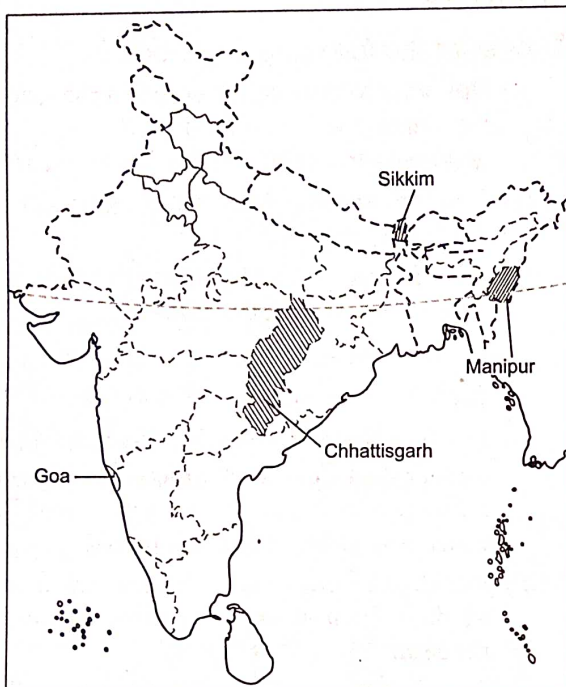


# PS - 2 FEDERALISM

## Exercises on page 27

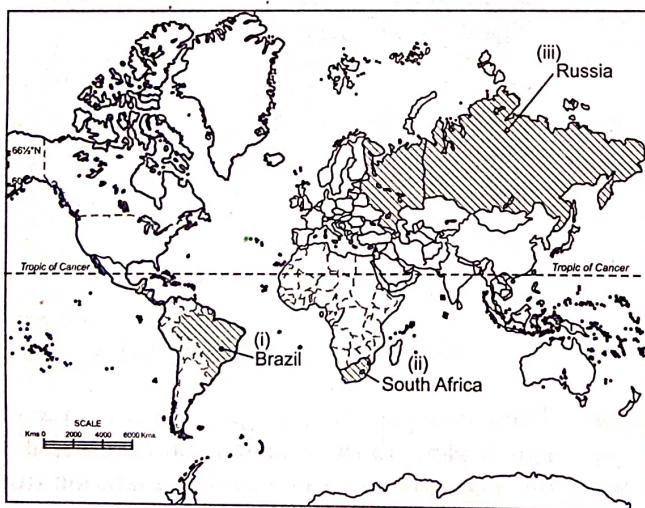
- 5 Locate the following states on a blank outline political map of India—Manipur, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh and Goa.

Ans.



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

Ans. (i) Brazil (ii) South Africa (iii) Russia



- 7 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 similar feature of federalism between India and Belgium is that both are holding together federations, where the Central Government tends to be more powerful *vis-a-vis* the states or regions. One different feature of federalism between India and

Belgium is that in Belgium, there are three kinds of government

- (i) Government at the Centre
- (ii) Government at the State level
- (iii) The Community Government

The Community Government has powers regarding cultural, educational and language related issues. But in India, the third kind of government is not a Community Government. It is the local self-government (Municipalities or Panchayats).

- 8 What is the main difference between a federal form of government and a unitary one? Explain with an example. CBSE 2018, CBSE 2011,10

Ans. The main difference between a federal form of government and a unitary are

- (i) In the federal form of government like in India, the powers are divided between the Central Government and State Governments. Both levels have their areas of jurisdiction. On the other hand, in a unitary form of government, the National Government has all the powers. Any constitutional power given to the states or regions of the country is dependent on the National Government, which can be withdrawn at any time. Sri Lanka is one such example.
- (ii) In a federal system, a State Government has powers of its own for which it is not answerable to the Central Government. On the other hand, in a unitary system, the State Government does not have power of its own.

- 9 State any two differences between the Local governments before and after the Constitutional Amendment in 1992.

