

Federalism

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FACTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

➡ **Federalism** is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. This vertical division of power among different levels of governments is referred to as federalism. Federalism is one of the major forms of power-sharing in modern democracies.

Key features of federalism are:

- (i) Two or more levels of government.
- (ii) Different levels of government govern the same citizens, where each level has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
- (iii) Existence and authority of each level of government is constitutionally governed.
- (iv) The fundamental provisions of the Constitution cannot be unilaterally changed. Such changes require the consent of both the levels of government.
- (v) Courts have the power to interpret the Constitution. The highest court acts as the umpire if any dispute arises between different levels of governments.
- (vi) Sources of revenue for each level of government are specified to ensure its financial autonomy.
- (vii) Federal system has dual objectives to safeguard and promote unity of the country, and to accommodate regional diversity.

➡ **Union Territories:** Some units of the Indian Union, which are too small to become an independent state and could not be merged with any of the existing states, are called **Union Territories**. They are also called 'Centrally Administered Territories'. **For example,** Chandigarh, Lakshadweep.

➡ **Coalition government:** A government formed by coming together of at least two political parties. Usually, partners in a coalition form a political alliance and adopt a common programme. **For example,** National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and the Left Front.

➡ **India a federal country:** The Constitution declares India as a Union of States. Although the word 'Federation' is not used, the Indian Union is based on the **principles of federation**. The Constitution originally provided for a two-tier system of government, the Union Government or the Central Government representing Union of India and the State Governments. A third-tier of federation was added in the form of Panchayats and Municipalities. As in any federation, these different tiers enjoy separate jurisdiction. The Constitution provides for a three-fold distribution of legislative powers between the Union Government and State Government.

It contains three lists: (i) Union List (97 Subjects), (ii) State List (66 Subjects), (iii) Concurrent List (47 Subjects).

Since India is an example of 'holding together' federation where the Central Government is more powerful than states.

- ◆ **'Coming together' federations**—This agreement induces 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. **Examples:** USA, Switzerland and Australia.

'Holding together' federations—In this agreement, a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent States and the national government. The Central Governments tend to be more powerful vis-a-vis the states. Often different constituent units of the federation have unequal powers. Some units are granted special powers, for example, Spain, Belgium.

- ◆ **Sharing of power between the Union Government and State Governments:** The sharing of power between the Union Government and the State Governments is basic to the structure of the Constitution. The Parliament cannot, on its own, change this arrangement. Any change has to be first passed by both the Houses of the Parliament with at least two-third majority. It has then to be ratified by the legislatures of at least half of the total states. In case of any dispute about the division of powers, the High Courts and the Supreme Court make a decision.

- ◆ **Reasons for success of federalism in India:**

- (i) Clearly laid out Constitutional Provisions providing a three-fold distribution of powers in the three lists—Union List, State List and Concurrent List—between the Union and State Governments.
- (ii) The nature of democratic politics in our country.
- (iii) **The creation of linguistic states.** Boundaries of several old states of India were changed in order to create new states. This was done to ensure that people who spoke the same language lived in the same state.
- (iv) Restricting of Centre-State relations.

- ◆ **Language policy of India:** Our Constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language. The formation of linguistic states united

the country and made administration easier. The leaders of our country adopted a very cautious attitude in spreading the use of Hindi. Hindi was identified as official language. Besides Hindi, there are 21 other languages recognised as scheduled languages by the Constitution.

- ⇒ **Major steps towards decentralisation taken in 1992 are:**

- (i) Now it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to Local Government bodies.
- (ii) Seats are reserved in elected bodies for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes (OBCs).
- (iii) At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.
- (iv) The State Election Commission was created to conduct Panchayat and Municipal elections.
- (v) The State Governments are required to share some powers and revenue with Local Government bodies.

- ⇒ **Structure of the new Panchayati Raj institutions:** Rural Local Government is known by the name of Panchayati Raj.

- Each village or group of villages has a Gram Panchayat. Panch, President or Sarpanch are directly elected by all the adult population of the village and is the decision-making body.
- The Panchayat works under the supervision of Gram Sabha, with all the voters as its members. The local structure goes up to the district level—a group of Gram Panchayats form a Panchayat Samiti or Block or Mandal. All the Panchayat Samitis or Mandals together constitute the Zilla Parishad which consists of elected members.
- Lok Sabha members, Local MLAs and officers are also members of the Zilla Parishad. Its Chairperson is the political head of the Parishad.

