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Q13

How far has the Indian federal framework been successful in accommodating regional and cultural diversities? Highlight the role of asymmetric federalism and suggest measures to make dispute resolution mechanisms more effective.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2026 · GS II · 15 marks · Federal Structure and Devolution

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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.

Inter-State Council (ISC)

Constituted under **Article 263** of the Constitution to investigate and discuss subjects of common interest between the Union and States.

States Reorganization Act, 1956

Redrew the internal boundaries of Indian states and territories along linguistic lines.

Punchhi Commission (2010)

Examined Centre-State relations and recommended stronger institutional mechanisms for cooperative federalism and timely resolution of disputes.

Article 371 Series

Provides special constitutional provisions and safeguards for various states including Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, and Andhra Pradesh to protect regional cultures.

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