



Udaan 2025

SST

Federalism (Important Questions)

1. Which of the following are included in the Union List?
(a) Banking
(b) Foreign Affairs
(c) Defence of the country
(d) All of the above
2. Which of the following subjects are included in the State List?
(a) Agriculture (b) Irrigation
(c) Army (d) Both (a) and (b)
3. If there is a conflict in the laws made for the subjects in the Concurrent List, then the decision made by _____ will prevail.
(a) State Government
(b) Union Government
(c) President
(d) All of the above
4. Who has the power to make laws on the 'residuary' subjects?
(a) Union Government
(b) State Government
(c) Supreme Court
(d) None of the above
5. Which of the following states in India enjoys a special status?
(a) Arunachal Pradesh
(b) Mizoram
(c) Nagaland
(d) All of the above
6. Due to their peculiar social and historical circumstances, the Constitution of India gives special status to some Indian states. These provisions are given in _____.
(a) Article 371
(b) Article 271
(c) Article 172
(d) Article 152
7. The Constitution declared India as a _____.
(a) Division of States
(b) Federation of States
(c) Union of States
(d) None of the above
8. Computer Software will be placed under which of the following lists?
(a) Union List (b) State List
(c) Residuary List (d) All of the above
9. Areas which are too small to become an independent state but which could not be merged with existing states are called _____.
(a) Central States (b) Union Territories
(c) Districts (d) Panchayats
10. Which article contains the provisions to make any amendments to the constitution ?
(a) Article 365 (b) Article 371
(c) Article 368 (d) Article 21
11. Which of the following best describes decentralisation?
(a) When power is taken from central government and given to state governments
(b) When power is taken from legislature and given to judiciary
(c) When some power is taken from central and state government and given to local government
(d) Both (a) and (b) are correct
12. Decentralisation of power resulted in the formation and empowerment of _____.
(a) Local Level of government
(b) State Level of government
(c) Central Level of government
(d) Judiciary
13. Consider the following statements on the practice of federalism in India. Identify those which hold true for decentralisation after 1992.
(a) Local governments did not have any power or resources of their own.
(b) It became constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
(c) The state governments are not required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies
(d) No seats are reserved in the elected bodies for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes.

14. Why was there a need for decentralisation of power ?
- Panchayats in villages and municipalities in urban areas were directly controlled by the Central Government
 - Elections to the local governments were not held regularly
 - Local governments did not have any powers or resources of their own
 - All of the above
15. Which amendment in the Indian Constitution introduced decentralisation of power?
- 75th
 - 73rd
 - 80th
 - 92nd
16. The 73rd amendment to the constitution was made in the year _____
- 1996
 - 1994
 - 1992
 - 1995
17. How many seats are reserved for women in local bodies?
- One-Fourth
 - One-Third
 - Half
 - One-Tenth
18. Who conducts elections in panchayats and municipal bodies?
- Election Commission of India
 - Panchayat Election Commission
 - State Election Commission
 - Chief Minister's Council
19. Rural local government is popularly known as
- Two tier system
 - Municipality
 - Local Raj
 - Panchayati Raj
20. Who is the head of a municipal corporation?
- Chief Minister
 - MLC
 - MLA
 - Mayor
21. The relation between Central and State governments improved significantly after
- 1980s
 - 1970s
 - 1960s
 - 1990s
22. The 22 official languages present in the 8th schedule of the Indian constitution are called _____
- Non-scheduled languages
 - Scheduled Languages
 - National Languages
 - None of the above
23. According to the 2011 census, English was the mother tongue of only _____ Indians
- 0.02%
 - 16%
 - 0.5%
 - 24%

24. 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.
25. What is the main difference between a federal form of government and a unitary one? Explain with an example.
26. State any two differences between the local government before and after the constitutional amendment in 1992.
27. 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: The 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.
28. A few subjects in various Lists of the Indian Constitution are given here. Group them under the Union, State and Concurrent Lists as provided in the table below.

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

Union List			
State List			
Concurrent List			

29. 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?