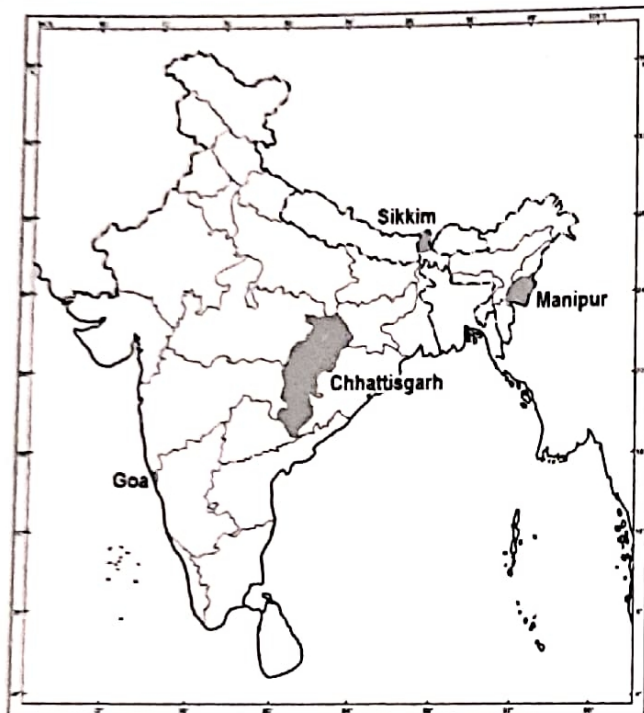
Urban areas local bodies: Municipalities are set up in towns. Big cities are constituted into Municipal Corporations. Both are controlled by elected bodies consisting of people's representatives. Municipal **chairperson** is the political head of the Municipality. The head of Municipal Corporation is an officer called the **Mayor**.



NCERT Exercise

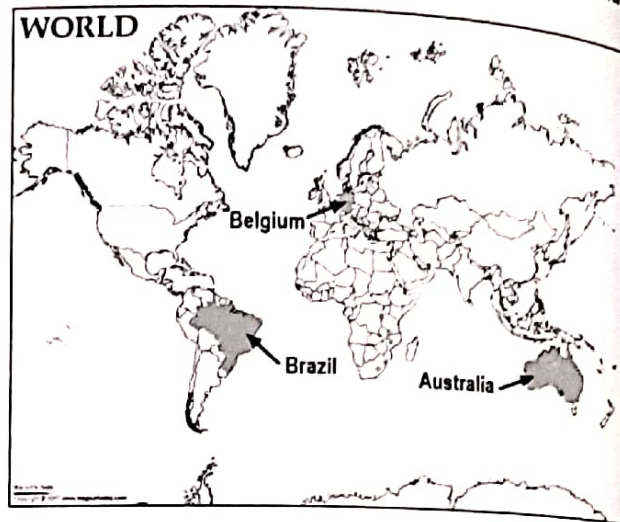
1. Locate the following states on a blank outline political map of India:
Manipur, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh and Goa.

Ans.



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

Ans.



Related Concept

Federalism in a broad sense is a mode of government that combine a general government (the central or 'federal' government) with regional governments (provincial, state cantonal, territorial or other sub-unit governments) in a single political system, dividing the powers between the two.

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. Similarity. 'Holding together' federations—Both India and Belgium are examples of this kind of federation where a large country decides to divide its power between the Constituent States and the National Government. Some units are granted special powers, but the Central Government is more powerful vis-a-vis the states.

Difference. Besides the Union Government and the State Government, a third-tier of federalism was added in the form of Panchayats and Municipalities for local representation in India.

In Belgium, apart from the Central and the State Governments, the third kind of government was the Community Government—elected by people belonging to one language.

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

Ans. Difference between a federal form of government and a unitary form of government:

Federal Government	Unitary Government
(i) A federation has two levels of government. One is the government for the entire country. The others are governments at the State level.	(i) There is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the Centre.
(ii) Both Central and State Governments enjoy their power independent of the other and are separately answerable to the people. Example: India	(ii) The Central Government can pass orders to the provincial or the local government. Example: United Kingdom

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

Ans. Differences between local governments before and after the Constitutional Amendment in 1992:

Before 1992	After 1992
(i) Elections to local governments were not held regularly.	(i) It became constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
(ii) Local governments did not have any powers or resources of their own.	(ii) The State governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies. The nature of sharing varies from state to state.

6. Fill in the blanks:

Since the United States is a type of federation, all the constituent States have equal powers and States are vis-a-vis the federal government. But India is a type of federation and some States have more power than others. In India, the Government has more powers.

Ans. 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 **Central** government has more powers.

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. Sangeeta's reactions hold weightage because the federal experiment has succeeded in India because of the clearly laid out power-sharing arrangements in the Constitution and the very nature of our democratic politics which has led to a new culture of power-sharing and respect for autonomy.

In 1947, the boundaries of several old states of India were changed in order to create new states. This was done to ensure that language, culture, ethnicity or geography got equal representation, for example, states like Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand. The experience has shown that the formation of linguistic states has actually made the country more united and made administration easier.

8. The distinguishing feature of a federal government is:

- (a) National government gives some powers to the provincial government.
- (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.

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. | |

Union List	
State List	
Concurrent List	
Ans. Union List	Defence, Banking, Communications
State List	Police, Agriculture, Forests, Trade
Concurrent List	Education, Marriages

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. The pair not correctly matched is (d).

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)

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, B and C
- A, C and D
- A and B only
- B and C only

Ans. (c) A and B only

Related Concept

India is a federal system but with more tilt towards a unitary system of government. It is sometimes considered a quasi-federal system as it has features of both a federal and a unitary system. Article 1 of the Indian Constitution states, 'India, that is Bharat, shall be a union of states'.



Congratulations!! You are doing well... just keep taking steps forward....



SUBJECTIVE TOPIC-1

What is Federalism ?

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-I)

(Easy) (1 Mark)

1. What is Federalism?

Ans. Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. This vertical division of power among different levels of governments is referred to as federalism. Federalism is one of the major forms of power-sharing in modern democracies.

