

CLASS 10
REVISION MATERIAL
CHAPTER – 2 FEDERALISM [CIVICS]
[NCERT TEXT BOOK BASED SOLUTIONS AND ADDITIONAL NOTES]

QUESTION: Define unitary system of **government**?

ANSWER -: Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the central government.

QUESTION: What is a coalition **government**?

ANSWER -: When no single party gets 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.

QUESTION: What is decentralization?

ANSWER -: When power is taken away from central and state governments and given to local government it is called decentralization.

QUESTION: Explain two achievements and two difficulties of the local self-governments in India.

ANSWER -: **Achievements:**

1. It has made the country more united and stronger.
2. It has also made the administration easier.

Difficulties:

1. There is a shortage of resources.
2. Elections are not held regularly.
- 3.

QUESTION: Explain the routes of federalism?
or

Distinguish between the Coming Together Federations and the Holding Together Federations.

ANSWER -: **Coming together federations:**

1. 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.
2. This type of 'coming together' federations include the **USA**, Switzerland and Australia.
3. All the constituent states usually have equal powers.

'Holding together' federations:

1. Where a large country decides to divide its powers between the constituent states and the national government.
2. India, **Spain** and **Belgium** are examples.
3. The central government tends to be more powerful.

QUESTION: What are the advantages of decentralization?

1. There are no. of problems and issues which are best settled at the local level.

2. People have better knowledge of problems in their localities.
3. They also have better ideas on where to spend money and how to manage things more efficiently.
4. 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.

QUESTION: What are three basic levels or tiers of government?

ANSWER -: The constitution originally provided for a two tier system of government, the Union government or what we call the central government, representing the union of India and the state government. Later a third tier of federalism was added in the form of Panchayat and Municipalities.

QUESTION: Define **Jurisdiction**?

ANSWER -: The area over which someone has legal authority. The area may be defined in terms of geographic boundaries or certain kinds of subjects.

QUESTION: Some states enjoy special powers in **India**?

ANSWER -: In a holding together federation (like India), the country decides to divide its powers among a central authority as well as its constituent states. In a holding together federation the central government has more power than the state government and the states have unequal power. Some states have special powers. Jammu and Kashmir has a special constitution where a law passed by the central can only be passed if it is approved by the state assembly. The union territories have very little powers as they are too small to be considered as a separate state and were not merged during state formation. The central government has special power in ruling these states.

QUESTION: What are union territories?

ANSWER -:

1. These union territories are too small to become an independent state but which could not be merged with any of the existing states.
2. These areas like Chandigarh or Lakshadweep or the capital city Delhi, are called Union territories.
3. The Central government has special powers in running these areas.

QUESTION: Is it easy for the central government alone to make changes in the power sharing structure?

ANSWER -: It is very difficult to make changes to the power sharing arrangements between the union government and state governments due to the following reasons:

1. There is clear distinction of power between state and centre through three list system.
2. In this arrangement constitution clearly lays down the division of powers between Union and State. So for any changes, it has to go through the amendment procedures which is difficult.
3. Here, the centre has a general authority, but the regional or state governments are given autonomy. Therefore, interference in each other's jurisdiction for any change is difficult.

QUESTION: “Belgium shifted from a unitary to a federal form of government”. What key changes were brought in the political system under the above mentioned shift ?

ANSWER -:

1. Many powers of the central government were given to state governments of the two regions of the country.
2. The regional governments were given constitutional powers that were no longer dependent on the central government.
3. Apart from the central government and the state government there is a third kind of government known as community government. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language related issues.

QUESTION: Define:

1. Gram Panchayat
2. Panchayat Samiti
3. Zila Parishad
4. Mayor

ANSWER -:

1. It is a council consisting of several ward members, often called the Panch and a president or a Sarpanch.
2. A few Gram Panchayat are grouped together to form a Panchayat Samiti or Block or a Mandal.
3. All the Panchayat Samitis or Mandals in a district together constitute the Zila Parishad.
4. A Mayor is an elected Chairperson of the Municipal Corporation.

QUESTION: Which is the highest tier of the Panchayati Raj? Explain its composition.

