



/padhleakshay



Federalism

**DONATE
SO THAT IT
REMAINS FREE**



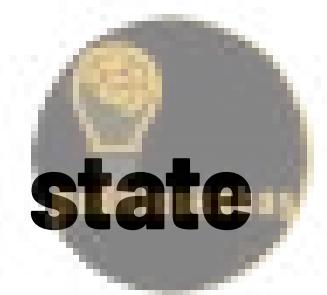
padhleakshay@apl

Visit website padhleakshay.com for more



IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- **Jurisdiction:** The area over which someone has legal authority. The area may be defined in terms of geographical boundaries or in terms of subject.
- **Coalition government:** A government formed by coming together of at least two political parties.
- **Tier system:** It is the system which signifies levels of government. It may be two levels or two tiers and three levels or three tiers.
- **Coming together federation:** It is a type of federation in which independent states come together on their own to form a bigger unit, so that by pooling, sovereignty and retaining identity they can increase this security.
- **Holding together federation:** It is such a federation in which a large country decides to divide its power between the Constituent States and the National Government.
- **List system:** It states the distribution of powers or subjects through the list like Union List for central/Union level, state list for state level, etc. It is specific feature of Indian federalism.
- **Residuary subjects:** They are the left over subjects which do not fall in any one of the three list. On the residuary subjects only the Union Government can legislate example: computer, software and internet.
- **Linguistic state:** The creation of states on the basis of languages is known as linguistic state. Linguistic state recognizes differences based on culture, ethnicity or geography.
- **Scheduled language:** Languages which are listed in the list of schedule of the constitution of India are known as the scheduled languages.
- **Non schedule languages:** Apart from schedule languages, the languages which are not listed in the schedule of the constitution are known as the non schedule languages.



- **Decentralization:** When power is taken away from central and state governments and given to local government, it is called decentralization. This concept helps to inculcate a habit and culture of democratic participation at the Grass root level.
- **Unitary System:** “Unitary System” is a system of government in which either there is only one level of government or sub units are subordinate to the central government.
- **Union List:** It is the list given under the jurisdiction of Union government. It includes the subjects or matters of national importance like defence, finance, external affairs, currency, etc. Union government alone can make laws on the Union government alone can make laws on the Union List subjects.
- **State List:** “State List” is given under the jurisdiction of State Government. It includes the subjects or matters of state and local importance. State Government alone can make laws on the state list subjects.



padhle.akshay



NO BAKWAS



/padhleakshay



Multiple Choice Questions

SCAN
& DONATE



padhleakshay@apl



1. The number of seats reserved for women in the panchayats and municipalities is

- (a) one-fourth
- (b) one-third
- (c) half
- (d) one-fifth

2. 'Holding together federations are not found in

- (a) India
- (b) Spain
- (c) Belgium
- (d) Australia

3. Subjects like computer software comes in the

- (a) Union List
- (b) State List
- (c) Concurrent List
- (d) Residuary List

4. Which of the following states has been given a special status?

- (a) Jammu and Kashmir
- (b) Tripura
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Haryana

5. The number of Scheduled Languages in India is

- (a) 21
- (b) 22
- (c) 23
- (d) 25

6. Which one of the following States in India has its own Constitution?

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) J & K
- (d) Nagaland

7. Which among the following are examples of 'Coming together federations'?

- (a) India, Spain and Belgium
- (b) India, USA and Spain
- (c) USA, Switzerland and Australia



(d) Belgium and Sri Lanka

8. 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

9. The Constitution of India

- (a) divided powers between centre and states in three lists.
- (b) divided powers between centre and states in two lists.
- (c) listed the powers of the states and left the undefined powers to the state.
- (d) Specified the powers of the states and left the residuary powers with the centre.

10. In case of a clash between the laws made by the centre and a state on a subject in the concurrent list:

- (a) the state law prevails.
- (b) the central law prevails.
- (c) both the laws prevail within their respective jurisdictions.
- (d) the Supreme Court has to intervene to decide.

