

Chapter 4

Power Sharing and Federalism

Introduction : Intelligent sharing of power among legislature, executive and judiciary is very important for the design of democracy. The vertical division of power among different levels of government is one of the major forms of power sharing in modern democracies. This form is commonly referred to as Federalism.

Forms of Power Sharing

- Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary. This is called horizontal distribution of power because it allows different organs of government, placed at the same level to exercise different powers. It results in checks and balance of power.
- Power can be shared among governments at different levels, a general government for the entire country called Federal government and governments at the provincial or regional level. In India, we refer to it as the Central or Union government. The governments at the provincial or regional level are called State governments. The constitution clearly lays down the powers of different levels of government.
- Power may also be shared among different social groups, such as the religious and linguistic groups. For example, 'Community government' in Belgium. In some countries there are constitutional and legal arrangements, where by socially weaker sections and women are represented in the legislatures and administration.
- Power sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power. Power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups.
- In a democracy, we find interest groups such as those of traders, businessmen, industrialists, farmers and industrial workers. They have a share in governmental power, through participation in governmental committees or bringing influence on the decision making process.

Accommodation in Belgium

- Belgium is a small country in Europe. It has borders with Netherlands, France and Germany and a population of little over one crore. The ethnic composition of this small country is very complex.
- Of the country's total population, 59 percent lives in the Flemish region and speaks Dutch language. Another 40 percent people lives in the Wallonia region and speaks French. Remaining 1 percent of the Belgians speak German.
- In the capital city Brussels, 80 percent people speak French, while 20 percent are Dutch speaking.
- The minority French speaking community was relatively powerful. This was resented by the Dutch speaking community who got the benefit of economic development and education much later, which led to tension between them during the 1950s and 1960s.

- Brussels presented a special problem - the Dutch speaking people constituted a majority in the country but minority in the capital.
- The Belgian leaders recognized the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities so they amended their constitution four times between 1970 and 1993.
- Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government. No single community can take decisions unilaterally.
- Many powers of the central government have been given to state governments of the two regions of the country. The state governments are not subordinate to the central government.
- Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.
- Apart from the A 'community government' is elected by the people belonging to one language community; Dutch, French and German speaking in this case, in which the government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.
- This Belgian model has worked well so far and helped to avoid civic strife between the two major communities and a possible division of the country on linguistic lines.

Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka is an island nation, just a few kilometers off the southern coast of Tamil Nadu. It has about 2 crore people.
- Sri Lanka has a diverse population. The major social groups are the Sinhala speakers (74 percent), and the Tamil speakers (18 percent).
- Among Tamils, there are two sub groups. Tamil natives of the country are called 'Sri Lankan Tamils' (13 percent). The rest, whose forefathers came from India as plantation workers during colonial period are called 'Indian Tamils'.
- Most of the Sinhala speaking people are Buddhist, while most of the Tamils are Hindus or Muslims. There are about 7 percent Christians, who are both Tamil and Sinhala.
- Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948. The democratically elected government adopted a series of majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala supremacy.
- In 1956, an Act was passed to recognize Sinhala as the only official language, disregarding Tamil. Sinhala applicants were favoured for university positions and government jobs. A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.
- Sri Lankan Tamils felt that move of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders, were sensitive to their language and culture.

- They felt that the constitution and government policies denied them equal political rights, discriminated against them in getting jobs and other opportunities and ignored their interests.
- As a result, the relations between the Sinhala and Tamil communities strained over time.
- Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for the recognition of Tamil as an official language, for regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs.
- By 1980s, several political organizations were formed demanding an independent Tamil Eelam (state) in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.
- The distrust between the two communities turned into a **Civil War**. As a result, thousands of people of both the communities have been killed. Many families were forced to leave the country as refugees and many more lost their livelihood.
- Sri Lanka has an excellent record of economic development, education and health. But the Civil War has caused a terrible setback to the social, cultural and economic life of the country.
- Thus in Belgium, the leaders have realized that the unity of the country is possible by mutually acceptable arrangements for sharing power, whereas in Sri Lanka, it shows that a majority community wants to force its dominance and refuses to share power by undermining the unity of the country.

