

Level - 1

CORE SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs)

1. Option (A) is correct

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct as the Indian Constitution describes India as a “Union of States” in Article 1.

Statement 2 is correct as the division of powers between the Union and State governments is enshrined in the Constitution and considered a basic feature of Indian federalism.

Statement 3 is incorrect as the power-sharing structure is rigid and cannot be easily changed. Amendments require a special process.

Statement 4 is incorrect as Constitutional amendments related to federal power-sharing require a two-thirds majority in both houses of Parliament and, in some cases, ratification by at least half of the State legislatures.

2. Option (D) is correct

Explanation: The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution lists the recognised official languages of India. 22 languages are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and are known as Scheduled languages, and Odia is one of them. The other options, such as Harayanavi, Rajasthani, and Garhwali, are not included in the Eighth Schedule.

3. Option (B) is correct

Explanation: The Supreme Court of India is the highest judicial authority and is responsible for resolving disputes between the Central Government and State Governments. It ensures that the Constitution is upheld and interprets laws in case of conflicts.

4. Option (C) is correct

Explanation: Education falls under the Concurrent List, which means both the Central and State Governments can make laws on this subject. However, in case of a conflict, the law made by the Central Government prevails.

5. Option (C) is correct

Explanation: Nepali is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution as a Scheduled Language. The Constitution recognises 22 Scheduled Languages under this schedule. About 0.24 per cent speakers speak Nepali language.

6. Option (D) is correct.

Explanation: The Concurrent List includes subjects on which both the Central and State Governments can make laws. Some important subjects under the Concurrent List are – Education, Forests, Marriage and Divorce, Adoption and Succession.

7. Option (B) is correct

Explanation: A Coming Together Federation is formed when independent states voluntarily unite to create a larger political unit while retaining their individual identities. Examples include USA, Switzerland and Australia.

8. Option (C) is correct

Explanation: The information describe a system where power is distributed from the Central Government to State and Local Governments, ensuring a three-tier government structure. This is called Decentralisation, which means the transfer of power from higher levels of government to lower levels.

9. Option (B) is correct

Explanation: The principle of subsidiarity promotes decentralisation, ensuring that decisions are made at the lowest level of governance possible, with higher authorities intervening only when necessary. This closely aligns with federalism, where power is divided between different levels of government—central, state, and local—ensuring efficiency and citizen participation.

10. Option (A) is correct

Explanation: USA, Switzerland, and Australia are all “coming together” federations, where independent states or regions came together to form a federal union. Spain, on the other hand, is a “holding together” federation, which means that a central government holds power over a country with different regions. This type of federation often involves a central authority that ensures unity among regions, some of which may have distinct cultural, linguistic, or historical characteristics. Thus, Spain stands out because it is a “holding together” federation, which is

different from the others, making option A the most appropriate explanation.

11. Option (B) is correct

Explanation: Federalism in India allows for special provisions to protect marginalised communities, particularly indigenous populations (Scheduled Tribes).

12. Option (D) is correct

Explanation: As per Article 131 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court has original jurisdiction over disputes between the Centre and a state (or between two states).

MATCH THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. Option (D) is correct

Explanation: Union List 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 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 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.

Residuary subjects include those subjects that do not fall in any of the three lists, like computer software. According to our constitution, the Union Government has the power to legislate on these 'residuary' subjects.

2. Option (B) is correct

Explanation: Union List contains subjects where only the central government has the authority to make laws. Banking is a subject under Union list as it is regulated by the Central Government.

State List contains subjects where only the state government has the authority. Police is under the State List.

Concurrent List contains subjects where both central and state governments can make laws. Trade Union is in the Concurrent List, meaning both central and state governments can make laws on it.

Residuary subjects covers subjects that are not mentioned in the Union, State, or Concurrent Lists. Internet comes under residuary subjects as it was not included in any lists at the time of framing of the Constitution.

3. Option (B) is correct

Explanation: Defence is covered under union list but commerce is covered under concurrent list. Hence option (A) is not correctly matched.

Police and Agriculture are both covered under state list. Hence option (B) is correctly matched.

