

CBSE

10th Class - Civics - Chapter 2

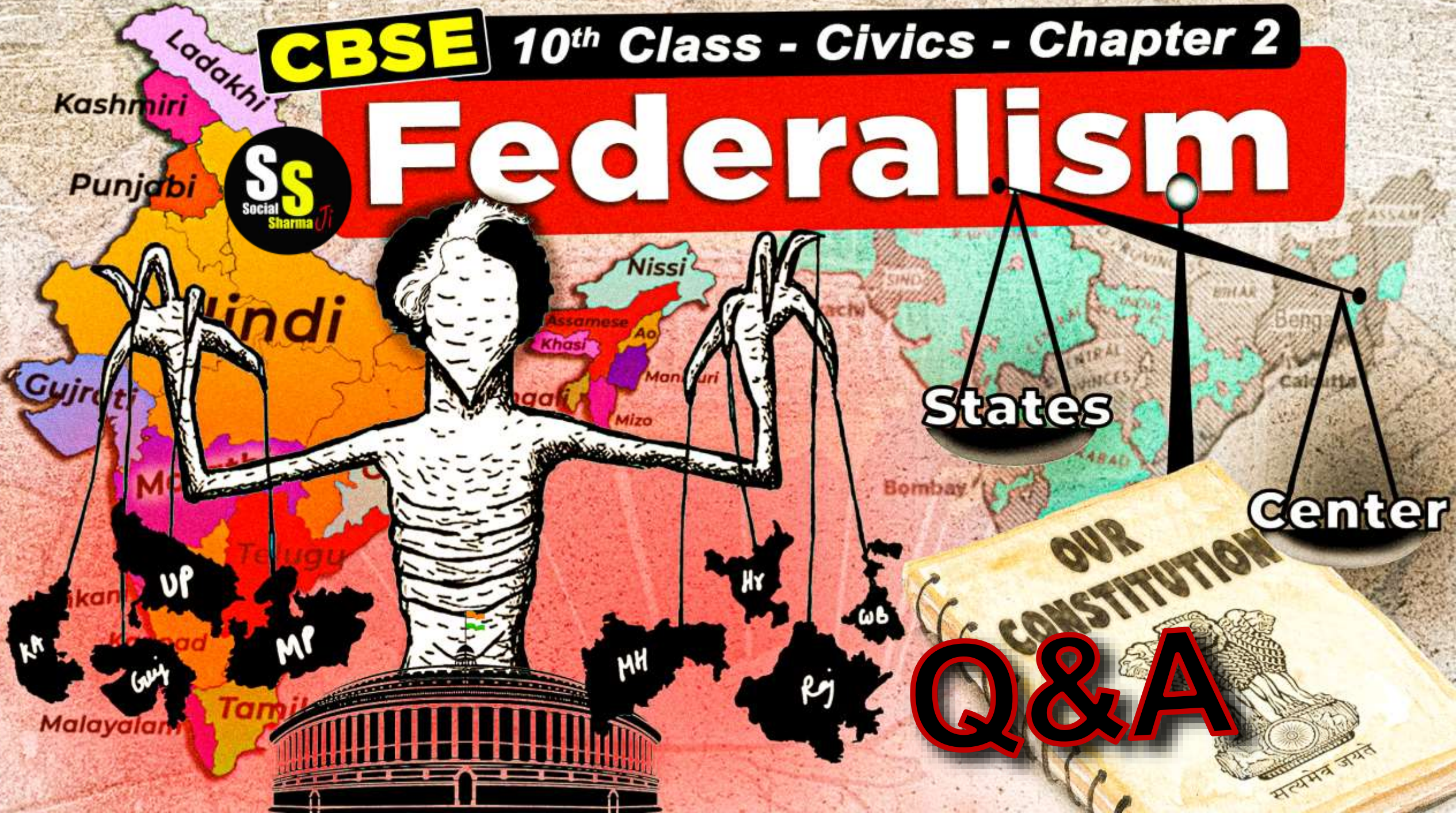
Social U
Sharma

Federalism

States

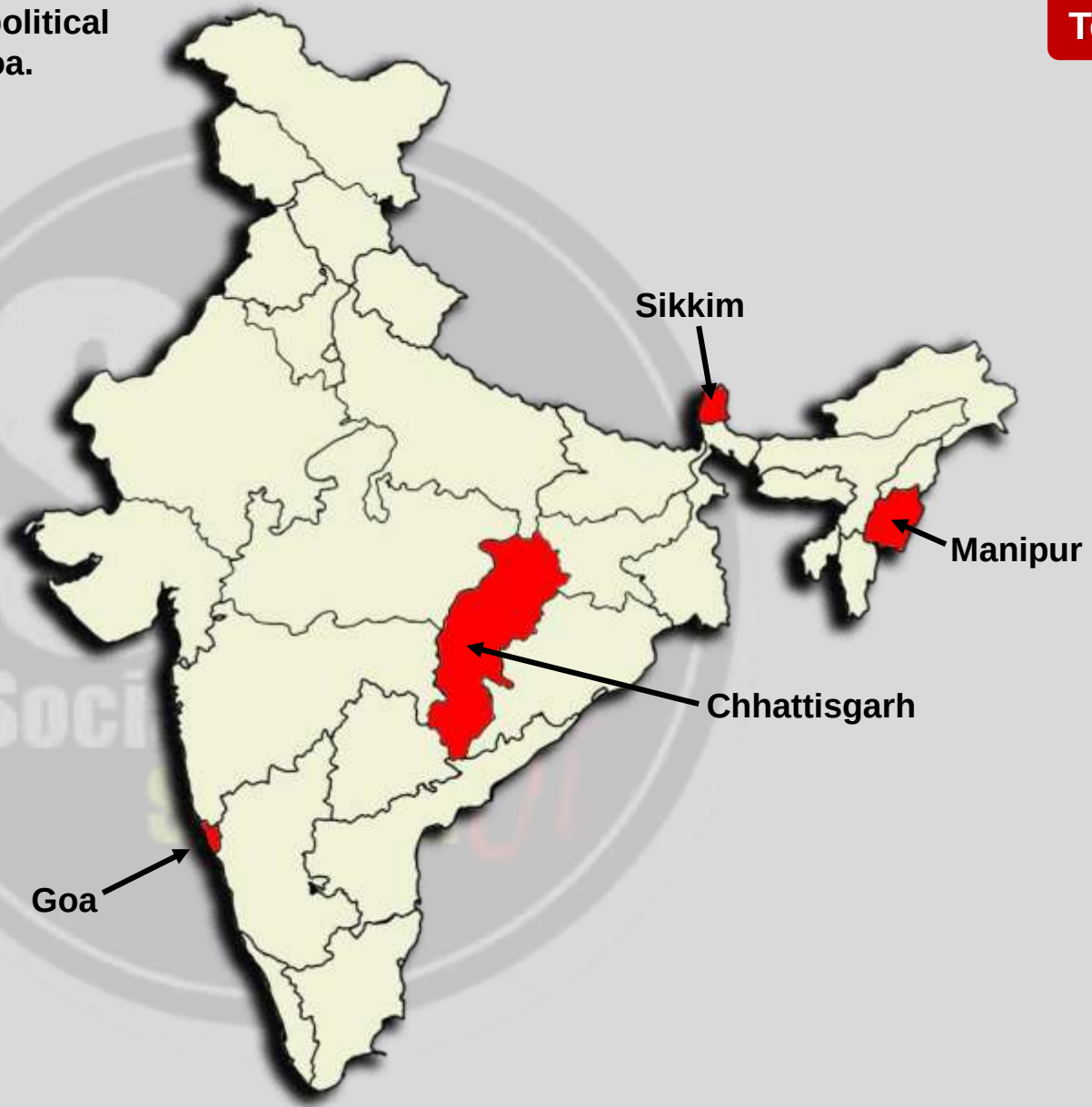
Center

Q&A



Q1. Locate the following States on a blank outline political map of India: Manipur, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh and Goa.