11. What is the third tier of government known as?

- (a) Village Panchayats
- (b) State government
- (c) Local self-government
- (d) Zila Parishad

12. What is true regarding sources of revenue in a federal system?

- (a) States have no financial powers or independent sources of revenue.
- (b) States are dependent on revenue or funds on the central government.
- (c) Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.
- (d) States have no financial autonomy.

13. Which of the following is incorrect regarding a unitary government?

- (a) There is either only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the central government.
- (b) The central government can pass on orders to the provincial government.
- (c) A state government is conservable to central government.



(d) The powers of state governments are guaranteed by the Constitution.

14. What are the kinds of routes through which federations have been formed?

- (a) One route involves independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit
- (b) The second route is where a large country decides to divide its powers between the states and the national government
- (c) Both a and b
- (d) None of these

15. Which period saw the rise of regional political parties in many states of the country?

- (a) Period after 1990
- (b) Period after 2000
- (c) Period after 1980
- (d) Period after 1970

16. Which language is recognised as the national language by the Constitution of India?

- (a) Hindi
- (b) English
- (c) Tamil
- (d) None of these

17. Which state of India enjoys a special status and has its own Constitution?

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Jammu and Kashmir

18. Which of the following subjects is not included in the Union list?

- (a) Defence
- (b) Foreign affairs
- (c) Police
- (d) Banking

19. Which of the following is not an example of 'holding together' federations?

- (a) India
- (b) Spain
- (c) Belgium
- (d) Switzerland



20. Which level of government in India has the power to legislate on the 'residuary' subjects?

- (a) Union government
- (b) State government
- (c) Local self-government
- (d) Both a and b

ANSWERS

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. b | 11. c |
| 2. d | 12. c |
| 3. d | 13. d |
| 4. a | 14. c |
| 5. b | 15. a |
| 6. c | 16. d |
| 7. c | 17. d |
| 8. b | 18. c |
| 9. a | 19. d |
| 10. b | 20. a |



padhle.akshay



NO BAKWAS



/padhleakshay



MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS



NO BAKWAS



padhle.akshay

Visit website padhleakshay.com for more



1. Explain the vertical division of power giving example from India.

Answer: The power shared among the different levels of the government is known as the vertical distribution of power. It involves higher and lower levels of government. These levels are the Union government, the State government and the Local government. In India, the Union government is at the highest level. The government at the provincial or regional level is the State government. The Indian Constitution has further laid down the provision of distribution of power. This division of power is further extended to the levels of the government lower than the state governments. They are also called Municipal Corporations and the Municipalities in urban areas and Panchayati Raj in rural areas.

Each level of the government exercises its power. There is no specification of the system of checks and balances. Each level has its own powers and areas of jurisdiction and no level can interfere in each other's functioning. Such an arrangement ensures deepening of democracy.

2. Explain democratic policies adopted by Government of India which made it a successful federation.

Answer: The following democratic policies have helped India to be a successful federation.

- The powers of the central and state governments have been clearly separated under the Union, State and Concurrent Lists. It removes the possibility of any type of interference in the functioning of the central and state governments.
- A three-tier system of governance has been approved under the Union, State and Local governments. They govern the people at their respective levels.
- Some states like Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh have been given special status so as to maintain their autonomy.
- The fundamental structure of the Indian Constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by the Parliament. Any amendment in the Constitution needs the approval of both the houses of the Parliament and at least half of the total states.
- The sources of income of different levels of the government has been clearly stated in the Constitution to avoid any conflict.

3. How are the legislative powers divided between the Union government and the State Governments?

Answer: The legislative powers are divided between the Union Government and the State Governments by the Constitution of India. The constitution is supreme in the country and the legislative powers are divided into various areas of government jurisdiction into three lists—Union List, State List, Concurrent List.



- The Union List: Union List includes subjects like defence, foreign affairs, banking, currency and communications. The Union Government alone can make laws relating to these subjects.
- The State List: State list contains subjects like police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation, which come under the jurisdiction of the State Governments. Only the State Legislatures can make laws on these subjects.
- The Concurrent list: The Concurrent list contains items like education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession, which are of common interest to both the Union government and the State Governments. Both can make laws on these subjects. However, in case of any conflict, the law made by the Union Government will prevail.

