



**CLASS –X**  
**SUBJECT: POLITICAL SCIENCE**  
**CHAPTER -1 POWER SHARING**

An intelligent sharing of power among a legislature, executive and judiciary is very important to the design of a democracy. We start with two stories from Belgium and Sri Lanka. Both these stories are about how democracies handle demands for power sharing.

**BELGIUM AND SRI LANKA:**

1. Belgium is a small country in Europe.
2. It has borders with Netherlands, France and Germany.
3. 59% in the Flemish region speaks Dutch.
4. Another 40% people live in Wallonia region and speaks French.
5. Remaining 1% of the Belgians speak Germany.
6. In the capital city Brussels, 80% people speak French while 20% are Dutch – speaking.
7. The minority French – speaking community was relatively rich and powerful.
8. This was resented by the Dutch-speaking community who got the benefit of the economic development and education much later.
9. The tension between two communities was acuter in Brussels.
10. Like other nations in the south Asia region, Sri Lanka has a diverse population.
11. The Sinhala speaks are 74% and Tamil speakers are 18%
12. Among Tamils, there are two sub groups, Tamil natives of the country are called “Sri LankanTamils”; the rest whose forefathers came from India as a population workers during the colonial period, is called ‘Indian Tamils’.

**MAJORITARIANISM IN SRI LANKA**

1. Sri Lankan emerged as an independent country in 1948.
2. The leaders of the Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over the government by virtue of their majority.
3. In 1956, an Act was passed to recognize Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil.
4. A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.
5. All these coming measures, coming one after the other, gradually increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils.
6. As a result, the relations between the Sinhala and Tamil communities strained over time.
7. The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles.
8. But their demand for more autonomy to provinces populated by the Tamils was repeatedly denied.
9. The distrust between the two communities turned into widespread conflict. It soon turned Into CIVIL WAR.
10. The civil war caused a terrible setback to the social, cultural and economic life of the country.

**ACCOMMODATION IN BELGIUM**

1. Belgium recognized the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities. Between 1970 and 1993, they amended their constitution four times so as to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country. Here are some of the elements of the Belgian model:
  - a. Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government.
  - b. Many powers of the central government have been given to states government of the two

- of the regions of the country.
- c. Brussels has separated government in which both the communities have equal representation.
  - d. Apart from the central and state government, there is a third kind of government. This is community government.
2. In Belgium, the leaders have realized that the unity of the country is possible only by respecting the feelings and interests of different communities and regions.
  3. Sri Lanka shows us a contrasting example. It shows us that if a majority community wants to force its dominance over others and refuses to share power, it can undermine the unity of the country.

### **WHY IS POWER SHARING DESIRABLE?**

1. Thus, two different sets of reasons can be given in favor of power sharing.
2. Firstly, power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.
3. There is a second, deeper reason why power sharing is good for democracy. Power sharing is very spirit of democracy. A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects.
4. Let us call the first set of reasons PRUDENTIAL and the second moral.
5. While prudential reasons stress that power sharing will bring out better outcomes, moral reasons emphasize the very act of the power sharing as valuable.

### **FORMS OF POWER SHARING**

1. The idea of power sharing has emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power.
2. For a long time, it was believed that all power of a government must reside in one person or group of a person located at one place.
3. One basic principle of power sharing is that people are the source of all political power.
4. In a good democratic government, due respect is given to diverse groups and views that exist in a society.
5. Everyone has a voice in the shaping of public politics.
6. Therefore, it follows that in a democracy political power should be distributed among as many citizens as possible.

**Let us look at some of the most common arrangements that we have or will come across.**

1. Power is shared among different organs of the government, such as the legislature, executive, and judiciary. Let us call this horizontal distribution of power because it allows different organs of the government placed at the same level to exercise different powers.
2. Power can be shared among governments at different levels – a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level. The division of higher and lower levels of government is called the vertical division of power.
3. Power may also be shared among different social groups, such as the religious and linguistic groups. 'Community government' is a good example of this arrangement.
4. Power sharing arrangement can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power.