Ans. The differences between the Local governments before and after the Constitutional Amendment in 1992 are

Local Government before 1992	Local Government after 1992
Local governments were directly under the control of the State Government.	Local governments have got some powers of their own.
Elections were controlled by the State Governments.	An independent State Election Commission (SEC) is responsible to conduct the elections.

- 10 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 powers than others. In India, the ..... Government has more powers.

- Ans.** (i) coming together  
 (ii) stronger  
 (iii) holding together  
 (iv) Central

**11** 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 position held by Sangeeta is the correct one. In reality, the policy of accommodation has strengthened national unity.

An example is the case of the English language. According to the Constitution, the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965. But many non-Hindi speaking states demanded that the use of English should continue. The Central Government agreed to continue the use of English along with Hindi for official purposes.

**12** 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.

**13** 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	Defence, Banking, Communications
State list	Police, Agriculture
Concurrent list	

**Ans.**

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

**14** 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 Government – Residuary Powers

- Ans.** (d) Local Government – Residuary Powers

**15** Match the 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

**Codes**

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

- Ans.** (c)

**16** Consider the following statements.

- A. In a federation, the power of the federal and provincial governments are clearly demarcated.
- B. 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.
- C. Sri Lanka is a federation because the country is divided into provinces.
- D. 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
- (d) B and C

- Ans.** (c) A and B

# Exam Practice

## Objective Type Questions

### Multiple Choice Questions

- 1 Which type of government does the Belgium have?  
(a) Federal (b) Communist (c) Unitary (d) Central

Ans. (a) Federal

- 2 Which countries follow the unitary system of government?

(a) Belgium, Spain and India  
(b) USA, Japan and Belgium  
(c) United Arab Emirates, China and Sri Lanka  
(d) France, Germany and India

Ans. (c) USA, Japan and Belgium

- 3 A system of government in which power is divided between a central authority and various constituent unit of the country is called

(a) Federalism (b) Communalism  
(c) Socialism (d) Democracy

Ans. (a) Federalism

- 4 Which country is an example of coming together federation?

(a) Belgium (b) USA (c) Sri Lanka (d) India

Ans. (b) USA

- 5 In Unitary form of government

(a) all the power is divided between the centre/union and the state provincial government.  
(b) all the power is with the citizens.  
(c) State Government has all the powers.  
(d) power is concentrated with the Central Government.

Ans. (d) power is concentrated with the Central Government.

- 6 Which one of the following subjects is included in the Union list? **CBSE 2021 Term I**

(a) Communication (b) Trade  
(c) Commerce (d) Irrigation

Ans. (a) Communication

- 7 Which one of the following countries is the example of 'Holding together federation'?

**CBSE 2021 Term I**

(a) Australia (b) India  
(c) U.S.A (d) Switzerland

Ans. (b) India

- 8 Which one of the following subjects is included in the State list? **CBSE 2021 Term I**

(a) Banking (b) Business  
(c) Currency (d) Communication

Ans. (b) Business

- 9 Identify the correct feature of Unitary form of government from the following options.

**CBSE 2021 Term I**

(a) There are two or more levels of government.  
(b) Different tiers of government govern the same citizens.  
(c) Each tier of government has its own jurisdiction.  
(d) The sub-units are sub-ordinate to the Central government.

Ans. (d) The sub-units are sub-ordinate to the Central government.

- 10 Which one of the following subjects is included in the Concurrent list?

(a) Trade (b) Commerce  
(c) Agriculture (d) Marriage

Ans. (d) Marriage

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

**CBSE SQP 2021 Term I**

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

**Codes**

(a) (i) and (ii) (b) (ii) and (iii)  
(c) (i) and (iii) (d) (ii) and (iv)

Ans. (a) (i) and (ii)

- 12 Who has special power in administering the Union Territories in India?

