

Chapter-2

Federalism

1 marks Questions

1. How many scheduled languages are recognized by the constitution?

- a) Besides Hindus, there are 18 scheduled, languages.**
- b) Besides Hindi, there are 21 scheduled languages.**
- c) Besides Hindi there are 22 scheduled languages.**
- d) Besides Hindi there are 19 scheduled languages**

Ans. b) Besides Hindi, there are 21 scheduled languages.

2. What is the government at Block level called?

- a) Gram Sabha**
- b) Gram Panchyat**
- c) Panchayat Samiti**
- d) Nayay Panchyat**

Ans. c) Panchayat Samiti

3. Which local govt works at district level?

- a) Panchayat samiti**
- b) Village panchayat**
- c) Zila Parishad**
- d) None of the mention above**

Ans. c) Zila Parishad

4. By what name local govt at urban area called?

- A) Municipality**
- B) Municipal corporation**

C) Panchayat samiti

- a) Only A is true**
- b) Only B is true**
- c) Both B and C are true**
- d) Both A and B are true**

Ans. d) Both A and B are true

5. Who is the chairperson of Municipal Corporation?

- a) Block development officer**
- b) Mayor**
- c) Sarpanch**
- d) Member of Lok Sabha**

Ans. b) Mayor

6. Name the Indian state that has its own constitution.

Ans. Jammu and Kashmir

7. What is federalism?

Ans. Federalism is a system of government, under which power is divided between a central authority and its various constituent units.

8. What is Unitary Government?

Ans. In unitary government there is only one level of government and if sub units are there, that are subordinate to the central government.

9. Define Gram Panchayat?

Ans. It is council consisting of several ward members at village level, often called the Panch and the head is Sarpanch.

10. What is Panchayat Samiti?

Ans. A few Gram Panchayats are grouped together to form a Panchayat Samiti or Block or a Mandal.

11. Define Zila Parishad?

Ans. All the panchayat Samitis or Mandals in a district together constitute the Zila Parishad.

12. What is Mayor?

Ans. Mayor is the head of a Municipal Corporation.

13. The Subjects like-Defense, Banking and Communication are come under which list?

Ans. .Union List

14. Point out one feature in the practice of federation in India that is similar from that of Belgium.

Ans. In both countries there are two or more levels of Government.

15. Point out one feature in the practice of federation in India that is different from to that of Belgium.

Ans. In Belgium Community Government is there, but in India such type of provision is not there.

16. How many lists of subject have been provided in the Indian Constitution?

Ans. Four comprehensive lists of subjects. Union List, State List, Concurrent List and Residuary List

17. How many languages have been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

Ans. Besides Hindi there are 21 other languages included in the eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

18. Name a few countries which are coming together federations.

Ans. Australia, USA and Switzerland

19. Name any two languages that are grouped together under Hindi.

Ans. Bhojpuri and Magadhi

20. When was State Reorganization Commission was implemented?

Ans. .November 1, 1956.

21. Name the country where the city called Porto Alegre Situated.

Ans. Brazil

22. What is approximate number of elected representatives in the Panchayat and Municipalities?

Ans. About 36 Lakh

23. In which year the use of English as an official language was stopped in India?

Ans. 1956

24. Why is Pokhran famous in India?

Ans. Pokharan, the place where India conducted its nuclear tests, lies in Rajasthan.

25. How many countries are federal political systems, according to the source given by Montreal and Kingston, Handbook of Federal Counries, 2002?

Ans. 25 countries.

26. What is the real reason for the successes of federalism in India?

Ans. 1). The constitutional provisions are laid out very clearly.
2) The nature of democratic politics has ensure its success.
3) There is respect for diversity.

27. What are the objectives of the federal system?

Ans. Federal system has dual objectives to safeguard and promote unity of the country and accommodate regional diversity. It is based on mutual trust and agreement to live together.

28. What happened to the centre state relations when different parties ruled at the centre and state levels till 1990?

Ans. When different parties ruled at the centre and state levels the parties at the centre tried to undermine the power of states. The central government misused the constitution often to dismiss the state governments that were controlled by other parties. This is against the spirit of federalism.