Textbook Exercise



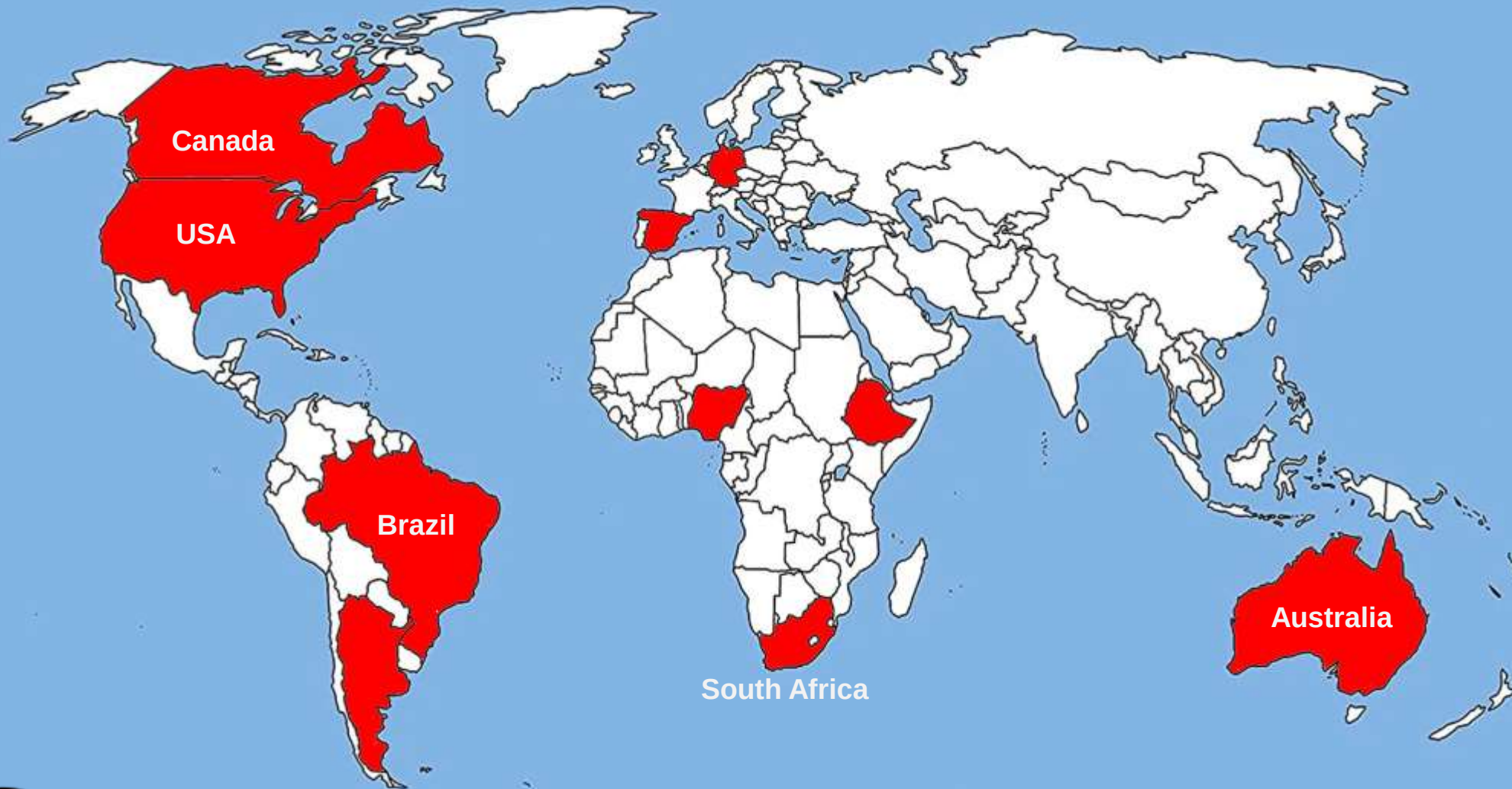
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Q2. Identify and shade three federal countries (other than India) on a blank outline political map of the world.



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Q3. Point out one feature in the practice of federalism in India that is similar to and one feature that is different from that of Belgium.

