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Q7

Did the Government of India Act, 1935 lay down a federal constitution? Discuss.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · GS II · 12 marks · Federal Structure and Devolution

Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

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Government of India Act, 1935

British statute that provided provincial autonomy from 1937 and designed an All-India Federation that never commenced.

Federal Court of India

Court created under the 1935 Act to interpret the Act and hear federal disputes; predecessor of the Supreme Court of India.

Three lists in the 1935 Act

Federal, Provincial and Concurrent Lists that the Constitution of India adapted as the Union, State and Concurrent Lists in the **Seventh Schedule**.

Section 93, GoI Act, 1935

Allowed the Governor to take over provincial administration in specified failures, a colonial analogue later echoed in **Article 356**.

Instrument of Accession

Legal device by which a princely State would have joined the 1935 federation for listed subjects; insufficient accessions blocked commencement.

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