Forests is in the concurrent list but communication is in the union list. Hence option (C) is not correctly matched.

Computer software falls under residuary subject but trade is covered under concurrent list. Hence option (D) is not correctly matched.

ASSERTION-REASON QUESTIONS

1. Option (B) is correct

Explanation: India has a Federal Government. There is a Central Government for the entire country and State Governments for different regions. The reason is also true but does not justify the assertion.

2. Option (A) is correct

Explanation: India is considered a "Holding together federation" because it is a country where multiple states came together under a central government. The Union Government holds significant power, and it ensures that states with different sizes, resources, and cultural backgrounds are kept together under one national framework.

The Indian Constitution divides the powers between the central government and the states through three lists: the Union List, the State List, and the Concurrent List. This division ensures the governance of both the national and regional levels.

Therefore, both the assertion and the reason are correct, and the reason correctly explains the assertion.

3. Option (C) is correct

Explanation: 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 government at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day-to-day administering of their state.

4. Option (A) is correct

Explanation: The people belonging to local areas have better knowledge of problems, so

they can solve easily and the best thing about decentralisation is that people participate directly in decision-making.

VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. (i) The jurisdictions of the respective tiers of government are specified in the Constitution. The existence and authority of each tier of government is constitutionally guaranteed.
(ii) Constitution provides the rules for coordination between Centre and States.
2. (i) The judiciary plays an important role in overseeing the implementation of constitutional provisions and procedures.
(ii) In case of any dispute about the division of powers, the High Court and the Supreme Court make a decision.
3. (i) India is a vast country with a large and diverse population.
(ii) Power sharing is essential to accommodate diversity.
(iii) There are a large number of problems and issues which are best settled at this local level.
(iv) People have better knowledge of problems in their localities.
(v) They also have ideas on where to spend money and how to manage things more efficiently.
(vi) It helps to inculcate a habit of democratic participation. Decentralisation helps to deepen democracy.
(vii) It increases the possibility of direct participation in decision making. (Any two)
4. The local government goes right up to the district level. A few gram panchayats are grouped together to form a Panchayat Samiti or Block or Mandal. The members of this representative body are elected by all the panchayat members in that area. All Panchayat Samitis or Mandals in a district together constitute the Zila Parishad. Most members of the Zila Parishad are elected. Members of the Lok Sabha and MLAs of the district level bodies are also its members. The Zila Parishad chairperson is the head of the Zila Parishad.

5. (i) 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.
(ii) 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.
(iii) Courts have the power to interpret the constitution and the powers of different levels of government.
(iv) Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly constitutionally specified to ensure its financial autonomy.
(Any two)

6.	<table><tr><th>Unitary System</th><th>Federal System</th></tr><tr><td>Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the central government.</td><td>There are two or more levels (or tiers) of government.</td></tr><tr><td>The central government can pass on orders to the provincial or the local government.</td><td>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.</td></tr></table>	Unitary System	Federal System	Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the central government.	There are two or more levels (or tiers) of government.	The central government can pass on orders to the provincial or the local government.	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.
Unitary System	Federal System						
Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the central government.	There are two or more levels (or tiers) of government.						
The central government can pass on orders to the provincial or the local government.	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.						

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. (i) Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the central government.
(ii) The central government can pass on orders to the provincial or the local government.
(iii) But in a federal system, the central government cannot order the state government to do something.
(iv) State government has powers of its own for which it is not answerable to the central government. (Any three)
2. (i) There are two or more tiers of government. India has a government at the centre and at the states.
(ii) The different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own jurisdiction in specific matters of legislation, taxation and administration.

