

Federalism

Question 3.

Which local body has a 'Mayor' as its head? (2014)

Answer:

Head of Municipal Corporation is a Mayor.

Question 4.

What other factors besides politics keep the federations united? (2015)

Answer:

Besides politics, other factors which keep the federations united are culture, ideology and history. Culture of trust, cooperation, mutual respect and restraint has also helped in the smooth functioning of nations

Question 5.

What was the main objective of the Constitutional Amendment made in 1992 in India? (2015)

Answer:

The main objective of the Constitutional Amendment in 1992 was to strengthen the three-tier system of governance, i.e., make the Panchayati Raj Institution and the urban local bodies more powerful and effective.

Question 6.

What status has been given to the 'Hindi' language by the Constitution of India? (2013)

Answer:

Hindi has been given the status of 'Official language' by the Constitution of India.

Question 7.

Much of the official work in Indian States is done in which language? (2014)

Answer:

Much of the official work in Indian States is done in the official language of the concerned state.

Question 8.

What is Federalism?

Answer:

Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. This vertical division of power among different levels of governments is referred to as federalism.

Federalism is one of the major forms of power-sharing in modern democracies.

Question 9.

Name the subject list from which both the Union and the State governments can make laws? (2017 D)

Answer:

Concurrent List

Question 11.

Why is decentralisation favoured in democracy? Identify any two reasons. (2014)

Answer:

Five advantages of decentralisation of power:

1 When power is taken away from Central and State Governments and given to local governments, it is called decentralisation. The basic idea behind decentralisation is that there are a large number of problems and issues which are best settled at the local level. People have better knowledge of problems in their localities.

2 They also have better ideas on where to spend money and how to manage things more efficiently.

3 Besides, at the local level, it is possible for the people to directly participate in decision making. This helps to inculcate a habit of democratic participation.

4 Local government is the best way to realise one important principle of democracy, namely local self-government.

5 The need for decentralisation was recognised in our Constitution. A major step towards decentralisation was taken in 1992. The Constitution was amended to make the third tier of democracy more powerful and effective.

Question 13.

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

Answer:

(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. Other examples are Spain and Belgium.

Question 15.

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

Answer:

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 nature of democratic politics in our country which ensures that the spirit of federalism, respect for diversity and desire for living together became a shared ideal.
- 3 The creation of linguistic states. Boundaries of several old states of India were changed in order to create new states. This was done to ensure that people who spoke the same language lived in the same state. Later some states were created to recognise differences based on culture, ethnicity or geography.

For example: Nagaland, Uttrakhand, Jharkhand, Telangana, etc.

- 4 Restricting Centre-State relations. The constitutional arrangements for sharing power work depending on how the ruling parties and leaders follow these arrangements. For a long time, the same party ruled both at the Centre and in most of states. 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.

Question 16.

Explain any five features of federalism. (2015)

Answer:

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.