

Do you think that States' Operational freedom to function within their specified jurisdictions is highly curtailed in the country? Comment

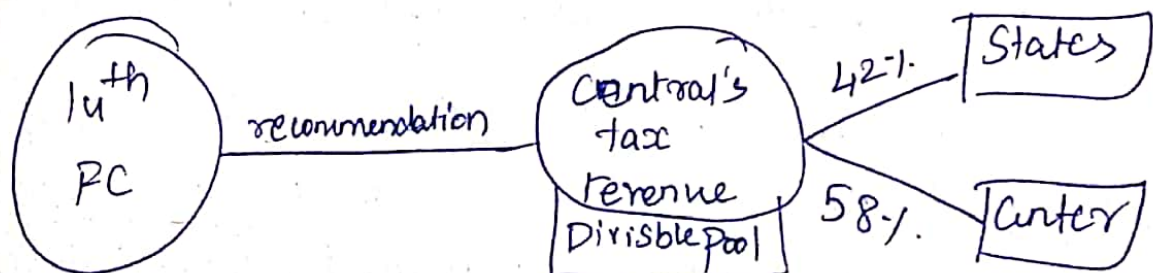
India chose to be federal system with unitary bias to work as 'Team India' for the all-round development of the nation & its citizens. Hence constitution has provided several cooperative features such as Schedule-VII, National Development Council, inter-State council etc. However recently the states have been curtailed in its operation freedom.

Curtailing States' Operational Freedom

1) Split of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K)

- Abrogation of Art. 370 & split of J&K into two union territories (UTs) without the consent of State assembly of J&K as enshrined in Art. (3)

2) 14th Finance Commission recommendation



- However the Centre had mobilised the revenue from levying cesses & surcharges, which are not included in the divisible pool.
- Thereby reducing the States' share discriminately.

3> Restructuring of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)

CSS has been restructured & rationalised into 3 categories!

Category	Sharing pattern (Centre: State)
Core of the Core	No change
Core	60:40
Optional	50:50

- It has put burden of state's resource & on their need-based schemes.

4> Additional Terms of Reference to 15th FC

- Centre has added ATOR "Examine whether a separate mechanism for funding of defence & internal security ought to be set up"
- If 15th FC recommended for same, it could further cut down the share of states

5> Delaying GST share to states & cut down in Corporate tax has had huge impact of Centre's tax

As recommended by Jaykar Commission & 14th FC, there is a need to reactivate inter-state Council to voice State's operational freedom & jurisdiction as enshrined in the constitution for them to work for the welfare of the people.