

Democratic Politics - II

Ch-1 & 2

Power Sharing & Federalism

Memorable Facts :-

1. Belgium : A small country in Europe, Smaller in area than the state of Haryana.
2. Neighbouring Countries of Belgium – France, Netherland, Germany and Luxemburg.
3. Population of Belgium – A little over one crore.
4. The Ethnic Composition of Belgium – Dutch 59%, French-40%, German – 1%.
5. Brussels – Capital of Belgium.
6. Ethnic – A social division based on shared culture.
7. Sri Lanka – An island nation, Just a few kilometres off the southern coast of Tamil Nadu.
8. Population of Sri Lanka – About two crore.
9. Major Social groups in Sri Lanka - Sinhala-74%, Tamil-18%, Christian-7% and other-1%
10. Eelam – A Tamil word means government.
11. Sri Lanka emerged as an independent Country in 1948.
12. In 1956, Sinhala was recognised as the only official language of Sri Lanka.
13. Majoritarianism – A belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority.
14. Civil War – A violent conflict between opposing groups within a country that becomes so intense that it appears like a war.
15. Division of power among different social groups so that maximum people could be part of the power is called sharing of power.
16. Prudential – Any decision which is taken on careful calculation of gains and losses contrary to moral considerations.
17. Horizontal distribution of power - Distribution of power among different organs of government such as the legislature, executive and judiciary.
18. Vertical distribution of power – Distribution of power among government at different levels such as central government, Provincial

Government, Local Government etc.

19. Community Government – A government chosen by different religious linguistic and social groups.
20. System of check and balance – The system in which judges are appointed by the executive but they can check the functioning of executive or laws made by the legislators.
21. Federalism: A system of government in which the power is divided between central authority and its various constituent units.
22. In a federal system, the jurisdiction of the government of each level is clearly mentioned in the constitution.
23. The fundamental provisions of the constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government in federalism.
24. The objectives of federalism are not only to safeguard and promote unity of the country but also accommodate regional diversity.
25. Coming together federations – When independent states come together on their own to form a bigger unit Ex- USA, Australia, Switzerland etc.
26. Holding together federation – When a large country divides its power between the constituent states and the national government Ex- India, Spain, Belgium etc.
27. Jurisdiction – The area over which someone has legal authority.
28. In India, the legislative powers have been divided into three lists.
 - * Union List – Subjects of national importance ex. foreign affairs banking, currency etc:
 - * State List – Subjects of state and local importance ex. - Police, trade, agriculture.
 - * Concurrent List – Subjects of common interests of both the union Govt as well as the state Govt.
29. Residuary Subjects – The subjects which are not mentioned in Union, state or concurrent list come under the power of federal or union govt. and are called residuary subjects.
30. Coalition Government – When two or more political parties come together to form a government.
31. Hindi is the mother tongue of about 40% of Indians.
32. Scheduled Languages : Such languages that come under eighth schedule of the Indian constitution.

33. In 1992, a major step towards decentralisation was taken by making the third-tier of democracy powerful and effective.

1 MARK QUESTIONS.

- Q. 1 How many amendments have been made in the constitution of Belgium between 1970 and 1993 ?
- Q. 2 Which type of a government has been adopted in Sri Lanka to maintain the dominance of Sinhala Community ?
- Q. 3 Which two main languages are spoken in Belgium ?
- Q. 4 Which major social group constituted the largest share in population of Sri Lanka ?
- Q. 5 Name any two countries with which Belgium share borders.
- Q. 6 Which country has adopted Buddhism as its official religion ?
- Q. 7 What is the main reason for the killing of thousands of Sri Lankan people and loss of livelihoods ?
- Q. 8 Where is the headquarter of European Union ?
- Q. 9 Which language is spoken by the people residing in the Wallonia region of Belgium ?
- Q. 10 Suggest the prudential reason, why power sharing is good for democracy.
- Q. 11 What is decentralisation of power ?
- Q. 12 Name the only state of India which has its own constitution ?
- Q. 13 Who plays an important role in overseeing the implementation of constitutional provisions and procedures ?
- Q. 14 According to our constitution, who has the power to legislate on 'residuary' subjects ?
- Q. 15 Name the institutions of local government work in urban areas.
- Q. 16 How 'Panchayat Samiti is constituted ?
- Q. 17 What is called the head of municipal corporation ?
- Q. 18 Who is the political head of Zila Parishad ?
- Q. 19 Give an example of a country which is an example of coming together federation ?
- Q. 20 Who can make laws relating to the subjects mentioned in the concurrent list ?
- Q. 22 How many countries have federal political system in the world ?