Federalism

- Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituents, 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 others are governments at the level of provinces or 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.
- Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
- The jurisdictions of the respective levels of government are specified in the constitution. So, the existence and authority of each tier of government is constitutionally guaranteed.
- 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.
- Courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of different levels of government. The highest court acts as an inspire, if disputes arise between different levels of government in the exercise of their respective powers.
- Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.
- The federal system thus has dual objectives - to safeguard and promote unity of the country, while at the same time accommodate regional diversity.

- Thus governments at different levels should agree to some rules of power sharing. They should also trust that each would abide by its part of the agreement.

Indian Federation

- Indian Union is based on the principles of Federalism. The constitution originally provided for a two-tier system of governments - the Union government and the State government. Later, a third tier of Federalism was added in the form of Panchayats and Municipalities. The constitution clearly provided a three fold distribution of legislative powers between the Union government and the State governments.
- **Union List** : It includes subjects of national importance such as defence, foreign affairs, banking, communication 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** : It contains subject of state and local importance such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation. The state governments can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the state list.
- **Concurrent List** : It includes subjects of common interest to both the union and the state governments, such as education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession. Both the union and the state governments can make laws on these subjects. If their laws conflict with each other, the law made by the union government will prevail.

Practise of Federalism

- The real success of Federalism in India can be attributed to the nature of democratic politics in our country. This ensured that the spirit of Federalism, respect for diversity and desire for living together became a shared ideal in our country.
- **Linguistic States** : The creation of linguistic states was the first and a major test for democratic politics in our country. Some states were created not on the basis of language but to recognize differences based on culture, ethnicity or geography. This include states like Nagaland, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand. The formation of linguistic states has made the country more united and administration easier.
- **Language Policy** : Second test for Indian federation is the language policy. Besides Hindi, there are 21 other languages recognised as scheduled languages by the constitution. A candidate, in an examination conducted for the central government positions, may opt to take the examinations in any of these languages.
- **Centre-State Relations** : Restructuring the centre-state relations is one more way in which federalism has been strengthened in practice. After 1990, regional political parties came up in many states of the country. This was also the beginning of the era of coalition governments at the centre. Since no single party got a clear majority in the Lok Sabha, the major national parties had to enter into an alliance with many parties, including several regional parties, to form a government at the centre. This led to a new culture of power sharing and respect for the autonomy of state governments. Thus federal power sharing is more effective today.

Decentralisation in India

- A vast country like India cannot be run only through two tiers. Many of the states in India are internally very diverse. There is a need for power sharing within these states.
- Federal power sharing in India needs another tier of government, below that of the state governments. This is the rationale for decentralisation of power. Thus, resulted a third-tier of government, called local government.
- When power is taken away from central and state governments and given to local governments, it is called decentralisation. A major step toward decentralisation was taken in 1992. The constitution was amended to make the third tier of democracy more powerful and effective.
- Now it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
- Seats are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes.
- At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.
- An independent institution called the “State Election Commission” has been created in each state to conduct panchayat and municipal elections.
- The state governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies. The nature of sharing varies from state to state.
- Rural local government is popularly known by the name Panchayati Raj. Each village or a group of villages in some states, has a gram panchayat.
- This is a council consisting of several ward members, often called “panch” and a resident called “sarpanch.”
- They are directly elected by all the adult population, living in that ward or village.
- It is the decision-making body for the entire village. The Panchayat works under the overall supervision of the Gram Sabha. All the voters in the village are its members. It has to meet atleast twice or thrice in a year to approve the annual budget of the Gram Panchayat and to review its performance.
- The local government structure goes right up to the district level. A few Gram Panchayats are grouped together to form a Panchayat Samiti or Block or Mandal. The members of this representative body are elected by all the Panchayat members in that area.
- All the Panchayat Samitis or Mandals in a district together constitute the Zilla (district) Parishad. Most of its members are elected. Members of the Lok Sabha and MLAs of that district are also its members. Its chairperson is the political head of the Zilla Parishad.
- Local government bodies set up in towns are Municipalities. Big cities are constituted into Municipal Corporations. Both of these are controlled by elected bodies consisting of peoples representatives. Municipal chairperson is the political head of the Municipality. In a municipal corporation, such an officer is called the Mayor.
- Panchayats in villages and Municipalities in urban areas were set up in all the states. But these are directly under the control of the State Government. Elections are not held regularly. They did not have any power or resources of their own. Thus, there is very little decentralisation in effective terms.

