



# UPSC MAINS 2024

## General Studies Paper-2 Analysis

BAJIRAO IAS ACADEMY

**Q) What changes has the Union Government recently introduced in the domain of Centre-State relations ? Suggest measures to be adopted to build the trust between the Centre and the States and for strengthening federalism. (Answer in 250 words)**



### **Approach**

- Define federalism in the introduction.
- Discuss changes introduced by the union government in the domain of Centre-state relations.
- Write detailed suggestions to build trust between the Centre and state and for strengthening federalism.
- Conclude the answer by stressing on importance of good centre-state relations..

**Federalism is a system of government where power is shared between a central authority and various constituent units, such as states and cities. In a federalist system, each level of government has some autonomy and the power to make laws.**

### **Changes introduced by the union government in the domain of Centre-state relations.**

- ❑ GST has transformed the tax collection and distribution mechanism, affecting the financial autonomy of states and their revenue generation capabilities.**
- ❑ Recent changes in policies regarding the deputation and transfer of IAS, IPS, and IFoS officers have granted the Centre increased control, potentially undermining state administrative autonomy.**
- ❑ As a successor to the Planning Commission, NITI Aayog has redefined planning and policy coordination, emphasizing a more collaborative approach but also altering traditional Centre-State dynamics.**

- ❑ The controversial farm laws, later repealed, were seen as infringing on the state's domain, particularly in agriculture, sparking protests and raising questions about Centre-State coordination.

## **Suggestions to build trust between the Centre and state and for strengthening federalism.**

### **Collaborative Dialogue:**

- ❑ Foster open and transparent communication between the Centre and states. Encourage regular meetings and discussions to address concerns and find common ground on issues affecting both.

### **Empower States:**

- ❑ Devolve more decision-making powers and resources to states while ensuring accountability. This can empower states to take charge of their development agenda without solely relying on the Centre.

### **Clarity in Roles:**

- ❑ Define clear roles and responsibilities for both levels of government to reduce overlapping jurisdictions and conflicts. This clarity can streamline operations and prevent policy duplications.

### **Building Trust:**

- ❑ Foster a culture of trust and cooperation through mutual respect and understanding. Establishing trust can facilitate smoother implementation of policies and reforms.

A harmonious relationship between the Centre and states within a federal system is crucial for a conducive economic environment.

Collaboration, empowerment, clarity, and trust-building are essential components for fostering a cooperative and productive relationship.



**Q) Explain the reasons for the growth of public interest litigation in India. As a result of it, has the Indian Supreme Court emerged as the world's most powerful judiciary ?**



### **Approach**

- Define public interest litigation.
- Discuss reasons for growth of PIL in India.
- Discuss how Indian supreme court emerged as the worlds powerful judiciary due to PIL.
- Conclusion.

**Public interest Litigation (PIL) means litigation filed in a court of law, for the protection of “Public Interest”, such as Pollution, Terrorism, Road safety, Constructional hazards etc. Any matter where the interest of public at large is affected can be redressed by filing a Public Interest Litigation in a court of law.**

**PIL is a key tool for ensuring justice for all and protecting the rights of the underprivileged.**

### **Reasons for growth of PIL in India.**

#### **Judicial activism**

- The judiciary has become more proactive in addressing social justice issues and protecting fundamental rights.**

#### **Access to justice**

- PIL has made it easier for marginalized groups to seek justice, regardless of their financial status.**

#### **Societal concerns**

- PIL has addressed issues such as environmental degradation, human rights violations, and corruption.**

#### **Media attention**

- Media coverage of PIL cases has increased public awareness.**

### Executive and legislative inaction

- ❑ PILs have grown due to perceived inefficiencies of the executive and legislative branches.

### Legal aid and NGOs

- ❑ Legal aid organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have played a crucial role in initiating PILs.

### Evolving legal framework

- ❑ The legal framework governing PIL has evolved, making it easier to file PILs.

**Indian supreme court emerged as the worlds powerful judiciary due to PIL.**

### Judicial Review:

- ❑ The Supreme Court has the power to strike down unconstitutional laws and executive actions, making it highly influential.

### Checks on Executive and Legislative Power:

- ❑ Landmark rulings have placed significant checks on government powers.



