

Centre–State Relations



Constitutional Framework (1-10)

Trap 1

- India has a **quasi-federal structure** with a **strong Centre (K.C. Wheare)**.

Trap 2

- The word 'Federation' never appears; India is a **Union of States (Art. 1)**.

Trap 3

- Indian Union is **indestructible**; states have **no right to secede**.

Trap 4

- Both Union & States derive powers from the **Constitution** itself.

Trap 5

- Centre-State relations are covered in only one part.

Trap 6

- Only through **constitutional amendment** under **Art. 368**.

Trap 7

- Centre has **residuary powers (Art. 248, List I, Entry 97)**.

Trap 8

- Tilted in favour of the Centre.**

Trap 9

- State legislatures can legislate within their domain (**List II**).

Trap 10

- Operates only in **conflicts between Union & State laws (Art. 254)**.



Legislative Relations (11–20)

Trap 11

✗ Legislative powers are in Article 368.

✓ Found in Articles 245–255.

Trap 12

✗ Parliament's law can never apply to Jammu & Kashmir.

✓ Post-2019, applies fully like other states.

Trap 13

✗ There are four legislative lists.

✓ Three — Union, State, and Concurrent (Seventh Schedule).

Trap 14

✗ States can legislate on Union List with Governor's permission.

✓ Only if Parliament delegates power (Art. 249, 250, 252).

Trap 15

✗ Both Union and States are co-equal on Concurrent List.

✓ Union law prevails in conflict (Art. 254).

Trap 16

✗ States can legislate on Concurrent List freely even after Union law exists.

✓ Can, but Union law overrides on same subject.

Trap 17

✗ Residuary powers go to States like in the USA.

✓ In India, Centre gets residuary powers.

Trap 18

✗ Parliament cannot legislate on State subjects even with consent.

✓ Can, under Art. 252 (two or more states request).

Trap 19

✗ States can withdraw delegation once given under Art. 252.

✓ Only Parliament can repeal such law.

Trap 20

✗ President's Rule affects only Executive.

✓ Also gives Parliament power to legislate for State (Art. 356).

Legislative Relations Continued (21–35)



Trap 21

- ✗ Parliament cannot legislate during **National Emergency**.
- ✓ Can legislate on **State List** during **Emergency (Art. 250)**.



Trap 22

- ✗ Parliament's law made during **Emergency** ceases immediately when **Emergency** ends.
- ✓ Continues for 6 months after cessation.



Trap 23

- ✗ **Rajya Sabha** has no **legislative power** over **State List**.
- ✓ Can empower Parliament to legislate in **national interest (Art. 249)**.



Trap 24

- ✗ **Governor** can make laws during breakdown.
- ✓ **President** legislates for State during **President's Rule**.



Trap 25

- ✗ Parliament can't make **extra-territorial laws**.
- ✓ Can legislate for Indian citizens abroad (**Art. 245**).



Trap 26

- ✗ **State laws** prevail in case of **repugnancy**.
- ✓ **Union law** prevails (**Art. 254**).



Trap 27

- ✗ Only **Parliament** can make laws for **Union Territories**.
- ✓ **Legislatures of UTs** (like Delhi, Puducherry) can too, within limits.



Trap 28

- ✗ Parliament's law requires **Governor's assent** in State matters.
- ✓ **President's assent** only needed for reserved **State Bills**.



Trap 29

- ✗ Parliament can legislate for State with consent of Chief Minister.
- ✓ Only with resolution of **State Legislature (Art. 252)**.



Trap 30

- ✗ **State Legislature** can make law with **extra-territorial effect**.
- ✓ No — **State law** applies only within the State.



Legislative Relations Final (31–35)

Trap 31

✗ President cannot direct **Governor** on legislation.

✓ Can — under **Art. 200 Governor** may reserve Bills for **President**.

Trap 32

✗ Parliament cannot amend **State List** subjects.

✓ Can by **constitutional amendment**.

Trap 33

✗ Union Parliament has 97 subjects in **Union List** originally.

✓ Correct — now 100 subjects after amendments.

Trap 34

✗ State List originally had 70 subjects.

✓ 66 subjects after changes.

