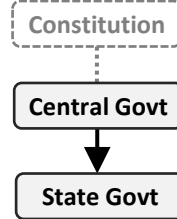
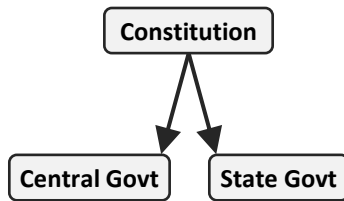


# Cooperative Federalism

## Cooperative Federalism

## Concept

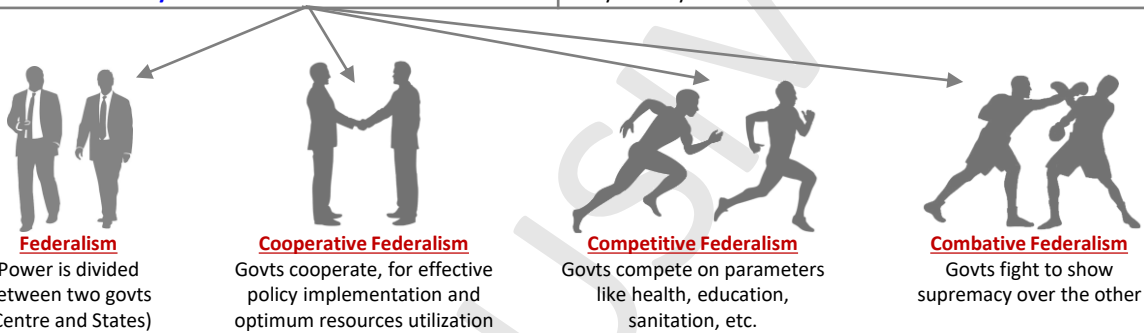
Constitution



**Federal govt.**

**Unitary govt.**

There is a <b>written Constitution</b>	Constitution maybe written (France) or unwritten (Britain)
Constitution creates <b>two govts</b> (Centre and State)	Constitution (if any) creates one govt (Centre) Centre may create State govts
Constitution <b>divides power</b> between two govts	Constitution (if any) gives all power to Central govt
Both govts <b>operate independently</b>	State govt (if any) operates under Central govt
Independent <b>Judiciary</b>	May or may not be



In Mains 2020, UPSC asked candidates to give recent examples on cooperative, competitive, combative federalism. In such questions, think chronologically how Centre and states confront each other at every step.



Election campaign	Govt is formed	Govt needs funds	Govt calls assembly	Assembly passes Bill
Bringing another party in state will make you lose Centre's cooperation. <a href="#">Link</a>	Govt is dismissed without floor test. <a href="#">Link</a> <a href="#">Link</a> Ministers are dismissed without CM's advice. <a href="#">Link</a>	Centre delays GST compensation funds to some states. <a href="#">Link</a>	Governor refuses or delays Assembly session. <a href="#">Link</a>	Governor refuses or delays signing bills passed by Assembly. <a href="#">Link</a>

## Cooperative Federalism

## Facts for Prelims

**Prelims 1994** Which of the following determines that Indian Constitution is federal?

a) A written and rigid Constitution      b) An independent Judiciary  
c) Vesting of residuary powers with Centre      d) Distribution of powers between Centre & States

**Prelims 2021** Which of the following in Indian polity is an essential feature that indicates that it is federal in character?

a) Independence of judiciary is safeguarded  
b) Union Legislature has elected representatives from constituent units  
c) Union Cabinet can have elected representatives from regional parties  
d) Fundamental Rights are enforceable by Courts of Law

**I read I forget, I see I remember** See explanation video on app "All Inclusive IAS" or website [www.allinclusiveias.com](http://www.allinclusiveias.com)

**Q. What is the need for Cooperative federalism in India?****For effective policy implementation**

Centrally Sponsored Schemes receive 50% funds from Centre, but are implemented by States.

**For optimum resource utilization**

Schemes which target same beneficiaries can be merged (PM-Kisan and Odisha's Kalia / Telangana's Rythu bandhu)

**For smooth functioning of Parliament**

Parliament can pass bills only when Lok Sabha (which forms Centre) and Rajya Sabha (formed by States) are in agreement.

**For stronger national security**

Terrorism and organised crime are tackled best with collaboration of central and state security agencies.

**For the sake of democracy**

Non-cooperation with democratically elected state govt is an insult to people's mandate.

**Q. How does Indian Constitution promote Cooperative federalism?**

**7<sup>th</sup> Schedule** → **Three lists** minimize conflict by outlining jurisdiction of Centre and States

**Article 261** → **Full faith and credit** is given to acts of Union and all states throughout the territory of India

**Article 312** → **All India Services** are recruited and trained by Centre, but serve the States.

**Article 263** → **Inter-State Council** serves as a platform for dialogue between Centre and all States.

**Article 279-A** → **GST Council** decides uniform GST rates for economic activities throughout India

**Some other recent examples**

→ **NITI Aayog** through its various programs facilitates sharing of best practices among states

→ 14th Finance commission increased States share in divisible pool from **32% to 42%**

→ Centre launched **UDAY scheme** to help state Discoms in financial distress

**Q. Outline major challenges to Cooperative federalism. Cite some recent examples to validate your answer.****Political role of Governors**

→ [2020] Rajasthan and Kerala Governors refused to **call assembly session** [Link](#) [Link](#)

→ [2023] Tamil Nadu Governor **dismissed a minister** without Chief Minister's advice [Link](#) [Link](#) [Link](#)

→ [2016] SC ordered restoration of previous govt terming Arunachal Pradesh Governor's orders illegal. [Link](#)

**Trust deficit between Centre & States**

→ **Raids by central agencies** only on opposition ruled states, creates distrust between centre and states [Link](#) [Link](#) [Link](#)

→ **Credit for Centrally Sponsored schemes** is taken solely by Centre. However, it is the State govt which implements the schemes and provides funds on 50:50 formula. e.g. PM Fasal Bima Yojana [Link](#)

**Delay in releasing GST funds**

→ Several states have raised the issue of Centre delaying the release of GST funds. [Link](#) [Link](#)

**Excessive use of Concurrent list**

→ Centre enacted **Farm laws** using Concurrent list, despite Agriculture being a State list subject. [Link](#)

**Centre controlling bureaucrats in states**

→ Centre gave itself control over **bureaucrats in Delhi** through Delhi Services Ordinance 2023. [Link](#)

→ Proposed changes in **IAS cadre rules** disturbs federal balance, makes Centre more powerful [Link](#) [Link](#)

**Conclusion**

→ Centre-State cooperation is a **constitutional obligation**, not a matter of discretion.

→ Cooperation should not depend on **same party** capturing Centre and states.

→ All govts must work together in a non-partisan manner **without bias**.

Can Pilot refuse to cooperate if co-pilot is not of his choice?

**Cooperative Federalism****Read more**

- The era of combative federalism [Link](#)
- Cooperative Federalism by Niti Aayog [Link](#)
- How Centre-State Ties Have Fractured Over Time [Link](#)
- Is Indian Federalism Reeling Under Burden Of One-Party Dominance? [Link](#)
- Centre has changed cooperative federalism into combative federalism [Link](#)
- Federalism is about respecting the 'other' while 'double-engine' is about obliterating the 'other'. [Link](#)

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