

Centre-State relations in India refer to the complex and dynamic interactions between the central government and the state governments, as outlined in the Constitution of India. Here's a detailed breakdown:

Overview

India is a federal country with a parliamentary system, where power is divided between the central government and state governments. The Constitution of India (Part XI) outlines the framework for Centre-State relations, ensuring a balance of power and cooperation.

Key Aspects:

- 1. Legislative Relations (Articles 245-255):** The Constitution divides legislative powers between the Centre and states through the Seventh Schedule (Union List, State List, and Concurrent List). The Centre has exclusive powers over matters like defence, foreign affairs, and currency, while states have powers over matters like law and order, education, and healthcare.
- 2. Administrative Relations (Articles 256-263):** The Centre and states cooperate on matters of common interest, with the Centre exercising control over states in certain circumstances (e.g., national emergencies).
- 3. Financial Relations (Articles 268-293):** The Constitution provides for financial relations between the Centre and states, including tax distribution, grants-in-aid, and borrowing

powers.

Challenges and Issues:

1. Power Dynamics: The Centre often dominates decision-making, leading to concerns about state autonomy.
2. Financial Dependence: States rely heavily on central transfers, impacting their fiscal autonomy.
3. Dispute Resolution: Mechanisms like the Inter-State Council and National Development Council facilitate cooperation, but disputes persist.

Important Commissions and Recommendations:

1. Sarkaria Commission (1983): Recommended greater state autonomy and cooperative federalism.
2. Punchhi Commission (2007): Suggested reforms in Centre-State relations, focusing on fiscal federalism and dispute resolution.

Recent Developments:

1. GST and Fiscal Federalism: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) has redefined Centre-State financial relations.
2. Cooperative Federalism: Initiatives like the NITI Aayog promote collaborative governance.

Impact on Governance:

1. Policy Diversity: States have more room to innovate and

implement region-specific policies.

2. Centre-State Coordination: Effective cooperation is crucial for national development and stability.