Exercise**1**

DIRECTIONS : This section contains multiple choice questions. Each question has 4 choices (1), (2), (3) and (4) out of which only one is correct. Choose the correct option.

- With which of these countries Belgium does not shares its borders ?
 (1) Netherlands (2) Germany
 (3) Italy (4) France
- What percent of people live in the Flemish region and speak Dutch language in Belgium ?
 (1) 52 % (2) 59 %
 (3) 58 % (4) 53 %
- Which language is spoken by the 40 percent of people, who live in the Wallonia region of Belgium ?
 (1) French (2) German
 (3) Latin (4) Dutch
- In the capital city Brussels, _____ percent people speak French while _____ percent are Dutch speaking.
 (1) 60, 40 (2) 75, 25
 (3) 80, 20 (4) 85, 15
- Name the third kind of government that exists in Belgium.
 (1) Community government
 (2) Ethnic government
 (3) Local self government
 (4) People's government
- Where is the headquarters of European Union located ?
 (1) Venice (2) Geneva
 (3) Hague (4) Brussels
- In Sri Lanka, the Sinhala speakers are _____ percent and the Tamil speakers are _____ percent.
 (1) 74, 18 (2) 72, 16
 (3) 76, 14 (4) 78, 18
- In which year did Sri Lanka got independence ?
 (1) 1946 (2) 1947
 (3) 1948 (4) 1949
- In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise _____ as the official language of Sri Lanka.
 (1) Tamil (2) English
 (3) Telugu (4) Sinhala
- Which religion is adopted by the constitution of Sri Lanka ?
 (1) Jainism (2) Buddhism
 (3) Christianity (4) Hinduism

