



**P. KRISHNA PRADEEP**  
Chairman  
KPSIR UPSC Universe



**Dr. BHAVANI SHANKAR**  
Chief Mentor  
KPSIR UPSC Universe

# UPSC Mains 2023

## 4 am Batch Test

**(DAY-29)**

- 1) **Discuss the provisions of strong unitary features in the Indian Constitution and the reasons for their adoption.**

<b>UPSC Mains Syllabus topic</b>	<b>Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.</b>
<b>Why was this question asked?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Though the federal principle is dominant in our constitution and that principle is one of its basic features, but it is equally true that federalism under the Indian Constitution leans in favour of a strong centre, a feature that militates against the concept of strong federalism (2014)</li> </ul>
<b>Introduction</b>	The Indian Constitution, while primarily federal in nature, incorporates provisions that strengthen the central government's authority. These modifications of strict federal features were included to address the specific needs and circumstances of the country.
<b>Body</b>	<p><b>Features of strong unitary form of government.</b></p> <p>a) <b>Unilateral alteration of state boundaries:</b> Article 3 empowers Parliament to change state boundaries or modify state names, allowing for flexibility in administrative divisions.</p>

	<p><b>b) Distribution of power in favor of the union:</b> The union list contains the most significant number of items, giving more authority to the central government. The concurrent list also favors the centre's power over the states.</p> <p><b>c) Union legislature's intervention in state matters:</b> Article 249 enables Parliament to enact laws in the state list for one year, extendable for additional periods. A resolution supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting in the Rajya Sabha is required.</p> <p><b>d) Reservation and approval of state laws:</b> Certain laws passed by state legislatures require the President's consideration and approval, ensuring central oversight and control.</p> <p><b>e) Binding administrative directions:</b> The Union government can issue directions to states on matters related to compliance with central laws, ensuring uniformity and enforcement.</p> <p><b>f) Governors' appointment and accountability:</b> Governors are appointed by the President and hold office at their pleasure. They exercise discretionary powers and are answerable to the President.</p> <p><b>g) Financial dependence on the Union:</b> The distribution of financial resources favors the Union government, making states reliant on grants from the centre.</p> <p><b>h) Central control during emergencies:</b> Under Article 352, the Union Parliament can make laws on state list matters, issue directives to states, and suspend financial provisions during emergencies.</p> <p><b>i) Failure of constitutional machinery in a state:</b> Article 356 allows the President to assume the state government's functions, including those of the high court, and authorize Parliament to exercise the state legislature's powers.</p> <p><b>j) Financial emergency provisions:</b> Article 360 empowers the President to issue directives, including salary reductions, and exercise control over state money bills during financial emergencies.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<p>The Indian Constitution includes strong unitary features, which modify strict federal principles, to address the historical context and specific needs of the nation. These</p>

	provisions were adopted to ensure a united India, provide stability, prevent disintegration, and establish a strong central government capable of effectively governing the diverse states. While maintaining the federal structure, these modifications strike a balance between unity and diversity, enabling effective governance and national cohesion.
--	---

**2) Discuss the concepts of Cooperative Federalism and Competitive Federalism in the context of India. Examine their significance for the economic development of the country. What steps can be taken to strengthen these concepts in India?**

<b>UPSC Mains Syllabus topic</b>	<b>Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.</b>
<b>Why was this question asked?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The concept of Cooperative federalism has been increasingly emphasising in recent years. Highlight the drawbacks in the existing structure and extent to which cooperative federalism would answer the shortcomings. (2015)</li> </ul>
<b>Introduction</b>	Cooperative federalism and competitive federalism are two important concepts in India's governance system that promote cooperation and healthy competition between the Centre and the states. While cooperative federalism focuses on collaboration for national development, competitive federalism encourages states to compete for economic benefits.
<b>Body</b>	<p><b>I. Cooperative Federalism:</b></p> <p><b>a) Inter-State Council and Zonal Council:</b> The Constitution of India provides for cooperative federalism through institutions like the Inter-State Council and Zonal Council, which facilitate cooperation and coordination between the Center and states.</p> <p><b>b) Cooperative mechanisms:</b> Schedule VII of the Constitution emphasizes the need for cooperation between states and the Centre, promoting joint decision-making and implementation of national policies.</p> <p><b>c) Goods and Services Tax (GST):</b> The launch of GST in 2017 exemplifies cooperative federalism, where the Center and</p>

states collaborated to create a unified tax system for the country.

