

BRIEF OF

**FEDERALISM AND INDIAN POLITY:
THE EMERGING TRENDS**

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by

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Federation in India has not merely attempted to address to the regional aspirations i.e. territorial form of autonomy, but also to the people of linguistic, religious, cultural and ethnic aspiration i.e. non-territorial form of autonomy. The work begins with analysis of the same. The criteria like two sets of Governments, written Constitution, element and magnitude of rigidity in the Constitution, independent judicial set up etc in Indian Federal system have been put to test thereafter for critical analyses. A comparison has also been drawn between our Federalism with Federation in U.S.A. and Canada.

The thrust in this work is on the trends of Indian Federalism, specially the recent ones. The understanding of the Constitutional provisions of Indian Federalism, formation of agencies and mechanism of Federal coordination, Federalism at work since its inception, the formation and functioning of coalition Government, the role of the Governors and judiciary in the Federal set up etc is important for understanding the trends of Indian Federalism. It is also important to analyse the formation of new States and demands and movements towards formation of more States. Accordingly, I have chapterized the work giving adequate coverage to all these aspects.

Agencies and mechanism for Federal coordination like NDC, Planning Commission, Inter-State Council, Inter-State Commerce Commission and National Integration Council etc. are discussed in historical and functional perspectives. A systematic study on political and economic dimension of operation of Federal system is an important focus of the study. In regard to political dimension, the Centre's role through Governors in regard to appointment, and dismissal of the Chief Ministers and dissolution of Assembly have been analysed in chronological order.

Emergence of coalition politics is a marked feature in the functioning of Indian Federation. 1989 marked the beginning of coalition politics in the Centre. Many more elections have been held since then and in all past election scenario, formation of coalition government had become inevitable. Functioning of Federal system requires an independent judiciary that we have in our country. The role of Supreme Court as the guardian of the Constitution and Federalism is important. The study encompasses all these aspects.

Since independence there have been efforts to accommodate regional aspirations by organizing and reorganizing the States of India. However certain regions and linguo-cultural groups who are territorially not dispersed, have been demanding separate statehood. We have taken Koshal Pradesh as a case study. The case study gives indepth analysis of the problem and prospects in the area, the reasons and processes of struggle for separate statehood from economic, historical, political and cultural point of view.

Federalism in India is coming up of age, reflecting greater degree of maturity, adjustment and sustenance. Coalition Politics, emergence of powerful regional parties, court judgments, agencies and institutions of inter-State and Centre-State mechanism and globalization process accelerated the pace of decentralization and greater degree of Federalism. Among the emerging trends, probably most outstanding one is formation of and demands for new States. Emergence of ethnic problem, particularly in North-East and Kashmir, is a trend that has given enough headache. This has also led to development of new regional parties in the area, that have tried to ventilate local ethnic grievances. The role of judiciary in Centre-State disputes has increased, which is an important emerging trend.

The States demand for partnership in Federal policy making processes and steps in making global contacts and contracts in regard to foreign investment is a remarkable change. India is faced with new challenges like cyber crime, terrorism etc which has transcended the boundaries of States and hence, logically, an emerging trend is Centre's greater role in law and order, through periodical intervention and legislations on this account. Greater 'Fiscal Federalism' is another emerging trend, which has been dealt with, including distribution of revenue between the Centre and the States and the parameters thereof and changes thereto from time to time. Local self-Government, happily, is getting empowered day by day.

The emergence of Federal agencies and mechanism is another trend that has provided Federalism structural framework for smooth functioning. While, on one hand forces of globalization are at play, on the other there are forces of localism also. The Federal politics also has witnessed growth of multi-culturalism and pluralism, leading to the realization of twin Federal ideas of 'shared rule' and 'self rule'. The study concludes that Federalism has by and large coped with such forces and shown remarkable flexibility.