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Q5

Cooperative federalism: Myth or reality.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Stake:** cooperative federalism is a practice of two chairs - often a speech, sometimes a table
- **One stand:** it is a reality in patches (**GST Council** on a good day, a disaster force); a myth when money and a matching grant silence the poor state
- Move through money, Council, disaster/security, party. Keep one honest counter
- Close on a habit of consultation, not a slogan

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a launch without a file. Stand:** patches of reality; money often a myth.
- **Headings:** money, institutions, crisis, counter.

Peg **GST Council** / FC. Close on consultation as a habit.

Note

This is a map, not the full 1,000-1,200 word essay.

Anecdote

A Chief Minister flies to Delhi for a scheme launch that was designed without his file. The banner says cooperative federalism. The chair was a photo. The topic asks myth or reality - write both, then a stand.

One stand

- **Cooperative:** Sarkaria, a Punchhi, a GST vote. Myth: one-way money. Reality: a disaster that needed both. Do not pick a party.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Cooperative federalism:** shared rule, not a gift from the Centre.
- **Myth or reality:** a spectrum - name when it worked.

Money

- **Finance Commission** vs a CSS that eats the state's list.

Institutions

- **GST Council**, Inter-State Council, NITI as a talking shop or a table.

Crisis

- **A flood, a pandemic:** cooperation as a necessity.

The counter

Competitive federalism (a race of states) is a cousin, not an enemy. And a strong Centre was **Ambedkar**'s design against a crumbling. The myth is harmony as already achieved. The reality is a bargain that must be re-struck every Budget.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep two chairs in the room before the banner. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Ambedkar

A strong Centre - cooperation as a practice, not a dissolving.

Sarkaria / Punchhi

The official cousins of the phrase.

GST Council

A table that can still become a lecture.

Art. 280 / CSS

Share vs a scheme with a match.

NDMA / disaster

Cooperation when the river does not wait.

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