(a) Central Government (b) Chief Minister  
(c) President (d) Governor

Ans. (a) Central Government

- 13 When power is taken away from state governments and is given to local government, it is called

(a) Decentralisation (b) Centralisation  
(c) Panchayat Samiti (d) Federalism

Ans. (a) Decentralisation

- 14 Find the incorrect statement

(a) Even in democracy, the constitution can be misused.  
(b) In reorganisation, central government shares its power with state governments.  
(c) In coming together federation, all the constituent states have equal powers.

(d) Panchayati Raj is an example of people direct participation in decision making.

Ans. (b) In reorganisation, central government shares its power with state governments.

15 Arrange in sequence according to the occurrence of the events

- i. States on the basis of language created.
- ii. Rise of regional political parties leading to coalitions.
- iii. India's journey as a democracy begins.
- iv. Central government agrees to continue the use of English.

- (a) iii, ii, i, iv                      (b) iii, i, iv, ii  
 (c) i, iii, iv, ii                      (d) iv, i, iii, ii

Ans. (b) iii, i, iv, ii

16 Consider the following statements

- i. One third of all positions are reserved for women.
- ii. There is a three tier system of government but with unequal power distribution.
- iii. Constitution did not give status of national language to any one language.

Which among the following is/are true regarding Indian Constitution?

- (a) i and iii    (b) ii and iii    (c) i and ii    (d) All of these

Ans. (b) iii i iv ii

Match the Following

List I	List II
A. The use of English for official purpose was to stop	1. 2011
B. There are more than 1300 language as mother tongue.	2. 1990
C. The true rise of regional political parties in India.	3. 1965

- Codes  
 A B C                      A B C  
 (a) 3 1 2                      (b) 2 1 3  
 (c) 1 2 3                      (d) 1 3 2

Ans. (a)

List I	List II
A Maithili	1. Meghalaya
B Bodo	2. Jammu and Kashmir
C Dogri	3. Jharkhand

- Codes  
 A B C                      A B C  
 (a) 1 2 3                      (b) 3 1 2  
 (c) 2 1 3                      (d) 1 3 2

Ans. (b)

List I	List II
A Union list	1. Computer-related matter
B State list	2. Forest
C Concurrent list	3. Police
D Subsidiary matters	4. Defence

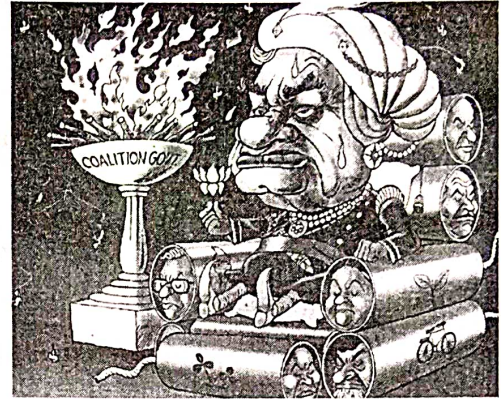
Codes

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

Ans. (b)

Picture Based Questions

20 Identify the Prime Minister of India and the name of Alliance headed by him.



- (a) Atal Bihari Vajpayee, NDA  
 (b) PV Narasimha Rao, UPA  
 (c) HD Deve Gowda, NDA  
 (d) Atal Bihari Vajpayee, UPA

Ans. (a) Atal Bihari Vajpayee, NDA

Fill in the Blanks

21 Police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation are under .....

Ans. State list

22 Pokharan is located at .....

Ans. Rajasthan

23 According to the constitution, the use of English for official purposes was to stop in .....

Ans. 1965

Correct and Rewrite

24 Many non-Hindi speaking states demanded that the use of Dogri should be continued.

Ans. Many non-Hindi speaking states demanded that the use of English should be continued.

25 After 1980, we witnessed the rise of regional political parties in many local self governments of India.

Ans. After 1990, we witnessed the rise of regional political parties in many states of India.

26 At least two-third of all positions in local government are reserved for women.

Ans. At least one third of all positions in local government are reserved for women.