- ✓ *The similarity between India and Belgium: The union government and state governments share power & authority in India as well as in Belgium (Federation).*
- ✓ *Difference between India and Belgium: Belgium has a community government, but India have a third tire of government called Local Self Government (Panchayat & Municipalities).*

Q4. What is the main difference between a federal form of government and a unitary one? Explain with an example.

Federal Form of Government	Unitary Form of Government
<i>In the federal form of government, there is power-sharing between the union and state government.</i>	<i>In the case of a unitary form of government, the power is centralized with the union government and the role of state government is not present.</i>
<i>Example: India is a federal country with a union government at the center and state governments at the level of state and Panchayati Rule at the local level of governance.</i>	<i>Example: Sri Lank & UK is a good example of a unitary form of government, where power is with the national government.</i>

Q5. State any two differences between the local government before and after the Constitutional amendment in 1992.

Local Government Pre-1992	Local Government Post Constitutional Amendment of 1992
<i>The elections were not held regularly by the local governments.</i>	<i>It was now constitutionally mandated for holding elections regularly for local government bodies.</i>
<i>Local governments do not have the powers or even resources of their own (Like Taxation power).</i>	<i>The State governments are required to share some of their powers and also revenues with that of local government bodies and the nature to share power can vary from state to state.</i>

Q6. Fill in the blanks:

Since the United States is a Coming together type of federation, all the constituent States have equal powers and States are Powerful vis-à-vis the federal government. But India is a Holding together type of federation and some States have more power than others. In India, the Central government has more powers.

Q7. Here are three reactions to the language policy followed in India. Give an argument and an example to support any of these positions.

Sangeeta: The policy of accommodation has strengthened national unity.

Arman: Language-based States have divided us by making everyone conscious of their language.

Harish: This policy has only helped to consolidate the dominance of English over all other languages.

- ✓ I admit to Sangeeta's response. There would have been a second partition of India if the accommodation policy had not been implemented and linguistic bases for states had not been established.
- ✓ For example, making Hindi the official language would have caused Tamil Nadu to secede from India and the South to secede from the North.

Q8. The distinguishing feature of a federal government is:

- (a) National government gives some powers to the provincial governments.
- (b) Power is distributed among the legislature, executive and judiciary.
- (c) Elected officials exercise supreme power in the government.
- (d) **Governmental power is divided between different levels of government.**

Q9. A few subjects in various Lists of the Indian Constitution are given here. Group them under the Union, State and Concurrent Lists as provided in the table below.

1. Defence; 2. Police; 3. Agriculture; 4. Education; 5. Banking; 6. Forests; 7. Communications; 8. Trade; 9. Marriages.

Union List	Defence	Communications	Banking
State List	Police	Agriculture	Trade
Concurrent list	Education	Forests	Marriages

Learn 5 subjects of each list from class notes.



Q10. Examine the following pairs that give the level of government in India and the powers of the government at that level to make laws on the subjects mentioned against each. Which of the following pairs is not correctly matched?

Federal Form of Government	Unitary Form of Government
(a) State government State	State List
(b) Central government	Union List
(c) Central and State governments	Concurrent List
(d) Local governments	Residuary powers

*(d) not correctly matched,
Local governments have their own separate powers,
Residuary powers are with centre.*

Q11. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:

List I	List II
1. Union of India	A. Prime Minister
2. State	B. Sarpanch
3. Municipal Corporation	C. Governor
4. Gram Panchayat	D. Mayor

Answer: 1-A, 2-C, 3-D, 4-B

Q12. Consider the following two statements. Which of the statements given are correct?

- (a) *In a federation, the powers of the federal and provincial governments are clearly demarcated.*
- (b) *India is a federation because the powers of the Union and State Governments are specified in the Constitution and they have exclusive jurisdiction on their respective subjects.*
- (c) *Sri Lanka is a federation because the country is divided into provinces.*
- (d) *India is no longer a federation because some powers of the States have been devolved to the local government bodies.*

Answer: A and B only



Q. Fill in the blanks:

1. The Government alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the Union List.
2. The Union Government has the power to legislate on subjects which do not fall in any of the three lists.
3. The plays an important role in overseeing the implementation of constitutional provisions and procedures.
4. If there is a conflict in the laws made in the concurrent list, the law made by the Government will prevail.
5. A third tier of government is called government.
6. When power is taken away from Central and State governments and given to local government, it is called
7.are the local governing bodies in the villages and in urban areas.
8. The political head of a Municipal Corporation is called the

1.Union 2.Residuary 3.Judiciary 4.Union 5.Local 6.Decentralization 7. (i) Panchayats (ii) Municipalities 8.Mayor

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Q. Which one of the following countries is good examples of 'holding together federations'?

