

# Term-End Examination December, 2024

## BPSE-143: state politics in India

### MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS (ENGLISH)

### MUST WATCH TO SCORE GOOD MARKS

#### PART-2

**Explain the various approaches to the study of state politics in India.**

1. **Constitutional Approach:** In this approach, the study of state politics is based on the Indian Constitution. It focuses on understanding how the Constitution controls the powers and functions of the state, such as the roles of the President, Prime Minister, and Parliament. *Example:* According to the Indian Constitution, the election of the President, formation of Parliament, and determination of the powers of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha are defined by the Constitution. Under Article 356, the President's rule can be imposed by the central government if a state government is unable to function.
2. **Institutional Approach:** This approach studies state politics through its major institutions like Parliament, Judiciary, and Government. It aims to understand how these institutions function and how power is distributed among them. *Example:* The role of the Indian Parliament, such as the decision on demonetization in 2016, which was debated and voted on in Parliament. This decision had a significant impact on the economy and politics, showing how the institutional decision-making process works in Parliament.
3. **Democratic Approach:** This approach is based on the principles of democracy. It focuses on elections, political parties, and public participation. *Example:* The 2019 Lok Sabha elections are an example, where the people of India voted for different political parties and chose their government. Through elections, the public selects their preferred party and leader, which is an essential part of the democratic process.
4. **Social Approach:** This approach examines state politics in the context of various social groups, castes, and religions. It looks at how inequalities and social struggles impact state politics. *Example:* The recommendations of the Mandal Commission (1990) led to reservations for OBCs (Other Backward Classes). This highlights how caste-based discrimination and social inequality are major issues in Indian politics.
5. **Class Struggle Approach:** This approach studies state politics as a struggle between different social classes, such as workers and capitalists. It suggests that the state's purpose is to protect the interests of the ruling class. *Example:* The farmer's protest (2020-2021) can be seen as a class struggle, where farmers opposed the agricultural laws passed by the central government. This protest showed the clear class conflict between farmers and the government.

6. **Political Economy Approach:** This approach tries to understand the relationship between politics and the economic structure of society. It looks at how state policies and decisions affect the economic situation of society. *Example:* The MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) scheme, which provides employment in rural areas, aims to assist the poor. This scheme is an example of the state's economic policies helping the weaker sections of society.
7. **Cultural Approach:** This approach studies state politics based on the cultural beliefs, traditions, and religions of society. It looks at how religion, caste, and regional identity influence politics. *Example:* The Ram Mandir dispute and issues related to religious identity have had a significant impact on Indian politics. These issues show how cultural and religious factors influence political decisions.
8. **Normative Approach:** In this approach, politics is viewed from an idealistic and ethical perspective. It looks at how ideals such as justice, equality, and freedom can be applied in state politics. *Example:* The Right to Information (RTI) Act is an example, which gives citizens the power to ensure transparency and accountability in government actions. This law ensures that the state acts in a morally just and transparent manner.

### **Examine the system of power division between the Centre and the States mentioned in the Constitution.**

The Constitution of India establishes a federal structure, which divides powers between the Centre (central government) and the States. This division controls the functioning of state politics and administration. The Constitution clearly defines the rights and duties of both the Centre and the States. To understand this, we can look at it from different perspectives and clarify it with some examples.

#### **1. Federal Structure and Division of Powers:**

The Indian Constitution establishes a federal structure, which divides powers between the Centre and the States. The 7th Schedule of the Constitution clearly details the powers and duties of the Centre and the States. It includes three main lists:

- **Union List**
- **State List**
- **Concurrent List**

*Example:*

- **Union List** contains topics on which only the central government can make laws, such as defense, foreign affairs, and monetary policy.
- **State List** contains topics on which state governments can make laws, such as police, health, and agriculture.
- **Concurrent List** includes topics on which both the Centre and the States can make laws, such as education, criminal law, and criminal procedure.

#### **2. Role of the Centre:**

The Constitution gives more powers to the central government to maintain unity and integrity across the country. If there is a situation where a state's government is unable to function properly, the Centre has the authority to impose President's Rule.

*Example:*

Under **Article 356**, the President can impose President's Rule, giving the Centre control over the state's government. For example, in 2018, President's Rule was imposed in Jammu and Kashmir.

### **3. Autonomy of States:**

State governments have the right to establish their own legislature, executive, and judiciary. States are free to make decisions on regional issues as long as they follow the Constitution.

*Example:*

State governments have the freedom to make decisions regarding their education policies, health policies, and local governance. For instance, Kerala focused on improving its healthcare system and prioritized healthcare services in the state.

### **4. Balance between Federalism and Centralization:**

Sometimes, the central government is given more powers, especially when it concerns national security or national interests. This is called **centralization**. However, the Constitution also includes provisions that allow states to have autonomy in their own affairs.

The central government has special powers in certain areas, such as in changing the Constitution (Article 368), but the consent of the states is required for these changes.