Trap 35

✗ Concurrent List was empty in **1950**.

✓ Had 47 subjects, now 52.

⚙️ Administrative Relations (36–45)

Trap 36

- ✗ Union and States work in complete isolation.
- ✓ **Cooperative federalism** is constitutional ideal ([Art. 256–263](#)).

Trap 37

- ✗ States are independent in all executive matters.
- ✓ Bound to follow **Union laws and directions** ([Art. 256](#)).

Trap 38

- ✗ **President** cannot issue directions to States.
- ✓ Can under [Arts. 256, 257](#), for **Union laws implementation**.

Trap 39

- ✗ States can ignore **Union's executive directions**.
- ✓ Binding — failure can lead to [Art. 356 action](#).

Trap 40

- ✗ Centre can direct States even on **State List subjects**.
- ✓ Only to ensure communication, construction, or protection of **national interest** ([Art. 257](#)).

Trap 41

- ✗ States can entrust **executive functions** to **Centre** without law.
- ✓ Yes, by [mutual consent](#) ([Art. 258](#)).

Trap 42

- ✗ **President** can transfer **Union functions** to **States** unilaterally.
- ✓ Only with **State's consent**.

Trap 43

- ✗ **Governor** acts as an independent **constitutional head**.
- ✓ **Governor** acts as **link between Union and State**.

Trap 44

- ✗ States have control over **All India Services**.
- ✓ **Joint control** — **Centre makes rules; States supervise**.

Trap 45

- ✗ States can create their own **All India Services**.
- ✓ Only **Parliament** can create **AIS** ([Art. 312](#)).

⚙️ Administrative Relations Continued (46–60)

Trap 46

✗ **Union directions** are advisory.

✓ Legally binding under **Constitution**.

Trap 47

✗ **President** cannot entrust **Union duties** to **States**.

✓ Can under **Art. 258(1)**.

Trap 48

✗ **Centre** cannot delegate powers to **States**.

✓ Can by agreement or law.

Trap 49

✗ **States** can issue **executive directions** to **Centre**.

✓ No provision for such power.

Trap 50

✗ **Centre** and **States** have separate **police jurisdictions** without overlap.

✓ Overlap in **All India Services**, **CBI**, and **central agencies**.

Trap 51

✗ **Governor** has no duty to send reports to **President**.

✓ Mandatory under **Art. 356** when **constitutional machinery** fails.

Trap 52

✗ **States** can refuse to implement **central schemes**.

✓ Only if not mandated by law; otherwise binding.

Trap 53

✗ **States** can refuse to share information with **Centre**.

✓ **Constitution** mandates **cooperation (Art. 256)**.

Trap 54

✗ **Central consent** needed for **State civil service creation**.

✓ **State Legislature** can create **services (Art. 309)**.

Trap 55

✗ **Inter-State Council** is optional political body.

✓ **Constitutional body (Art. 263)** established in 1990.

⚙️ Administrative Relations Final (56–60)



Trap 56

✗ **President** must establish **Inter-State Council**.

✓ May establish if necessary (**discretionary**).



Trap 57

✗ **Zonal Councils** are **constitutional**.

✓ **Statutory**, under **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**.



Trap 58

✗ **NITI Aayog** replaced **Inter-State Council**.

✓ No — both exist separately.



Trap 59

✗ **Centre** can take over **state administration** anytime.

✓ Only under **Art. 356 (President's Rule)**.



Trap 60

✗ **Governor** is the **representative** of the **State** in **Centre**.

✓ Represents the **Centre** in the **State**.

\$ Financial Relations (61–75)

1

Trap 61

✗ Financial relations are in **Part XI**.

✓ In **Part XII (Arts. 268–293)**.

2

Trap 62

✗ **States** have equal revenue sources as **Centre**.

✓ **Centre** dominates, collects most major taxes.

3

Trap 63

✗ Only **Parliament** levies taxes.

✓ **States** can levy taxes under **List II** (e.g., excise, land revenue).

4

Trap 64

✗ **States** collect all taxes in their territory.

✓ Some **Union taxes** assigned to **States (Art. 268–272)**.

5

Trap 65

✗ **GST** removed all **State taxation powers**.

