

POWER SHARING

IMPORTANT TERMS AND CONCEPTS:-

1. **Ethnic:** A social division based on shared culture. People belonging to the same ethnic in their common decent because of similarities of physical type or both they need not always have the same religion or nationality.
2. **Majoritarianism:** A belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in which ever way it wants by disregarding the wishes and need of the minority.
3. **Civil war:** A violent conflict between opposing group with in a country that becomes so intense that it appears like a war.
4. **Prudential:** it is a set of reason which favors power sharing. It is based on prudence or on careful calculation of gain and losses. Prudential reason stress beneficial consequences.
5. **Moral:** it is also a set of reason which emphasis the worth of power sharing. It is based on moral considerations.
6. **Community government:** A type of Government which is elected by people belonging to one language community is called "Community Government: e.g. Dutch French and German Speaking no matter where they live. This is a very specific type of Government in Bal gum.
7. **Federal Government:** Federal Government is a type of Government in which power are shared among the different level. Like union level. In this the government for the entire country at the union level is called "federal Government"
8. **Power sharing:** "power sharing" is the distribution of power/ subject among of the government like legislature executive and judiciary. It is an intelligent step to ensure the stability of political order. Besides power sharing also includes, sharing of power among different level like union, state and local bodies.
9. **Checks and Balances:** A system in which each organ of the government checks the other which result in a balance of power among various institution. It ensures that none of the organ can exercise unlimited power.
10. **Vertical distribution of power:** It is a type of distribution of power which involves the higher and lower levels of government such as central, provincial or regional levels.
11. **Coalition Government:** When the alliance of two or more parties gets elected and forms a government it is known as the "Coalition government". This is another form of power sharing.
12. **Sri Lankan Tamil:** Tamil native of Sri Lanka are called. "Sri Lankan Tamils". They constitute 13 percent of the population.
13. **Indian Tamil:** The Tamilians whose forefather came from. India as plantation worker during colonial period and settle these (Sri Lanka) are called "Indian Tamil" They constitute 5 percent of the population.
14. **Harizational Distribution of power:** A type of distribution in which power is shared among different organ of government such as the legislation legislative and judiciary. They are placed at the same level.

Belgium

It is small country in Europe with a population of a little more than a crore has an ethnic problem that is a highly complex. It has border with Netherlands France & Germany.

- Of the country's total population, 59% live in the Flemish region and speak Dutch language.
- 40% people live in the Walloon region and speak French.
- Remaining 1% of the Belgians speak German.
- In the capital city Brussels 80% French while 20% are Dutch speaking.
- The minority French speaking community was relatively rich and powerful.

- Dutch speaking people received benefits of economic development & Education much later & this led to tension between the two groups.
- The conflicts between the two communities was more sever in Brussels because the Dutch speaking people constituted a majority in the country, but a minority in the capital.

SRI LANKA:

- It is island nation. Just a few kilometers of the southern coast of Tamil Nadu.
- It has the population of about 2 crore.
- It has the diverse population. The major social groups in Sri Lanka are.
 - Sinhala speaking which are 74%
 - Tamil speakers which are 18% Tamil are also divided in two groups.
 - Indian Tamil's whose forefather comes from India as plantation worker during colonial period are 50%
- Sri Lanka Tamil are concentrated in north and east of the country.
- Sinhala speaking people are Buddhist.
- Tamil are either Hindus or Muslim
- About 7% are Christian who are both Tamil & Sinhalas.

In Belgium & Sri Lanka the majority community is Dutch speaker & sinhala could take advantages of their numeric majority & implode their will on the entire country.

MAJORITARIANISM IN SRI LANKAS:

The leader of sinhala community dominated the government & adopted a serious of majoritarian meadure.

