

Daily Mains Practice Answer 19-08-2026

Q. Examine how disagreements over the ceremonial use of national and State songs can become an issue of Centre-State relations. Suggest measures to strengthen cooperative federalism in such matters. (15 marks, 250 words).

Direction: Intro-----Disagreement - Centre State issue + Measures-----Conclusion.

Introduction:

Start like the national and state songs symbolise patriotism, cultural identity, etc. (or) Connect the recent debate with respect to Tamil Nadu's Tamil Thai Vazhthu over the sequencing of Vande Mataram and Jana Gana Mana.

Main Body

How does the disagreement become an issue of Centre-State relations?

- Constitutional division of powers - Matters concerning education, culture, official ceremonies, etc involve both Union and State institutions, creating scope for overlapping.
- Conflict between national protocol and State convention
- Question of State autonomy - Altering states' established ceremonial position is considered interference with State cultural autonomy rather than merely a change in protocol.
- Governor's office (ceremonial head) - Aggravate existing tensions concerning the Governor-State government relationship.
- Symbolism & political mobilisation - Ceremonial symbols carry emotional significance.
- Cooperative federalism under strain - Instead of treating national and State symbols as complementary, political actors may portray them as competing identities.
- Cultural and linguistic diversity
- Questions of compulsion - Disputes may arise when participation in singing a national or State song is made compulsory, raising concerns under Article 19 and Article 25.
- Symbolic federalism - The Constitution does not explicitly prescribe a detailed protocol for every ceremony.

Measures to strengthen cooperative federalism

- Establish a clear, comprehensive protocol.
- Consult States before issuing protocols.
- Follow the principle of constitutional accommodation.
- Respect established State conventions.

- Maintain uniform principles, flexible implementation.
- Promote constitutional patriotism through civic education.
- Avoid unnecessary politicisation.

Conclusion:

Give a balanced conclusion - mention India is a country of unity in diversity, so try to satisfy all sections of society and ensure a consultative, rights-based, culturally sensitive approach.