4. Which five provisions of Indian Constitution make India a full-fledged federation?

Answer: A federation is a country in which the powers are divided between the union and its constituents. India is an example of holding together federation, where the country decides to create constituent units, thereby dividing the powers and duties between the centre and the states.

The following are the five provisions that make India a full-fledged federation.

- Two or more levels of government: We have a federal system whereby the constitution has more than two tiers of the government, viz. the Union Government, State Governments and Local Government. This implies that there are more than two levels of government administration among which powers are divided and duties are given.
- Three Lists: The powers are divided between the Centre and the States by three Lists: Union list, State List and Concurrent list
- Union List deals with the issues relating to the Centre, State List deals with the issues relating to the States and Concurrent List deals with the matters of both the Centre and the States.
- Rigid Constitution: The Government of India is governed by the Constitution of India and it is considered the Supreme Power in the Country. It is not an easy task to amend the constitution. For a constitutional provision to be amended, it requires ratification by half of the State Legislatures, failing which the Constitution cannot be amended.
- Bicameral Legislature: India has a bicameral legislature which means that the Parliament consists of two houses, viz, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. One represents the country and the other represents the interest of the constituent states.



- **Financial Autonomy:** The revenue sources of both the Centre and States have been clearly defined, that ensures financial autonomy to both the Centre and the States. In layman's language, the Centre and the State have different sources of income, which means they are independent of each other when it comes to revenue.
- **Independent Judiciary:** Independent judiciary is the essence of federal government.

Here, courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of the different levels of government. In India, the highest court—the Supreme Court—acts as an umpire if a dispute arises between the different levels of government in the exercise of their respective powers.

5. How has federalism succeeded in India? What policies adopted by India have ensured this success?

Answer: A federation is a country in which the powers are divided between the union and its constituents. India is an example of holding together federation, where the country decides to create constituent units, thereby dividing the powers and duties between the centre and the states.

The following are the five provisions that make India a full-fledged federation.

- **Two or more levels of government:** We have a federal system whereby the constitution has more than two tiers of the government, viz. the Union Government, State Governments and Local Government. This implies that there are more than two levels of government administration among which powers are divided and duties are given.
- **Three Lists:** The powers are divided between the Centre and the States by three Lists: Union list, State List and Concurrent list.
- **Union List** deals with the issues relating to the Centre, **State List** deals with the issues relating to the States and **Concurrent List** deals with the matters of both the Centre and the States.

Rigid Constitution: The Government of India is governed by the Constitution of India and it is considered the Supreme Power in the Country. It is not an easy task to amend the constitution. For a constitutional provision to be amended, it requires ratification by half of the State Legislatures, failing which the Constitution cannot be amended. **Bicameral Legislature:** India has a bicameral legislature which means that the Parliament consists of two houses, viz, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. One represents the country and the other represents the interest of the constituent states. **Financial Autonomy:** The revenue sources of both the Centre and States have been clearly defined, that ensures financial autonomy to both the Centre and



the States. In layman's language, the Centre and the State have different sources of income, which means they are independent of each other when it comes to revenue.

Independent Judiciary: Independent judiciary is the essence of federal government. Here, courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of the different levels of government. In India, the highest court—the Supreme Court—acts as an umpire if a dispute arises between the different levels of government in the exercise of their respective powers.

6. The creation of linguistic states was the first and the major test of democratic politics in our country. Justify the statement.

Answer: The creation of linguistic states was the first and the major test of democratic politics in our country.

- After 1947, the boundaries of several old states of India were proposed to be changed to ensure that people who spoke the same language lived in the same state. It was felt that it would ease administrative constraints also.
- Some states like Nagaland were not created on the basis of language but because of their distinct culture, ethnicity and geography.
- When the demand for the formation of linguistic states rose, some leaders feared that it would again lead to disintegration. This idea was thus resisted for some time fearing any further tension or conflict within the country.
- But when the actual creation of states was done on the basis of language, it so proved that the country was more united. This process did away with all fears and tension.

Thus, the framing of the language policy was the test for Indian federation. It inspired the confidence in different language speaking people that no language will be imposed on them. In a way Language policy has strengthened the unity and integrity of India.

