gram Panchayat formed?

Ans. Each village in some states, has a Gram Panchayat. This is a council consisting of several ward members, often called Panch, and a president or Sarpanch. They are directly elected by all the adult population living in that ward or village.

Q. 11. Who all are the members of Zilla Parishad?

Ans. All the panchayat samitis or mandals in a district together constitute the zilla parishad. Most members of the zilla parishad are elected. Members of the Lok Sabha and MLAs of that district and some other officials of other district level bodies are also its members. Zilla parishad chairperson is the political head of zilla parishad.

Long Answer Questions

Each of the following questions is of 5 marks.

Q. 1. Describe any five features of federalism.

[CBSE 2019, 32/3/1]

Ans. **Five feature of Federalism:**

- (i) There are two or more levels of government.
- (ii) Different tiers of government govern the same citizens.
- (iii) The jurisdictions of the respective levels or tiers of government are specified in the constitution.
- (iv) The fundamental provisions of constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government.
- (v) Courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of different levels of government.
- (vi) Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.

Any relevant point

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2019 (32/3/1)]

Q. 2. How did India emerge as a federal state?

Ans. (i) India had emerged as an independent nation after a painful and bloody partition.

(ii) Soon after independence, several princely states became a part of the country.

(iii) The Constitution declared India as a Union of States.

(iv) Although it did not use the word federation, the Indian Union is based on the principles of federalism.

(v) The Constitution originally provided for a two-tier system of government, the Union government or Central government, representing the Union of India and the State governments.

(vi) Later, a third tier of 'Panchayati Raj' or local government was added.

Q. 3. Describe the three-fold distribution of legislative powers between the Union government and State government.

Ans. It contains three lists:

(i) **Union List:** It includes subjects of national importance such as defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, communications and currency. They are included in this list because we need a uniform policy on these matters throughout the country.

(ii) **State List:** The list contains subjects of state and local importance such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation. The state governments alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the state list.

(iii) **Concurrent List:** Includes subjects of common interest to both, the Union government as well as the State government such as education, forests, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession. Both the Union as well as State governments can make laws on the subjects mentioned in this list. If their laws conflict with each other, the law made by the Union government prevails.

Q. 4. How is sharing of power between the Union and the State governments basic to the structure of the constitution of India? Explain.

[CBSE 2019, 32/2/3]

Ans. **Power sharing basic structure of constitution:**

(i) It is not easy to make changes to power sharing arrangements.

(ii) Parliament can't change this arrangement on its own.

(iii) Any change to it has to be first passed by both the houses of parliament, with at least 2/3 majority.

(iv) Then it has to be ratified by legislature of at least half of the total states.

Any three points to be analysed

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2019 (32/2/3)]

Q. 5. Describe any three characteristics of 'Union List' mentioned in the Indian Constitution.
[CBSE 2020, 32/2/1]

Ans. Characteristics of Union list:

- (i) Union list includes subjects of National importance.
- (ii) Subjects include—Defense of country, Foreign affairs, banking, communication and currency.
- (iii) Union government alone can make laws on their subjects.
- (iv) There are the basis for making uniform policy for the whole nation.

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2020 (32/2/1)]

Q. 6. How is a Zilla Parishad formed?

- Ans.**
- (i) All the Panchayat Samitis or mandals in a district together constitute the Zilla Parishad.
 - (ii) Most members of the Zilla Parishad are elected.
 - (iii) Members of the Lok Sabha and MLAs of that district and some of the officials of other district level bodies are also its members.
 - (iv) Zilla Parishad chairperson is the political head of the Zilla Parishad.

Q. 7. Describe the importance of a third-tier of government in a vast country like India.

[CBSE 2019, 32/3/1]

Ans. Importance of third-tier government in India:

- (i) A large number of problems & issues can be solved at local level.
- (ii) People have better knowledge of problems in their local level.
- (iii) They also have better ideas on where to spend money and how to manage things more efficiently.
- (iv) They directly participate in decision making.
- (v) Strengthens democracy at the grass root level.

Any other relevant points

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2019 (32/3/1)]

Q. 8. How is power shared in a coalition government?

Ans. After 1990, there was the rise of regional political parties as well as 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. This led to a new culture of power sharing and respect for the autonomy of State governments. This trend was supported by a major judgement of the Supreme Court that made it difficult for the Central Government to dismiss state governments in an arbitrary manner.

Thus federal power sharing is more effective today than it was in the early years after the Constitution came into force.

Q. 9. Describe the nature of the Panchayati Raj system in India.

[CBSE 2020, 32/5/1]

Ans. Nature of Panchayati Raj System in India:

- (i) The constitution was amended in 1992 to make a more effective and powerful three tier system viz. Gram Panchayat, Block Samiti and Zilla Parishad.
- (ii) Gram Panchayat is a council consisting of several ward members, often called panch, and a president or sarpanch.
- (iii) They are directly elected by all the adult population living in that ward or village.
- (iv) It is the decision-making body for the entire village.
- (v) The panchayat works under the overall supervision of the gram sabha.
- (vi) All the voters in the village are its members.
- (vii) It has to meet at least twice or thrice to review the performance of the gram panchayat.
- (viii) It is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections.