11. In which two regions of Sri Lanka do the people demand an independent Tamil Eelam ?
(1) Southern, Eastern (2) Northern, Western
(3) Northern, Eastern (4) Southern, Western
12. Which state in India has its own constitution ?
(1) Jharkhand (2) Madhya Pradesh
(3) Tamil Nadu (4) Jammu and Kashmir
13. What is the name given to the third tier of Federalism in the cities ?
(1) Municipality
(2) Panchayat
(3) Municipal corporation
(4) Gram Sabha
14. Name the first state in India to be created on linguistic basis.
(1) Uttar Pradesh (2) Andhra Pradesh
(3) Karnataka (4) Maharashtra
15. Which of these states were created in 2000, not on the basis of language ?
(1) Goa (2) Sikkim
(3) Jharkhand (4) Manipur
16. How many languages are recognised as the scheduled languages by the constitution of India ?
(1) 18 (2) 21
(3) 19 (4) 23
17. In which year was a major step towards decentralisation taken in India ?
(1) 1992 (2) 1990
(3) 1994 (4) 1996
18. In which of these states are Bhojpuri and Magadhi popularly spoken ?
(1) Orissa (2) Punjab
(3) Gujarat (4) Bihar
19. Which of these is not an Union Territory of India ?
(1) Chandigarh (2) Haryana
(3) Delhi (4) Pondicherry
20. Which of these subjects come under the Concurrent List ?
(1) Defence (2) Police
(3) Banking (4) Forest
21. Which list includes the subject of marriage, adoption and succession ?
(1) State List (2) Concurrent List
(3) Union List (4) Reserved List
22. Trade and commerce comes under the
(1) Union List (2) Concurrent List
(3) Reserved List (4) State List
23. An ideal Federal system has mutual trust and _____ to live together.
(1) balance (2) peace
(3) agreement (4) humanity
24. Which country follows the system of coming together federation ?
(1) Germany (2) Switzerland
(3) Belgium (4) Romania
25. Which country follows the system of hold together federation ?
(1) Australia (2) Italy
(3) France (4) Spain
26. The members of Lok Sabha and MLAs are also members of _____.
(1) Gram Sabha (2) Municipal Corporation
(3) Zilla Parishad (4) Panchayat Samiti
27. Which group among these does not influence the power sharing system ?
(1) Media (2) Movements
(3) Political parties (4) Pressure Groups
28. What percent of people speak German in Belgium ?
(1) 2 % (2) 3 %
(3) 5 % (4) 1 %
29. How many times the constitution of Belgium was amended between 1960 and 1993 ?
(1) 4 (2) 2
(3) 5 (4) 3
30. Which of these cities is the capital of two states and a Union Territory ?
(1) Pondicherry (2) Delhi
(3) Silvassa (4) Chandigarh

Exercise

2

Matching Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs 1 to 5) : Match Column-I with Column-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the columns.

- | 1. | Column I | Column II |
|-----|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (A) | Russia | (p) Civil war |
| (B) | Sri Lanka | (q) Decentralisation |
| (C) | India | (r) Federation |
| (D) | Belgium | (s) Community government |
| (1) | A → (p); B → (q); C → (r); D → (s) | |
| (2) | A → (q); B → (p); C → (s); D → (r) | |
| (3) | A → (r); B → (p); C → (q); D → (s) | |
| (4) | A → (s); B → (p); C → (r); D → (q) | |

- | 2. | Column I | Column II |
|-----|--|--------------------------|
| (A) | Power shared by two or more political parties | (p) Federal government |
| (B) | Power shared by different social groups | (q) Coalition government |
| (C) | Power shared among governments at different levels | (r) Separation of powers |
| (D) | Power shared among different organs of government | (s) Community government |
| (1) | A → (q); B → (s); C → (p); D → (r) | |
| (2) | A → (s); B → (q); C → (r); D → (p) | |
| (3) | A → (r); B → (s); C → (q); D → (p) | |
| (4) | A → (p); B → (q); C → (r); D → (s) | |

3. **Column I** **Column II**
- (A) Gram Panchayat (p) President
(B) Municipal Corporation (q) Sarpanch
(C) State (r) Mayor
(D) Union of India (s) Governor
- (1) $A \rightarrow (p), B \rightarrow (q), C \rightarrow (r), D \rightarrow (s)$
(2) $A \rightarrow (q), B \rightarrow (p), C \rightarrow (r), D \rightarrow (s)$
(3) $A \rightarrow (r), B \rightarrow (s), C \rightarrow (p), D \rightarrow (q)$
(4) $A \rightarrow (q), B \rightarrow (r), C \rightarrow (s), D \rightarrow (p)$
4. **Column-I** **Column-II**
- (A) Union List (p) Computer software
(B) State List (q) Education
(C) Residuary List (r) Agriculture
(D) Concurrent List (s) Currency
- (1) $A \rightarrow (p), B \rightarrow (q), C \rightarrow (r), D \rightarrow (s)$
(2) $A \rightarrow (s), B \rightarrow (r), C \rightarrow (p), D \rightarrow (q)$
(3) $A \rightarrow (s), B \rightarrow (q), C \rightarrow (p), D \rightarrow (r)$
(4) $A \rightarrow (r), B \rightarrow (s), C \rightarrow (q), D \rightarrow (p)$
5. **Column-I** **Column-II**
- (A) Jammu and Kashmir (p) Geography
(B) Andhra Pradesh (q) Chandigarh
(C) Uttaranchal (r) Separate constitution
(D) Punjab and Haryana (s) Linguistic state
- (1) $A \rightarrow (r), B \rightarrow (s), C \rightarrow (p), D \rightarrow (q)$
(2) $A \rightarrow (r), B \rightarrow (p), C \rightarrow (q), D \rightarrow (s)$
(3) $A \rightarrow (q), B \rightarrow (s), C \rightarrow (p), D \rightarrow (r)$
(4) $A \rightarrow (q), B \rightarrow (p), C \rightarrow (r), D \rightarrow (s)$