✓ Retains certain taxes (e.g., alcohol, stamp duty, property tax).

6

Trap 66

✗ **GST** is purely central tax.

✓ **Dual structure — CGST + SGST**.

7

Trap 67

✗ **GST Council** is chaired by the **President**.

✓ **Union Finance Minister** chairs it.

8

Trap 68

✗ **Finance Commission** is statutory.

✓ **Constitutional body (Art. 280)**.

9

Trap 69

✗ **Finance Commission** is permanent.

✓ Constituted every 5 years.

10

Trap 70

✗ **President** must follow **Finance Commission** recommendations.

✓ **Advisory**, not binding.



Financial Relations Continued (71–85)

Trap 71

- ✗ States can borrow without limit.
 Limits under **Art. 293(3)** — with **Central consent**.

Trap 72

- ✗ States can borrow abroad directly.
 Only with **Centre's consent**.

Trap 73

- ✗ **Grants-in-aid** are recommended by **NITI Aayog**.
 Finance Commission recommends (**Art. 275**).

Trap 74

- ✗ **Art. 275** deals with loans.
 Deals with **grants-in-aid** to needy states.

Trap 75

- ✗ **Art. 280** deals with inter-state disputes.
 Finance Commission provisions.

Trap 76

- ✗ **Art. 282** prohibits **discretionary grants**.
 Allows **discretionary grants** by both Centre and States.

Trap 77

- ✗ **Art. 270** abolished after **GST**.
 Continues — shares **tax revenues** between Centre & States.

Trap 78

- ✗ **Finance Commission's recommendations** are implemented by Parliament.
 By **President** via **Union Finance Ministry**.

Trap 79

- ✗ **Cess** and **surcharges** are **shareable** with States.
 Not **shareable** unless Parliament provides.

Trap 80

- ✗ States can levy **income tax**.
 Only **Centre** can (except **agricultural income**).

Commissions, Councils & Final Traps (81–100)

Trap 81

✗ Centre can borrow from State funds.

✓ No; can lend or grant, not borrow.

Trap 82

✗ Consolidated Fund of India can be used by States.

✓ Separate Consolidated Funds exist for each.

Trap 83

✗ Public Accounts Committee works under Finance Commission.

✓ Parliamentary committee, not under FC.

Trap 84

✗ States decide devolution formula.

✓ Finance Commission recommends devolution.

Trap 85

✗ GST Council's decisions are binding automatically.

✓ Recommending, but usually followed.

Trap 86

✗ Sarkaria Commission was on financial devolution.

✓ On Centre-State relations (1983–1988).

Trap 87

✗ Punchhi Commission preceded Sarkaria.

✓ Came after (2007–2010).

Trap 88

✗ Inter-State Council created by 44th Amendment.

✓ Created by Presidential Order, 1990 (Art. 263).

Trap 89

✗ Rajamannar Committee was central.

✓ Tamil Nadu State Committee (1969) on state autonomy.

Trap 90

✗ Zonal Councils are chaired by President.

✓ Union Home Minister chairs them.



Trap 91

✗ Zonal Councils were formed by Finance Commission.

✓ By States Reorganisation Act, 1956.

Trap 96

✗ India follows competitive federalism only.

✓ Both cooperative & competitive federalism.



Trap 92

✗ North Eastern Council is constitutional.

✓ Statutory (1971 Act).

Trap 97

✗ GST and NITI Aayog reduced Centre-State cooperation.

✓ Both aim to enhance cooperative federalism.

Trap 93

✗ River disputes are settled by Inter-State Council.

✓ Settled by Tribunals under Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956.

Trap 98

✗ "One Nation, One Election" is constitutionally mandated.

✓ Not yet adopted — requires amendment.



Trap 94

✗ Interstate Council decisions are binding.

✓ Advisory only.

Trap 99

✗ Article 263 mandates creation of Zonal Councils.

✓ Refers to Inter-State Council, not Zonal Councils.

Trap 95

✗ National Integration Council is constitutional.

✓ Non-statutory, advisory forum.

Trap 100

✗ Centre-State disputes can be referred only to Parliament.

✓ Can be decided by Supreme Court under Art. 131.