ANSWER -: The highest institution of the Panchayati Raj in rural areas is the Zila Parishad. The Zila Parishad coordinates the activities of all the Block Samitis in the whole district. Most members of the Zila Parishad are elected. Members of the Lok Sabha and the MLAs of that district along with some other officials of other district level bodies are also its members. The Zila Parishad’s Chairperson is the political head of the Zila Parishad.

QUESTION: What is a Panchayati Raj? What is its importance?

ANSWER -: The rural local government is known as the Panchayati Raj.

Importance:

1. It helps the people to directly participate in decision-making.
2. It helps in the decentralization of power.
3. It reduces the burden of the central government.

QUESTION: What is Gram Sabha? Mention its functions.

ANSWER -: Every adult of the village who is 18 years of age constitute the Gram Sabha.

1. It is the decision-making body of the entire village.

2. The village Panchayat works under the supervision of the Gram Sabha.
3. It approves the annual budget of the Gram Panchayat.

QUESTION: Write a short note on centre – state relations?

ANSWER -:

1. **Legislative Relations:** The Seventh Schedule contains three Lists. The Union List contains items that are in the exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament. The State List contains items which are within legislative competence of State Legislatures. Finally there is a Concurrent List on which both Parliament and States can make laws, but in event of any conflict or overlap, the law made by the Parliament prevails.
2. **Administrative Relations:** The executive power is co-extensive with legislative power. The Constitution has created the mechanism of All India Services, which provides administrative cohesion and efficiency in both Union and the States.
3. **Financial Relations:** Both Centre and States have certain independent sources of income. However, it is the Centre that has access to enormous amounts of funds and thus provides funds to States.

QUESTION: Enlist the major steps towards decentralization taken by Indian government in 1992?

ANSWER -:

1. The condition was amended to make the third tier of democracy more powerful and effective.
2. Now it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
3. Seats are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes.
4. At least one third of all positions are reserved for women.
5. An independent institution called the State Election Commission.
6. The state governments are required to share some powers and revenue with the government bodies.

QUESTION: What is Federalism?

ANSWER -: Federalism is the advocacy of federal political orders, where the final authority is divided between sub-units and a centre. Unlike a unitary state, sovereignty is constitutionally split between at least two territorial levels so that units at each level have final authority and can act independently of the others in some area. In such a case citizens have political obligations to two authorities. The allocation of authority between the sub-unit and centre may vary.

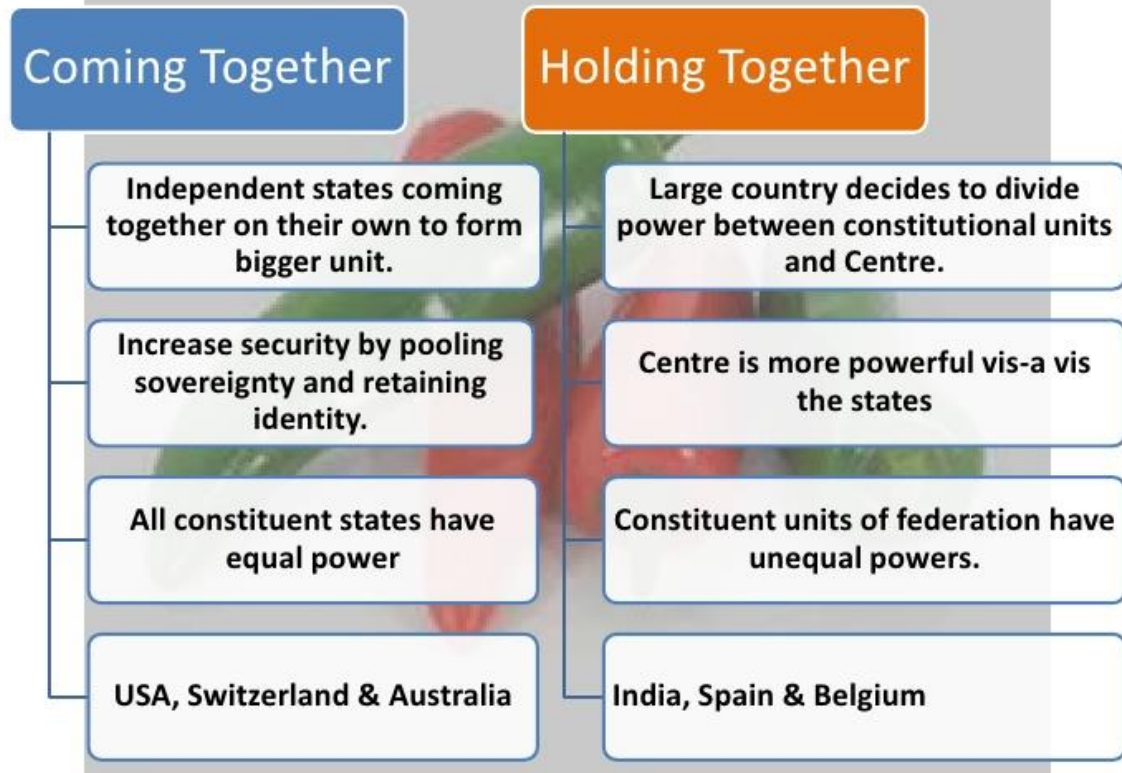
The federal system thus has dual objectives that is to safeguard and promote unity of the country and accommodate regional diversity.