- Sri Lanka becomes independence in 1948.
- In 1956 an Act was passed to recognize sinhala as only language, disregarding Tamil.
- Sinhala applicants were favored for university and government job.
- The constitutions give special protection to Buddhism.
- The result of these policies make the Sri Lanka tamils feel that
 - Leader were indigestive to their language and culture.
 - Government polities deprived them of equal political right.
- They were discriminated against in getting jobs & other opportunities.
 - Recognition of Tamil as an official language.
 - For regional autonomy.
 - Equality of opportunity in securing education & job.
 - Demand was made for an independent Tamil Eelam in northern part of Sri Lanka. The distrust between the two communities turned in to widespread conflicts. It soon turned into a civil war.

Accommodation in Belgium

The Belgium leader took a different path. They recognized to existence and cultural diversities between 1970 and 1993 they amended their constitution four times so as to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to together with in the same country.

1. Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French- speaking minister shall be equal in the central government.
2. Many power of the central government have been given to state government of the two region of the country the state government are not subordinate to the central Government.

3. Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation. The French speaking people accepted equal representation in Brussels because the Dutch-speaking community has accepted equal representation in the central Government.
4. Apart from the central and state Government there is a third kind of government the community government. This community government is elected by people belonging to one language community Dutch, French German speaking no matter where they live. This government has the power regarding cultural educational and language related tissue.
5. Thus the Belgium model very complicated. It indeed is very complicated even for people living in Belgium. But these arrangements have worked well so far. They helped to avoid civic strife between the two major communities and a possible division of the country on linguistic line. When many countries of Europe came together to form the European Union, Brussels was chosen as it head quarters.

When do we learn from these two stories of Belgium and Sri Lanka:

Both are democracies. Yet they diet with the question of power sharing differently. In Belgium the leaders have realized that the unity of the country is possible only by respecting the feeling and interest of different community and region.

Sri Lanka shows us a contrasting example. It shows us that if a majority community wants to force its dominance over other and refuses. To share power, it can undermine the unity of the country.

Why power sharing is desirable:

Comparison: In Belgium leader realized that by mutual arrangement of sharing power unity in the country was possible.

In Sri Lanka the majority county wanted to dominate & refused to share power. This hindered the unity of the country.

Power sharing is good because:

- (i) It helps to reduce the conflict between social groups.
- (ii) It is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.
- (iii) It is good for democracy. It is the spirit of democracy because people have the right to be consulted on how they are to be governed.
- (iv) The first point is called prudential because it state that power sharing will bring out better out comes.
- (v) Moral reason emphasizes that very act to power sharing as valuable.

Forms of Power sharing:-

- (i) M any people felt that if the power to decide is dispersed, it would not be possible to take quick decision and to enforce them.

One basic principle of democracy is that people are the source of all political power, & people rule themselves, in a good democratic government, due respect is given to diverse groups that exist in a society. Very one has a voice in the shaping of public policies.

POWER SHARING ARRANGEMENT IN MODERN DEMOCRACY

1. Power is shared among different organs of the government

Horizontal distribution of power.

- In this form of distribution power is shared among different organs of government such as the legislature, executive and judiciary.
- This type of distribution advocates separation of powers in which different organs of government at the same level exercise different powers.
- Separation of power ensures a check over the unlimited powers of each organ. This results in a balance of power among various institutions.
- It is also called as system of “checks and balances”.

2. Vertical Distribution of powers:-

- Under this form of power sharing arrangement power is shared among government at different levels. E.g. a general government at different levels. E.g. a general government for the entire country and government at the provincial level.
 - A general government of the entire country is usually called Federal government. In our country it is called central government,
 - In some countries like India & Belgium the constitution clearly lays down the powers of the government at different levels. This is called the “federal division powers”
- All such division of powers involving higher and lower level of government is called vertical division of powers.

3. Power sharing among different social groups:

- In another way power may also be shared among different social groups, such as the religious and linguistic groups.
- This type of arrangement is meant to give space in the government and administration to diverse social groups who otherwise would feel alienated from the government.
- This method is used to give minority communities a fair share in power.
- **Community Government** in Belgium and **Reserved constituencies in assemblies and Parliament** in India are examples of this type of arrangement.

