1) Discuss the Constitutional dimensions of democratic decentralisation in India.

**Ans:** Regional planning is a branch of land use planning which deals with the efficient placement of land use activities, infrastructures and settlement growth across a significantly larger area of land than the individual city or town. Integrated regional development planning seeks to create a more diffuse and articulated system of settlements in order to diversify the services and facilities available to rural residents, increase their access to town-based markets, new source of agricultural inputs and nonagricultural employment opportunities and to provide guidelines for sectorial investments and location decisions (Rondinelli, 1983).

Coming to the issue of an integrated regional development planning between the main urban centre and fringe areas, it is one of the most important one but at the same time the most unnoticed issue in the case of the developing countries experience. Literatures even are absent or rare to find on this issue. Clark (2009) arguing the importance of an integrated regional development planning around cities, also mentions couple of reasons why urban planning in general and for the fringe areas specifically, urban ecosystem and climate change are often not fully integrated into more traditional urban planning. One among the reasons Clark mentions is the urbanization process itself. Rapid urban expansion places an enormous burden on the planning process i.e. planning for new developments while simultaneously planning for the improvements, upgrading of the existing urban environment. Such activities are rarely efficient due to lack of capacity and other shortfalls.

The other reason is related to urban governance and planning. Fringe areas generally fall outside the jurisdictional boundary of the government bodies of urban areas. Therefore, the local governments of fringe areas and threat of the urban centre are often acting separately in terms of overall planning. This lack of an integrated urban planning for fringe areas is the key problem for having commonly understood planning rules, policies and regulations. One of the primary drivers of urban expansion to the fringe areas is related to land speculation and inappropriate land management. Lack of comprehensive and integrated regional development planning between the main city and the fringe areas exposed land resource in the fringe areas to land speculation. Speculation facilitates unsustainable occupation of land thereby increasing the amount of agricultural and common property resources to come under speculators who keep the land idle for some time and later fragment it to non-agricultural land use. Speculators take advantage of the poor planning regulations and weak administration in the fringe areas. Extensive fringe development has two very important implications. First, unplanned and unregulated fringe development is undertaken in anticipation of, but without, the necessary public facilities and infrastructure (particularly water and sanitation) required supporting the population. The result is a complex admixture of land uses and variable areas of development often accompanied by substantial environmental and ecological impact. The second and perhaps the most critical issue arising from fringe urbanization is the loss of agricultural land, which results in obvious ramifications in terms of food supply and usually push the rural people to migrate to the cities further driving the urbanization process.

2) Explain the administrative decentralisation in contemporary scenario by highlighting the significance of coordination at all levels.

**Ans:** The assignment of authorities and responsibilities by the top level management to the middle or lower level management is known as Decentralization. It is the perfect opposite of centralization, in which the decision-making powers are delegated to the departmental, divisional, unit or center level managers, organization-wide. Decentralization can also be said as an addition to Delegation of authority.

At present, due to the increase in competition, managers take the decision regarding for the delegation of authority to the subordinates. Due to which the functional level managers get a chance to perform better, as well as freedom of work, is also there. Moreover, they share the responsibility of the high level managers which results in quick decision making and saving of time. It is a very effective process for the expansion of the business organization, like for mergers and acquisitions.

Although, decentralization lacks leadership and coordination, which leads to indifferent control over the organization. For an effective decentralization process, open and free communication in the organization must be there.

The term democratic decentralization has been described in India by various names, as for example, functional democracy, grass—root democracy, building from below, Panchayati Raj, etc. However, these nomenclatures do not truly reflect the spirit behind democratic decentralization. For, in all of them, much more importance has been assigned to democratic element than to its development aspect.

To properly analyse the concept of democratic decentralization, the term democracy though literally meaning the rule or power of the people, is in fact a very comprehensive concept. Apart from being a way of life, it is essentially a form of government, based upon the fundamental assumption of equality of all individuals and their equality of all individuals and of their equal rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In its totality, democracy, therefore, implies that any democratic structure entrusted with the task of development and administration is expected to be not only democratically constituted according to the principle of election but should also reflect people's free will and function according to the wishes and needs of the locality. In other words, they reflect the element of democracy both in their constitution and in their day-to-day functioning.

The above study shows that the idea behind democracy is that it involves a large number of people in the decision making process. It bases political authority on the will of the individuals who by a process of co-operation make decisions that are binding on the whole community. At the lower levels where the size of the citizenry involved is not very large and unwieldy, all the adults are directly associated with decision-making. This type of democracy is described as participatory democracy. At the higher echelons, direct