Governments at different levels should agree to some rules of power sharing. An ideal federal system has both aspects; mutual trust and agreement to live together.

QUESTION -: Differentiate between coming together and holding together federations.

ANSWER-: REFER THIS CHART

Difference Between...



QUESTION: What makes India a Federal Country?

ANSWER -: India is a nation with many languages, religions and regions. It emerged as an independent nation after a long and painful partition. Several princely states became a part of the country soon after independence. India was declared as a Union of States, by the Constitution.

The Indian Union is based on the principles of federalism. The Constitution earlier provided a two-tier system of government, the Union Government (Central Government), representing the Union of India and the State governments. Later, Panchayats and Municipalities were added as a third tier of federalism. All these different forms of government enjoy separate jurisdiction.

QUESTION: Write a brief note on village councils.

ANSWER -: Village Councils looked after the affairs of the village, had police and judicial powers and were the lines of contact with higher authorities on matters affecting the villages. Custom and religion elevated them to a sacred position of authority.

These Councils were the pivot of administration, the centre of social life, and, above all, a focus of social solidarity.

QUESTION: What are the dual objectives of Federalism?

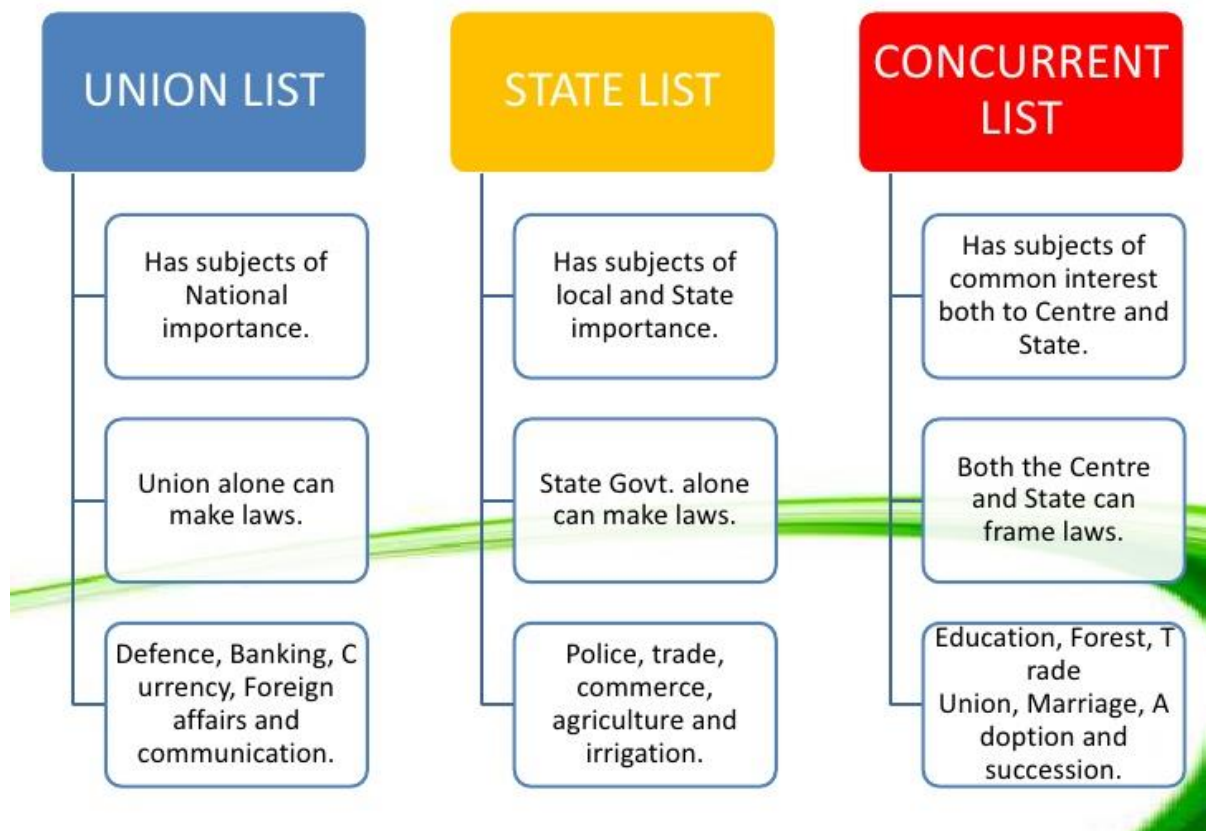
ANSWER -: The dual objectives of Federalism are to safeguard and promote unity of the country and to accommodate regional diversity.

