

A federal country with unitary bias has the responsibility to maintain the balance between political leadership at centre and state level.

Critically Analyse (200 words).

A federal country like India envisages development through "co-operative federalism". Trust and mutual co-operation are the key here. India has both unitary features and federal features distinctively delineated in constitution.

Till the late 1980s it was almost same party rule in both centre and state. After 1990s due to rise of the regional parties the ~~area~~ arena changed, period of coalition began. Dissolving of Loksabha and State legislative assemblies when not co-operating with centre became routine. Bypassing the state executive counter parts also began in decision making

This has reached a new high where the Centre bypassed the state counterparts held direct meeting with bureaucrats like State Secretaries etc. These kind of meetings are permissible under article 256 and 257

where it mandates state to oblige to the direction of centre. In this case resentment arises only when the party of rule at centre and state are different, and elected leaders are bypassed

Thus it has become vital to maintain balance between centre and state level political leadership. It is possible only by

- mutual respect among leaders
- prevention of bypassing the elected leader of state
- ensuring proper involvement of all states in implementation / framing of national policies