4. Power sharing among political parties and pressure groups:

Sometimes power sharing arrangement can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence power because in a democracy the citizens must have a choice among various contenders for powers.

SOLVED EXERCISE

1. When did Sri Lanka gain independence?

Ans. Sri Lanka gained independence from the United Kingdom on February 4, 1948.

2. List all the language spoken in Sri Lanka.

Ans. Sinhala and Tamil.

3. Which language was recognized as the official language after independence in Sri Lanka.

Ans. Sinhala was recognized as the official language in a Act passed in 1956.

4. Trace out the ethnic composition of Sri Lanka has a diverse population?

Ans. With a complex ethnic composition like:-

- (a) Sinhala speaking people 74% major social groups.
- (b) Tamil 18% among Tamils there are two sub groups.
 - (i) Sri Lankan Tamil- 13%
 - (ii) Indian Tamil- 05%

5. Trace out the ethnic composition of Belgium has a diverse population.

- Ans.**
- In Belgium (Europe), 59% Dutch speaking lives in the Flemish, 40% French speaking in wallonia region and 1% German speaking.
 - The capital city of Belgium is Brussels and in Brussels 80% people speaks French and 20% people speak Dutch language.
 - There was a tension between the Dutch and French speaking communities during the 1950s and 1960s over the issue of power sharing.

6. What kind of measures were adopted in Sri Lanka after independence?

Ans. A majoritarianism were adopted to establish Sinhala supremacy in the government.

7. When did Belgium gain independence?

Ans. Belgium independence was declared on October 4, 1830 but it was recognized on April 19, 1839.

8. List all the languages spoken in Belgium.

Ans. Dutch, French, German.

9. How many time was Belgium constitution amended?

Ans. It was amended four times between 1970 and 1993.

10. What is civil war?

Ans. A civil war is a violent conflict between various groups in a country itself often due to undermining of a particular groups interest or sentiments by the other group.

11. What is meant by prudential reason?

Ans. Prudential reason are the one advanced by sensible and careful thought and due calculation of the resulted gain and lasses.

12. What is meant by moral reasons?

Ans. Moral reasons are based on the right and wrong in an event. These decisions are physiological rather than practical and are concerned with the principles of behave our in according with standard of right and wrong.

13. What is community government?

Ans. A community government is one in which different social groups are given the power to handle the affairs related to their communities. They are expanded to work joined for the benefits of the common masses without undermining any one community.

14. What is the relationship between democracy and power sharing?

Ans. Democracy means giving every citizens the tight and power to make the decisions though their elected repetitive. Power sharing is dividing power among various social groups to give them equal representation in the in the

governance. Power sharing is the essence of democracy where every individual irrespective of cultural and language differences feels involved in the political system.

15. What is a coalition government?

Ans A coalition government is a cabinet of parliamentary government in which several parties cooperate. It generally happens when no party gets majority in the parliament and several parties join together to prove.

16. Give reasons why the Sri Lanka government adopted Majoritarian policy.

Ans When Sri Lanka got independence in 1948, the leaders of Sinhala community wanted to secure dominance of government by virtue of their. Therefore to establish Sinhala supremacy they adopted Majoritarian policy.

17. Which Act favoured Sinhala community and disregarded Tamil community in Sri Lanka?

Ans The Sri Lankan government passed an act in 1956 which recognized Sinhala as the only official language. By the preference policy, the government favoured Sinhala applicants for government jobs and university positions.

18. "Belgium has three types of governments" explain with examples.

Ans Belgium has three types of government namely:-

- (i) The central government
- (ii) The state government
- (iii) The community government

Belgium has control over state government which is common with government in other countries but is unique in having a third kind of government called 'Community Government'. Community government is elected by the people belonging to one language community i.e. Dutch, French and German speaking communities.