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*Exercises questions and answers:*

1. What are the different forms of power sharing in modern democracies? Give an example of each of these.

**Answer**

The different forms of power sharing in modern democracies are:

- **Horizontal Division of Power**  
It is the sharing of power among the different organs of government, for example, power sharing by the executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. In this type of power sharing arrangement, different organs of government, placed at the same level, exercised different powers. Such a separation ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power, thereby putting a check on each other.
- **Vertical Division of Power**  
It is a system of power sharing among governments at different levels. For example, a general government for the entire country and governments at provincial or regional levels. In India, we refer to it as the Central Government, State Governments, Municipality, Gram Panchayat etc. The Constitution lays down the powers of different levels of government.
- **Division of Power among different Social Groups**  
Power can also be shared among different groups which differ socially like different religious and linguistic groups. 'Community Government' in Belgium is a good example of this type of power sharing. The system of reserved constituencies in India is another example. Such an arrangement is used to give minority communities a fair share in power, who otherwise would feel alienated from the government.
- **Division of Power among Political Parties, Pressure Groups and Movements**  
In contemporary democracies such a division takes the form of competition among different parties, which in turn ensures that power does not remain in one hand and is shared among different political parties representing different ideologies and social groups.

2. State one prudential reason and one moral reason for power sharing with an example from the Indian context.

**Answer**

- **Prudential Reason:** Power sharing helps in reducing the conflict between various social groups. Hence, power sharing is necessary for maintaining social harmony and peace. In India, seats are reserved for the weaker sections of society. Example : reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. This allows the weaker sections also to participate in the running of the Government.  
**Moral Reason:** It upholds the spirit of democracy. In a truly democratic setup, the citizens too have a stake in governance. In India, the citizens can come together to debate and criticise the policies

and decisions of the government. This in turn puts pressure on the government to rethink its policies and reconsider its decisions.

3. After reading this chapter, three students drew different conclusions. Which of these do you agree with and why? Give your reasons in about 50 words.

Thomman – Power sharing is necessary only in societies which have religious, linguistic or ethnic divisions.

Mathayi – Power sharing is suitable only for big countries that have regional divisions. Ouseph – Every society needs some form of power sharing even if it is small or does not have social divisions.

#### **Answer**

Ouseph's statement is the most logical, and thus, should be agreed on. Every society needs some form of power sharing even if it is small or does not have social divisions. A democratic society is one where its members or citizens through participation acquire a stake in the system. Power sharing not only prevents conflict between various groups in the society but it also generates a sense of belongingness among them to the society. Power sharing helps to maintain a balance of power among various institutions and also keep a check on how it is exercised. Irrespective of the size of a country or the type of a society, people will be more satisfied where they have a say in the functioning and decision making processes of the system.

4. The Mayor of Mrchtem, a town near Brussels in Belgium, has defended a ban on speaking French in the town's schools. He said that a ban would help all non-Dutch speakers integrate in this Flemish town. Do you think that this measure is in keeping with the spirit of Belgium's power sharing arrangements? Give your reasons in about 50 words.

#### **Answer**

No, This measure is not in keeping with Belgium's power sharing arrangements. The arrangements seek to maintain peace between the French and Dutch-speaking communities. By banning French, the mayor will cause civil unrest. Both the languages should be made acceptable in the town's schools. This bilingual education system will be a better way to integrate the people of the town.

5. Read the following passage and pick out any one of the prudential reasons for power sharing offered in this.

“We need to give more power to the panchayats to realise the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and the hopes of the makers of our Constitution. Panchayati Raj establishes true democracy. It restores power to the only place where power belongs in a democracy – in the hands of the people. Given power to panchayats is also a way to reduce corruption and increase administrative efficiency. When people participate in the planning and implementation of developmental schemes, they would naturally exercise greater control over these schemes. This would eliminate the corrupt middlemen. Thus, Panchayati Raj will strengthen the foundations of our democracy.”

#### **Answer**

The prudential reason for power sharing offered in this passage is giving power to panchayats is also a way to reduce corruption and increase administrative efficiency.

6. Different arguments are usually put forth in favour of and against power sharing. Identify those which are in favour of power sharing and select the answer using the codes given below? Power sharing:

A. reduces conflict among different communities

- B. decreases the possibility of arbitrariness
- C. delays decision making process
- D. accommodates diversities
- E. increases instability and divisiveness
- F. promotes people's participation in government
- G. undermines the unity of a country

(a)	A	B	D	F
(b)	A	C	E	F
(c)	A	B	D	G
(d)	B	C	D	G

**Answer**

(a)	A	B	D	F
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7. Consider the following statements about power sharing arrangements in Belgium and Sri Lanka.
- A. In Belgium, the Dutch-speaking majority people tried to impose their domination on the minority French-speaking community.
  - B. In Sri Lanka, the policies of the government sought to ensure the dominance of the Sinhala-speaking majority.
  - C. The Tamils in Sri Lanka demanded a federal arrangement of power sharing to protect their culture, language and equality of opportunity in education and jobs.
  - D. The transformation of Belgium from unitary government to a federal one prevented a possible division of the country on linguistic lines.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) A, B, C and D
- (b) A, B and D
- (c) C and D
- (d) B, C and D

