

CBSE Test Paper - 05
Chapter - 17 Federalism

1. What is the capital city of Belgium? **(1)**
 - a. Vienna
 - b. Brussels
 - c. Amsterdam
 - d. Antwerp
2. Telangana became the 29th State of India on the **(1)**
 - a. 26 Nov, 2010
 - b. 2nd June, 2014
 - c. 15 July, 2002
 - d. 05 May, 1999
3. The Constitution declared India as a _____ of States. **(1)**
 - a. Federation
 - b. Union
 - c. community
 - d. Departments
4. According to Indian constitution, the _____ has the power to legislate on the 'residuary' subjects. **(1)**
 - a. Local Government
 - b. Union Government
 - c. international Government
 - d. State Government
5. When power is taken away from Central and State governments and given to local government, it is called: **(1)**
 - a. Conflict Resolution

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- b. mutual understanding
 - c. separation
 - d. decentralisation

6. By which name the rural local government is popularly known? **(1)**
7. In which list of the Indian Constitution does education come? Why? **(1)**
8. Which type of government has two or more levels? **(1)**
9. When was the report of the States Reorganisation Commission implemented? **(1)**
10. What is the meaning of decentralisation? Explain any four provisions that have been made towards decentralisation in India after the Constitutional Amendment in 1992. **(3)**
11. Examine the concept of three tiers of government of Indian federalism. **(3)**
12. Do you take decentralisation as means to minimise the conflicts? Give your view point? **(3)**
13. Write down the features of 'holding together' federations. **(3)**
14. Explain any five features of Panchayati Raj system in India. **(5)**
15. Discuss the Constitutional Amendment of 1992 regarding the decentralisation of powers. **(5)**

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Answer

1. b. Brussels

Explanation: The capital city of Belgium is Brussels.

2. b. 2nd June, 2014

Explanation: Telangana became the 29th State of India on the 2nd June, 2014. It was separated from Andhra Pradesh

3. b. Union

Explanation: The Constitution declared India as a Union of States.

4. b. Union Government

Explanation: According to our constitution, the Union Government has the power to legislate on these 'residuary' subjects.

5. d. decentralisation

Explanation: When power is taken away from Central and State governments and given to local government, 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.

6. The rural local government is popularly known as Panchayati Raj.

7. Subjects which fall under the jurisdiction of both the centre and state come under the concurrent list. Education comes under concurrent list.

8. Federal Government has two or more levels.

9. The report of the States Reorganisation Commission was implemented in 1956. This, in its own time and own way, has also transformed the political and institutional life of the nation.

10. When power is taken away from Central and State Governments and given to local government, it is called decentralisation. A major step towards decentralisation was

taken after the amendment of Constitution in 1992. The Constitution was amended to make the third tier of democracy more powerful and effective.

The different provisions are

- i. It is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
- ii. Seats are reserved in elected bodies and executive heads of these institutions for the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- iii. At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.
- iv. An independent institution called the State Election Commission (SEC) has been created in each state to conduct Panchayat and Municipal election.
- v. The State governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies.
- vi. Local government is the best way to realise one important principle of democracy, namely the local self government.

11. The Constitution of India, since its inception had provided for a two-tier system of government in the Indian Federal structure of administration. Federal governments have two or more tiers of governments. For a small country like Belgium, two tiers are very much applicable. But a vast country like India cannot be run only through these two tiers. States in India are as large as independent countries of Europe, many of these states are internally very diverse. Hence, federal power-sharing in India needs another tier of government, below that of state government. This resulted in a third-tier of government, called local government. After the Constitution (Seventy-third) Amendment Act, 1992 and the Constitution (Seventy-fourth) Amendment Act, 1993, the concept of local self-government, i.e. Panchayati Raj and the Municipal Bodies have evolved into the Indian Federal structure of governance. Hence, the three-tier system of government prevalent in India is:

- a. The Union Government;
- b. The State Governments;
- c. The Local Self-Governments (Panchayati Raj and Municipal Bodies).

12. When power is taken away from the Central and state governments and given to local government it is known as decentralisation.

Yes, it helps in the settlement of a large number of problems and issues at the local level.

- i. It provides a platform for the direct participation of people in decision making because people have a better knowledge about the problems in their locality.
- ii. In another way, decentralisation in the form of 'Local Self Government' is the best way to realise the principles of Democracy.

13. The features of 'holding together' federation are:

- i. In this form of federation a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent states and the national government.
- ii. India, Spain and Belgium are examples of this kind of 'holding together' federations.
- iii. In this category the Central government tends to be more powerful vis-a-vis the states.
- iv. Very often different constituent units the federation have unequal powers. Some units are granted special powers.

14. Rural local government is known as Panchayati Raj. The major features of Panchayati Raj system in India are:

- i. PRI is rural-based.
- ii. Each village or a group of villages in some states has Gram Panchayat.
- iii. This is a council consisting of several ward members often called Panch and a Sarpanch.
- iv. He/She is directly elected by all the adult population living in the village.
- v. It is the decision making body for the entire village.
- vi. Panchayat works under the overall supervision of the Gram Sabha,
- vii. All the voters are its members and meet at least twice or thrice in a year to approve the annual budget and to review the performance of the gram panchayat.
- viii. Few gram panchayats form Panchayat Samiti or Block or Mandal.

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. The provisions of the Constitutional Amendment are as follows:

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- a. Now it is constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to the local government bodies.
 - b. Seats are reserved in the elected bodies and the executive heads of these institutions for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes.
 - c. One third i.e., 33 percent seats to be reserved for women.
 - d. To conduct the election for the local government bodies at the rural and urban level, State Election Commission, an independent institution, has been constituted.
 - e. The state governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies.