

**CBSE Test Paper- 02**  
**Chapter - 17 Federalism**

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1. All the panchayat samitis or mandals in a district together constitute the **(1)**
  - a. village cluster
  - b. Zilla Parishad
  - c. block
  - d. gram panchayat
2. At least \_\_\_\_\_ of seats of all positions are reserved for women. **(1)**
  - a. half
  - b. one-third
  - c. one-fourth
  - d. two-third
3. Sources of \_\_\_\_\_ for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy. **(1)**
  - a. profit
  - b. corruption
  - c. expenditure
  - d. revenue
4. Tamil leaders want Sri Lanka to become a \_\_\_\_\_ system. **(1)**
  - a. central
  - b. federal
  - c. monarchical
  - d. unitary
5. It is the decision-making body for the entire village: **(1)**
  - a. Mayor
  - b. State government

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- c. gram panchayat
  - d. Zilla Parishad

6. Which language was recognised as the national language by the Constitution of India? **(1)**
7. What is Panchayat Samiti? **(1)**
8. What do you mean by 'holding together federation'? **(1)**
9. Which of the forms of government has two or more levels of government? **(1)**
10. Discuss the centre-state relations in Indian federalism. **(3)**
11. When was State Reorganization Commission implemented? **(3)**
12. What was the Amendment in regard to decentralization? **(3)**
13. Explain the factors that make federal government in India so attractive. **(3)**
14. Explain any five provisions of the Constitutional Amendment of 1992 that strengthened the third tier of government in India. **(5)**
15. What major steps were taken in 1992 towards decentralization? **(5)**

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**Answer**

1. b. Zilla Parishad

**Explanation:** All the panchayat samitis or mandals in a district together constitute the zilla (district) parishad. Most members of the zilla parishad are elected.

2. b. one-third

**Explanation:** At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.

3. d. revenue

**Explanation:** Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.

4. b. federal

**Explanation:** Tamil leaders want Sri Lanka to become a federal system.

5. c. gram panchayat

**Explanation:** 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 president or sarpanch. It is the decision-making body for the entire village.

6. No language was recognised as the national language by the Constitution of India. Hindi was identified as the official language.

7. A few Gram Panchayats are grouped together to form a Panchayat Samiti. The members of this representative body are elected by all the panchayat members in that area.

8. Holding together federation is a federation where a large country decides to divide the powers between the Central Government and the governments of the states, e.g. India. The Central government tends to be more powerful than the states.

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9. A government which has two or more levels of government is called a federal government.
10. The centre-state relations of Indian federalism constitute the core of federalism and are regulated by the provisions of the Indian constitution. But in reality, it depends on how ruling parties and leaders follow these provisions.
- Earlier when a ruling party at state and centre was different, the Union Government undermined the power of 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. After 1989 pattern has shifted to multi-party coalition government at the centre. The era of coalition has changed the relationship between the center 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 Center. This led to a new culture of power-sharing and respect for the autonomy of State Governments.
11. The State Reorganization Commission was implemented on 1 November, 1956.
12. A. In 1992, 73rd Amendment Act of Indian constitution gave constituent status to the Panchayati Raj institution.
- B. It created the third tier of federalism in India along with the central government level and the state government level.
- C. The Objective of this Amendment was to make democracy more powerful and effective by giving power to the grassroots units of self government.
13. India is a vast country where many states are bigger than countries in Europe. Soon after Independence, the constitution declared India as a union of states. The success of Federalism in India is due to the following reasons:
- i. The formation of linguistic states has made the country more united and has also made administration easier.
  - ii. Mobilisation.
  - iii. Flexibility in following the language policy.
  - iv. New culture of power sharing and respect for the autonomy of state governments.

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- v. Administrative knowledge of the people at all the levels.
  - vi. Efficacy to solve all kinds of issues at respective levels.

14. When power is taken away from the Central and State Governments and given to local government, it is called decentralisation. The need for decentralisation was recognised in our Constitution. Panchayats in villages and municipalities in urban areas were set up in all the states. But these were directly under the control of the state government. Elections to these local governments were not held regularly. Local governments did not have the power or resources of their own. The Constitution was amended in 1992 to make the third tier of democracy more powerful and effective. Given below are some of the provision which was attempted towards this:

- i. Now it is mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
- ii. Seats are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for SC, ST and OBC's.
- iii. At least 1/3rd of all positions and seats are reserved for women.
- iv. An independent institution called State Election Commission has been created in each state to conduct panchayat and municipal elections.
- v. The State Governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies. The nature of sharing varies from state to state.

15. A major step towards decentralization was taken in 1992. The Constitution was amended to make the third-tier of democracy more powerful and effective.

- A. It was constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
- B. States were reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes.
- C. At least one third of all positions were reserved for women.
- D. An independent institution called the State Election Commission has been created in each State to conduct panchayat and municipal elections.
- E. The state governments were required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies. The nature of sharing varied State to state.