Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine how fiscal decentralisation and balanced regional development can address demands for the creation of smaller states in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 25/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Regional disparities, Article 3, fiscal federalism, decentralised planning, infrastructure gaps, cooperative federalism

Model Answer

Demands for smaller states in India often emerge from perceptions of regional neglect, unequal resource distribution, administrative distance and inadequate political representation. The demand for a separate North Karnataka state reflects these broader concerns.

Why regional demands emerge

1. **Developmental disparities:** Unequal access to infrastructure, healthcare, education and employment can deepen regional dissatisfaction.
2. **Fiscal inequalities:** Perceived differences in public expenditure and allocation of development resources may create a sense of neglect.
3. **Administrative distance:** Concentration of decision-making in major urban centres can weaken responsiveness to geographically distant regions.
4. **Political representation:** Regional communities may demand greater control over policies affecting their local priorities.

Institutional and constitutional responses

Article 3 empowers Parliament to reorganise states. However, territorial reorganisation alone does not guarantee equitable development.

1. Strengthen decentralised planning through Panchayati Raj Institutions and urban local bodies.
2. Use transparent, need-based fiscal allocations to address regional infrastructure and human-development gaps.
3. Establish regional development boards with measurable targets and accountability.
4. Improve connectivity, public services and local employment opportunities.

Conclusion

The effectiveness of Indian federalism depends on accommodating regional aspirations while maintaining national unity. Equitable resource distribution, responsive administration and meaningful decentralisation can address the underlying causes of statehood demands.

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