- (a) USA
- (b) Switzerland
- (c) Australia
- (d) India.

Q. Which among the following states in India has a special status?

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Jharkhand
- (c) Mizoram.
- (d) Himachal Pradesh

Q. Which one of the following countries has not adopted the holding together federation?

- (a) India
- (b) Spain
- (c) Belgium
- (d) Japan.

Q. Who among the following is called head of the state at the state level?

- (a) Chief Minister
- (b) Speaker of Vidhan Sabha
- (c) Governor.
- (d) Mayor

Q. Which of the following governments has two or more levels?

- (a) Community Government
- (b) Coalition Government
- (c) Federal Government.
- (d) Unitary Government

Q. Which of the following subjects falls under the Concurrent list?

- (a) Defence
- (b) Agriculture
- (c) Marriage.
- (d) Currency

Q. Choose the correct statement regarding language policy of the Indian Government.

- (a) English is our national language
- (b) Citizens are free to choose any language as national language
- (c) Hindi is our national language
- (d) Constitution of India did not declare any language as national language.

Q. Which of the following countries is an example of 'coming together' federation?

- (a) India
- (b) Pakistan
- (c) USA.
- (d) Sri Lanka

Q. When power is taken away from central and state governments and given to local government, it is called:

- (a) Distribution
- (b) Centralization
- (c) Reorganization
- (d) Decentralization.

Q. Which of the following was not a provision of the Act of 1956 passed in Sri Lanka?

- (a) Sinhala was recognised as the only official language
- (b) Buddhism was to be protected by the state
- (c) Provinces were given autonomy.
- (d) Sinhals were favored in government jobs

Q. Which one of the following is not a feature of federalism?

- (a) Two or more levels of government
- (b) Different tiers of government govern the same citizens
- (c) Courts have the power to interpret the constitution
- (d) The centre government can order the state government.

Q. Which of these is incorrect, based on the Constitutional Amendment, 1992?

- (a) One-fourth of positions are reserved for women.
- (b) Regular elections should be held to the local government bodies
- (c) Seats are reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs
- (d) State Election Commission looks after these elections

Q. What is the third tier of government known as?

- (a) Village Panchayats
- (b) State government
- (c) Local self-government
- (d) Zila Parishad

Q. Which form of power sharing is most commonly referred to as federalism?

- (a) Horizontal division of power
- (b) Vertical division of power
- (c) Division of power among various communities
- (d) Sharing of power among political parties

Q. Both the union and the state government can make laws on the subjects mentioned in the:

- (a) Union list
- (b) State list
- (c) Concurrent list.
- (d) None of the above

Q. How many languages are included in the Eight Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) 15
- (b) 22
- (c) 25
- (d) 21

Q. Which one is not the part of 3 tier system of Panchayat Raj?

- (a) Municipalities.
- (b) Village Panchayat
- (c) Block Samiti
- (d) Zila Parishad

Q. Which is not true regarding changes in power-sharing arrangement between the centre and the states?

- (a) The Parliament cannot on its own change this arrangement
- (b) Any change to it has to be first passed by both the Houses with at least two-thirds majority
- (c) Then, it has to be ratified by the legislatures of at least half of the total states
- (d) The Parliament alone has the power to amend the provisions regarding power-sharing.

Q. Who among the following is the head of a Municipal Corporation?

- (a) Home Minister
- (b) Sarpanch
- (c) Governor
- (d) Mayor.

Q. Which of the following is not a subject of the Union List?

- (a) Foreign affairs
- (b) Currency
- (c) Banking
- (d) Law and order.