### Assertion/Reason

**27 Assertion (A)** Municipalities are set up in towns.

**Reason (B)** In a municipal corporation, chairperson is known as the Mayor.

**Codes**

- (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 true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

**Ans.** (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A

**28 Assertion (A)** Power is taken away from Central and State Governments and given to local government and it is known as decentralisation.

**Reason (R)** Large number of problems and issues are best settled at the local level and it is the basic idea behind decentralisation.

**Codes**

- (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 true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

**Ans.** (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A

### Very Short Answer Questions

**29** What are the basic objectives of a federal system?

**Ans.** The basic objectives of a federal system are to safeguard and promote unity of the country and to accommodate regional diversity.

**30** Is India a 'coming together federation'?

**CBSE 2013**

**Ans.** No, India is not a 'coming together federation'. It is a kind of 'holding together federation'.

**31** Name two countries, besides India, which are federations.

**Ans.** The USA and Switzerland have federal system of government.

**32** What do you mean by 'holding together federation'?

**Ans.** It is a federation where a large country decides to divide the powers between the Central Government and the State Governments e.g. India.

**33** Write name of any two countries which are the examples of 'holding together federations'.

**CBSE 2015**

**Ans.** India, Spain and Belgium are examples of holding together federations.

**34** Which of the forms of government has two or more levels of government?

**Ans.** Federal form of government has two or more levels of government.

**35** Whose laws prevail if there is conflict between the State Government and Central Government on the subjects of the Concurrent List?

**Ans.** The laws made by the Union Government prevail if there is conflict between State Government and Central Government on the subjects of the Concurrent List.

**36** In which list do education, forest and marriages fall?

**Ans.** Education, forest and marriages fall under Concurrent List.

**37** The Indian federation consists of how many States and Union Territories?

**Ans.** The Indian federation consists of 28 States and 8 Union Territories.

**38** Where did India conduct its nuclear tests?

**Ans.** India conducted its nuclear tests at Pokharan, Rajasthan.

**39** When was the report of the States Reorganisation Commission implemented?

**Ans.** The report of the States Reorganisation Commission was implemented in 1956.

**40** Which period saw the rise of regional political parties in many states of our country?

**Ans.** Period after 1990 saw the rise of regional political parties in many states of our country.

**41** What do you mean by decentralisation?

**Ans.** When power is taken away from Central and State Governments and given to Local Government, it is called decentralisation.

## Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

1 How have the Centre-State relations been restructured to strengthen federalism?

CBSE 2011

**Ans.** Restructuring the centre state relation is a way in which federalism has been strengthened in practice. The way by which constitutional arrangements share power and work in reality depends to a large extent on how the ruling parties and their leaders follow this arrangement. For a long time, in India, the same party ruled both at the centre and in most of the states.

Here states did not exercise their autonomous power. When the ruling party at the centre and the states are different, the centre tried to dominate the state. After 1990, the era of coalition government began in India. This resulted in a new culture of power sharing between the states and the centre.

The Supreme Court authorised the autonomy of the State Government and made it difficult for the Central Government to dismiss State government in an arbitrary manner. Thus, federal power sharing became more effective than it was before.

2 What is the meaning of decentralisation?

Explain any four provisions that have been made towards decentralisation in India after the Constitutional Amendment in 1992.

CBSE 2012, 15

**Ans.** When power is taken away from Central and State Governments and given to local government, it is called decentralisation. A major step towards decentralisation was taken after the amendment of Constitution in 1992.

*The different provisions are*

- (i) It is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to government bodies.
- (ii) Seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- (iii) At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.
- (iv) The State Election Commission (SEC) has been created in each state to conduct Panchayat and Municipal election.

3 What steps were taken in 1992 in the area of decentralisation in India?

CBSE 2015

**Ans.** The steps taken to strengthen the local self governments by way of constitutional amendment are as follows

- Holding of elections in local government bodies was made mandatory.

- Responsibility of conducting the elections in local bodies like Panchayats and municipal corporation was given to State Election Commission.
- State governments were required to share some powers and revenue with the local governments.