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-II)

(Average) (2-3 Marks)

2. Describe any *three* features of 'Unitary Government.'

(2020 Series: JBB/1)

Ans. Features of 'unitary government':

- There is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the Centre.
- The Central Government can pass orders to the provincial or the local government. For example, UK.
- State Government has power of its own for which it is not answerable to the Central Government.
- Both these Governments are separately answerable to the people.

3. India comes under which type of federation and why?

(2014)

Or, Under which type of federation India comes? Mention any two features of such federation.

(2018 Comptt.)

Ans. India comes under '*a holding together*' type **federation**. In this type of federation, a large country divides its power between the constituent States and the National government. There is one government for the entire country and the others are governments at the State level. Both Central and State Governments enjoy their power independent of the other.

The Central government tends to be more powerful vis-a-vis the states. Often different constituent units of the federation have unequal powers.

4. State two agreements through which federations have been formed. Give an example of each.

Ans. (i) 'Coming together' federations—This agreement induces 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.

Examples: USA, Switzerland and Australia. All the constituent states have equal power and are strong vis-a-vis the federal government.

(ii) 'Holding together' federations—In this agreement, a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent States and the national government. The Central Governments tend to be more powerful vis-a-vis the states. Often different constituent units of the federation have unequal powers.

Examples: Spain and Belgium.

Long Answer Type Questions (LA) (Difficult) (5 Marks)

5. Explain any five features of federalism. (2015)
Or, Describe any three features of federal government. (2020 Series: JBB/1)

Ans. Features of federalism:

- (i) There are two or more levels of government.
- (ii) Different levels of government govern the same citizens, where each level has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
- (iii) Existence and authority of each level of government is constitutionally governed.
- (iv) The fundamental provisions of the Constitution cannot be unilaterally changed. Such changes require the consent of both the levels of government.
- (v) Courts have the power to interpret the Constitution and powers of the different levels of government. The highest court acts as the umpire if any dispute arises between different levels of governments.
- (vi) Sources of revenue for each level of government are specified to ensure its financial autonomy.
- (vii) Federal system has dual objectives. To safeguard and promote unity of the country, and to accommodate regional diversity.

Related Concept

In a federal structure, power and responsibility are distributed across different layers of Government. In the case of India, the power to raise money as well as the power to spend is distributed across the Union Government, State Governments and Local Governments.



SUBJECTIVE TOPIC-2

What makes India a Federal Country?

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-I) (Easy) (1 Mark)

6. Which state in India had its own Constitution? (2012)

Ans. Jammu and Kashmir

(Now, the constitution of India is applicable to J&K just like any other States and Union Territories of India.)

7. Name the subject list from which both the Union and the State governments can make laws?

(2017 Delhi)

Ans. Concurrent List

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-II) (Average) (2-3 Marks)

8. Explain the vertical division of power by giving examples from India. (2013)

Ans. When power is shared among governments at different levels, i.e., the Union or the Central Government, the State Government and the Municipality and Panchayat at the lower level. This division of power involving higher and lower levels of government is called the **vertical division of power**.

Vertical division of power in India. The Constitution declares India as a Union of States. Although the word 'Federation' is not used, the Indian Union is based on the **principles of federation**. The Constitution originally provided for a two-tier system of government, the Union Government or the Central Government representing Union of India and the State Governments. A third-tier of federation was added in the form of Panchayats and Municipalities. As in any federation, these different tiers enjoy separate jurisdiction. The Constitution provides for a three-fold distribution of legislative powers between the Union Government and State Government. It contains three lists:

- (i) Union List (97 Subjects)
- (ii) State List (66 Subjects)
- (iii) Concurrent List (47 Subjects)

9. What is the role of the Judiciary in the Indian Constitution?

Or, Why is the role of Judiciary important in overseeing the implementation of Constitutional Provisions?

Ans. Although judges are appointed by the executive, they can check the functioning of executive or laws made by the legislature. The courts have the power to interpret the Constitution and the powers of different levels of government. In case of any dispute about the division of powers, the High Courts and the Supreme Court make a decision. The highest court acts as umpire if disputes arise between different levels of government in the exercise of their respective powers.

Long Answer Type Questions (LA) (Difficult) (5 Marks)

10. Describe the three forms of power sharing among different organs of government in India. (2014)

Ans. The Constitution declared India as a Union of States based on the principles of federalism. The Constitution originally provided for a two-tier system of government, the Union or the Central Government representing Union of India and the State Governments. Later, a third tier was added in the form of Panchayats and Municipalities.

As in any federation, these different tiers enjoyed separate jurisdiction. The Constitution provided a three-fold distribution of legislative powers:

- (i) **Union List** includes subjects of national importance, i.e., defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, communications and currency.
- (ii) **State List** contains subjects of state and local importance, i.e., police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation.
- (iii) **Concurrent List** includes subjects of common interest to both the Union Government as well as the State Governments, i.e., education, forests, trade unions, marriages, adoption and succession.

In case of dispute, law made by the Union Government shall prevail.

(iv) **Residuary**—Subjects which do not fall in any of the three lists, i.e., computer software, etc. Union Government has the power to legislate such subjects.

- As India is an example of 'holding together' federation, all states in the Indian Union do not have identical powers. There are some states too small to become independent like the Union Territories of Chandigarh and Lakshadweep.
- This sharing of power between the Union Government and State Govern-

ments is basic to the structure of the Constitution. Any change to it, has to be passed by both the Houses of the Parliament with at least two-third majority.