Answers :

1. 4
2. Majoritarianism
3. Dutch and French
4. Sinhala
5. France and Luxembourg
6. Sri Lanka
7. Civil War
8. Brussels
9. French
10. Power sharing helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
11. To divide powers among different levels of Governments.
12. Jammu & Kashmir
13. Judiciary
14. Union Government.
15. Municipalities and Municipal corporation.
16. Panchayat Samiti is constituted by a few gram Panchayats grouped together.
17. Mayor
18. Zila Parishad Chairperson
19. USA
20. Both Union Govt. and State Govt.
21. Federalism
22. 25

3/5 Marks Questions :-

- Q.1 Why is power sharing desirable ? Explain any three forms of power sharing in modern democracies with examples.
- Q.2 Why was the minority 'French speaking community relatively rich and powerful ?
- Q.3 How majoritarianism resulted social tension in Sri Lanka ?
- Q.4 "Sharing of Power makes a country more powerful and united ?" Justify the statement ?
- Q.5 Highlight any three measures adopted by the Belgium government to accommodate regional and cultural diversities.
- Q.6 Describe any three demands of the Sri Lankan Tamils. How did they

struggle for their demands ?

- Q. 7 Write down the basic principles of power sharing ?
- Q. 8 What is the difference between a federal form of government and a unitary one ? Explain with examples ?
- Q. 9 Describe importance of local government in present day democracy ?
- Q. 10 What other factors besides politics keep the federations united ?
- Q. 11 Compare the federations of coming together type and holding together type ?
- Q. 12 Which five provisions of Indian constitution make India a full-fledged federation ?
- Q. 13 Explain five changes towards decentralisation brought in the constitution after the amendments made in 1992.
- Q. 14 The creation of linguistic states was the first and the major test of democratic politics in our country. Justify the statement.
- Q. 15 What is Gram Sabha ? Describe any four functions of a Gram Sabha.
- Q. 16 How have the centre-state relations been restructured to strengthen federalism ?

Answer of 3/5 Marks Questions :-

1. To reduce the possibility of conflicts between different social groups and ensure political stability power sharing is desirable.
Different forms of power sharing are as under.
 - * Horizontal distribution of power is shared among different organs of government such as Executive, Legislature and Judiciary.
 - * Vertical distribution of power.
Power can be shared among governments at different levels such as central Govt; state Govt. and Local Govt.
 - * Power may also be shared among different social groups.
Ex. Religious and linguistic groups, community government in Belgium etc.
 - * Power sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power.
2. In Brussels, the capital of Belgium, the French speaking people are in majority . The power has been into the hands of French people for a longer period and benefitted them for economic development and education. The French speaking population was better read, more qualified and had access to more resources than the native Dutch

Population . The French were part of an aristocracy of trades man and thus were financially strong.

3. The leader of the Sinhala community dominated the government and adopted a series of majoritarian measures which resulted social tension.

- * Sri Lanka became independent in 1948.
- * In 1956 an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, disregarding Tamil.
- * Sinhala applicants were favoured for university and government jobs.
- * The constitution gives special protection to Buddhism.
- * The leaders were insensitive to the language and culture of Tamils.
- * Government policies deprived them of equal political rights.

4. Sharing of power makes a country more powerful and united because of the following reasons :-

- * Power sharing ensures that all people have stake in government.
- * Power sharing ensures maximum participation. It upholds the concept of people's rule.
- * It ensures the political stability in democracy.
- * Power sharing accommodates diverse groups.

5. (i) The constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in central Government. Some special laws require the support of majority of numbers from each linguistic group. Thus, no single community can make decisions unilaterally.

(ii) Many powers of central Government have been given to the state governments of the two regions of the country.