- (ix) Seats are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for SCs, STs and OBCs.
- (x) At least one third of all positions are reserved for women.

Any other relevant point

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2020 (32/5/1)]

Q. 10. Which local government bodies exist for the urban areas?

Ans. Municipalities are set up in towns. Municipal Corporations are constituted in big cities. 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'.

Q. 11. 'Promotion of Hindi continues to be the official policy of government of India.' Elucidate.

- Ans.**
- (i) According to the Constitution, the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965.
 - (ii) However, many non-Hindi speaking states demanded that the use of English should continue. In Tamil Nadu, the movement took a violent turn.
 - (iii) The Central Government responded by agreeing to continue the use of English along with Hindi for official purposes. Many critics think that this solution favoured the English-speaking elite.
 - (iv) Promotion of Hindi continues to be the official policy of Government of India.
 - (v) Promotion does not mean that the Central Government can impose Hindi on states where people speak a different language.

The flexibility shown by Indian political leaders helped our country avoid the kind of situation that Sri Lanka finds itself in.

Q. 12. Describe any three characteristics of distribution of power between the Centre and States in India. [CBSE 2020, 32/4/1]

Ans. Distribution of powers between Centre and State:

- (i) The constitution clearly distributes Legislative Powers between State and Union Government.
- (ii) Subjects of National Importance like Foreign affairs/ banking came under union list of Central Government.
- (iii) Subjects of Local importance like Police, Trade came under state government under State list.
- (iv) Subject of common interest like education/ marriage came under Concurrent list of both Centre and State government.

Any other relevant point

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2020 (32/4/1)]

Q. 13. Distinguish between 'coming together federation' and 'holding together federations' with examples. India comes under which type of federation?

Ans. Coming Together Federation:

It involves independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit, so that by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity, they can increase their security.

E.g.: USA, Australia

In this category of federation, all the constituent states usually have equal powers and are strong as a federal government.

Holding Together Federations:

Here, a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent states and the national government. In this kind of federalism, Central government tends to be more powerful than the states. Very often different constituent units of federation have unequal powers. Some units are granted special powers.

For *e.g.* India, Spain, Belgium, etc.

Q. 14. Which five provisions of the Indian constitution make India a full fledged federation? Explain.

- Ans.**
- (i) There are two or more levels of government.
 - (ii) Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own jurisdiction.
 - (iii) The jurisdiction of the respective levels or tiers of government are specified in the constitution.
 - (iv) The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of the government.
 - (v) Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.
 - (vi) Courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of different levels of government.

So, an ideal federal system has both aspects—mutual trust and agreement to live together.

Q. 15. Explain how the federal experiment has been successful in the matter of formation of states in India.

OR

Evaluate the power sharing arrangements in India.

[CBSE 2019, 32/4/2]

Ans. Power sharing System in India:

- (i) Power is shared among different organs of the government like legislature, executive and judiciary to maintain check and balance.
- (ii) Power is divided at different levels of the government like centre, state and lower levels of the government such as municipality and panchayats administration.
- (iii) Power is shared among different social groups such as linguistic and religious groups
- (iv) Power is divided among political, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power.
- (v) The three fold distributions of legislative powers are divided between centre and state in the form of Union list, state list, concurrent list. Residuary subjects are legislated by centre.
- (vi) Control of Union Territories are with centre.

Any other relevant point

[CBSE Marking Scheme 2019 (32/4/2)]

Q. 16. Critically analyse the centre-state relations prior to 1990 and after.

- Ans.**
- (i) For a long time, the same party ruled both at the centre and in most of the states. This meant that State governments did not exercise their rights as autonomous federal units.
 - (ii) In those days, 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.
 - (iii) After 1990, there was a rise of regional parties in many states. This was also the beginning of the era of Coalition Government at the centre. This led to a new culture of power sharing and respect for the autonomy of State Governments.

Q. 17. What is the rational decentralisation of power? Describe the functions of rural local government.

- Ans.**
- (i) The basic idea behind decentralisation is that, there are large number of problems and issues which are best settled at the local level.
 - (ii) People have better knowledge of problems in their localities.
 - (iii) They also have better ideas on where to spend the money and how to manage things more efficiently.
 - (iv) 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.

Functions of Rural Government:

- (i) The local government is a three-tier structure. At the top is the District or Zilla Parishad, few blocks form a Zilla, so blocks have Block or Mandal and then few villages form a block and a village panchayat.
- (ii) The smallest unit of our country is a village and at the village level, we have Gram Panchayat, which is run by a head called 'Sarpanch' with his team of representatives.
- (iii) A few Gram Panchayats fall under a Block. At Block level, we have a Panchayat Samiti or Block Committee.
- (iv) All Panchayat Samitis of a district are under a district having a local government called Zilla Parishad. Members of Lok Sabha and MLAs of that district also become the members of Zilla Parishad.