Q. Besides Hindi, how many other languages recognised as Scheduled Languages by the constitution?

- (a) 20
- (b) 21.
- (c) 18
- (d) 19

Q. Rural local government is popularly known as:

- (a) Panchayati Raj.
- (b) Zila Parishad
- (c) State Government
- (d) Gram Panchayat

Q. The Constitution of India originally provided for :

- (a) a two-tier system of government.
- (b) a three-tier system of government.
- (b) a single-tier system of government.
- (d) a four-tier system of government.



Q. Which period saw the rise of regional political parties in many states of the country?

- (a) Period after 1990.
- (b) Period after 2000
- (c) Period after 1980
- (d) Period after 1970

Q. Which language was recognised as the national language by the Constitution of India?

- (a) Hindi
- (b) English
- (c) Tamil
- (d) None of these.

Q. What is true regarding sources of revenue in a federal system?

- (a) States have no financial powers or independent sources of revenue.
- (b) States are dependent on revenue or funds on the central government.
- (c) Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.
- (d) States have no financial autonomy.

Q. Which one of the following countries has the federal form of government?

- (a) Egypt
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Australia.
- (d) England

Q. Which one of the following subjects is included in the concurrent list?

- (a) Banking
- (b) Trade
- (c) Police
- (d) Education.

Q. In India's federal system, the state governments have the power to legislate on all those subjects which are included in the:

- (a) Union list
- (b) State list
- (c) Concurrent list
- (d) Residuary subjects



Q. The state which violently demanded that the use of English for official purpose should be continued, is

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Tamil Nadu.
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

Q. Which are the basic objectives of a federal system?

- (a) To safeguard and promote unity of the country
- (b) To accommodate regional diversity
- (c) To share powers among different communities
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Q. Choose the incorrect statement.

- (a) Usually a federation has two levels of governments
- (b) Both the levels of governments enjoy their powers independent of one another
- (c) In a federal system, a state government has powers of its own
- (d) In a federal system, the state government is answerable to the central government

Q. Belgium shifted from a unitary form of government to:

- (a) Democratic
- (b) federal
- (c) Authoritarian
- (d) none of the above

Q. Consider the following statements on the practice of federalism in India. Identify those which hold true for decentralization after 1992.

- A. Local governments did not have any power or resources of their own.
 - B. It became constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
 - C. The state governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies.
 - D. No seats are reserved in the elected bodies for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes.
- (a) B and C
 - (b) A and C
 - (c) A and D
 - (d) B and D

Q. The Union List includes subjects such as:

- (a) Education, forests, trade unions, marriages, adoption and succession.
- (b) Police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation.
- (c) Residuary subjects like computer software.
- (d) Defence, foreign affairs, banking, currency, communications.

Q. What are the kinds of routes through which federations have been formed?

- (a) One route involves independent states coming together on their own to form a bigger unit
- (b) The second route is where a large country decides to divide its powers between the states and the national government
- (c) Both a and b
- (d) None of these

Q. Which of the following is incorrect regarding a unitary government?

- (a) There is either only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the central government.
- (b) The central government can pass on orders to the provincial government.
- (c) A state government is conservable to central government.
- (d) The powers of state governments are guaranteed by the Constitution.

Q. Here are three reactions to the language policy followed in India. Which of the following holds true in the case of India?

- (a) The policy of accommodation has strengthened national unity.
- (b) Language based states have divided us by making everyone conscious of their language.
- (c) The language policy has only helped to consolidate the dominance of English over all other languages.

Q. In case of a clash between the laws made by the centre and a state on a subject in the concurrent list:

- (a) the state law prevails.
- (b) the central law prevails.
- (c) both the laws prevail within their respective jurisdictions.
- (d) the Supreme Court has to intervene to decide.

Q. The Constitution of India

- (a) divided powers between centre and states in three lists.
- (b) divided powers between centre and states in two lists.
- (c) listed the powers of the states and left the undefined powers to the state.
- (d) Specified the powers of the states and left the residuary powers with the centre.