## II. Competitive Federalism:

- a) **Economic competition:** Post-1990s economic reforms and globalization have led to increased competition between states for limited resources, attracting investments and economic growth.
- b) **Inclusive development:** Competitive federalism has become an effective tool for enhancing the economic development of each state by fostering a spirit of innovation, efficiency, and good governance.
- c) **NITI Aayog:** The establishment of NITI Aayog with a focus on cooperative federalism has encouraged states to participate in economic policy-making and bottom-up planning.

## III. Significance for Economic Development:

- a) **Enhanced investment:** Competitive federalism promotes states to create a favourable investment environment, leading to increased capital inflow and economic growth.
- b) **Decentralized development:** By allowing states to strategize their expenditure based on their individual interests, competitive federalism encourages decentralized economic development and empowers states to address their specific needs.
- c) **Innovation and efficiency:** Healthy competition among states drives innovation, efficiency, and better governance, ultimately contributing to overall economic development.

## IV. Steps to Strengthen Concepts:

- a) **Transparent ranking system:** Improving the transparency and inclusiveness of ranking systems such as the Ease of Doing Business index can strengthen competitive federalism by ensuring fairness and accurate representation.
- b) **Resolving taxation disputes:** Addressing taxation disputes and clarifying the roles and powers of the Finance Commission and the GST Council will foster cooperative federalism and strengthen intergovernmental relations.
- c) **Targeted assistance:** Economically weaker states should receive special attention from the Center to bridge

	<p>development gaps and ensure their participation in competitive federalism.</p> <p><b>d) Inter-state collaboration:</b> Encouraging discussions between states and the Center on issues related to international treaties, WTO obligations, and sharing of land and resources will foster cooperative federalism and inclusive economic growth.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<p>By embracing both cooperative and competitive federalism, India can achieve its goals of inclusive and sustainable economic growth.</p>

**3) Explain the functions of the Inter-State Council and Zonal Councils in promoting healthy inter-state relations in India. Discuss their significance in addressing inter-state disputes and fostering cooperative federalism.**

<b>UPSC Mains Syllabus topic</b>	<p><b>Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.</b></p>
<b>Why was this question asked?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How does the Inter-state council establish coordination between states? (2006)</li> </ul>
<b>Introduction</b>	<p>The Inter-State Council and Zonal Councils play crucial roles in promoting healthy inter-state relations and fostering cooperative federalism in India. These institutions facilitate discussions, coordination, and cooperation among states, addressing inter-state disputes and ensuring effective governance.</p>
<b>Body</b>	<p><b>I. Functions of the Inter-State Council:</b></p> <p><b>a) Investigating disputes:</b> The Inter-State Council examines and advises on potential disputes between states, providing a platform for dialogue and resolution.</p> <p><b>b) Discussing matters of common interest:</b> It deliberates on issues that are of common interest to one or more states, fostering coordination, policy formulation, and better governance.</p> <p><b>c) Making recommendations:</b> The Inter-State Council makes recommendations for the better coordination of policy and</p>

action on subjects of common interest, promoting cooperative approaches among states.

- d) Ensuring effective organization:** The Council has an appropriate secretariat that prepares documents, records discussions, and follows up on decisions, ensuring smooth functioning and implementation.