- (iii) The jurisdictions of the respective levels or tiers of government are specified in the Constitution.
 - (iv) Fundamental provisions of the Constitution cannot be changed unilaterally by only one level of the government.
 - (v) Courts have the power to interpret the Constitution and the highest courts act as an umpire in case of a dispute between the different levels of government.
 - (vi) Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified. (Any three)
3. The following are the reasons which proves that India is a federal country:
- (i) **Division of Powers:** The Constitution of India clearly demarcates the powers of the Central and State governments, and both have their separate areas of jurisdiction. The Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution lists the Union List, State List and Concurrent List, which define the powers and responsibilities of the Central and State governments.
 - (ii) **Independent Judiciary:** India has an independent judiciary with the power of judicial review. The Supreme Court of India is the highest judicial authority in the country and has the power to interpret the Constitution and resolve disputes between the Central and State governments.
 - (iii) **Representation of States:** The Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian Parliament, represents the States and Union territories of India. The members of the Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States and the Union Territories.
4. (i) **Regional autonomy:** Regional governments would have little or no decision-making power. Regional aspirations might get suppressed.
- (ii) Effectiveness of Governance: Local issues might not receive due attention, leading to a disconnect between grass root reality and governance.
 - (iii) Decision-making processes: The decision making process might become undemocratic and less inclusive. It is likely to neglect regional aspirations. (Any three)
5. This balance of power depends mainly on the historical context in which the federation was formed. There are two kinds of routes through which federations have been formed.
- (i) 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. In this first category of federations, all the constituent States usually have equal power and are strong vis-à-vis the federal government.
 - (ii) 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. In this second category, the Central Government tends to be more powerful vis-à-vis the States. Very often different constituent units of the federation have unequal powers. Some units are granted special powers.
6. India comes under 'Holding Together federation'. The features of Holding Together federation are:
- (i) It decides to divide its powers between the Constituent States and the National government.
 - (ii) In this federation, the Central government tends to be more powerful than the States.
 - (iii) In this system, different constituent units of the federation have unequal powers.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1.

	Coming Together Federation	Holding Together Federation
(i)	These are formed when independent states come together to form a bigger state.	These are formed when a large country decides to divide itself into sub-units.

(ii)	In these federations, the State governments are strong.	In these federations, the Central government is strong.
(iii)	All State governments have equal powers.	The State governments do not have equal powers.

(iv)	Examples: USA, Switzerland and Australia.	Examples: India, Spain and Belgium.
------	---	-------------------------------------

2. When power is taken from the Central and State governments and is given to local government, it is called Decentralisation.

The Constitution was amended in 1992 to make the Third Tier of Democracy more powerful and effective. The provisions of Constitutional Amendment of 1992 are:

- Now it is mandatory to hold regular elections to local government bodies.
- Seats are reserved for the elected bodies and for the post of the Executive Heads of these Institutions for SCs, STs and OBCs.
- At least one-third of all positions are reserved for women.
- The State governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies.

3. Federalism has succeeded in India due to the nature of democratic policies in our country.

The policies adopted by India to ensure this success are:

- Linguistic States:** After independence, the boundaries of several old states were changed in order to create new states. The creation of Linguistic States is the first and a major test for democratic politics in our country.
- Language Policy:** The second test for the Indian federation is the language policy. The Indian Constitution did not give the status of National Language to any one of the language.
- Centre-State Relations:** Restructuring the Centre-State relations is one more way in which Federalism has been strengthened in practice.
- Decentralisation of Power:** Power in India has been decentralised to the local government. The local government includes Panchayats in villages and Municipalities in urban areas.

Level - 2 ADVANCED COMPETENCY FOCUSED QUESTIONS

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs)

1. Option (B) is correct

Explanation: India's three-tier government structure (Union, State, and Local governments) is a key feature of decentralisation, which allows decision-making to take place at different levels. This structure enables people at the local level to participate directly in governance, making democracy more inclusive and effective.

2. Option (C) is correct

Explanation: The Constitution of India distributes powers through three lists:

Union List – for matters under the central government,

State List – for matters under state governments, and

Concurrent List – for matters where both can make laws.

This structure ensures a clear division of responsibilities and is a core feature of federalism in India.

3. Option (B) is correct

Explanation: Indian federalism is often described as “quasi-federal” because, while it is federal in normal times, it shows unitary features during

emergencies. During a national, state, or financial emergency, the central government can override the authority of state governments, making the system more centralised temporarily to ensure national security and integrity.

