

Q.3 The centre has much more powers than the states in India. In this context analyse the centre state relations in India? [250W]

Ans: The Constitution of India establishes a federal system of government as it contains all the usual features of federation, division of powers, dual administration, bicameralism.

However, the Indian constitution also contains a large number of unitary or non-federal features. Article 1 of the Indian constitution describes India as a "Union of States".

* FEATURES OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION THAT REFLECT AN CENTRALISING TENDENCY

1. Inequitable Division of Power

→ The division of powers is in favour of the Centre and highly inequitable from the federal angle. As the Union list contains more important subjects [like defence, currency] than the state list.

→ The centre has overriding authority over the concurrent list and residuary powers have also been left with the Centre.

2. No Territorial Integrity with States

→ The parliament can by unilateral action change the area, boundaries or name of any state.

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3. Emergency Provisions

- During an emergency, the Central government becomes all powerful and the states go into the total control of the Centre.
- It converts the federal structure into a unitary one without a formal amendment of the Constitution.

4. Appointment of Governor

- The Governor is the head of the state, but is appointed by the President. He holds office during the pleasure of the President.
- He also acts as an agent of the Centre.

5. Flexibility of the Constitution

- The power to initiate an amendment to the Constitution lies only with the Centre. Thus, the flexibility of the Constitution is in the hands of Centre.

6. Also, features like Single Citizenship, Integrated Judiciary and All India Services also signifies more power to the Centre.

7. Centre can terminate state government for non-complying the orders & direction as per art. 365.

In the Centre-State relations the Centre enjoys sufficient powers but certain power of Union which could be misused should be checked. Because a strong Centre is necessary to make nation alive.

On the other hand sufficient powers to States are required for better public welfare and regional development.

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