7. Explain any four features of federalism.

Answer: FOUR features of federalism are:

- Union List deals with the issues relating to the Centre, State List deals with the issues relating to the States and Concurrent List deals with the matters of both the Centre and the States.
- **Rigid Constitution:** The Government of India is governed by the Constitution of India and it is considered the Supreme Power in the Country. It is not an easy task to amend the constitution. For a constitutional provision to be amended, it requires ratification by half of the State Legislatures, failing which the Constitution cannot be amended.



- **Bicameral Legislature:** India has a bicameral legislature which means that the Parliament consists of two houses, viz, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. One represents the country and the other represents the interest of the constituent states.
- **Financial Autonomy:** The revenue sources of both the Centre and States have been clearly defined, that ensures financial autonomy to both the Centre and the States. In layman's language, the Centre and the State have different sources of income, which means they are independent of each other when it comes to revenue.

8. How federalism is helpful for us?

Answer: federalism is useful as:

There are two or more levels of government.

- Different levels of government govern the same citizens, where each level has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
- Existence and authority of each level of government is constitutionally governed.
- The fundamental provisions of the Constitution cannot be unilaterally changed. Such changes require the consent of both the levels of government.
- 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.
- Sources of revenue for each level of government are specified to ensure its financial autonomy.
- Federal system has dual objectives. To safeguard and promote unity of the country, and to accommodate regional diversity.

9. Describe the three forms of power sharing among different organs of government in India.

Answer: 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:

- **Union List** includes subjects of national importance, i.e., defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, communications and currency.



- State List contains subjects of state and local importance, i.e., police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation.
 - 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.
- (i) 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. Some states enjoy special status such as Jammu & Kashmir. There are some states too small to become independent like the Union Territories of Chandigarh and Lakshadweep.
- (ii) This sharing of power between the Union Government and State Governments 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.
- (iii) 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.

10. Describe in brief the language policy of India?

Answer: 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.
- 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.
- 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. Besides Hindi, there are 21 other languages recognised as scheduled languages by the Constitution. This flexibility shown by Indian leaders helped our country avoid the situation that Sri Lanka finds itself in.

11. What were the major steps taken to make decentralisation more effective?

Or



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

Answer: Major steps towards decentralisation taken in 1992 are:

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



padhle.akshay



NO BAKWAS



/padhleakshay



Case-Based Questions

SCAN
&
DONATE



padhleakshay@apl



QUESTION 1

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follows:

A third tier of federalism was added in the form of Panchayats and Municipalities As in any federation, these different tiers enjoy separate jurisdiction. The Constitution clearly provided a threefold distribution of legislative powers between the Union Government and the State Governments. Thus, it contains three lists Union List includes subjects of national importance such as defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, communications and currency. They are included in this list because we need a uniform policy on these matters throughout the country. The Union Government alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the Union List. State List contains subjects of State and local importance such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation. The State Governments forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession. Both the Union as well as the State Governments can make laws on the subjects mentioned in this list. If their laws conflict with each other, the law made by the Union Government will prevail. According to our constitution, the Union Government has the power to legislate on these 'residuary' subjects

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option.

(i) What is the third tier of government known as?

- (a) Village Panchayats
- (b) State government
- (c) Local self-government
- (d) Zila Parishad

Answer: C

(ii) The Constitution of India

- (a) divided powers between centre and states in three lists:
- (b) divided powers between centre and states in two lists
- (c) listed the powers of the states and left the undefined powers to the state.
- (d) Specified the powers of the states and left the residuary powers with the centre

Answer: A

(iii) Which of the following subjects is not included in the Union list?

- (a) Defence
- (b) Foreign affairs
- (c) Police
- (d) Banking

Answer: C



(iv) Subjects like computer software comes in the

- (a) Union List
- (b) State List
- (c) Concurrent List
- (d) Residuary List

Answer: D

QUESTION 2

Read the source given below and answer the questions that follows:

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-

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 to-day administering of their state. Both these levels of governments enjoy their power independent of the other. In this sense, federations are contrasted with unitary governments Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the subunits are subordinate to the central government. The central government can pass on orders to the provincial or the local government. But in a federal system, the central government cannot order the state government to do something. State government has powers of its own for which it is not answerable to the central government. Both these governments are separately answerable to the people.