## **II. Significance of the Inter-State Council:**

- a) Addressing inter-state disputes:** The Council provides a forum for states to discuss and resolve disputes, preventing conflicts and promoting peaceful coexistence.
- b) Coordination and cooperation:** It fosters coordination among states on matters of common interest, leading to cooperative approaches in policy formulation and implementation.
- c) Strengthening federalism:** The Inter-State Council enhances cooperative federalism by facilitating collaboration and consensus-building among states, ensuring effective governance and balanced development.
- d) Policy guidance:** It provides a platform for sharing best practices, exchanging ideas, and seeking policy guidance, leading to informed decision-making and improved governance.

## **III. Functions of Zonal Councils:**

- a) Advisory role:** Zonal Councils are advisory bodies that discuss matters of common interest among the states within their respective zones.
- b) Economic and social planning:** They deliberate on issues related to economic and social planning, promoting coordination and collaboration for regional development.
- c) Border disputes and linguistic minorities:** Zonal Councils address matters pertaining to border disputes, linguistic minorities, interstate transport, and the reorganization of states.
- d) Sharing of resources:** They facilitate discussions and recommendations on the sharing of resources, including inter-state river waters, fostering equitable distribution and cooperation.

## **IV. Significance of Zonal Councils:**

	<p><b>a) Regional cooperation:</b> Zonal Councils promote regional cooperation and development by addressing specific issues and concerns within their zones.</p> <p><b>b) Conflict resolution:</b> They provide a platform for states to discuss and resolve regional disputes, ensuring peaceful coexistence and harmony.</p> <p><b>c) Inclusive decision-making:</b> Zonal Councils involve multiple states in decision-making processes, allowing for diverse perspectives and inclusive governance.</p> <p><b>d) Strengthening federal structure:</b> Zonal Councils contribute to the strengthening of the federal structure by fostering cooperative approaches, regional integration, and balanced development.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	By facilitating cooperation, consensus-building, and regional integration, these councils contribute to the overall progress and harmony of the nation.

#### 4) Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime- Aristotle

##### What does the above statement mean to you?

The statement "Corruption is paid by the poor" suggests that the burden of corruption falls disproportionately on the economically disadvantaged sections of society.

##### Case Study 1:

- In India, the bribery and extortion faced by marginalized communities while accessing basic public services, such as healthcare or education, exemplifies how corruption adversely affects the poor.

##### Case Study 2:

- Globally, the embezzlement of public funds intended for poverty alleviation programs or infrastructure development directly impacts the well-being of disadvantaged populations, further widening the gap between the rich and the poor.

##### Dimensions implied in the case studies:

- Social Justice:** Corruption perpetuates social injustice by diverting resources meant for the poor to the benefit of the corrupt, exacerbating inequalities.
- Poverty Trap:** Corruption hinders economic development and traps the poor in a cycle of poverty, depriving them of essential services and opportunities.

3. **Ethical Responsibility:** Combating corruption is an ethical imperative to protect the rights and dignity of the poor and vulnerable.
4. **Transparency and Accountability:** Establishing transparent systems and mechanisms to hold individuals and institutions accountable can help mitigate corruption and its impact on the poor.
5. **Good Governance:** Promoting ethical practices and principles of good governance, including transparency, integrity, and citizen participation, can address corruption and uplift the poor.

**By integrating moral actions and fighting against corruption, we can alleviate the burden placed on the poor and create a more equitable and just society.**

**5) Optional Self-Practice Questions:**

**HISTORY:**

- **Map Pointing**

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION:**

- **“Prevention of misconduct requires institutionalization of ethical values at the political and administrative levels.” Justify. (2020)**

**ANTHROPOLOGY:**

- **Describe the various methods of studying growth highlighting their merits and demerits.**

**SOCIOLOGY:**

- **Illustrate the conflicts and tensions experienced by societies undergoing social change.**

**GEOGRAPHY:**

- **Complexity of geomorphic evolution is more common than simplicity.**