**Answer**

- (d) B, C and D

8. Match list I (forms of power sharing) with List II (forms of government) and select the correct answer using the codes given below in the lists:

List I	List II
1. Power shared among different organs of government	A. Community government
2. Power shared among governments at different levels	B. Separation of powers
3. Power shared by different social groups	C. Coalition government

4. Power shared by two or more political parties

D. Federal government

	1	2	3	4
(a)	D	A	B	C
(b)	B	C	D	A
(c)	B	D	A	C
(d)	C	D	A	B

Answer

	1	2	3	4
(c)	B	D	A	C

9. Consider the following two statements on power sharing and select the answer using the codes given below:

A. Power sharing is good for democracy.

B. It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups.

Which of these statements are true and false?

(a) A is true but B is false

(b) Both A and B are true

(c) Both A and B are false

(d) A is false but B is true

Answer

(b) Both A and B are true



## CLASS –X

### SUBJECT: POLITICAL SCIENCE

#### CHAPTER -2 FEDERALISM

The form of power sharing is most commonly referred to as federalism.

#### WHAT IS FEDERALISM?

1. Federalism is a system of government in which the power is divided between a central authority and various constituent units of the country.
2. Federalism has two levels of government:
  - a. One is the government for the entire country that is usually responsible for a new subject of common national interest.
  - b. The others are governments at the level of provinces or states that look after much of the day- to-day administering of their state.
3. Federations are contrasted with unitary governments.
4. Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or the sub-units are subordinate to the central.
5. In a federal system, the central government cannot order the state government to do something.

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

- (i) There are two or more levels (or tiers) of government.
- (ii) Different tiers of government govern the same citizens, but each tier has its own JURISDICTION in a specific matter of legislation, taxation and administration.
- (iii) The jurisdictions of the respective levels or tiers of government are specified in the Constitution.
- (iv) The fundamental provisions of the Constitution cannot be unilaterally changed by one level of government.
- (v) Courts have the power to interpret the Constitution and the powers of different levels of government.
- (vi) Sources of revenue for each level of government are clearly specified to ensure its financial autonomy.
- (vii) The federal system thus has dual objectives: to safeguard and promote the unity of the country, while at the same time accommodate regional diversities.
- (viii) There are two kinds of routes through which federations have been formed.
  - a) 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 is 'coming together' federations.
  - b) The second route is where a large country decides to divide its power between the constituent States and the national government. This is 'holding together' federations.

#### WHAT MAKES INDIA A FEDERAL COUNTRY?

1. The constitution declared India as the Union of States.
2. The Constitution originally provided for a two-tier system of government, the Union Government or what we call the Central Government, representing the Union of India and the State government.
3. Later the third tier of federalism was added in the form of Panchayats and municipalities.
4. The Constitution contains three lists:  
Union Lists includes subjects of national importance such as defence of the country, foreign affairs, banking, communications and currency.

- I) State Lists contains subjects of States and local importance such as police, trade, commerce, agriculture and irrigation.
- II) Concurrent List includes subjects of common interest to both the Union Governments, such as education, forest, trade unions, marriage, adoption and succession.

### **HOW IS FEDERALISM PRACTICED?**

1. Constitutional provisions are necessary for the success of federalism but these are not sufficient.
2. The real success of federalism in India can be attributed to the nature of democracy politics in our country.

### **LINGUISTIC STATES:**

1. The creation of linguistic states was the first and a major test for democratic politics in our country.
2. Many old States have vanished and many new States been created.
3. In 1947, the boundaries of several old states of India were changed in order to create new States.
4. This was done to ensure that people who spoke the same language lived in the same States.
5. When the demand for the formation of States on the basis of language was raised, some national leaders feared that it would lead to the disintegration of the country.

### **LANGUAGE POLICY:**

1. The second test for Indian Federation is the language policy.
2. Our Constitution did not give the status of national language to any one language.
3. Hindi was identified as the official language.
4. According to the Constitution, the use of English for official purposes was to stop in 1965.
5. The central government responded by agreeing to continue the use of English along with Hindi for official purposes.
6. Promotion does not mean that the Central Government can impose Hindi on states where people speak a different language.