*Example:*

The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016** was introduced by the central government, which impacts trade and industry in the states, and it overrides state policies.

### **5. Federalism and Amendment of the Constitution:**

The Constitution allows for the division of powers between the Centre and the States to be changed through amendments. However, any amendment must be approved by the **Rajya Sabha** (the house of state representatives). This ensures that states have a say in the process of constitutional changes.

*Example:*

The **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (1992)** empowered states by giving them control over local self-governance (Panchayati Raj) and urban municipalities, showing the expansion of states' rights.

### **6. Crisis of Federalism and Special Provisions:**

The Indian federal structure also includes special provisions that give certain states unique powers. For example, **Article 370** provided special rights to Jammu and Kashmir, which made it different from other states (although this provision was removed in 2019).

*Example:*

**Article 370** gave Jammu and Kashmir special status, allowing it to make its own laws and have independence in certain matters like citizenship rights.

## **Conclusion:**

The Indian Constitution has created a clear system to maintain a balance of power between the Centre and the States. In the federal structure, the Centre has more power in some areas, while states have autonomy in their own regional matters. This system affects the cooperation and sometimes conflict between the Centre and the States, but the Constitution includes enough safeguards to maintain this balance.

### **(A) Marxism**

Marxism is a social, economic, and political theory developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. It focuses on class struggle, opposing capitalism, and advocating for a shift toward a socialist or communist society. The main goal of Marxism is to eliminate economic inequalities and establish equality in society.

According to Marx, society is divided into two main classes: the bourgeoisie (capitalists, or owners of big industries) and the proletariat (workers who sell their labor for a living). The bourgeoisie exploits the proletariat. Marx believed this class struggle would eventually lead to a socialist revolution, where the dominance of the bourgeoisie would end, and the means of production would be controlled by the workers.

Marxism criticized the existing economic and social systems and predicted that society would eventually move toward communism, where everyone would have equal rights and share resources equally. In India, Marxism had an impact, especially through the influence of communist and Marxist-socialist political parties.

### **(B) Ashok Mehta Committee**

The Ashok Mehta Committee was formed in 1977 by the Government of India to recommend reforms to the Panchayati Raj system. It was led by Ashok Mehta and aimed to strengthen and make the Panchayati Raj institutions more effective.

The committee made several important recommendations for reforming Panchayati Raj. It suggested giving constitutional status to Panchayati Raj institutions, creating two levels of Panchayats (Gram Panchayat and Zila Panchayat), and establishing a State Election Commission. It also recommended giving Panchayats more financial powers so they could make independent decisions.

The committee proposed increasing the power of Panchayats by giving them more autonomy and authority over their affairs, reducing the central and state governments' control. As a result of this, the **73rd Constitutional Amendment** was passed, which gave Panchayats a constitutional status and improved their autonomy. This committee played a significant role in strengthening local governance in India's democracy.

## **Recent Trends in Financial Relations Between the Centre and States**

Financial relations between the Centre and States have been an important part of India's federal structure. These relations are defined by the Constitution, particularly the 7th Schedule, and the Finance Commission. Over time, these relations have evolved according to the changing economic policies and needs. Some recent trends in financial relations are as follows:

1. **Implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST):** The biggest change in recent financial relations was the introduction of GST on July 1, 2017. Before GST, states had different taxes like VAT and central excise, which created trade barriers. GST simplified the tax system, allowing both the Centre and States to share the revenue. However, some states faced a decline in revenue, which was addressed through a compensation mechanism provided by the Centre.
2. **Finance Commission's Recommendations and Distribution of Funds:** Every five years, the Finance Commission recommends policies for the distribution of funds between the Centre and the States. The recommendations of the **15th Finance Commission** for 2020-2025 have led to changes in financial assistance to states, focusing more on redevelopment and infrastructure. It also suggested increasing state participation in market-based borrowing.
3. **Increased Autonomy for States and Resource Distribution:** States have gained more autonomy in financial decisions in recent years. For example, states can now use their resources for development work. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre provided special financial packages to states to help with economic recovery.
4. **Increased Central Control over States:** While states have gained more autonomy, the Centre has also increased control in some areas. For example, the Centre has implemented stricter guidelines for financial assistance under schemes like **MGNREGA** (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) to ensure transparency and proper use of funds.
5. **Assistance for Crisis-Affected States:** In recent years, especially after natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre has announced special financial packages for states affected by crises. States like Bihar, Kerala, and Uttar Pradesh received additional financial support to handle natural disasters. During the COVID-19 crisis, extra funds were allocated to states for health and relief work.

### **Conclusion:**

Recent trends in financial relations between the Centre and States show significant changes, including the introduction of GST, Finance Commission recommendations, and increased autonomy for states. However, there is still some level of central control to maintain balance. These trends aim to streamline financial management in India's federal structure, but the financial condition of states and the support they receive remain crucial for balanced development and fiscal stability.