4. Option (C) is correct

Explanation: The formation of states on the basis of language in India reflects a democratic and inclusive approach that respects the linguistic and cultural identities of different regions. This decision strengthened federalism by promoting a sense of belonging and unity among diverse communities, while also ensuring administrative efficiency and greater public participation.

5. Option (C) is correct

Explanation: The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (1992) led to the creation of Panchayati Raj Institutions (rural local governments), giving people at the village level a direct say in decision-making. It made democracy more participatory, inclusive, and effective by ensuring regular elections, reservation for women and marginalised groups, and financial and administrative powers to local bodies.

ASSERTION-REASON QUESTIONS

1. Option (A) is correct

Explanation: Assertion is true. India follows a federal structure where power is shared among different levels of government — central, state, and local.

Reason is also true. This division of powers is a core feature of federalism and is enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

Both assertion and reason are true and the reason correctly explains the assertion.

2. Option (A) is correct

Explanation: Assertion is true. The Indian Constitution provides a three-fold division of powers through the Union List, State List, and Concurrent List, which defines the subjects on which each level of government can make laws.

Reason is also true. By clearly defining responsibilities, this division reduces overlapping authority and potential disputes, promoting cooperative federalism.

Both assertion and reason are true and the reason correctly explains the assertion.

3. Option (C) is correct

Explanation: Assertion is true. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments established Panchayati Raj and Municipalities, promoting

decentralisation by transferring power to local levels.

Reason is false. On the contrary, local governments are better equipped to understand and address local issues effectively.

4. Option (A) is correct

Explanation: Assertion is true. During national, state, or financial emergencies, the Centre assumes greater authority, even over matters normally reserved for the states.

Reason is also true. This centralisation of power during emergencies reflects the unitary aspects of Indian federalism, such as a strong Centre and the ability to override state powers when necessary.

Both assertion and reason are true and the reason correctly explains the assertion.

VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Power sharing between different levels of government strengthens federalism in India in the following ways:

- (i) **Ensures Clear Division of Responsibilities:**

The Constitution divides powers between the Union and State governments through the Union, State, and Concurrent Lists, helping each level function independently in its domain and reducing conflicts.

- (ii) **Promotes Regional Autonomy:** By giving states the authority to make laws and decisions on state subjects, it respects regional diversity and empowers local governance, making the system more inclusive and representative.

2. The three lists provided in the Indian Constitution are:

- (i) **Union List:** Contains subjects of national importance (e.g., defence, foreign affairs, banking). Only the central government can make laws on these matters.

- (ii) **State List:** Contains subjects of state and local importance (e.g., police, public health, agriculture). Only the state governments can legislate on these issues.

- (iii) **Concurrent List:** Includes subjects of common interest to both the Centre and the States (e.g., education, forest, marriage). Both can make laws, but in case of conflict, central law prevails.

Significance in Maintaining Federalism: This three-fold division of powers ensures a clear separation of responsibilities, avoids overlap and confusion, and allows each level of government to function independently. It upholds the spirit of federalism by balancing power, promoting cooperation, and respecting the autonomy of both central and state governments.

3. Two arguments to support that the creation of linguistic states has strengthened the unity of India are:

- (i) **Respect for Regional and Cultural Identities:** By forming states on the basis of language, India acknowledged the linguistic and cultural diversity of its people. This helped different communities feel included and respected within the union.

- (ii) **Promoted National Integration:** Instead of dividing the country, linguistic states allowed people to preserve their identity while remaining a part of India. This reduced regional tensions and strengthened democratic participation, leading to greater unity and stability in the country.

4. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (1992) promotes decentralisation in India by empowering rural local bodies (Panchayati Raj Institutions) and bringing governance closer to the people. It ensures greater participation in the democratic process, especially at the grassroots level.

Two key provisions:

- (i) **Three-tier system of Panchayati Raj:** It established a three-tier structure — Gram Panchayat (village), Panchayat Samiti (block), and Zila Parishad (district) — to decentralise decision-making and improve local self-governance.