3 marks Questions

1. Why is the central government of India not compelling states to adopt Hindi as their official language?

Ans. a) India is multilingual country. According to the census of 1991 recorded more than 1500 distinct languages, people mentioned their mother tongues.

b) Hindi is mother tongue of only 40% of the people of India.

c) There are 21 languages recognized by the constitution.

d) In states of Southern India there has been violent opposition to Hindi.

2. Contrast a federal system of government with a unitary set-up with examples.

Ans. a) Federalism has at least two levels of government.

b) The central government is responsible for subjects of national importance.

c) The state government looks after the daily administration of the states.

d) In Unitary system there is only one level of government and if any subunits are there that remains subordinate to the central government.

3. Highlight the two types of routes through which the federations are formed. Give example.

Ans. a) When independent states come together and form a federation is coming together route. Example: USA, Switzerland and Australia.

b) When a country decides to divide its power between the constituent state and the national

government that is holding together route. Example: India, Spain and Belgium.

4. Explain the role of union list, state list and concurrent list with context to India.

Ans. a) Union list includes those subjects which are of national interest and on which a uniform policy is needed in the whole country. The Union Government makes laws on these subjects. Example, defense, foreign affairs and banking.

b) State list includes subjects of state and local importance example, police, trade, agriculture etc.

c) Concurrent list includes subjects of common interest to the Union Government and the State Government, Example: Education, forest etc.

5. What are significances of Panchayat Raj?

Ans. a) It is the third level of Indian Federal System.

b) This level gives a chance to the people to become the representatives of people.

c) There are 36 lakhs elected representatives in the local bodies.

d) There is reservation for women, SCs and STs.

e) They strengthen the democratic system of India.

6. Explain the organization of the local government bodies of urban areas.

Ans. a) Local Government bodies exist in urban areas also. In Towns there are municipalities and in big cities there are municipal corporations.

b) Both municipalities and municipal corporations are controlled by elected bodies consisting of people's representatives.

c) Municipality is headed by the chairman and Municipal Corporation is headed by the Mayor.

7. Differentiate between Federal Government and the Unitary Government.

- Ans.** a) In the unitary system power is centered with the central authority and in federal system, power is allotted to the state and local level government.
- b) In Federal system power is allocated separately to the central and state level governments. In Unitary system there is no separate unit of the government.
- c) In Federal system the focus is on national and state issues and in unitary system, the focus is completely on gaining power.
- d) In country like France, Italy, Japan and UK use unitary system. The countries like US, Canada, Argentina, Australia, Austria, India, and Switzerland use federal system of government.

8. How federalism leads to reservation of seats for different caste groups?

- Ans.** a) Federalism means sharing power among the central and non central authorities. it seeks to give equal representation to all the constituent units.
- b) Even in the constituent units or in states, there is diversity in the population with respect to language, religion, caste and culture.
- c) To give equal opportunity and voice to various social groups, there is reservation for some categories like SCs, STs, OBCs and women in some areas.
- d) This reservation aims to give power to the socially weaker sections of the society to give them an equal chance and representation in the political system.

9. What was the Amendment in regard to decentralization?

- Ans.** a) In 1992, 73rd Amendment Act gave constituent status to the Panchayati raj institution.
- b) It created the third tier of federalism in India below the central government level and the state government level.
- c) The Objective of this Amendment was to make democracy more powerful and effective by

giving power to the grassroots units of self government.

10. How is the Federal government better than a Unitary Government? Explain with the example of Belgium and Sri Lanka.

Ans. a) If we study the main difference between the federal and the unitary governments, in the present times the federal governments certainly score over the unitary governments, especially when people of different religions, castes and cultures resides in one and same country.

b) In chapter Power Sharing we have seen how a unitary form of government has proved a failure in Sri Lanka while a federal type of government has proved a great success in Belgium.

c) In Sri Lanka Unitary government fails to solve the dispute of different sections of the society but in Belgium the federal government gives equal respect to the demands of different sections of the society.

d) In Belgium all types of people have been accommodated while in Majoritarianism has been thrust upon the people especially over the minority community in Sri Lanka.