QUESTION: What are the duties of a Central and State governments?

ANSWER -: **UNION LIST** -The duties of the Union or Central Government include subjects of national importance such as defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, communications and currency. This is because, a uniform policy on these matters will be maintained throughout the country. All the laws pertaining to the above duties must be given only by the Union Government.

STATE LIST -The duties of the State Governments include subjects of the State and local importance such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation. All the laws pertaining to the above duties must be given only by the State Governments.

CONCURRENT LIST - Some aspects have to be taken care of, by both, the Union Government as well as the State Governments. They are education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession. Both governments can make laws on these subjects. If their laws conflict with each other, the law made by the Union Government will prevail.



QUESTION: “Federations are contrasted with unitary governments”. Explain by giving examples from Sri Lanka and Belgium.

Ans. Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the Central government. The Central government can pass on orders to the

provincial or the Local government. For example in Sri Lanka is a unitary country and the Union government passed a new law stipulating that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism. Whereas under federal system, the Central government cannot order the State government to do something. State government has powers of its own for which ' it i's not answerable to the Central government. Both these governments are separately answerable to the people.

QUESTION: "Federal power sharing is more effective today than it was in the early years after the Constitution came into force". Explain.

Or

How is federal power sharing more effective today than in the early years ? Explain.

ANSWER -:

1. **Centre-State relations:** As and when the ruling party at the State level was different, the parties that ruled at the Centre tried to undermine the power of the states. The Central Government has been misusing the Constitution to dismiss the State governments that were controlled by rival parties. This undermined the spirit of federalism. All this changed significantly after 1990. This period saw the rise of regional political parties in many states of the country.
2. **Coalition Governments and autonomy of states:** The era of coalition has changed the relationship between the centre and state governments 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.
3. **Judgement of the Supreme Court:** The Supreme Court of India has established strict guidelines for imposing President's rule. With new guidelines it is very difficult for the Central Government to dismiss state governments in an arbitrary manner. Thus, federal power sharing is more effective today than it was in the early years after the Constitution came into force.

QUESTION: 'The sharing of power between the Union government and the state governments is basic to the structure of the Indian Constitution'. Explain.

ANSWER -:

1. Under a federal government, the fundamental provisions cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of the government and the same is true for India,
2. The Parliament cannot on its own change the fundamental structure of the Constitution. Any change in it has to be first passed by both the Houses of the Parliament with at least two-third majority. Then it has to be ratified by the legislatures of at least half of the total states.

QUESTION: Mention any four difficulties of the local government in India.

ANSWER -:

1. Most states have not transferred significant powers to the local governments.
2. There is a shortage of resources.
3. Elections are not held regularly.
4. The Gram Sabhas are not held regularly.

QUESTION: What are the advantages of local governments ?