## **Judicial Activism through PIL:**

- ❑ The rise of PILs has empowered the judiciary to address issues that go beyond traditional litigation.**
- ❑ PIL allows citizens to approach the Court directly for matters of public interest, thus broadening the scope of judicial intervention.**

## **Global Comparisons:**

- ❑ Compared to other judiciaries like the United States, where courts are more restrained in intervening in policy matters, the Indian Supreme Court's proactive approach has arguably made it one of the most interventionist and powerful courts globally.**

**PIL has been instrumental in bringing about social and political change in India. It has also helped to strengthen the Indian judiciary and protect the rights of the marginalized.**

**The growth of public interest litigation in India reflects a positive trend towards a more accountable and transparent society.**

Q) Discuss India as a secular state and compare with the secular principles of the US constitution. (Answer in 250 words)




### Approach

- Define secular state.
- Discuss features of India as secular state.
- Compare secular principles of india with US constitution.
- Conclude the answer by stressing on the importance of maintaining secular ethos.

**A secular state claims to treat all its citizens equally regardless of religion, and claims to avoid preferential treatment for a citizen based on their religious beliefs, affiliation or lack of either over those with other profiles.**

### **Features of India as secular state.**

- The word 'secular' was incorporated in the Preamble of our constitution by the 42nd amendment of 1976. It means there is no official religion of the state
- Article 25 of our constitution provides people with the freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion. People are allowed to practice their religion and carry religious symbols unless it harms the unity and sovereignty of the country
- The state-funded institutions cannot ask their students to follow any religion. It is not mandatory to attend religious instruction in any educational institutions aided by the state under Article 28
- Our constitution prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion by any other religion, person or the State itself

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- ❑ Ambedkar once said that it does not mean that the state shall not consider the religious sentiments of the people. A secular state means that the government should not have the power to impose any particular religion on the remaining people. That is the only limitation that the constitution recognises.

## **Compare secular principles of india with US constitution.**

### **Religion**

- ❑ **The US Constitution's First Amendment protects the right to practice religion, but doesn't explicitly label the country as secular. India is a secular country with no state religion, and the Constitution guarantees equal respect for all religions.**

### **Freedom of assembly**

- ❑ **The US Constitution's First Amendment protects the right to assemble peacefully. The Constitution of India's Article 19 guarantees the right to assemble peacefully and without arms.**

## State intervention

- ❑ In India, the state can intervene in religious matters to promote social reform. In the US, the First Amendment prevents the government from establishing a religion or prohibiting the free exercise of religion.

People of India are free to celebrate their festivals equally. Our constitution provides the right to follow, practise or promote any religion. But, at the same time, the state can intervene and protect our fundamental rights if it deems necessary. Being home to many religions, India is a Secular state and a model to other nations, spreading unity among different cultures. India is also the largest full-fledged secular democracy.

Q) The Citizens' charter has been a landmark initiative in ensuring citizen-centric administration. But it is yet to reach its full potential. Identify the factors hindering the realisation of its promise and suggest measures to overcome them. (Answer in 250 words)

## Citizen's Charter



### Approach

- Define what is citizen charter in the introduction.
- Discuss how citizen-charter ensure citizen centric administration.
- Examine the factors hindering the realization of its potential.
- Conclude the answer by suggesting some measures to strengthen citizen-charter.

**A Citizen Charter is a document which represents a systematic effort to focus on the commitment of the Organisation towards its Citizens in respects of Standard of Services, Information, Choice and Consultation, Non-discrimination and Accessibility, Grievance Redress, Courtesy and Value for Money.**

### **How citizen-charter ensure citizen centric administration.**

#### **Increasing transparency**

- A Citizen's Charter clearly defines service standards, which helps citizens know what to expect from the administration**

#### **Promoting accountability**

- A Citizen's Charter holds organizations accountable to the public by providing a platform for grievance redressal.**

#### **Empowering citizens**

- A Citizen's Charter informs citizens about the services provided, standards of service, and their rights if service is poor.**

#### **Streamlining administration**

- A Citizen's Charter can help organizations tune their planning, policy, and performance to the needs of citizens.**

## Changing mindsets

- ❑ A Citizen's Charter can help change the mindset of public officials from having power over the public to having a duty of care to provide services.

## Factors hindering the realization of its potential.

- ❑ Many citizens, especially in rural areas, are unaware of the charter and their rights under it.
- ❑ Absence of a robust, independent institution to monitor and enforce the charter limits its impact.
- ❑ Since it is non-binding, many agencies treat it as a voluntary guideline rather than a mandatory framework.
- ❑ Resistance from officials who perceive increased transparency and accountability as a threat to their authority.
- ❑ There are no penalties for agencies that fail to adhere to the charter or incentives for those who implement it well.





**Increase Public Awareness ,Strengthen Legal Backing ,Institutional Oversight ,Capacity Building for Officials ,Digitalization of Services ,Incentives and Penalties.**

**Citizens' Charters can evolve into effective tools for ensuring transparent, accountable, and responsive public services. This transformation is crucial for realizing the vision of Good Governance in India by 2047.**



# Thank you

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