Statement Based MCQ

6. Consider the following statements about power sharing arrangements in Belgium and Sri Lanka.
- (a) In Sri Lanka, the policies of the government sought to ensure the dominance of the Sinhala-speaking majority.
(b) The Tamils in Sri Lanka demanded a federal arrangement of power sharing.
(c) The transformation of Belgium from Unitary to Federal government prevented a possible division of the country on linguistic lines.
(d) In Belgium, the Dutch-speaking majority people tried to impose their domination on the minority French speaking community.
- Which of these statement(s) is /are correct ?
- (1) (a), (b) and (c) (2) (a) and (b)
(3) (b) and (d) (4) (a) and (c)
7. Consider the following statements on power sharing.
- (a) Power sharing is good for democracy
(b) It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
- Which of these statement(s) is /are correct ?
- (1) (a) only (2) (b) Only
(3) Both (a) and (b) (4) Neither (a) nor (b)

8. Consider the following statements
- (a) India is no longer a Federation because some powers of the states have been developed to the local government bodies.
(b) In a federation, the powers of the federal and provincial governments are clearly demarcated.
(c) Sri Lanka is a Federation because the country is divided into provinces.
(d) India is a Federation because the power of the Union and State governments are specified in the constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- (1) (a), (b) and (c) (2) (a) and (b)
(3) (b) and (d) (4) (a) and (c)
9. Consider the following statements.
- (a) Hindi is the mother tongue of 65 percent Indians.
(b) A major step towards decentralisation was taken in 1994.
- Which of these statement(s) is/are correct ?
- (1) (a) only (2) (b) Only
(3) Both (a) and (b) (4) Neither (a) nor (b)
10. Consider the following statements.
- (a) Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela are three federal countries in South America.
(b) Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia are three federal countries in Africa.
- Which of these statement(s) is/are correct ?
- (1) (a) only (2) (b) Only
(3) Both (a) and (b) (4) Neither (a) nor (b)
11. Consider the following statements.
- (a) Civil War in Sri Lanka has resulted in economic development, education and health.
(b) Brussels was chosen as the headquarter of European Union.

Which of these statement(s) is/are correct ?

- (1) (a) only (2) (b) Only
(3) Both (a) and (b) (4) Neither (a) nor (b)

Passage Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 12 to 23) : Read the passage(s) given below and answer the questions that follow.

PASSAGE - 1

The exact balance of power between the Central and the State government varies from one federation to another. The first route involves 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. This type of 'Coming together' federations include the USA, Switzerland and Australia. In it, all the constituent states usually have equal power and are as strong as the Federal government. The second route is where a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent states and the national government. India, Spain and Belgium are examples of this kind of 'holding together' federations. In it, the Central government tends to be more powerful than the states.

