Polity & Governance · GS - II

Inter-State boundary disputes pose challenges to cooperative federalism and effective local governance in India. Discuss the constitutional mechanisms for resolving such disputes, with reference to the Kotia village dispute between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Cooperative federalism, Article 131, Article 3, Article 263, Inter-State Council, territorial jurisdiction, Panchayati Raj, residents' rights, administrative coordination, negotiated settlement.

Model Answer

Introduction

Inter-State boundary disputes arise when two or more states claim jurisdiction over the same territory. The Kotia village cluster along the Odisha–Andhra Pradesh border illustrates how such disputes can affect administration, local elections and residents' access to public services.

Main Body

Challenges

- Territorial uncertainty: Competing claims can create confusion over administrative authority.
- Governance issues: Disputes may affect the delivery of welfare schemes, public services and local elections.
- Residents' concerns: Uncertainty can affect access to identity documents, benefits and essential services.
- Federal tensions: Unilateral administrative actions may weaken trust between neighbouring states.

Constitutional mechanisms and solutions

1. Article 131: Enables the Supreme Court to adjudicate qualifying disputes between states.
2. Article 3: Empowers Parliament to alter state boundaries through the prescribed constitutional procedure.
3. Article 263: Provides for an Inter-State Council to discuss and advise on disputes and matters of common interest.
4. Dialogue and coordination: States should pursue negotiations, joint administrative arrangements and clear service-delivery mechanisms while the dispute remains unresolved.

Conclusion

Inter-State disputes require constitutional solutions, sustained dialogue and respect for due process. Above all, residents' rights and access to essential services must remain protected regardless of competing territorial claims.

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