ANSWER -:

1. Constitutional status for local government has helped to deepen democracy in our country.
2. It has also increased women's representation and voice in our democracy.
3. This allows people to directly participate in decision making.
4. Local people have better ideas and knowledge about the local problems.

QUESTION: Explain the advantages of decentralization.

Or

Explain any four features of the third tier of government.

Or

Explain how the federal experiment has been successful in the matter of formation of states in India.

Or

Give two arguments in favor of decentralization of powers to local governments. Give two provisions under the amendment of 1992 which empowers local governments in India.

OR

Assess the need for local government.

ANSWER -:

1. **Locals have better knowledge:** The basic idea behind decentralization 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. They also have better ideas on where to spend money, and how to manage things more efficiently.
2. **Direct participation of the people:** Decentralization makes it possible for the people to directly participate in decision making. This helps to inculcate a habit of democratic participation. The Local government is the best way to realize one important principle of democracy, namely the Local Self-Government.
3. **Foundation of democracy:** Local governments are most important in a democratic system. These are training schools for local citizens and local leadership. These provide political education. The people get familiar about the electoral process, and the proper use of their vote, which is the very foundation of democracy.
4. **Reduction of burden of the Central Government:** It reduces the burden of the Central or State governments. These can concentrate on matters of national or state importance in a better way. In this way, the Local Self-Government ensures efficiency everywhere, at all the three levels of today's governance. Indian leaders have recognized the need for decentralization.
5. **Women empowerment:** At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women in all the local bodies. This has led to women empowerment.

QUESTION: Point out one feature in the practice of federalism in India that is similar to any one feature that is different from that of Belgium.

ANSWER -: One similar feature of Federalism between India and Belgium : India and Belgium are both holding together federations where the Central Governments tend to be more powerful vis-a-vis the states. One different feature of Federalism between India and Belgium : In Belgium, there are three kinds of government – 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.

QUESTION: Explain the language policy of Indian Federal. How is it different from Sri Lanka ?

Or

Write any four characteristics of language policy of India.

Or

Describe in brief the language policy of India.

ANSWER -:

1. **No National Language:** Our Constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language. Hindi was identified as the official language. But Hindi is the mother tongue of only about 40 per cent of Indians. Therefore, there were many safeguards to protect other languages.
2. **Scheduled Languages:** Besides Hindi, there are 22 other languages recognized as Scheduled Languages by the Constitution. A candidate in an examination conducted for the Central Government positions may opt to take the examination in any of these languages. States too have their own official languages. Much of the government work takes place in the official language of the concerned State.
3. **Spread of Hindi with cautious approach:** Unlike **Sri Lanka**, the leaders of our country adopted a very cautious attitude in spreading the use of Hindi. According to the Constitution, the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965. However, many non-Hindi-speaking States demanded that the use of English continue. In Tamil Nadu, this movement took a violent form. The Central Government responded by agreeing to continue the use of English along with Hindi for official purposes. Promotion of Hindi continues to be the official policy of the Government of India. Promotion does not mean that the Central Government can impose Hindi on States where people speak a different language.
4. **Language policy of Sri Lanka:** In 1956, an Act was passed by the Sri Lankan government to recognize Sinhala as the only official language whereas in case of India the government agreed to continue the use of English along with Hindi for official purposes.

QUESTION: Why were the linguistic states created? What are their advantages?

ANSWER -:

1. **Common Language:** Many states were created on the basis of language to ensure that people who speak the same language lived in the same state.
2. **Common culture, ethnicity or geography:** Some States were created not on the basis of language but to recognize differences based on culture, ethnicity or geography. These include States like Nagaland, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand.
3. **Advantages:** The experience has shown that the formation of linguistic States has actually made the country, more united. It has also made administration easier.

QUESTION: “The creation of linguistic states was the first and major test for democratic politics in our country.” Justify this statement.

ANSWER -: In 1947, the 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. Some States were created not on the basis of language but to recognize differences based on culture, ethnicity or geography. These include States like Nagaland, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand. When the demand for the formation of States on the basis of language was raised, some national leaders feared that it would lead to the disintegration of the country. The Central Government resisted linguistic States for some time. But the

experience has shown that the formation of linguistic States has actually made the country more united. It has also made administration easier.

QUESTION -: Illustrate Local Self government at rural level with the help of a chart.