12. Which of these countries is not among 'coming together' federations ?
 (1) Belgium (2) Australia
 (3) Switzerland (4) USA
13. Which of these countries is not among 'holding together' federations ?
 (1) India (2) Spain
 (3) Belgium (4) Australia
14. In the first route, by pooling _____ and retaining identity states can increase their security.
 (1) democracy (2) sovereignty
 (3) dignity (4) popularity
15. In the second route, very often different constituent units of the federation have _____ powers.
 (1) judicial (2) equal
 (3) legal (4) unequal
20. Representation of women in the Panchayats is _____ of total membership.
 (1) $\frac{1}{4}$ (2) $\frac{1}{2}$
 (3) $\frac{1}{3}$ (4) $\frac{1}{5}$
21. How many elected representatives are there in panchayats and municipalities ?
 (1) 32 lakh (2) 36 lakh
 (3) 34 lakh (4) 38 lakh
22. Most state governments have not given adequate _____ to local self governments.
 (1) resource (2) power
 (3) finance (4) democracy
23. Municipal chairperson is the _____ head of the municipality.
 (1) Legal (2) judicial
 (3) political (4) civil

PASSAGE - 2

There are two sets of reasons given in favour of power sharing. Firstly, power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups and ensures the stability of political order. Tyranny of the majority is not just oppressive for the minority; it often brings ruin to the majority as well. The second deeper reason is that power sharing is the very spirit of democracy. In a democratic rule, people have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed. A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system.

16. The first set of reasons can be called _____.
 (1) moral (2) justifiable
 (3) biased (4) prudential
17. The second set of reasons can be called _____.
 (1) biased (2) moral
 (3) justifiable (4) genuine
18. Tyranny of the majority is not just _____ for the minority, but brings ruin for the majority as well.
 (1) suppressive (2) depressive
 (3) oppressive (4) successive
19. A _____ government is one where citizens through participation, acquire a stake in the system.
 (1) authentic (2) prudential
 (3) legitimate (4) biased

PASSAGE - 3

The new system of Local Self Government is the largest experiment in democracy conducted anywhere in the world. There are now about 36 lakh elected representatives in the Panchayats and Municipalities etc., all over the country. 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. But at the same time, elections of Gram Sabhas are not held regularly. Most state governments have not transferred significant power to the local governments, nor have they given adequate resources. We are thus, still a long way from realising the idea of self government.

Assertion Reason Based MCQ

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 24 to 33) : Following questions consist of two statements, one labelled as the 'Assertion' and the other as 'Reason'. You are to examine these two statements carefully and select the answer to these items using the code given below.

Code :

- (1) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A:
 (2) Both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 (3) A is true but R is false
 (4) A is false but R is true.

24. **Assertion :** Sometimes sharing can be direct, when two or more parties form an alliance to contest elections.
Reason : If their alliance is elected, they form a coalition government and thus, share power.
25. **Assertion :** In 1956, Sri Lanka passed an Act to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, disregarding Tamil.
Reason : A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.
26. **Assertion :** The minority French speaking community was relatively rich and powerful in Belgium.
Reason : The Dutch speaking people constituted a minority in the country but a majority in the capital city of Brussels.
27. **Assertion :** Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1949.
Reason : Independent Tamil Eelam was demanded in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.
28. **Assertion :** At the local level, it is possible for the people to directly participate in the decision making.
Reason : This helps to inculcate a habit of democratic participation.

29. **Assertion :** A major step towards decentralisation was taken in 1996.

Reason : The constitution was amended to make the third tier of democracy more powerful and effective.

30. **Assertion :** Belgium shares its borders with Netherlands, France and Germany.

Reason : Only 5 percent of Belgians speak German.

31. **Assertion :** Belgium shifted from a Unitary to a Federal form of government.

Reason : While Sri Lanka continues to be a unitary system, where the national government has all the powers.

32. **Assertion :** Russia is one of the largest federations of the world.

Reason : China has the second largest Federal system in the world.

33. **Assertion :** Jammu and Kashmir has its own constitution.

Reason : Many provisions of the constitution are not applicable to this state without the approval of state assembly.