- (ii) **Regular Elections and Reservations:** The amendment mandates regular elections every five years and provides reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women, ensuring inclusive representation in local governance.

These provisions have strengthened democracy by enabling direct public involvement in planning and development at the local level.

5. Indian federalism has successfully accommodated regional diversity by respecting cultural, linguistic, and regional differences while maintaining the unity of the country. This has helped promote national integration in the following ways:

(i) **Formation of Linguistic States:** India reorganised its states based on linguistic and cultural identities (e.g., Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat). This move allowed people to preserve their language and

culture, reducing regional tensions and strengthening unity.

(ii) **Special Autonomy to Certain States:** Some states, like Jammu & Kashmir (earlier) and Nagaland, were given special constitutional provisions to protect their unique cultural and social practices. This helped address local aspirations within the framework of the Indian Union.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. India is described as a federal country with a unitary bias because, while it has a federal structure, certain features give more power to the central government, especially during emergencies. The features of Indian federalism that support this statement:

(i) **Strong Centre:** The central government has more authority than the states. In case of a conflict over a subject in the Concurrent List, the law made by the Centre prevails over the state law.

(ii) **Emergency Provisions:** During a national emergency, the Constitution allows the central government to override state powers, turning the system temporarily into a unitary one.

(iii) **Single Constitution and Judiciary:** Unlike in some federations (like the USA), India has a single Constitution for both the Centre and the states, and a unified judiciary that interprets laws for all levels of government.

2. Decentralisation of power has strengthened democracy in India by bringing governance closer to the people and promoting greater participation at the local level.

Three points in support:

(i) **Local Participation in Decision-Making:** Decentralisation allows people to take part in planning and development at the grassroots level, making governance more inclusive and responsive to local needs.

(ii) **Empowerment of Marginalised Groups:** Through reservation of seats in local bodies for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women, decentralisation has ensured representation of weaker sections in governance.

(iii) **Improved Efficiency and Accountability:** Local governments can address issues more quickly and efficiently, as they are closer to the people. This enhances transparency and holds officials more accountable to the public.

3. The formation of linguistic states was a major step towards strengthening Indian federalism because it acknowledged regional aspirations while keeping the country united. The ways it promoted national unity and integrity are:

(i) **Respect for Regional Identities:** By reorganising states based on language, the Indian government honoured the cultural and linguistic identity of people, reducing feelings of neglect or exclusion.

(ii) **Peaceful Integration of Diversity:** Instead of dividing the country, linguistic states allowed people to feel connected both to their region and the nation, promoting a sense of belonging within the federal system.

(iii) **Strengthened Democratic Participation:** Citizens became more involved in governance when administration and education were carried out in their own language, leading to greater participation and a stronger bond with the democratic process.

4. Power sharing among central, state, and local governments is necessary in a large country like India to ensure effective governance and national unity. The key reasons are:

(i) **Administrative Efficiency:** In a vast and diverse country, local and state governments are better positioned to understand and address region-specific needs. Decentralised decision-making leads to quicker and more effective governance.

(ii) **Promotes Democratic Participation:** Sharing power enables people at all levels to participate in decision-making, especially at the grassroots level. This makes democracy more inclusive and representative.

(iii) **Accommodates Regional Diversity:** India is home to multiple languages, cultures, and communities. Power sharing helps protect regional identities and aspirations, thereby promoting national integration and social harmony.

5. Indian federalism accommodates regional diversity while maintaining national unity by allowing different communities and regions to express their identities within the framework of one nation.

(i) **Formation of Linguistic States:** States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and others were created on the basis of

language. This move respected linguistic diversity while strengthening the emotional and political integration of people with the Indian Union.

- (ii) **Special Provisions for Certain States:** The Constitution provides special autonomy and safeguards to some states (e.g., Nagaland, Mizoram) to protect their unique social and

cultural practices, ensuring their identity is preserved within the national framework.

- (iii) **Three-Tier Government System:** Through decentralisation, India empowers local governments (Panchayats and Municipalities), ensuring that people from diverse regions can participate in governance and address their local needs effectively.

