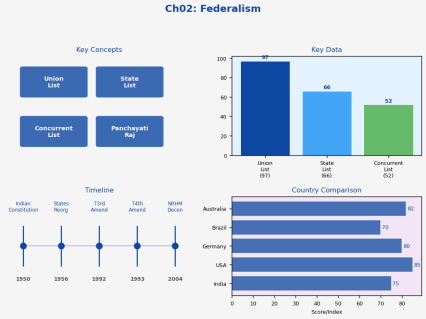
BrainyWorkbook Smart Practice, Sharper Minds

Class 10 | Subject Democratic Politics | Chapter 2 Federalism | Level MEDIUM

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____/_____



MEDIUM -- Apply your knowledge!

Chapter 2: Federalism

Brainy Bonus! India's GST (Goods and Services Tax), implemented in 2017, was the most significant fiscal federalism reform in India's history. Previously, states collected their own sales taxes (VAT). GST replaced both state VAT and central excise with a unified tax. The GST Council (Finance Minister + all state Finance Ministers) is a unique federal institution where centre and states literally sit together and vote on tax policy -- centre has 1/3 of votes, states together have 2/3. States cannot be outvoted by the centre alone on GST rates. This is a form of COOPERATIVE federalism -- centre and states jointly manage a major tax. However, states lost the right to independently set their own sales tax rates, which some see as a loss of fiscal federalism.

1. Compare 'coming together' federations with 'holding together' federations. What is the key difference? Give two examples of each type and explain which type India is and why.

2. Explain the three lists (Union, State, Concurrent) in India's Constitution. Why was a Concurrent List created? What problems does having a Concurrent List create? Give examples.

3. How did the linguistic reorganisation of Indian states (1956) represent a form of power sharing? Did it succeed in accommodating India's linguistic diversity? What problems remain today?

4. What is 'decentralisation'? How did the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (1992-93) transform local governance in India? What were the key provisions of these amendments?

5. Explain the significance of the S.R. Bommai vs. Union of India (1994) Supreme Court judgment for Indian federalism. How did it change the use of President's Rule (Article 356)?

6. How does India's Constitution try to balance the power of the Union (central) government with the rights of states? Give THREE specific constitutional provisions that protect states' powers from central encroachment.

7. What are the main ways in which India's federalism is described as 'centrist' or different from the USA's federalism? Compare India and USA on at least FOUR dimensions of federal structure.

8. How does the Finance Commission work in India? Why is it important for centre-state fiscal relations? What are the two things it decides, and how does it determine them?

9. What has been the impact of coalition politics (1989-2014) on Indian federalism? How did regional parties gain power at the national level? Give TWO specific examples of how regional parties shaped national policy during this period.

10. Belgium's federal system is territorial AND non-territorial (community governments). India's is purely territorial. Critically compare the two approaches. Under what circumstances is a non-territorial (community-based) federal system necessary?

11. What is 'cooperative federalism'? How does the GST Council represent an attempt at cooperative federalism? What are the limitations of this model?

12. Explain the role of the Governor in Indian federalism. Is the Governor's role a strength or a weakness of the federal system? Give specific examples of controversies involving Governors in recent years.

13. What is the difference between 'decentralisation' and 'federalism'? Can decentralisation exist without federalism? Give examples. Is India more federal or more decentralised -- what is the difference?

14. How are India's Scheduled Tribes (tribal communities) accommodated within India's federal structure? Explain the 5th Schedule, 6th Schedule, and the PESA Act. Are these adequate protections?

15. The chapter discusses federalism as a feature of India's democracy. However, many scholars argue that India is not truly federal because the centre has too many overriding powers. Critically evaluate: Is India a federation or a 'quasi-federal unitary state'? Support your answer with specific constitutional provisions and examples.

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