Q. 18. Describe any three steps taken to strengthen the local self-government by the constitutional amendments, 1992. [CBSE 2019, 32/5/1]

Ans.

Introduction : Amendment in constitution 1992, has strengthened decentralisation, provided local govt with power and resources by :-

- (a) It is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular and free elections to local bodies (Panchayats and municipal corporations, other urban and rural local bodies)
- (b) Reservation of seats in local bodies and executive heads for scheduled classes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes.
- (c) $\frac{1}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of the seats reserved for women.
- (d) Independent State Election Commission set up to conduct municipal and panchayats elections.
- (e) State govt are supposed to transfer some power and resources to local bodies. This ^{distribution} varies from state to state.

Conclusion : It is very effective, has deepened democracy and voice of women.

[Topper's Answer 2019 (32/5/1)]

Q. 19. How was the challenge of language policy was adopted by the Indian federalism?

- Ans.
- (i) A second test for Indian federalism is the language policy.
 - (ii) Our Constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language.

- (iii) Hindi was identified as the official language.
- (iv) But Hindi is the mother tongue of only about 40 per cent of Indians. Therefore, there were many safeguards to protect other languages.
- (v) Besides Hindi, there are 21 other languages recognised as Scheduled Languages by the Constitution.
- (vi) A candidate in an examination conducted for the Central Government positions may opt to take the examination in any one of these languages.
- (vii) States too have their own official languages. Much of the government work takes place in the official language of the concerned state.

Self-Assessment

Time allowed: 1 hour

Max. marks: 40

General Instructions:

- (i) The test is divided into two sections: A and B.
- (ii) All questions are compulsory.
- (iii) Section-A contains Multiple Choice Questions.
- (iv) Section-B contains Subjective Type Questions (2/3/5 marks each) .

SECTION-A

1. Choose and write the correct answer for each of the following.

(1 × 11 = 11)

- (i) Subjects like computer software come under:

(a) residuary powers	(b) Union List
(c) State List	(d) none of the above
- (ii) Degree of participation gets improved by:

(a) decentralisation	(b) federalism
(c) democracy	(d) none of these
- (iii) What is the third tier of Indian federalism?

(a) Panchayat at village	(b) Municipal at district
(c) State level	(d) none of these
- (iv) In a federal system, power remains at the:

(a) Centre	(b) State
(c) State and Centre	(d) Community
- (v) Which of the following is not a part of an Ideal federal system?
 - (a) Mutual trust
 - (b) Agreement to live together
 - (c) Trying to be involved in others' jurisdiction
 - (d) All of these
- (vi) Which of the following subjects are included in the 'State list'?
 - (a) Police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation
 - (b) Education, forests, trade unions, marriages, adoption and succession
 - (c) Defense, foreign affairs, banking, currency and communications
 - (d) Residuary subjects like computers

- (vii) In India's federal system, the state government consists of the power to legislate on all those subjects that are included in which of the following list?
 (a) State list (b) Concurrent list
 (c) Union list (d) Residuary subjects
- (viii) The constitution of India has
 (a) divided the power between centre and state into three lists.
 (b) divided the power between centre and state into two lists.
 (c) listed the powers of state and left undefined powers to the state.
 (d) specified the powers of the state and left the residuary powers with the state.
- (ix) In the data for scheduled languages of India, which is the second highest in proportion of speakers (%) after Hindi?
 (a) Telugu (b) Tamil (c) Bengali (d) Urdu
- (x) When was the constitution amended to make the third-tier of democracy more powerful and effective?
 (a) 1990 (b) 1992 (c) 1989 (d) 1993
- (xi) In the question given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

Assertion (A) : Decentralisation refers to the systematic effort to delegate all power to the lower level of administration.

Reason (R) : It is the narrow distribution of authority and responsibility to a larger and local levels.

Options:

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
 (b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 (c) A is correct but R is wrong.
 (d) A is wrong but R is correct.

SECTION-B

Answer the following questions.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 2. What are 'coming' and 'holding' together federations? | 2 |
| 3. Point out one feature in the practice of federalism in India that is similar to and one feature that is different from that of Belgium. | 3 |
| 4. State the role of judiciary in a federal system. | 3 |
| 5. State any two differences between the local government before and after the constitutional amendment in 1992. | 3 |
| 6. Name any two subjects that are included in the Concurrent List. How are laws made on these subjects? Explain. | [CBSE 2019, 32/2/3] 3 |
| 7. How did India emerge as a federal state? | 5 |
| 8. State any two achievements and any two problems of the Panchayati Raj system. | 5 |
| 9. Explain the language policy of India. | 5 |