- The judiciary plays an important role in the implementation of constitutional procedures. In case of any dispute about division of powers, the High Courts and the Supreme Court make a decision.



SUBJECTIVE TOPIC-3 How is Federalism practised ?

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-I) (Easy) (1 Mark)

11. What status has been given to the 'Hindi' language by the Constitution of India? (2013)

Ans. Hindi has been given the status of 'Official language' by the Constitution of India.

12. Much of the official work in Indian States is done in which language? (2014)

Ans. Much of the official work in Indian States is done in the official language of the concerned state.

Long Answer Type Questions (LA) (Difficult) (5 Marks)

13. Why has federalism succeeded in India? Which are the policies adopted by India that have ensured it? Explain. (2013, 2012)

Ans. Reasons for success of federalism in India are:

- (i) Clearly laid out Constitutional Provisions providing a three-fold distribution of powers in the three lists—Union List, State List and Concurrent List—between the Union Government and State Governments.
- (ii) The nature of democratic politics in our country which ensures that the spirit of federalism, respect for diversity and desire for living together became a shared ideal.
- (iii) The creation of linguistic states. Boundaries of several old states of India were changed in order to create new states. This was done to ensure that people who spoke the same language lived in the same state. Later some states were created to recognise differences based on culture, ethnicity or geography.

For example: Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Telangana, etc.

- (iv) **Restricting Centre-State relations.** The constitutional arrangements for sharing power work depending on how the ruling parties and leaders follow these arrangements. For a long time, the same party ruled both at the Centre and in most of states. Post-1990 saw the rise of regional parties. Since no single party got a clear majority in the Lok Sabha, the national parties had to enter into an alliance which led to a new culture of power sharing and respect for autonomy of State Governments.

14. Describe in brief the language policy of India?

- Ans. (i) Our Constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language.
 (ii) The formation of linguistic states united the country and made administration easier.
 (iii) The leaders of our country adopted a very cautious attitude in spreading the use of Hindi. Hindi was identified as official language.
 (iv) The banning of use of English for official purposes in 1965 took a violent form in Tamil Nadu. The Central Government responded by agreeing to continue the use of English along with Hindi for official purposes.
 (v) Promotion of Hindi is an official policy of the Government of India but it does not impose Hindi on states where people speak a different language.
 (vi) Besides Hindi, there are 21 other languages recognised as scheduled languages by the Constitution.
 (vii) This flexibility shown by Indian leaders helped our country avoid the situation that Sri Lanka finds itself in.

15. How is federal power sharing more effective today than in the early years? Explain. (2017 OD)

- Ans. (i) Federal power sharing is more effective because of the nature of democratic politics in India. It has ensured that the spirit of federalism, respect for diversity and desire for living together have become a shared ideal in our country.
 (ii) Federal power sharing has helped to inculcate a habit of democratic participation. Federal power sharing is the best way to realise one important principle of democracy, namely local self-government. Constitutional status for local government has helped to deepen democracy.
- It has increased women's representation and voice in democracy.

- Federal power sharing has led to formation of linguistic states which has actually made the country more united. It has also made administration easier.
- It reduces the power of the Central government and gives power to regional governments.



SUBJECTIVE TOPIC-4

Decentralisation in India

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-I) (Easy)

(1 Mark)

16. What is Rural local self government popularly known as? (2013)

Ans. Panchayati Raj

17. Which local body has a 'Mayor' as its head?

(2014)

Ans. Head of Municipal Corporation is a Mayor.

18. What other factors besides politics keep the federations united? (2015)

Ans. Besides politics, other factors which keep the federations united are culture, ideology and history. Culture of trust, cooperation, mutual respect and restraint has also helped in the smooth functioning of nations.

19. What was the main objective of the Constitutional Amendment made in 1992 in India? (2015)

Ans. The main objective of the Constitutional Amendment in 1992 was to strengthen the three-tier system of governance, i.e., make the Panchayati Raj Institution and the urban local bodies more powerful and effective.

Short Answer Type Questions (SA-II) (Average)

(2-3 Marks)

20. Evaluate the strengths and limitations of local self-government in a democracy. (2019 JMS/4)

Or, Explain two achievements and two difficulties of local self governments in India.

Ans. **Strengths:**

- (i) Local self governments make it possible for the people at the local level to directly participate in decision making. This helps to inculcate a habit of democratic representation. Thus constitutional status

for local government has helped to deepen democracy in our country.

- (ii) Local self-governments also have helped to increase women's voice and representation in our democracy.

Limitations:

- (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 nor have they given them adequate resources.

21. Why is decentralisation favoured in democracy? Identify any two reasons. (2014)

Or, Describe the rationale behind the implementation of decentralisation in India. (2020 Series: JBB/3)

Ans. Advantages of decentralisation of power:

- (i) When power is taken away from Central and State Governments and given to local governments, it is called decentralisation. The basic idea behind decentralisation 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.
(ii) They also have better ideas on where to spend money and how to manage things more efficiently.
(iii) 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.
(iv) Local government is the best way to realise one important principle of democracy, namely local self-government.
(v) The need for decentralisation was recognised in our Constitution. A major step towards decentralisation was taken in 1992. The Constitution was amended to make the third tier of democracy more powerful and effective.