Answer the following MCQs by choosing the most appropriate option.

(i) Identify the Government that consists of two or more levels.

- (a) Coalition Government
- (b) Community Government
- (c) Unitary Government
- (d) Federal Government

Answer: D

(ii) What is true regarding sources of revenue in a federal system?

- (a) States have no financial powers or independent sources of revenue
- (b) States are dependent on revenue or funds on the central government.
- (c) Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.
- (d) States have no financial autonomy.

Answer: C



(iii) The Constitution of India originally provided for:

- (a) a two-tier system of government
- (b) a three-tier system of government
- (c) a single-tier system of government
- (d) a four-tier system of government

Answer: A

(iv) Which of the following is incorrect regarding a unitary government?

- (a) There is either only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the central government.
- (b) The central government can pass on orders to the provincial government.
- (c) A state government is conservable to central government
- (d) The powers of state governments are guaranteed by the Constitution

Answer: D



padhle.akshay



NO BAKWAS



/padhleakshay



Picture Based Question

**DONATE
SO THAT IT
REMAINS FREE**



padhleakshay@apl

Visit website padhleakshay.com for more

QUESTION 1



©Kuttu - Laughing with Kuttu

1) What does the cartoon reflect?

Ans. This cartoon shows the relations between centre and states when it comes to division of powers. Central government has a say in the allocation of funds, resources and powers to the states in India. States feel that this has made the central government more dominant. The centre is seen here as very selective in distributing powers to the states.

2) Identify the leader shown in the above cartoon.

Ans. The leader shown above is the first woman Prime Minister of India- Mrs. Indira Gandhi. She was the Prime Minister of India from 1967 to 1977 and 1980-1984.

3) What kind of powers can the states be seen demanding here?

Ans. Power to run their governments independently without control, to get more resources, authority to change boundaries and form new states or may be separatists' demands.

4) Has Centre misused this power

Ans. Central government was made stronger by the constitution makers as it was very clear that states cannot be given equal powers as it may lead to conflicts and at the end disintegration of the country. Nehru too was a strong and ardent supporter of a strong central government. Sometimes central governments have misused this power by using Article 356 of the Indian Constitution by imposing President's Rule in some states. For e.g.: In 1957 CPI party was dismissed by the Congress by using this Article as Congress failed to form government there.

5) How can you say India has a strong central government?

Ans. Central government has the power to frame laws on important functions like defence, finance, external affairs etc; Centre has overriding authority over concurrent list and also residuary powers ;it has unilateral power to change the area, boundaries of states; Power to amend Constitution under provisions of article 368, the power states doesn't have ;All India services like IAS, IPS, IFS are recruited and trained by centre; Emergency provisions, central government will becomes all powerful and states go into the total control of centre; Appointing Governors to states.

QUESTION 2



© Ajith Ninnan - India Today Book of Cartoons

1) Identify the leader shown in the above cartoon.

Ans. Atal Bihari Vajpayee

2) What is being shown in this cartoon?

Ans. The concept of coalition government has been shown here in the cartoon. Vajpayee's government could not garner support in the 1996 elections and his government fell in just 13 days. So to overcome this, in the 1998 elections, BJP formed an alliance before the elections known as NDA- National Democratic Alliance.

3) Identify the year which has been shown here.

Ans. 1998- when Atal Bihari Vajpayee became the Prime Minister of India.

4) Why is the man on the chair holding a lotus?

Ans. Atal Bihari Vajpayee belonged from the Bharatiya Janata Party(BJP) and their electoral symbol is lotus. That is why he is seen holding one as it marks the victory of lotus in the 1998 elections.

5) What is his chair made up of?

Ans. His chair is made up of bombs as the main issue with a coalition government is that it can explode/ break at any point of time due to conflicts and differences. There is always a fear that the smaller parties will withdraw support from the government.

6) Mention one advantage and one disadvantage of a coalition government.

Ans. ADVANTAGE: A smaller party, state level parties also gets a chance to form a government at the centre.

DISADVANTAGE: It is risky as any party can withdraw support suddenly and it might lead to fall of such government.