19. Is power sharing desirable? Support your answer.

Ans. Yes, power sharing is desirable because of the following reasons:-

- (i) Power sharing helps to reduce the possibility of conflict/war between social groups.
- (ii) It ensures political, economic, social and cultural stability of a nation.
- (iii) Power sharing is the basic spirit of democracy.

20. Explain how power sharing consists of both prudential and moral reasons?

Ans. Prudential reasons are based on careful calculation of gains and losses. For e.g.- power sharing is good because it helps to prevent the conflict between social groups. It lays stress on the outcome of democracy. Moral reasons are based on why power sharing leads to a lenient and responsible government; it emphasizes the value of democracy.

21. What steps were taken by the Sri Lankan Tamils in demanding power in Sri Lanka?

Ans (i) The Sri Lankan Government adopted the policy of majoritarianism and discouraged the demands of the Tamils.
(ii) Against the dominance of Sinhala, the Tamil language political parties, organizations and military groups (like LTTE)
(iii) They launched a struggle for the recognition of Tamil as an official language.
(iv) The Tamil demand regional autonomy, a quota of opportunities in education and government jobs.
(v) Several political parties were formed in the 1980s and demanded an independent state called Tamil Eelam.

22. What do you know about "Belgium model"? Do you think it is good for democracy?

Ans. (i) Belgium model of government refers to community government which is different from that of other countries.
(ii) The main idea behind the Belgian model is to accommodate different religious and cultural groups into a single community and to share equal power.
(iii) The constitution clearly prescribes that the number of Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government.
(iv) No single community can take decisions on their own and some special laws were to be followed.
(v) The state government is not subordinate to the central government because many powers of the central government have been given to the state.
(vi) The French speaking people accepted equal representation and the Dutch speaking community in the central government.

EXERCICE

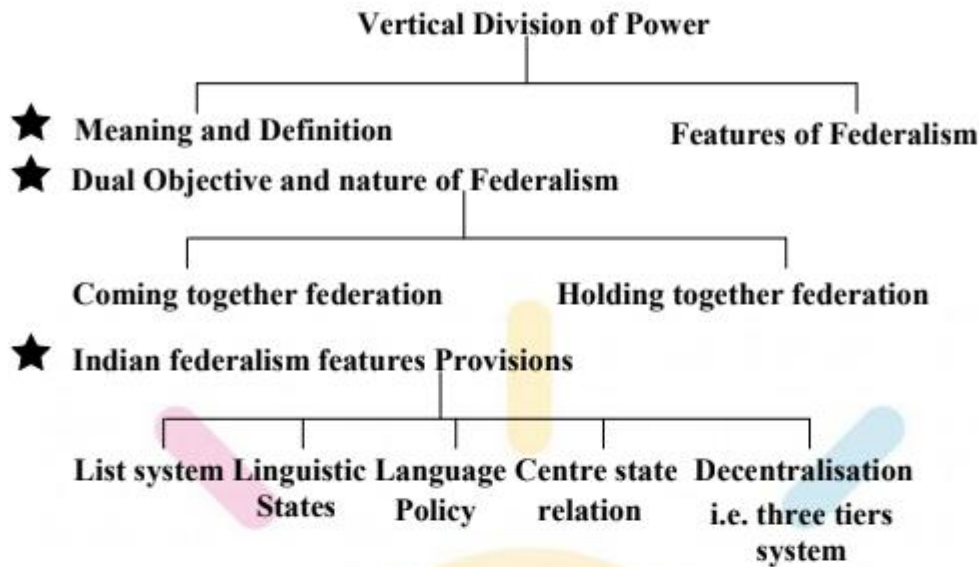
VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:-

1. What does the term power sharing signify?
2. What is ethnic composition?
3. Why was the Act of 1956 passed?
4. What do you mean by community government?
5. Define the term civil war?
6. What do you mean by the term 'prudential'?
7. Give the difference between 'prudential and moral :
8. What is horizontal distribution of power?
9. What is the system of check and balances?
10. What is vertical division of power?
11. Define the term Federal Government?
12. What were the series of majoritarian measure?
13. Why the ethnic composition of Belgium is very complex.
14. Give an account of ethnic composition of Sri Lanka.
15. What made Sri Lankan Tamil feel alienated?
16. Differentiate between horizontal division of power and vertical division of power?
17. How power are share in different social group and why?