**Long Answer Type Questions (LA)
(Difficult)**

(5 Marks)

22. Which five provisions of the constitutional amendment of 1992 really strengthened the third-tier of democracy in India? Explain.

(2015, 2013, 2012)

Or, Describe any three provisions of amendment made in 'Indian Constitution' in 1992 for making 'Three-Tier' government more effective and powerful.

(2018)

Or, Describe any three steps taken by Indian Government towards decentralisation of power in 1992.

(2020 Series: JBB/3)

Or, What amendments were made in the Constitution in order to make the third tier of democracy (Local Government) more powerful and effective?

Ans. Major steps towards decentralisation and strengthening of third tier taken in 1992 were:

- (i) Now it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to Local Government bodies.
(ii) Seats are reserved in elected bodies for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes (OBCs).
(iii) At least one-third of all positions and seats are reserved for women.
(iv) An independent institution called the State Election Commission was created to conduct Panchayat and Municipal elections.
(v) The State Governments are required to share some powers and revenue with Local Government bodies.

23. Explain the structure of the new Panchayati Raj institutions, both in rural and urban areas.

Ans. Rural Local Government is known by the name of Panchayati Raj/Democratic decentralization.

- Each village or group of villages has a Gram Panchayat.
- Panch, President or Sarpanch are directly elected by all the adult population of the village and is the decision-making body.
- The Panchayat works under the supervision of Gram Sabha, with all the voters as its members.
- The local structure goes up to the district level—a group of Gram Panchayats form a Panchayat Samiti or Block or Mandal.
- All the Panchayat Samitis or Mandals together constitute the Zilla Parishad which consists of elected members.
- Lok Sabha members, Local MLAs and officers are also members of the Zilla Parishad.
- Its Chairperson is the political head of the Parishad.

Urban areas local bodies:

- Municipalities are set up in towns.
- Big cities are constituted into Municipal Corporations.
- Both are controlled by elected bodies consisting of people's representatives.
- Municipal chairperson is the political head of the Municipality.

The head of Municipal Corporation is an officer called the Mayor.



2024 CBSE BOARD EXAMINATION

Questions


 SCAN ME!
FOR ANSWERS

2024 (Series: AB3CD/1) Set-I

Q.10. Match the Column I with Column II and choose the correct option: 1

Column I (List)	Column II (Jurisdiction Sphere)
I. Union list subjects	A. State Governments alone make laws on it.
II. State list subjects	B. For uniformity Central Government Legislates on it.
III. Concurrent subjects	C. Subjects under Jurisdiction of Centre and State Governments.
IV. Residuary subjects	D. Central Government legislates on new subjects.

Options:

I	II	III	IV
(a) A	B	C	D
(b) C	D	A	B
(c) D	C	B	A
(d) B	A	C	D

Q.36. Read the following source carefully and answer the questions that follow: 4

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

This new system of local government is the largest experiment in democracy conducted anywhere in the world. 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. At the same time, there are many difficulties. 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. We are thus still a long way from realising the ideal of self-government.

- 36.1. Analyse the significance of the elected representatives in the Panchayats. 1
- 36.2. In what way has the representation of women in democracy influenced by Constitutional status for local government? 1
- 36.3. What has been the impact of granting Constitutional status to local government on the democratic landscape of the country? Analyse any two impacts. 2

2024 (Series: AAB1/3) Set-I

Q.10. Match Column-I with Column-II and choose the correct option from the following: 1

Column I (List) (Subject List in the Indian Constitution)	Column II (Subject)
I. Union List	(A) Trade Union
II. State List	(B) Banking
III. Concurrent List	(C) Police
IV. Residuary List	(D) Internet

Options:

I	II	III	IV
(a) (D)	(A)	(C)	(B)
(b) (B)	(C)	(A)	(D)
(c) (A)	(B)	(D)	(C)
(d) (C)	(D)	(B)	(A)

Q.14. Which of the following is responsible for resolving disputes between Centre and States? 1

- (a) Finance Commission of India
- (b) Supreme Court of India
- (c) President of India
- (d) Prime Minister of India

Q.36. Read the following source and answer the questions that follow: 4

Panchayati Raj

"We need to give more power to the panchayats to realise the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and the hopes of the makers of our Constitution, Panchayati Raj establishes true democracy. It restores power to the only place where power belongs in a democracy—in the hands of the people. Giving power to Panchayats is also a way to reduce corruption and increase administrative efficiency. When people participate in the planning and implementation of developmental schemes, they would naturally exercise greater control over these schemes. This would eliminate the corrupt middlemen. Thus, Panchayati Raj will strengthen the foundations of our democracy."

- 36.1 How does giving power to Panchayats relate to the vision of Mahatma Gandhi? 1
- 36.2 Explain the primary objective of giving power to the Panchayats. 1
- 36.3 How does the establishment of Panchayati Raj contribute to democracy? Explain. 2

Competency Based Questions

Stand Alone Multiple Choice Questions

1
mark

- Here 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 all other languages.
 - None of the above
- 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 or 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.

Choose the correct statements:

 - B and C
 - A and C
 - A and D
 - B and D
- In a 'Holding together federation':
 - A large country divides its power between constituent states and the national government.
 - The Central government tends to be more powerful *vis-a-vis* the States.
 - All the constituent states usually have equal powers.
 - Constituent states have unequal powers.

