

→ federal coalition is required to preserve the idea of plurality in the country. Do you agree with this view? Comment.

→ According to former President Pranab Mukherjee coalition government formation is a compulsion rather than a choice, but recent trends of increasing centralisation & encroachment by union on state subjects have forced to relook into federal coalition.

### Current issues

- Many schemes by central government on state subjects such as health, education, agriculture have resulted into decrease in the state's revenue.
- e.g - PM Jan Arogya ; PM fasal Bima.
- Political centralisation leading to economic centralisation as big players are benefiting at the cost of small ones which were able to sustain during coalitions.

- Local issues are now subsumed into wider national issues, decreasing its importance
- Implementation of GST Act, 2016 has further reduced state's revenue which ~~reduced~~ affected its effort to tackle the pandemic. Secondly states were also not adequately compensated.

### Advantages of federal Coalition

- Effective decentralisation of power
- i.e. plurality of opinions & consultation from all stakeholders during policy making
- Regional players will increase focus on regional issues thus ensuring a holistic development & pluralistic society.

### Other ways of improving federal coalition

- Punchhi commission recommended equal number of seats for states in Rajya Sabha as it will ensure equal attention on their issues as well.

- A National unity cabinet can be established comprising of government, opposition leaders, industry experts & professionals.
- Sarkaria Commission recommendation on establishing permanent Interstate council & making its recommendation binding on government should be implemented..

Drawbacks of federal coalition:-

- Policy paralysis as too many players involved.
- foreign policy will be affected as more domestic players only increase negotiations rather than arriving at results.

It is hightime that government of the day focusses on federal coalition as it is mentioned in Article-1 i.e. India, is a union of states, so government should enhance state's participation & ensure its autonomy to preserve the idea of plurality in the country