

CHAPTER 2 ANSWERS

1A. The federal system thus has dual objectives: to safeguard and promote unity of the country, while at the same time accommodate regional diversity. Therefore, two aspects are crucial for the institutions and practice of federalism.

Governments at different levels should agree to some rules of power sharing. They should also trust that each would abide by its part of the agreement. An ideal federal system has both aspects : mutual trust and agreement to live together.

2A. Ramachandra Guha said “ it is the formation of linguistic states that has allowed India to escape what might have been a worse fate still” Ramachandra Guha is a famous author and historian who supported linguistic formation of states in India.

He said linguistic states help to strengthen Indian unity.

3A. Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. Usually, a federation has two levels of government. One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a few subjects of common national interest. The others are governments at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state.

4A. It's in Federalism-Vertical division of power exists. It refers to sharing of power among different levels of the government – union, state and local government. In this division of power, the local government will work under the union or the state government and the state government will work under the union government

5A. The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India lists the official scheduled languages of the Republic of India. At the time when the Constitution was enacted, inclusion in this list meant that the language was entitled to representation on the Official Languages Commission, and that the language would be one of the bases that would be drawn upon to enrich Hindi, the official language of the Union. The list has since, however, acquired further significance. Per Articles 344(1) and 351 of the Indian Constitution, the eighth schedule includes the recognition of 22 languages.

6A. Holding together federation is nothing but the division of powers between the states of the country and central government of that country. Central government is more powerful in Holding together federation. India is an example of this kind of federation

7A. As per Articles 344(1) and 351 of the Indian Constitution, the eighth schedule includes the recognition of the following 22 languages:

Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Meitei (Manipuri), Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

8A. There are different forms of government which includes democratic, federalist, capitalist, unitary, dictatorship, etc. Sri Lanka has a unitary form of government. In a unitary state, the central government is the supreme power and the different units of the government work under its direction.

9A. 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.

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.

10A. Panchayat Samiti are rural local governments (panchayats) at the intermediate level in Panchayat Raj institutions. The 73rd Amendment defines the levels of panchayati raj institution as:

1 District (or apex) level.

2 Intermediate level.

3 Base level.

11A. After 1990, India saw the rise of regional political parties in many States of the country. This was also the beginning of the era of COALITION GOVERNMENTS at the Centre. 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. This trend was supported by a major judgement of the Supreme Court that made it 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.

12A. Federations are contrasted with unitary governments. 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. But in a federal system, the central government cannot order the state government to do something. State government has powers of its own for which it is not answerable to the central government. Both these governments are separately answerable to the people.

Let us look at some of the key features of federalism :

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- 1] There are two or more levels (or tiers) of government.
- 2] Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own JURISDICTION in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.
- 3] 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.
- 4] 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.
- 5] 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.
- 6] Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.

13A. Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country. Usually, a federation has two levels of government. One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a few subjects of common national interest. The others are governments at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state. Both these levels of governments enjoy their power independent of the other.

14A. India has borrowed the concept of federalism from Canada. In this system there is clear division of powers between the Union and States.

15A. India is a fine example of Holding together federation.

Holding together federation is nothing but the division of powers between the states of the country and central government of that country