Which of the above statements are correct?

 - A, B, C and D
 - A and D
 - B and C
 - A, B and D
- Which among the following are examples of 'Coming together federations'?
 - India, Spain and Belgium
 - India, USA and Spain
 - USA, Switzerland and Australia
 - Belgium and Sri Lanka

- The Union List includes subjects such as:
 - Education, forests, trade unions, marriages, adoption and succession.
 - Police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation.
 - Residuary subjects like computer software.
 - Defence, foreign affairs, banking, currency, communications.
- The system of Panchayati Raj involves:
 - Village, State and Union levels
 - Village, District and State levels
 - Village and State levels
 - Village, Block and District levels
- Which one of the following States in India had its own Constitution?
 - Uttarakhand
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - J & K
 - Nagaland
- When was the beginning of the era of Coalition Governments at the Centre which led to a new culture of power sharing and respect for the autonomy of State Governments?
 - 1980s
 - 1990s
 - 1870s
 - 2000 onward
- Census of India held in 2011, recorded more than distinct languages which people mentioned as their mother tongues?
 - 200
 - 500
 - 1200
 - 1300
- In the data for Scheduled Languages of India which is the second highest in proportion of speakers (%) after Hindi?
 - Telugu
 - Tamil
 - Bengali
 - Urdu
- As for English, only per cent Indians recorded it as their mother tongue?
 - 20%
 - 5%
 - 0.5%
 - 0.02%
- Consider the following two 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.

Choose the correct statement:

 - A, B and C
 - A, C and D
 - A and B only
 - B and C only

Assertion-Reason Questions

1
mark

DIRECTION: There are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

13. Federal power sharing in India needs another tier of government below that of the State governments, it is called
 (a) State offices (b) District government
 (c) Local government (d) Tehsils
14. Consider the following statements regarding language policy of Indian Federation.
 A. Hindi was identified as the official language.
 B. Besides Hindi, there are 21 other languages recognized as scheduled languages.
 C. English can be used along with Hindi for official purpose.
 Choose the right option from the following:
 (a) A and C (b) A and B
 (c) only A (d) A, B and C
15. Who is empowered to make laws on Union List?
 (a) President (b) Central Government
 (c) Prime Minister (d) None of these
16. Who can declare a law as unconstitutional if it conflicts with the provision of the Constitution?
 (a) President (b) Prime Minister
 (c) Judiciary (d) Lok Sabha Speaker
17. Which of the following state was not created due to its linguistic identity?
 (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Andhra Pradesh
 (c) Uttarakhand (d) Karnataka
18. Which of the following does not form the basis of distribution of power in Indian Federal system?
 (a) Union list (b) State list
 (c) Parliamentary list (d) Concurrent list
19. The System of Panchayati Raj involves:
 (a) The village, block and district levels
 (b) The village, and state levels
 (c) The village district and state levels
 (d) The village, state and Union levels
20. Which of the following subjects is not included in the state list?
 (a) Law and order (b) National defence
 (c) Education (d) Agriculture
21. In India's federal system, the state governments have the power to legislate on all those subjects which are included in the
 (a) Union list (b) State list
 (c) Concurrent list (d) Residuary subjects
22. Read the following statements and choose the correct option: (2023)
 I. There is no official religion in India.
 II. Communities have freedom to profess and practice their religion.
 III. State helps communities by giving aid to educational institutions run by them.
 IV. India believes in theocracy.
Option:
 (a) I, II and III (b) I, II and IV
 (c) II, III and IV (d) I, III and IV

- (a) Both Assertion and Reason are true and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.
 - (b) Both Assertion and Reason are true but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion.
 - (c) Assertion is true but Reason is false.
 - (d) Both Assertion and Reason are false.
1. **Assertion.** Belgium and Spain has 'holding together' federation.
Reason. A big country divides power between constituent states and national government.
 2. **Assertion.** It is very simple to make the changes in the basic structure of the constitution.
Reason. Both the houses have power to amend the constitution independently.
 3. **Assertion.** Coalition government is formed during dearth of coal in the country.
Reason. It helps in overcoming coal crisis.
 4. **Assertion.** India has a federal system.
Reason. Under a unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to central government.
 5. **Assertion.** A major step towards decentralization was taken in 1992 by amending the constitution.
Reason. Constitution was amended to make the third tier of democracy more powerful and effective.
 6. **Assertion.** Hindi is identified as the only official language of India.
Reason. It helped in creating supremacy of Hindi speaking people over others.
 7. **Assertion.** India is a federation.
Reason. Power resides with the central authority.
 8. **Assertion.** The subjects which are not included in Union List, State List and Concurrent List are considered as residuary subjects.
Reason. The subjects included that came after constitution was made and thus could not be classified.
 9. **Assertion.** Zilla Parishad Chairperson is the political head of the zilla parishad.
Reason. Mayor is the head of municipalities.
 10. **Assertion.** Third-tier of government is local government.
Reason. It made democracy weak.

1 mark

2.	Column-A	Column-B
	(a) Unitary	(i) An area defined by geographical boundaries or subjects over which someone has authority.
	(b) Holding Together Federation	(ii) Independent states coming together by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity.
	(c) Jurisdiction	(iii) One level of government where Central government can pass orders to the local government.
	(d) Coming Together Federation	(iv) A large country dividing its powers between the constituent states and the national government.