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:-

1. Why is power sharing desirable?
 2. Explain the major form of power sharing in modern democracies.
 3. Explain the power sharing arrangement among the political and pressure group.
-

FEDERALISM



■ INTRODUCTION OF FEDERALISM

● **Federalism:**

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

● **Unitary system:**

There is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the central government. The central government can pass an order 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.

● **Features of Federalism:**

1. **Two level of Government:** In the federalism there are two or more levels at the provincial, central or state level.
2. **Distribution of power:** In federalism different tiers of government govern the same citizen, but each tier has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislating, taxation and administration.
3. **Constitutional Status:** The jurisdictions are specified in the constitution. Authority of each tier of government is constitutionally guaranteed.
4. **Equal Status:** 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.
5. **Independent Judiciary:** Court has the power to interpret the constitutions and power of different levels of government.
6. **Financial Autonomy:** Federalism provides specified sources of revenue for each level of government. Every level is free in its own way of imposing taxes and raising funds through remunerative enterprises.
7. **Dual Objective:** Federal system has dual objectives. (i) to safeguard and promote unity of the country. (ii) to accommodate regional diversity.

The exact balance of power between the central and the state government depends mainly on the historical context in which the federation was formed. There are two kinds of routes.

1. Coming together federation:

- A. It is the first route of the formation of federalism. It involves independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit.
- B. It tries to increase, their security by pooling sovereignty and retaining identity.
- C. All the constituent units usually have equal power.
- D. Example- U.S.A., Switzerland, Australia.
- E. States have equal power.

2. Holding Together Federalist:

- A. It is the second route of the formation of federalism where a large power or country decides to divide its power between the constituent state and national government.
- B. The central government tends to be more powerful vis-à-vis the states.
- C. Example- India, Belgium, Spain

The constitution declared India as a union of states. Although it did not use the word federation. The Indian union is based on the principle of federalism.

The union government or the central government represents the union of India and the state government. Later a third tier of federation was added in the form of Panchyats and Municipalities. The constitution contains three lists.

1. Union list:

- A. It includes subjects of national importance e.g. defence of the country, foreign affair, communication and currency.
- B. There is a uniform policy on these matters throughout the country.
- C. The union government alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the union list.

2. State List:

- A. It contains subject of state and local importance e.g. Police, Trade, commerce.
- B. Agriculture and irrigation etc.
- C. The state government alone can make laws relating to the subject mentioned in the state list.

3. Concurrent list:

- A. It includes subject of common interest to both the union government as well as the state government, education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession.
- B. Both the union as well as the state government can make laws on the subject mentioned in the list.
- C. If their laws conflict with each other, the law made by the union government will prevail.

All states in the Indian union do not have identical powers. Some states like Jammu & Kashmir enjoy a special status. Many provision of the Indian constitution are not applicable to this state without the approval of the state Assemble. Indians who are not permanent residents of this state can not buy land or house here.

Areas like Chandigarh or Laksheep or the Capital city of Delhi are called union Territory these territories don not have the powers of a state. Central government has special powers in running these areas.

Sharing of power between the union government and the state government is basic to the structure of the constitution. It is not easy to make changes to this poor sharing arrangement. The parliament can not on its own change arrangement. Any change to it has to be first passed by both the house of parliament with at least two thirds majority. Then it has to be ratified by the legislature of at lest half of the total state.

In case of any dispute about the division of power, the high court and the Supreme Court make a decision.

■ HOW IS FEDERALISM PRACTICED

The real success of federalism in India can be attributed to the nature of democratic politics in our country. This ensured that the sprite of federalism, respect for diversity and desire for living together become a shared ideal in our country.

- **Linguistic States**

Regarding federalism that first and major test for democratic politics in our country was the creation of linguistic states. In 1947, the boundaries of several old states of India were changed to ensure that people who spoke the same language lived in the same state.

The formation of linguistic states has made the country, more united and also make the administration easier.

- **Language Policy:**

A second test for Indian federation is the language policy. In our constitution Hindi is identified as the office language. There are also 21 languages recognized as scheduled languages by the constitution. A candidate in an examination conducted for the central government position may opt to take the examination in any of these languages. Much of the government work takes place in the official language of the concerned states.

- **Controversy over the Hindi & English:**

1. According to the constitution the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965.
2. Many non Hindi speaking states demanded that the use of English should continue e.g. Tamil Nadu.
3. So the central government responded by agreeing to continue the use of English along with Hindi for official purposes.
4. Promotion of Hindi continues to be the office policy of the government of India but it does not mean that the central government can impose Hindi on states where people speak a different language.

- **CENTRE STATE RELATION**

Improving the centre state relation is one more way in which federalism has been strengthened in practice. Though the Indian constitution has divided the powers of union and state government but still the union government can have influence over the state in many ways.

In the past, the central government has often misused the constitution to dismiss the state governments that were controlled by rival parties. This undermined the spirit of federalism and that of democracy.

The judiciary has played a major role in improving the autonomy of the state governments because many a times, it has reduced state government which was dismissed in an arbitrary manner.

- **DECENTRALISATION IN INDIA**

Federal government has two tiers of government. Vast country like India cannot be run only through these two tiers. Federal power sharing in India needs another tier of government, below that of the state government. This is the rationale for decentralization of power. Thus resulted a third tier of government called local government.

- **Definition:** When power is taken away from central and state government and given to local government, it is called decentralization.

- A. The basic idea behind decentralization is that there are a large number of problems and issues which are best settled at the local level.
- B. People have better knowledge of problems in their localities.
- C. People have better ideas on where to spend money and how to manage things more efficiently.
- D. At the local level it is possible for the people to directly participate in decision making.
- E. This helps to inculcate a habit of democratic participation.
- F. Local government is the best way to realize the important principle of democracy, namely local self government. Panchayats in villages and municipalities in Urban areas were set up in all the states.

- **A major step towards decentralization was taken in 1992.**

1. It is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
2. Seats are reserved for the SC, ST and OBC.
3. At least one third of all positions are reserved for women.

4. An independent institution called state Election commission has been created in each state to conduct panchayat and municipal election.
5. The state governments are required to share some power and revenue with local government bodies.
6. Local government is the best way to realise the important principle of democracy, namely local self govt. Panchayats in villages and municipalities in Urban areas were setup in all the states.

■ PANCHAYATI RAJ

- A.
 - (i) Each village, or a group of village in some state, has Gram Panchayat.
 - (ii) This is a council consisting Panch and Surpanch.
 - (iii) They are directly elected by all the adult population living in that village.
 - (iv) It is the decision making body for the entire village.
 - (v) The panchayat works under the overall supervision of the gram Sabha, All the voters in the village are its member.
 - (vi) It has to meet at least twice or thrice in a year to approve the annual budget and to review the performance of the Gram Panchayat.
- B.
 - (i) At the district level a few gram panchayat are, grouped together to form is called panchayat Samiti.
 - (ii) The member of this representative body elected by all the Panchayat member in that area.
- C.
 - (i) All the Panchayat samiti in a district together constitute the Zila (district) Parishad. Most members of Zila Parishad are elected.
 - (ii) Member of the Lok Sabha and MLAs of that district and some other officials of other district level bodies are also its members.
 - (iii) Zila Parishad Chair person is the political head of the zila parishad.
- D.
 - (i) Local Government bodies exist for urban area as well. Municipalities are step up in the towns. Big cities are constitute into municipal corporations.
 - (ii) Both municipalities and Municipal Corporation are controlled by elected bodies consisting of people's representatives.
 - (iii) Municipal chairperson is the political head of the municipality.
 - (iv) In a municipal corporations such an officer is called the Mayor.