### **CENTRE-STATE RELATION:**

1. Restructuring the centre-state relations is one more way in which federalism has been strengthened in practice.
2. In 1990 there was the rise of regional political parties in many States of the country.
3. This was also the beginning of the era of COALITION GOVERNMENT at the Centre.
4. Since no single party got a clear majority in the Lok Sabha, the major national parties had led to enter into an alliance with many parties.
5. This led to a new culture of power sharing and respect for the autonomy of State Government. Thus, federal power sharing is more effective today than it was in the early years after the Constitution came into force.

### **DECENTRALIZATION IN INDIA:**

1. We noted above that federal government has two or more tiers of government.
2. But a vast country like India cannot be run only through these two-tiers.
3. Federal power sharing in India needs another tier of government
4. This resulted in a third-tier if the government called local government.
5. When power is taken away from Central and State government, it is called decentralisation.
6. As the local level, it is possible for the people to directly participate in decision making.
7. A major step towards decentralisation was taken in 1992.
8. The rural local government is popularly known by the name panchayati raj. This is a council consisting of several ward members, often called panch, and a president or sarpanch.



9. They are directly elected by all the adult population living in that ward or village.
10. It is the decision-making body for the entire village.
11. All the panchayat Samiti or mandals in a district together constitute the Zilla Parishad.
12. Local government bodies exist for urban areas as well.
13. Big cities are constituted into municipal corporations.
14. This new system of local government is the largest experiment in democracy conducted anywhere in the world.





# पुर्णिमा International School

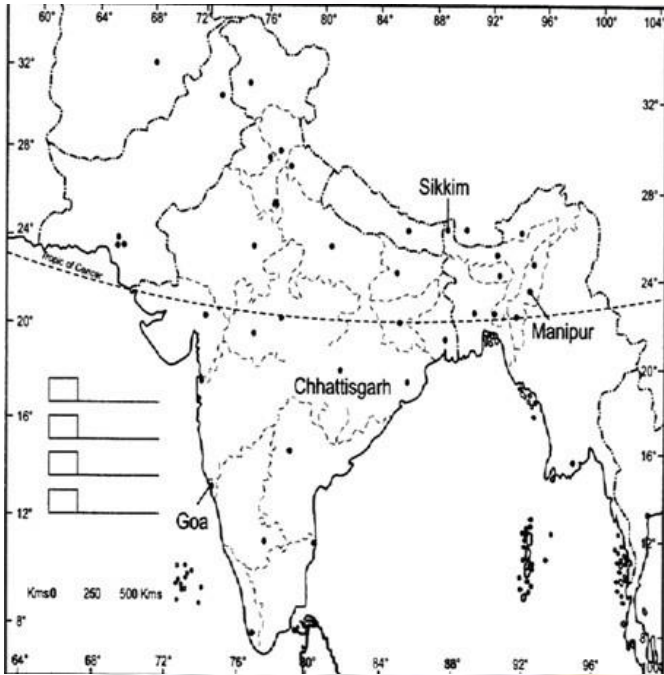
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CLASS -X

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SCIENCE

CHAPTER -2 FEDERALISM

**Question 1. Locate the following States on a blank outline political map of India: Manipur, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh and Goa.**



**Answer:**

**Question 2. Identify and shade three federal countries (other than India) on a blank outline political map of the world.**



**Answer:**

Explanation: 25 countries of the 192 countries in the world have federal political systems.

**Question 3. Point out one feature in the practice of federalism in India that is similar to and one feature that is different from that of Belgium.**

**Answer:** In India, just like in Belgium, the central government has to share its powers with the State governments. However, unlike Belgium, India does not have a communist government in addition to the central and the state government. India has rural local government popularly known as Panchayati Raj.

**Question 4. What is the main difference between a federal form of government and a unitary one? Explain with an example.**

**Answer:** In a federal form of government, the central government shares its powers with the various constituent units of the country. Both types of governments are separately answerable to the people. For example, in India, power is divided between the Central Government and the various State governments. In a unitary form of government, all the power is exercised by only one government. In this, the Central government can pass orders to the provincial or the regional government. Under the unitary system, either there is only one level of government or sub-units are subordinate to the central government. For example, in Sri Lanka, the national government has all the powers.

**Question 5. State any two differences between the local government before and after the Constitutional amendment in 1992.**

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

Local governments Before 1992	Local governments After 1992
Elections were controlled by the state and not held regularly. Seats were not reserved in the elected bodies for women.	An independent State Election Commission is responsible to conduct panchayat and municipal elections. At least one-third of all the positions are reserved for women.
Local governments did not have any powers or resources of their own. These were directly under the control of state governments.	The State governments are required to share some powers and revenue with local government bodies. The nature of sharing varies from state to state.