11. Discuss why the special status has been given to a few states in India? Explain with the example of Jammu and Kashmir.

Ans. a) A few states in India have been given a special status in the constitution due to diverse population and regions within the state itself.

b) Special status to Jammu and Kashmir is due to the history of conflict over the state with Pakistan.

c) The state was given to the Indian Union under very special terms, which provided the state with a unique position in the Indian Union.

d) This state has its own constitution.

12. How far is it correct to say that federalism works only in big country?

-
- Ans.** a) Federalism means sharing power among the central and non-central authorities.
- b) It works in big countries where the area of country is very large and it makes it difficult to be effectively managed through only one level of government.
- c) In such cases different levels of the government are formed to have broad based participation of the people.
-

13. Is it easy to make changes to power sharing arrangements between centre and the state? Explain

- Ans.** a) No it is not easy to make changes in the power sharing arrangements between the centre and the states.
- b) The parliament alone cannot make any decision relating to the power sharing arrangements.
- c) In these days the influence of regional and state political parties is increased.
- d) Any proposed change has to be first approved by both the houses of the Parliament.
-

14. Explain the role of Judiciary.

- Ans.** a) Judiciary plays an important role in ensuring the implementation of various laws and procedure.
- b) The supreme court of India has the exclusive authority of settling disputes between the government of India and one or more states or between two states.
- c) The high court stands at the head of state's judicial administrations.
- d) The Union Territories come under the jurisdiction of different state high courts.
-

15. Explain the role of legislature.

- Ans.** a) Legislature is our country's law making body.
- b) It is an assembly of people's representation with the power to enact laws for our country.

c) The members of the legislature are elected by the people.

d) In addition to enacting laws legislature have the authority to raise taxes, and adopt the budget and other money bills.

16. Explain the role of executive.

Ans. a) At different organs of government we find functionaries who take day-to-day decisions, but do not exercise the supreme power on behalf of the people. All those functionaries are collectively known as the executive.

b) Executive is law implementing body.

c). It is a body of persons having major policies, make decisions, and implementing them on the basis of the constitution and laws of the country.

17. Explain the working of rural local government.

Ans. a) Under the three tier system of decentralization, Zila Parishad is the apex body at the district level.

b) It is followed by panchayat samities at the block level and gram panchayat at village level.

c) Each village has gram panchayat whose members are elected by the entire adult population of that village.

d) A few gram panchayat are joined together to form a block samiti.

e) All the panchayat samities in a district collectively make a Zila parishad.

18. What are the powers and responsibilities of village Panchayat?

Ans. a) Preparation plan for economic development and social justice for the village.

b) Implementation of schemes for economic development for the village.

c) It charges and collects all the taxes, duties, tolls and fees.

19. What are the functions of Gram Sabha?

Ans. a) Gram Sabha meets at least quarter of the year.

b) It decides the development work which is to be carried out by the Panchayat.

c) It suggests remedial measures for economy and efficiency in the functioning of the panchayat.

d) It questions and examines the decision of the panchayat in the meeting of Gram Sabha.

20. What are the demerits of local self government?

Ans. a) Irregular elections.

b) Dominance of Upper Caste people.

c) Ignorance, illiteracy and poverty of the villagers.

d) Excessive official control.

e) Lack of Adequate funds.

21. What makes India a federal country?

Ans. a) The levels of governments are divided into different parts- Central, State and Panchayat Raj.

b) The constitution of India demarcates the powers of the center and state governments in to different lists of subjects.

c) Written and rigid constitution.

d) India is judiciary is free from all powers.

22. Which policies have strengthened federalism in India?

Ans. a) Linguistic States: After independence in the year 1950 the boundaries of several old states were changed in order to create new states. The formation of linguistic states made the

country more united and stringer. It has also made administration easier.

b) Language Policy: Indian Constitution did not give the status of national language to any of the language.

c) Centre- State Relations: This is a critical matter in relation to any federation since the centre state relations decides the extent to which the ruling parties and leaders follow the power sharing arrangements.