■ IMPORTANT TERMS

1. **Union list:** Subject of national importance like defence, foreign affairs, atomic energy, banking, post and telegraph are included in the union list. The central government can pass law on the subjects mentioned in the union list.
2. **State List:** It comprises those important subjects on which the state government can pass law. Subjects like police, local government, trade and commerce within the state and agriculture are included in the state.
3. **Concurrent List:** It comprises the subjects which are of common concern both to the centre, and the state government. Both the government can form laws on these subjects.
4. **Residuary Powers:** Matters which are not included in the division of powers are known as residuary powers.
5. **Tier system:** It is the system which signifies levels of government. It may be of two levels and three level.
6. **List system:** It is the distribution of powers through the list like union list for central level or state list for state level.
7. **Linguistic State:** The creation of states on the basis of language is known as Linguistic state.
8. **Unitary system:** It is a system of government in which either there is only one level, of government or sub units are subordinate to the central government.
9. **Scheduled Language:** Language which is listed in the list or schedule of the constitution is known as scheduled language.
10. **Decentralization:** When power is taken away from central and state government and given to Local Government it is called Decentralization.

EXERCISE

■ VERT SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. What do you mean by the term 'Federalism'?
2. What is unitary government?
3. The federal system has a dual objective. Mention the dual objectives.
4. There are two kinds of routes through which federations have been formed. Name the two routes.
5. What is a union list?
6. What is a state list?
7. What is a concurrent list?
8. What are Residuary powers?
9. What is decentralization?
10. What is Gram Panchayat?
11. What is Panchayat Samiti?
12. What is Zila Parishad?
13. Who is a Mayor?
14. What is coming together federation?
15. What is the basic idea behind the power sharing of Indian Federalism?
16. List out the significance of the formation of linguistic states.
17. Examine the concept of Linguistic states?

■ SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. List out the basic traits of Federalism.
2. Discuss the dual objectives of federalism.
3. Examine the general nature of federalism.
4. Distinguish between coming together federations and holding together federations.
5. What are the power sharing arrangements in our country?
6. "Judiciary plays an important role in India's Federation". Prove the statement.
7. Discuss the language policy of Indian Federation.
8. Examine the controversy over Hindi & English as the official language.
9. Discuss the centre state relations in Indian Federalism.
10. Examine the significance of Decentralization.
11. Discuss the structure and composition of Rural local self government.
12. Examine the composition and structure of Urban local self government.

■ LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Examine the basic features of federalism.
2. Discuss the list system of Indian federalism.
3. How is federalism practised in India?
4. Examine the concept of three tiers government of Indian federalism?
5. Give a Critical analysis of new experiment on the local self government.
6. List out the attempts of the Indian constitution in order to decentralize power.
7. "India is country of diverse language". Examine the statement under the linguistic diversity of India.

SOLVED EXERCISE

1. What is the meaning of federalism?

Ans. Federalism means the sharing of power between a central governing authority and state authority by the constitution so that both can work independently in their respective fields. Both the governments are answerable to the citizens of the country who elect them. Few countries that have a federal system are Canada, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, India, Mexico and Switzerland.

2. How are the powers divided between the centre and the state in India?

Ans. There is a clear division of powers between the central and state government by the constitution under three lists:

(i) Union list, (ii) State list, (iii) Concurrent list

(i) Union list:- The union list includes 97 matters of national importance upon which the central government would take the decision. It includes subjects like defense of the country, foreign affairs, banking, currency and communication.

(ii) State list:- The state list includes 66 matters of the state-level and local level importance on which the decision would be taken by the state governments. It includes subjects like police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation.

(iii) Concurrent list:- The concurrent list includes 47 subjects which are of common interest to both the central as well as state government. It includes matters such as education, forest, marriage and trade unions.