These steps taken by way of constitutional amendments help to strengthen the position of local governments.

4. Name any two subjects that are included in concurrent list. How are laws made on these subjects?

CBSE 2019

**Ans.** Two subjects included in Concurrent list are education and forest. The laws on these subjects can be made by both the union government i.e. government at the center and the state governments. Subjects on the Concurrent list are of common interest to both (union and state) so anyone can make laws on it.

If in case, the laws conflict with each other, then in that case the law made by union government will prevail. Other subjects included in the Concurrent list are trade unions, marriage, adoption, succession etc.

5 Which features of Panchayati Raj do you like the most and why?

CBSE 2014

**Ans.** Solving the local problems effectively and participation of people in decision making are the two important features of Panchayati Raj system which I like most.

*This can be explained in the following ways*

(i) Panchayati Raj is a system of governance in which Gram Panchayats are the basic unit of administration. Gram Panchayat is a council consisting of several ward members known as *Panchs* and a President or *Sarpanch*.

They are directly elected by all the adult population living in that ward or village. So, this feature of Gram Panchayat is very significant.

(ii) People in a particular village elect their own representatives who are very much acquainted or familiar with the local issues. Thus, they can solve the problem of people easily and effectively. So, I like this feature of Panchayati Raj in our country.

6 What is Gram Sabha? Describe any four functions of a Gram Sabha.

CBSE 2012

**Ans.** Gram Sabha includes all the adult citizen voters of the village. It is empowered to support the Gram Panchayat body.

The functions of Gram Sabha are

- (i) It elects the members of the Gram Panchayat.
- (ii) It supervises the work of the Gram Panchayat.
- (iii) It approves the annual budget of the Panchayat.
- (iv) It reviews the performance of the Gram Panchayat.

7 Describe any three features of 'unitary government'. **CBSE 2020**

Ans. Features of unitary government are discussed below

- (i) In unitary system, all powers are centralised in the hands of the central government and only centre is the reservoir of all state powers.
- (ii) Another feature of unitary form of government is that laws of unitary system, unlike federation, are uniform because laws are made only by a single central government for the whole state.
- (iii) One of the important feature of this system is that it may become despotic when the rulers are not faithful as there is no check upon the exercise of these unlimited powers.

8 Mention the dual objectives of the federal system.

Ans. The federal system has dual objectives.

These are

- (i) To safeguard and promote unity of the country and at the same time accommodate regional diversity. Different tiers of government are made that govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own jurisdiction in respect of legislation, taxation and administration. Thus, federal system respects regional diversity and in this-way protects the unity of the country.
- (ii) An ideal federal system has mutual trust and agreement to live together. Governments at different levels should trust that each would abide by its part of the agreement.

9 Which is the highest tier of the Panchyati Raj? Explain its composition.

Ans. The highest tier of the Panchayati Raj System in rural areas is the Zilla Parishad. The Zilla Parishad coordinates the activities of all the Block Samitis in the whole district.

The composition of Zilla Parishad is

- (i) All the Panchayat Samitis or Mandals in a district together constitute the Zilla Parishad.
- (ii) Members of the Lok Sabha and MLAs of the district and some other officials of other district level bodies are also its members.
- (iii) Zilla Parishad Chairperson is the political head of the Zilla Parishad.

10 "Local governments have made a significant impact on Indian democracy. At the same time there are many difficulties." Explain. **CBSE 2013, 12**

or Evaluate the strengths and limitations of local self government in a democracy. **CBSE 2019**

Ans. Local self-government have made a significant impact on Indian democracy by its achievements which are

- (i) The constitutional status for local government has helped to deepen democracy in our country.
- (ii) Local government has increased women's representation and voice in our democracy.

At the same time, the local self-government are facing many difficulties.

These are

- (i) While elections are held regularly, Gram Sabhas are not held regularly to review the performance of the Gram Panchayat.
- (ii) Most State Governments have not transferred significant powers and adequate resources to the local governments.