Column-A (Subjects)	Column-B (List)
(I) Banks	1. Concurrent List
(II) Agriculture	2. Union List
(III) Education	3. State List
(IV) Computer	4. Residuary Subjects

	I	II	III	IV
(a)	4	3	1	2
(b)	3	4	1	2
(c)	2	3	1	4
(d)	4	2	1	3

1 mark



(c) Dictatorship
(d) Coalition form of government

Massacre for sale in US, England: Military aid President says

Genocide: Military aid must be stopped

For His 43rd, Justice in a Village: 3rd

Rwanda: Military Aid Must Be Stopped

Over 100 women abducted to pass history

Case/Source Based Questions

4-5 marks

- I. Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. Usually, a federation has two levels of government. One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a few subjects of common national interest. The others are governments at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state. Both these levels of governments enjoy their power independent of the other.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate options:

- Which of the following is a special characteristics of Indian federalism.
 - The powers are equally divided between the Centre and the State.
 - The Centre is stronger than the State as it enjoys powers stated in the concurrent list.
 - Centre is stronger than the State as the powers are listed in the constitution.
 - None of the above
- India follows the principle of decentralizing power at the lowest level, because
 - It has introduced panchayat system in the villages.
 - It has municipal corporations in the urban areas.
 - Both (a) and (b)
 - Only (a)
- Why did India adopt a federal system of government?
 - Due to economic disparities.
 - Variant culture, languages and ethnicity.
 - Indian leaders believed in decentralizing power.
 - India has a large population.
- How many union territories does India have?
 - 8
 - 7
 - 9
 - 6

- II. The federal system thus has dual objectives: to safeguard and promote unity of the country, while at the same time accommodate regional diversity. Therefore, two aspects are crucial for the institutions and practice of federalism. Governments at different levels should agree to some rules of power-sharing. They should also trust that each would abide by its part of the agreement. An ideal federal system has both aspects: mutual trust and agreement to live together.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate options:

- Which are the two levels of government in federalism?
 - Center & district
 - Center & states
 - States & Districts
 - Districts & Villages
 - How does federalism promote unity?
 - Concentration of power
 - Distribution of power
 - Majoritarianism
 - None of the above
 - How has there been power sharing in India?
 - Enumeration of legislative powers of Centre and State in the constitution.
 - Self-governing powers to the lower units.
 - Granting of fundamental rights to the Indian citizens.
 - All of the above
 - What type of government was established in Belgium?
 - Federal form of government
 - Democratic form of government
 - Unitary form of government
 - Only (a) and (b)
- III. When power is taken away from Central and State governments and given to local government, it is called decentralisation. The basic idea behind decentralisation is that there are many 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. Local government is the best way to realise one important principle of democracy, namely local self-government.
- Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate options:
- Why was there an urgent need in India for decentralization?
 - India is a very diverse country
 - India is a large country
 - There is multiplicity of language and culture
 - All the above
 - Name the form of self-government in India introduced at the level of villages.
 - Panchayat Raj
 - Municipalities
 - Municipal corporations
 - None of the above
 - Why decentralization is essential feature of democracy.
 - People learn to be more vigilant.

- (b) People learn to take decisions at lower level.
- (c) People learn to participate in a democratic manner.
- (d) All the above

12. Name the form of self-government in metropolitan cities.

- (a) Municipalities (b) Gram Sabha
- (c) Zilla parishad (d) Municipal corporations

IV. Study the cartoon given and answer the questions that follow:



Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate options:

13. Name the leader shown as Prime Minister in the cartoon.

- (a) Jawahar Lal Nehru (b) Indira Gandhi
- (c) Rajiv Gandhi (d) Manmohan Singh

14. What does the cartoon reflect? State the correct option.

- (a) States depend on Centre
- (b) Center depends on states
- (c) Municipalities depends of Zilla Parishad
- (d) Zilla Parishad depends on Municipalities

15. What kind of powers can the states be seen demanding here?

- (a) Fiscal powers (b) Policing powers
- (c) Only (a) (d) Both (a) and (b)

V. This new system of local government is the largest experiment in democracy conducted anywhere in the world. 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 the democracy in our country.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate options:

16. When was a major step taken towards decentralisation?

- (a) 1992 (b) 1997 (c) 1990 (d) 1994

17. In the local government elections at least of all positions are reserved for women?

- (a) 1/3rd (b) 2/3rd (c) 50% (d) 25%

18. An independent institution called the State Election Commission has been created in each State to conduct panchayat and municipal elections. (True/False)

VI. Read the given source and answer the questions that follow: (2023)

DECENTRALISATION IN INDIA

This new system of local government is the largest experiment in democracy conducted anywhere in the world. 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. At the same time, there are many difficulties. While elections are held regularly of Panchayats and people participate enthusiastically in it but meetings of gram sabhas are not held regularly.