23. If agriculture and commerce are state subjects why do we have ministers of agriculture and commerce in the Union Cabinet?

Ans. a) Although agriculture and commerce are the state subjects we have ministers of agriculture and commerce at the union cabinet because the wider prospect of these subjects regarding inter-state trade.

b) A uniform policy has to be legislated for all the states.

c) The agriculture and economic experts are part of the planning commission. So we require agriculture and commerce ministers in the Union for policy making.

24. Discuss the dual objective of federalism?

Ans. As federalism has two or more levels of governments it has dual objectives:

a) To safeguard and promote unity of the country.

b) And to accommodate regional diversity.

c) The above two aspects are crucial for the institution and practice of federalism. The government at different levels should agree to some rules of power sharing.

d) They should also trust that each would abide by its part of agreement.

25. Examine the holding together nature of Indian Federalism.

Ans. a) States have been not been given identical powers with union government.

b) Few states have been given special status-like Jammu and Kashmir and North eastern states in order to protect and preserve their custom, tradition, culture and linguistic diversity.

c) Apart from these some territories of the Indian union like Chandigarh, Lakshadweep or the capital city of Delhi are administered by union government hence known as Union Territories.

26. Write down the features of Coming together federations.

Ans. a) Coming Together Federation involves independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit.

b) In coming together units try to increase their security by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity.

c) In this category of federations, all the constituent units usually have equal power and are strong vis-à-vis the federal government.

d) USA, Switzerland and Australia are Coming Together Federations.

27. Write down the features of holding together federations.

Ans. a) The Second route is where a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent States and the national government.

b) India, Spain and Belgium are examples of this kind of Holding Together federations.

c) In this category the central government tends to be more power full vis-à-vis the states.

d) Very often different constituent units of the different constituent units of the federation have unequal powers. Some units are granted special powers.

28. Is it right to say that India is federal country but the word federalism is not used anywhere in the constitution? Explain.

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

-
- b) Soon after independence several princely states become a part of the country.
 - c) The constitution declared India as a Union of States.
 - d) Although it did not use the word federation, the Indian Union is based on the principles of federalism.
 - e) India is fulfilling all the requirements which are required for a federal country.
-

29. “Local people know the local problems and its solutions better”. Explain

Ans. a) Decentralization has a number of advantages.

- b) Decentralization aims at dealing with the local problems at local level.
 - c) Local people know their problems much better than outsiders.
 - d) They also have better ideas regarding management of things more efficiently.
 - e) They can specify the important problems and allocate more money to more pressing problems on priority basis.
-

30. Highlight the support given by local governments in lessening the workload of centre and state governments.

Ans. a) The local governments take up some of the responsibilities of the Central and State governments.

- b) They share some of their burdens and allow them time to concentrate on matters of the state importance and national importance.
 - c) Much of their time which was hitherto wasted on local problems, could now be devoted to much more important issues.
-

31. Give the key features of federalism

Ans. 1. There is two or more level of govt

2. Each tier has its own jurisdiction

3. Any change in the fundamental provisions of the constitution requires consent of both levels of the govt

4. Sources of revenue for each level are specified

32. What major steps taken in 1992 towards decentralization?

Ans. A three tier democracies were introduced in 1992.

A step was taken towards creating rural local self govt.

- 1) Regular elections to be held for panchayat
- 2) Seats reserved for SC's and STs OBCs
- 3) One third seats reserved for women
- 4) State govt to share power and revenue with local bodies.

5 marks Questions

1. What are the causes responsible for very slow progress of Panchayat Raj System in India?

Ans. 1) Lack of awareness: Some people treat it just as an administrative agency, some as an intention of democracy at grass root level and some treat it as a charter of rural, local government. There for lack of awareness and conceptual clarity is one of the reason of slow success of Panchayat Raj.

2) Irregular election: Election should hold after a gap of five years, but still irregularity is there to hold the elections.

3) Relationship of government officials and elected representatives: All work of the Panchayat Raj System is being done by the government officials, but contradiction always comes in between government officials and elected representatives and then it progresses very slowly.