11 Highlight three major distinctions between the federations of 'coming together' type and 'holding together' type. **CBSE 2015**

Ans. The three major distinctions between the federations of 'coming together' and 'holding together' are

Coming Together Federation	Holding Together Federation
In this type, independent states come together on their own to form bigger unit.	In this type, a large country decide to divide power between the Constituent States and the National Government.
They can increase their security by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity.	In this, the Central Government tends to be more powerful vis-a-vis the states.
Examples are USA, Switzerland and Australia.	Examples are India, Spain and Belgium.

12 In Panchayati Raj System, one-third of the seats have been reserved for women. Do you feel that the same should be done for State Legislature and the Parliament? Support your answer with arguments. **CBSE 2014**

Ans. In Panchayati Raj System, one-third of the seats are reserved for the women. This reservation should also be done for State Legislature and Parliament. But, the Women Reservation Bill is a pending bill in India

which proposes to amend the Constitution of India to reserve 33 per cent of all seats in the Lok Sabha and in all State Legislative Assembly for women. *This bill should be passed for the following*

- (i) To increase women participation in politics and society.
- (ii) To increase opportunity and respect in all for women.

### 13. Source based Question

#### Source A Need of third tier of government

States in India are as large as many independent countries of Europe. In terms of population, Uttar Pradesh is bigger than Russia, Maharashtra is about as big as Germany. Many of these states are internally very diverse. There is thus a need for power sharing within these States.

Federal power sharing in India needs another tier of government, below that of the State Governments.

- (i) Evaluate the need of third tier government in India.

#### Source B Decentralisation in India

The need for decentralisation was recognised in our constitution. Since then, there have been several attempts to decentralise power to the level of villages and towns. Panchayats in villages and municipalities in urban areas were set up in all the states. But these were directly under the control of State Governments. Elections to these local governments were not held regularly.

Local governments did not have any power or resource of their own. Thus, there was very little decentralisation in effective terms.

- (ii) To what extent do you think that decentralisation is applied in India?

#### Source C Steps towards decentralisation

A major step towards decentralisation was taken in 1992. The constitution was amended to make the third-tier of democracy more powerful and effective. Now, it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies. Seats are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.

- (iii) To what extent constitution amendment made the third-tier of democracy more effective and powerful? Explain it by giving examples.

- Ans.**
- (i) Indian states are very large and diverse in nature. To administer the states properly only Central and State government are not enough. Another tier of government below the State Government is needed to solve the local problems and issues. Thus, third-tier of government is needed in India.
  - (ii) Our constitution has recognised the need for decentralisation. Union, state and a third-tier of government i.e. 'Local Self-Government' below the State Government. However, it is not applied properly as local government do not have any power or resources of their own. They are under the direct control of state governments. Therefore decentralisation is not applied properly in India.
  - (iii) To make the third-tier of democracy more effective and powerful our constitution was amended several times. First of all, law was made for regular elections of local government bodies, Seats were reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and one third of all positions for women.

## Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

- 1 Explain any four/five key features of federalism which have been incorporated in the Indian Constitution. **CBSE 2012, 11,10**
- or Mention any five main features which make India a federal country. **CBSE 2015**

**Ans.** Five main features of Indian Constitution, 2019 which make India a federal country are given below

- (i) Administration of subjects which are of national importance and require uniformity in administration are given in the hands of the Central

Government, while subjects of the local importance or day-to-day administration are given to the states.

- (ii) Both Centre and state governments enjoy their power independent of each other. Such a system exists in India, USA etc.
- (iii) The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government. Such changes require the consent of both the levels of government.

(iv) The federal system has dual objectives i.e. to safeguard and promote unity of the country, while at the same time accommodate regional diversity.

(v) Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.

**2** How are the powers divided between the states and the centre? **CBSE 2012**

or Describe the division of powers divided between State and Central Governments in India. **CBSE 2011**

or How are the legislative powers distributed between the Union Government and the State Government by the Constitution? Explain with example. **CBSE 2015**

**Ans.** The division of power between the Central and State Governments is done in a three fold distribution of legislative powers between the Union Government and the State Government. There are three lists i.e. Union list, State list and Concurrent list.