State government	State List
Central government	Union List
Central and state governments	Concurrent List
Local governments	Residuary powers

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

List-I	List-II
Union of India	Prime Minister
State	Sarpanch
Municipal Corporation	Governor
Gram Panchayat	Mayor

31. Consider the following statements.

- A. In a federation, the powers 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 only
- (d) B and C only

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

33. Which five provisions of the constitutional amendment of 1992 really strengthened the third tier of democracy in India? Explain. (2015, 2013, 2012)

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

35. Explain any five features of federalism. **(2015)**

36. Describe in brief the language policy of India?

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

Hints and Solutions

1. (d) All of the above
2. (d) Both (a) and (b)
3. (b) Union Government
4. (a) Union Government
5. (d) All of the above
6. (a) Article 371
7. (c) Union of States
8. (c) Residuary List
9. (b) Union Territories
10. (c) Article 368
11. (c) When some power is taken from central and state government and given to local government
12. (a) Local Level of government
13. (b) It became constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
14. (d) All of the above
15. (b) 73rd
16. (c) 1992
17. (b) One-Third
18. (c) State Election Commission
19. (d) Panchayati Raj
20. (d) Mayor
21. (d) 1990s
22. (b) Scheduled Languages
23. (a) 0.02%
24. • A feature in the practice of federalism in India that is similar to that of Belgium - There is power-sharing between the union government and state government.
• A feature in the practice of federalism in India that is different from that of Belgium - India has no community government in practice, while Belgium has one.

25.

Federal Form	Unitary Form
There is a sharing of power between union and state government.	The power is centralised with the union government, and there is no role of state governments.
Example - India (India is a federal country with union government at the centre and state governments at the state level and Panchayati Raj at the local level.)	Example - Sri Lanka (The national government has all the powers.)

26.

Local Government Pre-1992	Local Government Post Constitutional Amendment 1992
Elections to these local governments were not held regularly	Now, it is constitutionally mandated to hold regular elections to local government bodies
Local governments did not have any powers or resources of their own	The State governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies. The nature of sharing varies from state to state.

27. 1. The policy of accommodation mentioned by Sangeeta is a correct reaction to the language policy followed in India.
2. Due to this policy, India stands in unity with states having different languages.
3. Had India not followed the policy of accommodation, several states could have proposed separation from the country.

28.

Union List	Defence	Communi cations	Banking
State List	Police	Agricultu re	Trade
Concurrent List	Education	Forests	Marriage s

29. Local Governments -Residuary Powers

30.

List-I	List-II
Union of India	Prime Minister
State	Governor
Municipal Corporation	Mayor
Gram Panchayat	Sarpanch

31. (c) A and B only

32. (i) 'Coming together' federations – This agreement induces independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit, so that by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity they can increase their security.

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

(ii) 'Holding together' federations — In this agreement, a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent States and the national government.

- The Central Governments tend to be more powerful vis-a-vis the states. Often different constituent units of the federation have unequal powers.
- Some units are granted special powers, for example, India granted special powers to Jammu & Kashmir (now repealed in 2019)

Other examples are Spain and Belgium.

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

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

34. Reasons for success of federalism in India are:

1. Clearly laid out Constitutional Provisions providing a three-fold distribution of powers in the three lists – Union List, State List and Concurrent List – between the Union Government and State Governments.
2. The creation of linguistic states. Boundaries of several old states of India were changed in order to create new states.
3. This was done to ensure that people who spoke the same language lived in the same state. Later some states were created to recognise differences based on culture, ethnicity or geography.
For example: Nagaland, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Telangana, etc.
4. Restructuring Centre-State relations: The constitutional arrangements for sharing power work depending on how the ruling parties and leaders follow these arrangements.
5. For a long time, the same party ruled both at the Centre and in most of the states.
6. Post-1990 saw the rise of regional parties. Since no single party got a clear majority in the Lok Sabha, the national parties had to enter into an alliance which led to a new culture of power sharing and respect for autonomy of State Governments.

35. (Write any 5)

Features of federalism:

1. There are two or more levels of government.
2. Different levels of government govern the same citizens, where each level has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
3. Existence and authority of each level of government is constitutionally governed.
4. The fundamental provisions of the Constitution cannot be unilaterally changed. Such changes require the consent of both the levels of government.
5. 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.
6. Sources of revenue for each level of government are specified to ensure its financial autonomy.
7. Federal system has dual objectives. To safeguard and promote unity of the country, and to accommodate regional diversity.

36. 1. Our Constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language.
2. The formation of linguistic states united the country and made administration easier.
3. The leaders of our country adopted a very cautious attitude in spreading the use of Hindi. Hindi was identified as the official language.
4. 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.
5. 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.
37. Rural Local Government is known by the name of Panchayati Raj
- Each village or group of villages has a Gram Panchayat.
 - Panch, President or Sarpanch are directly elected by all the adult population of the village and are the decision-making body.

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

Urban areas local bodies.

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

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



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