Q. What is federalism?

- ✓ *Federalism is a system of government under which power is divided between a central authority and its various constituent units.*
- ✓ *The various constituent units and the central authority run their administration independently and do not interfere unnecessarily in the affairs of one another.*

Q. What is a Union List?

- ✓ *Subjects of national importance like defence, foreign affairs, atomic energy, banking, post and telegraph are included in the Union List.*
- ✓ *Only the parliament can pass laws on the subjects mentioned in the Union List because we need a uniform policy on important or national issues throughout the country. The Union List has 100 subjects.*

Q. What are Union Territories? Who governs them ?

- ✓ *These are areas which are too small to become an independent State but which could not be merged with any of the existing states due to their distinct historical, geographical, social and cultural identity. Ex: Puducherry, Chandigarh, A&N Islands etc.*
- ✓ *These areas are governed by Union Government.*

Q. What are Residuary Powers?

- ✓ *Matters which are not included in any of the 3 list (division of powers), are known as residuary powers.*
- ✓ *In India the central government has been given the power to legislate on these 'residuary' subjects.*
- ✓ *Ex. Subjects like Information Technology.*

Q. What are the dual objectives of our Federal System ?

Our federal system has dual objectives:

- ✓ *to safeguard and promote unity of the country,*
- ✓ *while at the same time accommodate regional diversity.*



Q. Write 5 subjects each of Union List, State List and Concurrent List ?

Refer class notes.....

Q. What is a State List?

- ✓ *It comprises those important subjects on which the state government can pass laws.*
- ✓ *Subjects like police, local governments, trade and commerce, agriculture within the state are included in the State List.*
- ✓ *The State List has 61 subjects.*

Q. Describe the functions of Rural Local Government.

Following are the functions of the rural local government :

- (i) Supply of water for domestic use.*
- (ii) Maintaining public health and sanitation.*
- (iii) Construction and repairing of public roads.*
- (iv) Lighting on roads and public places.*
- (v) Construction, repairing and maintaining public buildings, grazing lands, forest, public wells and tanks in good conditions.*

Q. What is Coalition Government.

Coalition government: A government formed by the coming together of at least two political parties.

Usually partners in a coalition form a political alliance and adopt a common programme.

Q. What is a Concurrent List?

- ✓ *It includes subjects of common interest to both the Union Government as well as the State Governments, such as education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession.*
- ✓ *Both the Union as well as the State Governments can make laws on the subjects mentioned in this list.*
- ✓ *If their laws conflict with each other, the law made by the Union Government will prevail.*



Q. Write short note on the 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution.

- ✓ It lists the 22 official languages of the republic of India. Part XVII of the Indian constitution deals with the official languages in Articles 343 to 351.
- ✓ Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution.
- ✓ 8 languages were subsequently added by amendments.

Q. What is the importance of judiciary in a federal government?

- ✓ The judiciary plays an important role in overseeing the implementation of constitutional provisions and procedures.
- ✓ In case of any dispute about the division of powers, the High Courts and the Supreme Court make a decision.

Q. How had federalism helped Belgium to solve the ethnic problem?

- (i) Before 1993 most of the powers in Belgium were in the hands of the central government, i.e., Belgium had a unitary government.
- (ii) After 1993 the regional governments were given constitutional powers. Thus Belgium shifted from a unitary to a federal form of government.

Q. How many languages have been recognised as scheduled languages?

- ✓ 22 languages. Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution. 8 languages were subsequently added by amendments.

Q. What is Gram Sabha? Mention its functions.

- Every adult of the village who is 18 years of age constitute the Gram Sabha.
- (i) It is the decision-making body of the entire village.
 - (ii) The village Panchayat works under the supervision of the Gram Sabha.
 - (iii) It approves the annual budget of the Gram Panchayat.

Q. What is Unitary Government?

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.



Q. There are two kinds of routes through which federations have been formed.'

Name the two routes by giving one example of each.

