

Federalism in India

Chapter 14: Federalism · Topic 2

Key Concept

India's Constitution divides subjects into three lists - the Union List (central government matters), State List (state government matters), and Concurrent List (both can legislate).

Unlike some federations, India's system leans towards a stronger central government, especially during emergencies, though states retain significant autonomy in many areas.

Over the years, India's federal structure has evolved, with the creation of new states based on language, and increased demands for greater state autonomy in various matters.

India's federalism aims to balance national unity with respect for India's immense diversity in language, culture, and regional needs across different states.

Quick Revision Notes

- India follows a federal system of government.
- Powers are divided between central and state governments.
- The Constitution has Union, State and Concurrent Lists.
- The Union List covers central government matters.
- The State List covers state government matters.
- The Concurrent List allows both to legislate.
- India's system leans towards a stronger centre.
- India's federalism balances unity and diversity.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the Union, State and Concurrent Lists with examples.
- 2 Discuss why India has a stronger centre compared to some federations.
- 3 Research how a new state was created in India based on language.
- 4 Explain why federalism suits India's diversity.
- 5 Discuss a subject that falls under the Concurrent List.
- 6 Debate whether India's centre should have more or less power.