

Amendment to Inter-State Council Order, 1990

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Why is in news?

President notifies amendment to **Inter-State Council** Order, 1990

Why and How

- It aims to provide for the participation of Governors and Lieutenant Governors in meetings of the Inter-State Council when specified constitutional or statutory provisions are in force in their respective States or Union Territories.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs notified the Inter-State Council (Amendment) Order, 2026.
- The amendment was made by the President under the powers conferred by **Article 263 of the Constitution**.
- Under the amended order, the existing provision has been replaced with a provision specifying four situations in which the concerned Governor or Lieutenant Governor shall be invited to attend meetings of the Council.

For States

- According to the notification, the Governor of a State shall be invited when a proclamation issued by the President under Article 356 of the Constitution is in force in that State.

For UTs

- In the case of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Lieutenant Governor shall be invited when an order issued by the President under Article 239AB is in force.
- For the Union Territory of Puducherry, the Lieutenant Governor shall be invited when an order issued by the President under the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, is in force.
- Similarly, in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Lieutenant

Governor shall be invited when an order issued by the President under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, is in force.

About Article 263

- The Inter-State Council was established under Article 263 of the Constitution through the Inter-State Council Order, 1990.
- The original order was published in the Gazette of India on May 28, 1990.
- It was following the recommendations of the ***Sarkaria Commission of 1983***.
- It aims to facilitate coordination, cooperation, and dispute resolution between the Union and states or among the states themselves.
- The council plays the advisory role and it is not a permanent body by default.
- It is headed by the Prime Minister of India.
- Members will be Chief Ministers of all states and Union Territories with legislatures, and administrators of Union Territories without legislatures.
- Six Union Cabinet-rank ministers will be nominated by the Prime Minister.

Amendment to Inter-State Council Order, 1990
Stronger Centre-State Coordination for a More United India

What is the Inter-State Council?

- A constitutional body set up under Article 263 of the Indian Constitution.
- Established by the Inter-State Council Order, 1990.
- Provides a platform for Centre and States to discuss common issues and improve coordination.

Why the Amendment?

- To make the Council more effective, responsive and inclusive.
- To address emerging challenges and improve Centre-State cooperation.
- To strengthen federalism and better policy coordination.

Key Changes through the Amendment

- **Broader Participation**
Allows inclusion of Union Territories and other stakeholders, where relevant, in the Council's deliberations.
- **More Frequent Meetings**
Enables the Council to meet more often and take up time-bound agenda items.
- **Stronger Secretariat**
Empowers the Inter-State Council Secretariat with better resources and support.
- **Enhanced Follow-up**
Provides for systematic follow-up and monitoring of decisions and recommendations.
- **Wider Agenda**
Allows discussion on new and emerging issues affecting Centre-State relations.

Expected Benefits

- Improved coordination between the Centre and States.
- Faster resolution of inter-state issues.
- Stronger federal structure and cooperative governance.
- Better policy implementation across states and UTs.
- Inclusive and participatory decision-making.

Stronger States Stronger India

An updated Inter-State Council Order for a **more collaborative, inclusive and effective federal system.**

Reference

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