**Question 6. Fill in the blanks:**

Since the United States is a \_\_\_\_\_ type of federation, all the constituent States have equal powers and States are \_\_\_\_\_ vis-à-vis the federal government. But India is a \_\_\_\_\_ type of federation and some States have more power than others. In India, the \_\_\_\_\_ government has more powers.

**Answer:** The United States is a **coming together** type of federation, all the constituent States have equal powers and States are **strong** vis-à-vis the federal government. India, on the other hand, is a **holding together** type of federation and some of the states have more power than others. The Central government in India has more powers.

**Question 7. Here are three reactions to the language policy followed in India.**

Give an argument and an example to support any of these positions.

*Sangeeta:* The policy of accommodation has strengthened national unity.

*Arman:* Language-based States have divided us by making everyone conscious of their language.

*Harish:* This policy has only helped to consolidate the dominance of English over all other languages.

**Answer:** I fully agree with Sangeeta's reaction to this. If the policy of accommodation was not followed and states were not created on linguistic basis, then there would have been a further partition of India. The formation of linguistic states has actually made the country more united and has also made the administration much easier for example imposition of Hindi as the national language would have led the South to break away from North and south in Tamil Nadu would have become an independent nation. So parliament enacted the Official Language Act of 1963 which provided for the continued use of English for official purposes along with Hindi, even after 1965.

**Question 8. The distinguishing feature of a federal government is:**

- (a) National government gives some powers to the provincial governments.
- (b) Power is distributed among the legislature, executive and judiciary.
- (c) Elected officials exercise supreme power in the government.
- (d) Governmental power is divided between different levels of government.

**Answer: (d)** Governmental power is divided between the different levels of government. **Explanation:** The levels are the Central Government, the State Government and the Panchayati Raj.

**Question 9: A few subjects in various Lists of the Indian Constitution are given here. Group them under the Union, State and Concurrent Lists as provided in the table below.**

**A.** Defence; **B.** Police; **C.** Agriculture; **D.** Education; **E.** Banking; **F.** Forests; **G.** Communications;

**H. Trade; I. Marriages**

<b>Union List</b>	
<b>State List</b>	
<b>Concurrent List</b>	

Answer :

<b>Union List</b>	Defence, Banking, Communications
<b>State List</b>	Police, Agriculture, Trade
<b>Concurrent List</b>	Education, Forests, Marriages

**Explanation:** Union list includes the subjects of national importance. State list contains the subjects of state and local importance.

Concurrent list includes the subjects of common interests to both the Union Government as well as the State Governments.

**Question 10.** Examine the following pairs that give the level of government in India and the powers of the government at that level to make laws on the subjects mentioned against each. Which of the following pairs is not correctly matched?

<b>(a)</b>	State government	State List
<b>(b)</b>	Central government	Union List
<b>(c)</b>	Central and State government	Concurrent List
<b>(d)</b>	Local Governments	Residuary powers

Answer :

<b>(d)</b>	Local Governments	Residuary powers
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**Explanation:** Matters which are not included in any of the three lists are known as residuary subjects and the right to make laws on these subjects is called residuary power. The central government (the Parliament) has been given rights to legislate on these subjects.

Question 11. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:

List I		List II		
1. Union of India		A. Prime Minister		
2. State		B. Sarpanch		
3. Municipal		C. Governor		
4. Gram Panchayat		D. Mayor		
	1	2	3	4
(a)	D	A	B	C
(b)	B	C	D	A
(c)	A	C	D	B
(d)	C	D	A	B

Answer :

	1	2	3	4
(c)	A	C	D	B

Question 12. Consider the following two statements.

- In a federation, the powers of the federal and provincial governments are clearly demarcated.
- India is a federation because the powers of the Union and State Governments are specified in the Constitution and they have exclusive jurisdiction on their respective subjects.
- Sri Lanka is a federation because the country is divided into provinces.
- India is no longer a federation because some powers of the States have been devolved to the local government bodies.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A, B and C
- A, C and D
- A and B only
- B and C only

Ans : (c) A and B only

**Explanation:** All levels of governance will govern the same citizens, but their jurisdiction will be different. This means that each level of government will have a specific power to form laws, legislate and execute these laws. Both of the governments will have clearly marked jurisdiction.