(i) **Union List** It includes subjects of national importance, e.g. defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, communication and currency. The Central Government alone can make decisions on these matters. The aim of including these matters in Union List is to ensure uniformity in the policy of these areas throughout the country.

(ii) **State List** It includes subjects of state and local importance such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation. The State Government alone can make laws and decisions on these areas.

(iii) **Concurrent List** It includes those subjects which are of common interest to both the Central as well as State Governments. It includes matters like education, forests, marriage and trade unions. Both the State and Central Government can make decision on these matters.

**3** Why has federalism succeeded in India? Which three policies adopted by India have ensured this success? **CBSE 2016**

**Ans.** The policies adopted by Indian Government have ensured the success of federalism in India.

*Policies adopted by India to ensure this success are*

(i) **Centre-State Relations** Federalism has been strengthened by restructuring of centre-state relations.

(ii) **Decentralisation** In India, power has been decentralised to the local government. The local government includes panchayats and municipalities.

(iii) **Linguistic States** The policy of creating linguistic states has also strengthened federalism. Despite of division, this policy united the nation.

(iv) **Language Policy** Indian federation did not gave status of national language to any language. This ultimately has strengthened federalism.

**4** Explain the advantages of decentralisation.

**Ans.** When power is taken from Central and State Governments and given to local government, it is called decentralisation.

*The advantages of decentralisation are*

(i) The basic idea behind decentralisation is that there are large number of problems and issues which are best settled at the local level. People have better knowledge of the problems of their own locality. They have better idea on where to spend money and how to manage things efficiently.

(ii) Decentralisation makes it possible for the people to directly participate in decision-making. This helps the people to develop a habit to participate in democratic activities. Thus local government is the best way to realise the significance of local self-government in democracy.

(iii) Decentralisation reduces the burden of Central and State Governments. It helps to concentrate on matters of national of state importance in a better way.

(iv) Decentralisation leads to women empowerment as it provides that at least one-third of all positions are reserved for women in all the local bodies.

**5** "The creation of a linguistic state was the first and major test for democratic politics in our country." Justify the statement. **CBSE 2019**

**Ans.** The creation of a linguistic state was the first and major test for democratic politics in our country. *This can be justified in the following ways*

(i) In 1947, the boundaries of several old states were changed in order to create new states. It was done according to the language that people speak. But many national leaders feared that the formation of state according to language would lead to the disintegration of the country.

(ii) In our country, some states were created not on the basis of language but on the basis of culture, ethnicity and geography. These include Nagaland, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand.

- (iii) Linguistic states has made the country more united. It has helped to maintain our federal structure.
- (iv) Linguistic states made administration easier for the local people. People feel comfortable to work in their mother tongue. It fulfils their expectations from democracy.

### 6 Read the passage and answer the questions that follows

A second test for Indian federation is the language policy. Our constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language.

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

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.

- (i) Why our constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language.
- (ii) Infer the importance of continuing English as the official language of India.
- (iii) How our country differs from Sri Lanka in respect of language?

**Ans.** (i) There are many major languages in India. Only 40 per cent people speak in Hindi. It is improper to give the status of national language to any particular language. Thus, our constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language.

(ii) According to the constitutions the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965. But many non-Hindi speaking states demanded to continue English as an official language along with Hindi. Some states, specially states in South India, like Tamil Nadu revolted violently against the removal of English. Thus, Central Government took the decision to continue English as official language.

(iii) Sri Lanka declared Sinhala as the only official language. In our country there is no national language. Hindi and English are official language. There are 22 scheduled languages along with Hindi. Promotion of Hindi continues to be official policy of the government. Promotion does not mean to impose Hindi on non-Hindi speaking states. The flexibility in our languages policy differ from the policy taken by Sri Lanka.