- ✓ *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.*
- ✓ *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.*
 - (i) *Coming together federations – USA*
 - (ii) *Holding together federations – India.*

Q. What are the advantages of local governments?

- (i) *Constitutional status for local government has helped to deepen democracy in our country.*
- (ii) *It has also increased women's representation and voice in our democracy.*
- (iii) *This allows people to directly participate in decision making.*
- (iv) *Local people have better ideas and knowledge about the local problems.*

Q. Mention any four difficulties of the local government in India.

- (i) *Most states have not transferred significant powers to the local governments.*
- (ii) *There is a shortage of resources.*
- (iii) *Elections are not held regularly.*
- (iv) *The Gram Sabhas are not held regularly.*

Q. Define: (a) Gram Panchayat (b) Panchayat Samiti (c) Zila Parishad (d) Mayor

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



Q. What is decentralisation? What is the importance or need for decentralisation?

- ✓ When power is taken away from the Central and State governments, and given to the Local governments, it is called decentralization.
- ✓ 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 a better knowledge of problems in their localities. They also have better ideas on where to spend money, and how to manage things more efficiently.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Basically the local government is the best way to realize one important principle of democracy, namely the Local Self-Government.

Q. Name the three tier government system in India. How has the third tier of government in our country been made more effective and powerful by the Constitutional Amendment of 1992 ?

Three tier system :

1. Union Government
2. State Governments
3. Local Governments (Panchayati Raj & Municipalities).

Changes after Constitutional Amendment of 1992

- ✓ Now, it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to the local government bodies.
- ✓ Seats are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the 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 free and fair elections for the panchayat and the municipalities.
- ✓ The State governments are required to share some powers and revenue with the Local government bodies. The nature of sharing varies from state to state.

Q. Write a long note on the language policy of India.

- ✓ *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.*
- ✓ *Besides Hindi, there are 22 other languages recognised as Scheduled Languages by the Constitution. States too have their own official languages. Much of the government work takes place in the official language of the concerned State.*
- ✓ *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.*

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

- ✓ **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.*
- ✓ **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.*
- ✓ **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.*



Q. “Holding together federations” do not give equal power to its constituent units. Explain the statement with the help of examples in context to India.

- ✓ Yes, the above statement is somewhat true for India also.
- ✓ All states in the Indian Union do not have identical powers. Some states enjoy a special status. Like formerly Jammu and Kashmir had its own Constitution and flag.
- ✓ Some areas are declared as tribal areas governed by different laws.
- ✓ Similar special provisions exist for Assam and the hill states of North-East India.
- ✓ There are some units of Indian Union which enjoy very little power. These are areas which are too small to become an independent state but which could not be merged with any of the existing states. These areas, like Chandigarh, or Lakshadweep or the capital city of Delhi, are called the Union Territories. These territories do not have the powers of a state. The central government has special powers in running these areas.

Q. Mention the features of an ideal federal system.

- ✓ There are two or more levels (or tiers) of government.
- ✓ 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 or tiers 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 umpire 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.

Key features of federalism

Multiple levels of Government
Specific Jurisdiction
Constitutional Guarantee
Rigid Provisions
Powerful Judiciary
Financial Independence
Unity + Diversity

Q. 'The real success of federalism in India can be attributed to the nature of democratic politics in India.' Explain.

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 shared ideals in our country.

Following are the challenges faced by our federation:

- ✓ **Linguistic States** : After independence, in 1950, the boundaries of several old states were changed in order to create new states. This was done to ensure that the people who spoke the same language, share common culture, ethnicity or geography could live in the same state.
- ✓ **Language Policy** : The Indian Constitution did not give the status of national language to any one of the languages. Though Hindi was identified as the optional language, but the central government has not imposed Hindi on states where people speak a different language. Besides Hindi, there are 22 other languages recognised as Scheduled Languages by the Indian Constitution.
- ✓ **Centre-State relations** : Improving the Centre-State relations is one more way in which federalism has been strengthened in practice. Though Indian Constitution has demarcated the powers of the Union and the state governments 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 time, it has rescued state governments which were dismissed in an arbitrary manner.



Q. Explain the three fold distribution of legislative powers between the Union Government and the State Governments.

Constitution (7th Schedule)

Union List

It includes subjects of national importance, such as defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, communications 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 subjects of State and local importance, such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation. The State Governments alone can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the State List.

Concurrent List

It includes subjects of common interest to both the Union Government as well as the State Governments, such as education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession. Both the Union as well as the State Governments can make laws on the subjects mentioned in this list. If their laws conflict with each other, the law made by the Union Government will prevail.



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