CASE BASED QUESTIONS

1. (i) The large number of elected representatives in panchayats and municipalities signifies the extensive scale of the democratic experiment in India. Large number of problems and issues are settled at the local level. There is direct participation of people in the decision making and socio-political participation process.
 - (ii) (1) It deepens democracy.
 - (2) Constitutional status for local government has led to increased representation and voice of women in democracy.
 - (3) It promotes inclusivity.
 - (4) It promotes gender equality.
 - (iii) (1) Granting constitutional status to local government is described as having deepened democracy in the country.
 - (2) It has also enhanced women's representation and women's participation in the democratic process.
 - (3) This constitutional recognition has played a role in empowering grassroots governance.
 - (4) It promotes inclusive decision – making.
 - (5) Solution of local societal issues at local levels. (Any two)
2. (i) The census of India recorded more than 1300 distinct languages as mother tongues.
 - (ii) The languages like Bhojpuri, Magadhi, Bundelkhandi, Chhattisgarhi, Rajasthani were grouped under the category of “Hindi”.
 - (iii) (1) It recognises their cultural and linguistic significance.
 - (2) It helps protect and promote these languages, ensuring that speakers have access to education and government services in their native languages.
 - (3) Most of these languages are also the official languages of their respective states.
3. (i) The passage highlights that giving power to Panchayats aligns with the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi and the intentions of Constitution and framers. It enables true democracy by involving the people in decision-making and governance.
 - (ii) The primary objective of giving more power to the panchayats is to realise the vision of Mahatma Gandhi and the aspirations of the makers of the Constitution. This aims to establish true democracy and place power in the hands of the people.
 - (iii) (1) Power to the people, where it rightfully belongs in a democratic system.
 - (2) Promoting grassroots democratic governance.
 - (3) By involving the people in decision – making and governance.
 - (4) People participate in the planning and implementation of development schemes.
 - (5) They gain greater control over these schemes.
 - (6) This involvement can naturally lead to increased accountability. (Any two)
4. (i) When power is taken away from Central and State governments and given to local government, it is called decentralisation.
 - (ii) (1) Large number of problems and issues are best settled at the local level.
 - (2) People have better ideas about money spent and how to manage things more efficiently.
 - (3) People can participate in decision making process.
 - (iii) (1) Panchayats in villages and municipalities in urban areas have been set up.
 - (2) Powers have been given to the Panchayats and municipalities.
 - (3) 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments.
5. (i) According to the Census of India (2011), there were 121 major languages in India with 1599 other languages. A total of 22 languages have been declared as Scheduled languages as per the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The diversity of Indian language has helped in uniting the country.

Most of the Indians are able to understand more than one language.

(ii)

Scheduled Languages		Non-Scheduled Languages
(i)	Scheduled languages are those which are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.	Non-Scheduled Languages include those languages which are not included in Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

(iii) India manifests itself in language history and linguistic geography. The blend of languages, has united the country into one cultural unit. Languages integrate the nation.

6. (i) India's efforts in decentralisation represent one of the largest experiments in deepening

democracy. India has a democratic structure for local governance. There are now about 36 lakh elected representatives in the panchayats and municipalities, etc. all over the country. This number is bigger than the population of many countries in the world.

- (ii) It has also increased women's representation and voice in our democracy. People to directly participate in decision-making. This has helped to inculcate a habit of democratic participation. Local government is the best way to realise one important principle of democracy, namely local self-government.
- (iii) (1) Establishment of panchayat in rural areas.
 (2) Establishment of municipalities in urban areas.
 (3) 73rd and 74th amendment of the Indian constitution for the local self government and three tier democracy.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. India is a federal country where power is shared among different levels of government to ensure effective governance, accommodate diversity, and uphold democratic values. The features of Indian Federalism are:

- (i) **Two or More Levels of Government:** India has a three-tier system — Union Government, State Governments, and Local Governments — each with its own responsibilities.
- (ii) **Constitutional Status:** The powers and functions of each level of government are clearly mentioned in the Constitution, making Indian federalism constitutional and not optional.
- (iii) **Division of Powers:** The Constitution provides a three-fold distribution of powers: Union List (e.g., defence, foreign affairs) – Only the Centre can legislate.
 State List (e.g., police, public health) – Only the State can legislate.
 Concurrent List (e.g., education, marriage laws) – Both can legislate, but Centre's law prevails in case of conflict.
- (iv) **Independent Judiciary:** The Supreme Court acts as the guardian of the Constitution and settles disputes between the Centre and the States.
- (v) **Financial Autonomy:** Both levels have separate sources of revenue, though the Centre controls major resources.