19. Why is Indian decentralisation considered as the largest experiment in democracy?

20. Analyse how constitutional status for local government has helped to deepen democracy in India?

21. Explain any two steps taken by the Indian Government for decentralisation.

VII. Read the given source and answer the questions that follow: (2023)

LANGUAGE DIVERSITY OF INDIA

How many languages do we have in India? The answer depends on how one counts it. The latest information that we have is from the Census of India held in 2011. This census recorded more than 1300 distinct languages which people mentioned as their mother tongues. These languages were grouped together under some major languages. For example languages like Bhojpuri, Magadhi, Bundelkhandi, Chhattisgarhi, Rajasthani and many others were grouped together under 'Hindi'. Even after this grouping, the Census found 121 major languages. Of these 22 languages are now included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and are therefore called 'Scheduled Languages'. Others are called 'Non-Scheduled Languages'. In terms of languages, India is perhaps the most diverse country in the world.

22. Explain the importance of language diversity in India.

23. Differentiate between Scheduled and Non-Scheduled Languages.

24. 'The fusion of languages has united the country into one cultural entity.' Explain the statement with an example.

Competency Based Answers

Stand Alone Multiple Choice Answers

1. (a) 2. (a) 3. (d) 4. (c)
5. (d) 6. (d)
7. (c) (Now, the constitution of India is applicable to J & K just like any other states and Union Territories of India.)
8. (b) 9. (d) 10. (c) 11. (d)
12. (c) 13. (c) 14. (d) 15. (b)
16. (c) 17. (c) 18. (c) 19. (a)
20. (b) 21. (b) 22. (a)

Assertion-Reason Answers

1. (a) Both assertion and reason are true and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.
The power of a large country is divided between constituent states and national government. The central government is more powerful than the states.
2. (d) Both assertion and reason are false.
It is difficult to make changes in the constitution in the federal system. Any change has to be first passed through both the houses of Parliament through atleast two-third majority. Then it has to be ratified by the legislatures of atleast half of the total states.
3. (d) Both assertion and reason are false.
When no party is able to prove clear cut majority, several regional parties come together to form coalition government. It has no connection with scarcity of coal in the country.
4. (b) Both assertion and reason are true but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.
India has a federal government. There is a central government for the entire country and state governments for different regions.
5. (a) Both assertion and reason are true and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.
The constitution was amended in 1992 to make the third tier more powerful and effective. It includes steps like regular elections for local government bodies, reservation of seats for OBC,

SC, ST and women and creation of State Election Commission.

6. (c) Assertion is true but reason is false.
Hindi is the identified as official language of India. However, it is spoken by only 40 per cent of Indians. Thus, to safeguard the rights of other linguistic communities, 21 other languages were recognized as Scheduled Languages by the Constitution.
7. (a) Both assertion and reason are true and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.
India is a federal government and there is three-tier system of power sharing with Central Government, State Government and local self government. As it is a union of states and not a federation.
8. (a) Both assertion and reason are true and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.
The subjects which are not included in Union List, State List and Concurrent List are considered as Residuary subjects. It includes the subjects such as computer software that came after constitution was made. Union Government has power to legislate on these 'residuary' subjects.
9. (b) Both assertion and reason are true but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.
Panchayat samitis of a district together form the Zilla parishad. Zilla Parishad chairperson is the political head of the Zilla parishad. Municipalities are set up in towns. Mayor is the head of municipalities.
10. (c) Assertion is true but reason is false.
The third tier of government is done through decentralisation. It helped in making democracy stronger by Biging it to grass root level. Thus, the reason is false but assertion stands true.

Match the Columns

1. (a) — (i); (b) — (iii); (c) — (iv); (d) — (ii)
2. (a) — (iii); (b) — (iv); (c) — (i); (d) — (ii)
3. (a)
4. (c)

Picture Based Answers

1. (d)
2. The newspaper clippings show two sides of the coin: On one hand, decentralisation has increased women's representation and voice in our country. Women are becoming 'Pradhans' and are being elected to Panchayats. On the other hand, there are still many difficulties in realising the objectives of decentralisation. Corruption still prevails and enough powers and resources have not been given to local bodies. The three-tier system is often being misused as can be seen from the clippings regarding Panchayats posts in Tamil Nadu.

Case/Source Based Answers

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------|----------|---------|
| I. 1. (c) | 2. (c) | 3. (b) | 4. (a) |
| II. 5. (b) | 6. (b) | 7. (d) | 8. (a) |
| III. 9. (d) | 10. (a) | 11. (d) | 12. (d) |
| IV. 13. (b) | 14. (a) | 15. (a) | |
| V. 16. (a) | 17. (a) | 18. True | |
- VI. 19. There are about 36 lakh elected representatives in the panchayats and municipalities all over the country. This number is bigger than the population of many countries in the world. So, Indian decentralisation is considered as the largest experiment in democracy.

20. By increasing Women's representation and voice in the country, the constitutional status of local government has helped to deepen democracy in India.

21. Steps taken by the Indian Government for decentralisation:

- (a) Now it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to Local Government bodies.
- (b) At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.
- (c) States are reserved in elected bodies for SC, ST and OBCs.

VII. 22. Language diversity has helped preserving the unique identities and cultures of different communities. It has also contributed to the development of various art forms, literature and music.

23. (a) 121 languages of the major Indian 22 languages have been included in the eighth schedule of the constitution. These 22 languages are called **Scheduled languages**.

(b) The other languages which have not been included in the eighth schedule are called **Non-scheduled languages**.

24. The diverse languages and cultures of India have blended together to create a shared sense of national identity. One example of this fusion can be seen in Bollywood films.