4) Lack of money and other support: The Panchayat Raj institutions lack enough money, administrative support and help from the government officials. That's why its success rate is very slow.

2. What are the features of Federalism?

Ans. 1) There are two or more levels of government.

2) Different tiers of government govern same citizens but each tier has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.

3) The jurisdiction of respective levels is specified in the constitution. So the existence and authority of each tier of government is constitutionally granted.

4) Fundamental provisions of the constitutions cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government and require the constitutions and the powers of government of different levels. The highest court acts as the umpire if disputes arise in the exercise of their respective powers.

5) Sources of revenues are specified to ensure the financial autonomy.

3. Explain how power is shared among different organs of the government.

Ans. 1) Union List: Subjects of national importance like defense, foreign affairs, atomic energy, banking, post and telegraph are included in the Union List. Only the central government can pass laws on the subjects mentioned in the union list because we need a uniform policy on important or national issues throughout the country. The union list has 97 subjects.

2) State List: It comprises those important subjects on which the state government can pass laws. Subjects like police, local government, trade and commerce, agriculture are within the state included in the State list. The state list has 66 subjects.

3) Concurrent List: The concurrent list comprises the subjects which are of common concern both to the centre and state government. Both the centre and state governments can frame laws on these subjects. However if there is a conflict between the central law and state law, over a subject in the Concurrent list, the central law would be effective. The concurrent list has 47 subjects.

4) Residuary Powers: Matters which are not included in the division of powers are known as residuary powers. It was felt that there can be subjects which are not mentioned in either of these lists. The central government has been given the power to legislate on the residuary subjects.

4. Explain the features of third tier of the rural government.

Ans. 1) Rural local government is popularly known by the name Panchayat Raj. Each Village or group of villages in some state has a Gram Panchayat.

2) This is a council consisting of members called Panchs and a president called Sarpanch.

They are directly elected by the adult population living in the ward or village.

3) The Panchayats work under the supervision of the Gram Sabha. All the voters of the village are the members of Gram Sabha.

4) The local government structure goes right up to the district level. A few Gram panchayats are grouped together to form Block Samitis. The members of all the Block Samitis are elected by the panchayat members of the area.

5) All the Panchayat Samitis or Mandals in a district together constitute the Zila Parishad.

5. Describe the language policy of India?

Ans. 1) The constitution of India does not give the status of national language to any of the language.

2) Though Hindi was identified as the official language but the central government has not imposed Hindi on states where people speak a different language.

3) Besides Hindi there are twenty one other languages recognized as Scheduled languages by the constitution.

4) Most of the states have their own official languages which are used in the offices.

5) Since independence Indian Leaders have adopted a very cautious attitude in spreading the use of Hindi.

6) According to constitution the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965 which was not liked by some of the states. So the central government responded by agreeing to continue the use of English along with Hindi as official language.

6. What policies strengthened the federalism of India?

Ans. Linguistic States: Since 1947 many changes have been done in the political map of India. Many old states have vanished and many new states have been created. Areas, boundaries and names of the states have been changed. In 1947, the 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. Some states were created to recognize differences based on culture, ethnicity or geography.

Centre-state relations in India: Earlier in India for a long time, the same party ruled both at centre and state. This meant the state government did not exercise their rights as autonomous federal units. As and when ruling party at state level was different, the parties that ruled at the Central tried to undermine the powers. But after 1990 significant changes occurred. There was rise of regional political parties in many states of the country. This was also the beginning of the era of coalition governments at the centre.

7. What major steps were taken in 1992 towards decentralization?

Ans. 1) Now it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.

2) States are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes.

3) At least one third of all positions are reserved for women.

4) An independent institution called the state Election Commission has been created in each State to conduct panchayat and municipal elections.

5) The state governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies. The nature of sharing varies State to state.

8. In what way is the Panchayat Raj experiment Significant? Explain.

Ans. 1) There are now about 36 lakhs elected representatives in the panchayat and municipalities.

2) There is reservation for women, SC and ST in these bodies.