Power Sharing Between Union and State Governments

- (i) The Centre handles national matters like defence and foreign policy.

- (ii) States manage local matters like agriculture and police administration.
- (iii) Concurrent matters (e.g., education, forests) are handled by both, but if laws clash, the central law prevails.

Example:

The Union Government handles national defence (Union List),

The State Government manages law and order (State List),

Both can make laws on education (Concurrent List), but central law has supremacy.

2. Decentralisation means the transfer of powers and responsibilities from the central and state governments to local levels of government. In India, this involves the creation and empowerment of local self-governments in villages and towns to allow people to directly participate in governance.

Importance of Decentralisation in India:

- (i) **Promotes Grassroots Democracy:** It brings governance closer to the people, allowing them to participate in planning and decision-making.
- (ii) **Increases Administrative Efficiency:** Local governments are better informed about local issues and can solve them more effectively and quickly.
- (iii) **Empowers Marginalised Groups:** Through reservation of seats, decentralisation gives voice and representation to women, SCs, STs, and other weaker sections.

Three Provisions of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992):

- (i) **Three-Tier Structure:** It established a three-level Panchayati Raj system:
 - Gram Panchayat at the village level
 - Panchayat Samiti at the block level
 - Zila Parishad at the district level
 - (ii) **Regular Elections:** The amendment made it mandatory to hold elections every five years to ensure continuity and accountability in rural governance.
 - (iii) **Reservation of Seats:** It provides for reservation of one-third of the seats for women, and proportional reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, ensuring inclusive participation.
3. Yes, this statement holds true as the formation of linguistic states was a major step in making Indian federalism more inclusive and representative.
- (i) **Respect for Cultural and Linguistic Identity:** Reorganising states on the basis of language acknowledged the unique cultural and linguistic identities of different regions. This helped reduce feelings of alienation and made people feel respected and included within the Indian Union.
 - (ii) **Strengthening Federal Principles:** Linguistic states made federalism more realistic and functional, as governance in the people's own language increased accessibility and public participation in the democratic process.
 - (iii) **Peaceful Accommodation of Diversity:** The reorganisation helped India peacefully accommodate regional aspirations, preventing separatist tendencies and strengthening national integration.
 - (iv) **Improved Administrative Efficiency:** States formed on linguistic lines improved administration by allowing official work, education, and law-making in the local language, making governance more efficient and citizen-friendly.
4. Yes, this statement is valid. Indian federalism is uniquely designed to uphold unity in diversity by recognising and respecting the vast differences in language, culture, religion, and region.
- (i) **Formation of Linguistic States:** India reorganised states based on the language spoken by the majority population, such as Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. This allowed people to govern themselves in their own language, fostering a sense of belonging within the nation.
 - (ii) **Asymmetric Federalism (Special Provisions):** Some states like Jammu & Kashmir (earlier), Nagaland, and Mizoram were given special constitutional status to protect their distinct cultures, laws, and traditions, ensuring peaceful coexistence.
 - (iii) **Three-tier Government System:** The Union, State, and Local governments ensure that local issues are addressed locally. Through decentralisation, people at the grassroots, especially in rural and remote areas, can participate in governance.
 - (iv) **Cultural and Religious Freedom:** The Constitution guarantees religious and cultural rights to minorities (e.g., Sikhs, Muslims, Christians), protecting their identity and encouraging peaceful coexistence within the federal framework.
 - (v) **Representation and Reservations:** India provides reserved seats in legislatures and local bodies for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women, ensuring that marginalised groups also have a voice in governance and policy-making.