(iii) The capital of Belgium, Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.

6. (i) The Sri Lankan Tamils demanded the recognition of Tamil as an official language.

(ii) They demanded regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs.

(iii) Through the formation of several organisations they demanded an independent Tamil Eelam (State) in the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.

(iv) The Sri Lankan Tamils struggle for their demands by launching political organisation.

7. The basic principles of power sharing are :
 - (i) Government of different political parties i.e. a coalition Government.
 - (ii) Protection of minority rights.
 - (iii) Decentralisation of power.
 - (iv) To avoid conflicts
8.
 - (i) In a federal system, power is divided at different levels. For example at the government level among the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary. At the government level among the central Government, state Government and Local Government. Each level of Government and its organs are free to work in their jurisdiction.
 - (ii) On the other hand in the unitary form of Government, all the powers are rested in the hands of national government. In this system either there is one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate of central government. The central government can pass on orders to the provincial or local government. For example, Sri Lanka, China etc.
9. The importance of local government.
 - (i) Various problems are sorted out at local level.
 - (ii) It helps the people to directly participate in decision making.
 - (iii) It reduces the burden of central Government.
 - (iv) Local government is according to decentralisation of power.
10.
 - (i) Power sharing arrangement between the central and state government.
 - (ii) Independent role of judiciary.
 - (iii) Language ethnicity.
 - (iv) Response to conflicting claims.
 - (v) Active participates of the people.

11.

Coming Together Federation	Holding Together Federation
1. Under this, independent states come together on their own to form a bigger unit.	1. Under this, a large country decides to divide its powers between the constituent units and the national government.
2. All constituents states usually have equal powers and the states enjoy certain amount of autonomy.	2. Under this, central government tends to be more powerful.
3. The main aim of the federation is to pool their sovereignty and maintain their separate identity to increase their security.	3. In this type of federation, there is an absence of pooling sovereignty and maintaining identity.
4. Some examples are USA, Australia, and Switzerland.	4. Some examples are India, Belgium and Spain.

2. A federation is a country in which the powers are divided between the union and its constituents.
- (i) Two or more levels of government :
Union Government, State Government and Local Government.
 - (ii) Three Lists : Union List, State List & Concurrent List.
 - (iii) Rigid Constitution
 - (iv) Bicameral Legislature.
Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha
 - (v) Financial Autonomy : The revenue sources of both the centre and states have been clearly defined.
 - (vi) Independent Judiciary
13. The following steps were taken towards decentralization after 1992.
- (i) It was made constitutionally mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
 - (ii) Seats were reserved for scheduled castes (SCs) Scheduled Tribes (STs) and OBCs.
 - (iii) Women were given one-third representation.
 - (iv) An independent institution called state election commission, was created to conduct local body elections.
 - (v) State governments were required to share their power and revenue with local bodies.
14. (i) After 1947, the boundaries of several old states of India were proposed to be changed to ensure that people who spoke the same language lived in the same state.
- (ii) Some states like Nagaland were not created on the basis of language but because of their distinct culture, ethnicity and geography.
 - (iii) When the demand for the formation of linguistic states rose, some leaders feared that it would again lead to disintegration.
 - (iv) But when the actual creation of states was done on the basis of language, it so proved that the country was more united. This process did away with all fears and tension.
 - (v) Thus, the framing of the language policy was the test for Indian federation. It inspired the confidence in different language speaking people that no language will be imposed on them.
In a way language policy has strengthened the unity and integrity of India.

15. Gram Sabha includes all the adult people of the village.

Functions :-

- (i) It elects the members of the gram panchayat.
- (ii) It reviews the performance of gram panchayat.
- (iii) It supervises the work of the gram panchayat.

16. The centre state relations have been restructured to strengthen federalism in the following ways.

- (i) 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 the same culture, ethnicity could live in the same state.
- (ii) Language Policy : Besides Hindi, 21 other languages were in the eighth schedule of the Indian constitution. Though Hindi was identified as the optional language but the central Government did not impose Hindi on states where people spoke a different language.
- (iii) Centre - State Relations : It is the care of federalism and they are regulated by the provisions of the constitution. 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.