3) This number is bigger than the population of many countries in the world.

4) 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.

5) At the same time, there are many difficulties. While elections are held regularly and enthusiastically Gram Sabha are now held regularly.

9. Why the exact balance of power between the central and State Governments does vary from one federation to other federations? Explain with example.

Ans. 1) Coming together Federation: In this type of federation independent units come together on their own to form a union or federation. Their main aim is to form a bigger unit, so that by pooling sovereignty and retaining their identity they can increase their security. Federations of USA, Switzerland and Australia are examples.

2) Holding Together Federations: Under this type of federation, the federal government decides to divide its power between the constituent states and the national government. In this, type of government the central government tends to be more powerful vis-a-vis states. Holding together sometimes gives unequal power to constitute states. Some states are granted special powers. India, Spain and Belgium federations are the examples of Holding Together Federations.

10. Critically examine the concept of Decentralization in India.

Ans. The need of decentralization is very much recognized in Indian constitution and various attempts have been made to decentralize power to village and towns. Panchayats in villages and municipalities in towns have been set up in all the states of the country.

- 1) But in all practical the concept of decentralization is not very much applied in all the state.
- 2) The local bodies are directly under the control of state government.
- 3) The elections to these local bodies are not held regularly.
- 4) Local governments do not have any powers or resources of their own, like Agriculture and commerce.

CBSE Important Questions

Q.1 How many scheduled languages are recognized by the constitution?

- a) Besides Hindi, there are 18 scheduled languages.**
- b) Besides Hindi, there are 21 scheduled languages.**
- c) Besides Hindi there are 22 scheduled languages.**
- d) Besides Hindi there are 19 scheduled languages**

Ans. b) Besides Hindi, there are 21 scheduled languages.

Q.2 What is the government at Block level called?

- a) Gram Sabha b) Gram Panchayat c) Panchayat Samiti d) Nayay Panchayat**

Ans. c) Panchayat Samiti

Q.3 Which local govt works at district level?

- a) Panchayat samiti b) Village panchayat c) Zila Parishad d) None of the mention a**

Ans. c) Zila Parishad

Q.4 By what name local govt at urban area called?

- A) Municipality B) Municipal corporation C) Panchayat samiti**

- a) Only A is true b) Only B is true c) Both B and C are true d) Both A and B are true**

Ans. d) Both A and B are true

Q.5 Who is the chairperson of Municipal Corporation?

- a) Block development officer b) Mayor c) Sarpanch d) Member of Lok Sabha**

Short Answers Questions

Q.1 What is the real reason for the successes of federalism in India?

Ans- 1). The constitutional provisions are laid out very clearly

2) The nature of democratic politics has ensure its success

3) There is respect for diversity

Q.2 what are the objectives of the federal system?

Ans- Federal system has dual objectives to safeguard and promote unity of the country and accommodate

regional diversity. It is based on mutual trust and agreement to live together.

Q.3 What happened to the centre state relations when different parties ruled at the centre and state levels till 1990?

Ans- When different parties ruled at the centre and state levels the parties at the centre tried to undermine

the power of states. The central government misused the constitution often to dismiss the state governments

that were controlled by other parties. This is against the spirit of federalism

Long Answers Questions

Q.1 Give the key features of federalism

Ans- 1. There is two or more level of govt

2. Each tier has its own jurisdiction

3. Any change in the fundamental provisions of the constitution requires consent of both levels of the govt

4. Sources of revenue for each level are specified

Q.2 What major steps taken in 1992 towards decentralization?

Ans- A three tier democracies were introduced in 1992.

A step was taken towards creating rural local self govt.

- 1) Regular elections to be held for panchayat
- 2) Seats reserved for SC's and STs OBCs
- 3) One third seats reserved for women
- 4) State govt to share power and revenue with local bodies.

Extra questions

Q.1 Why do some states enjoy special powers in India? Which are they?

Q.2 What type of federation does India have? How it is different from that of USA?

Q.3 How legislative powers being distributed among three tiers of the govt by the constitution?

Q.4 Distinguish between unitary and federal government.