The subjects that do not fall in any of the union, state or concurrent lists are decided upon by the union government. Example- computer software, mobile phones etc.

3. What are union territories? Why are union territories not states?

Ans. Some units of the Indian union are smaller in size in comparison to other states and cannot be merged with other states. Such units are called union territories. They are not given the status of states since they are too small in size to be considered as independent units. There are seven union territories, they are:-

(1) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

(2) Chandigarh

(3) Dadra and Nagar Haveli

(4) Daman and Diu

(5) The capital city Delhi

(6) Lakshadweep

(7) Pondicherry

4. "All states in the Indian union do not have identical powers" Do you agree? Support your answer with examples.

Ans. Yes, all states in the Indian union do not have equal powers. Some states enjoy a special status:

❖ For example- Jammu and Kashmir has its own constitution. Article 370 of the constitution ensures the special powers.

❖ Many provisions of the Indian constitution are not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir state and it has to get the approval of the state assembly.

❖ Only the permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir can purchase land or a house in the state.

5. What is the role of judiciary in implementing the constitutional provisions?

Ans. The judiciary plays an important role in the implementation of constitutional procedure and provision.

❖ In case of any dispute about the division of powers (between the union and state) the Supreme Court makes a decision. Between the state and other lower units, the high court makes a decision.

6. Write down the importance of 73rd and 74th (Amendment) Act.

OR

Write the main provisions of 1992 Act related to decentralization.

Ans. A major step towards decentralization was taken in 1992 and it became a third tier of democracy.

Main provisions are:-

- (1) To hold regular election to local bodies is constitutionally mandatory.
- (2) At least one third of all position is reserved for women.
- (3) To conduct panchayat and municipal elections a state Election. Commission has been created in each state.
- (4) The state governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local bodies.
- (5) Seats should be reserved for the weaker sections like SCs, STs and OBCs.

7. Write short note on the structure of local government.

Ans.

- ❖ The government at the village level is known as Gram Panchayat and the head is called Sarpanch.
- ❖ A few gram panchayats are grouped together and called Panchayat samiti at taluk/mandal/block level.
- ❖ All panchayat samities in a district are called as Zila Parishad.
- ❖ Most of the members of the Zila Parishad are elected and members of Lok Sabha and MLAs of that district and some officials are also its members.

8. Write a short note on local government at the urban level.

Ans.

- ❖ Local government bodies at the urban level (towns) are called Municipalities.
- ❖ Big cities have a Municipal Corporation.
- ❖ Head of a municipal corporation is called the Mayor.
- ❖ Municipal Chairperson is the head of the municipality.
- ❖ Both municipalities the municipal corporations are controlled by elected bodies consisting of representatives of the people.

9. Explain briefly the language policy of India.

Ans. Language policy of India is one of the tasks for Indian federation. India is known for multi-lingual due to its diversity.

Our Constitution does not give the status of national language to any particular language. Hindi was declared as the official language (which is the mother tongue of only about 40 per cent of Indians.)

There are 21 languages (by sides Hindi) recognized as scheduled languages by the constitution.

According to the Constitution, the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965. However mainly the non-Hindi speaking states demanded that the use of English be continued. Thus, the central government agreed to continue the use of English along with Hindi.

Promotion of Hindi continues to be the official policy of the government of India.

In general, India's language policy can be described as three language formula, i.e., Hindi as official language, English as link language and language of the respective state or region (like Gujarati, Marathi, and Telugu, etc.)

10. Point out 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. In Belgium there are three kinds of government at the centre, government at the state level and third kind of government is the community government. The community government has the power regarding Cultural, educational and language related issues.

But in India, there is no third kind of government, there is no community government.

Here there are only two types of governments. The first kind of government is at the centre and the second kind of government is at the state level.

11. Fill in the blanks:

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

Ans. Since the United States is a coming together type of federation, all the constituent states have equal powers and states are stronger vis-à-vis the federal government. But India is a holding together type of federation and some states have more power than other. In India the Central government has more powers.