Correct Definition Based MCQ

34. Which of the following is the correct definition of 'ETHNIC'?
- A religious division based on shared culture.
 - A political division based on shared culture.
 - A racial division based on shared culture.
 - A social division based on shared culture.
35. Which of the following is the correct definition of 'CIVIL WAR' ?
- A violent conflict between two civic courts within a country.
 - A violent conflict between two opposing parties within a country.
 - A violent conflict between opposing groups within a country.
 - A violent conflict between two or more states within a country.
36. Which of the following is the correct definition of 'JURISDICTION' ?
- The area over which someone has judicial authority.
 - The area over which someone has legal authority.
 - The area over which someone has political authority.
 - The area over which someone has civil authority.

Feature Based MCQ

37. On the basis of the following features, identify the correct option :
- It can be shared among different organs of the government.
 - It is shared among governments at different levels.
 - It may also be shared among different social groups.
 - It can be influenced by political parties pressure groups or movements.
- Decentralisation
 - Majoritarianism
 - Power sharing
 - Federalism
38. On the basis of the following features, identify the correct option :
- There are two or more tiers of government.
 - Different tiers of government has its own jurisdiction.
 - Existence and authority of each tier of government is constitutionally guaranteed.
 - Each tier has financial autonomy.
- Power sharing
 - Federalism
 - Decentralisation
 - Jurisdiction
39. On the basis of the following features, identify the correct option :
- Subjects of common interest to both Union and State government.
 - Education, forest, marriage etc. comes under it.
 - Both Union and State government can make laws on these subjects.
 - If their laws conflict, the decision of the Union government prevails.
- Union List
 - State List
 - Reserved List
 - Concurrent List
40. On the basis of the following features, identify the correct option :
- It is the decision making body for the entire village.
 - It works under the overall supervision of Gram Sabha.
 - It has to meet twice or thrice in a year to approve the annual budget.
 - Its president is called Sarpanch.
- Zilla Parishad
 - Municipal Corporation
 - Panchayat
 - Mandal or Block

Hints & SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

1. (3) 2. (2) 3. (4) 4. (3)
5. (1) In Belgium the community government is elected by people belonging to one language community - Dutch, French and German speaking.
6. (4) 7. (1) 8. (3) 9. (4) 10. (2)
11. (3)
12. (4) Many provision of the Indian constitution are not applicable to their state without the approval of the State Assembly.
13. (3) 14. (2)
15. (3) Jharkhand was created on the basis of culture ethnicity and geography.
16. (2) 17. (1) 18. (4) 19. (2) 20. (4)
21. (2) 22. (1) 23. (3) 24. (2) 25. (4)
26. (3) 27. (1) 28. (4) 29. (1) 30. (4)

Exercise 2

1. (3) 2. (1) 3. (4) 4. (2) 5. (1)
6. (1) In Belgium, the French speaking people tried to impose their dominance over the Dutch speaking people.
7. (3)
8. (3) When the power is taken away from Central and State governments and given to Local government, it is called

decentralisation. India is a federation because the country is divided into provinces.

9. (3) Hindi is the mother tongue of 40 percent Indians. A major step towards decentralisation was taken in 1992.
10. (1)
11. (2) Civil War in Sri Lanka has caused a terrible setback to the social, cultural and economic life of the country.
12. (1) 13. (4) 14. (2)
15. (4) In this category of federations, all the constituent states usually have equal power and are as strong as the Federal government.
16. (4) 17. (2) 18. (3) 19. (3) 20. (3)
21. (2) 22. (1) 23. (3) 24. (1) 25. (2)
26. (3) The Dutch speaking people constituted a majority in the country but minority in the capital.
27. (4) Sri Lanka became independent in 1946.
28. (1)
29. (4) A major step towards decentralisation was taken in 1992.
30. (3) Only 1% of Belgians speak German.
31. (2)
32. (3) U.S.A. has the second largest Federal system in the world.
33. (3) 34. (4) 35. (3) 36. (2) 37. (3)
38. (2) 39. (3) 40. (1)