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Q100

Which one of the following is not a feature of Indian federalism?

(a) There is an independent judiciary in India. (b) Powers have been clearly divided between the Centre and the States. (c) The federating units have been given unequal representation in the Rajya Sabha. (d) It is the result of an agreement among the federating units. Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2017 · General Studies · 2 marks · Polity and Governance

Indian Constitution, polity, rights, governance - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

An independent judiciary with the Supreme Court as the apex constitutional court is a recognised feature of Indian federalism (dispute settlement between Centre and States). The question asks what is not a feature, so (a) is a true feature and not the key.

(b)

The **Seventh Schedule** divides Union, State and Concurrent powers. Clear (if Union-tilted) division of powers is a federal feature. This option is therefore not the 'not a feature' key.

(c)

Rajya Sabha representation is unequal (population-based allotment), unlike the US Senate's equal states. Unequal Upper House representation is still a feature of the Indian federation as designed. This option is not the key.

(d) Official key

The Union of India is not the product of a compact among sovereign federating units. States were not independent parties to a founding treaty; India is often called '**holding together**' rather than 'coming together'. That absence of an agreement among units is not a feature of US-style federalism and is the official key as the statement that is not a feature.

Summary

Official key is (d) It is the result of an agreement among the federating units. India was not formed by a contract of previously sovereign states. Independent judiciary, a written division of powers, and unequal Rajya Sabha seats are actual traits of the Indian federation. The 'agreement among units' describes the US (and similar coming-together) model. Only (d) is not a feature of Indian federalism.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Article 1

India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States

Holding together

K.C. Wheare / comparative label often applied to India

US Constitution

Compact among states; equal Senate representation

Seventh Schedule

Union, State, Concurrent Lists

Article 131

Original SC jurisdiction in Centre-State and inter-State disputes

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