Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the constitutional and administrative challenges arising from inter-state territorial disputes, with reference to the Kotia dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Inter-state boundaries; Article 131 and Supreme Court jurisdiction; compliance with judicial orders; local self-government; federal cooperation; peaceful dispute resolution

Model Answer

Introduction

Inter-state territorial disputes can create administrative uncertainty, affect public services and generate competing claims over local governance. The Kotia region, claimed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, illustrates these challenges.

Constitutional and Administrative Challenges

1. Federal Dispute Resolution

Article 131 of the Constitution provides the Supreme Court with original jurisdiction in specified disputes between states. Judicial proceedings can help clarify legal claims and maintain constitutional order.

2. Compliance with Judicial Directions

Odisha’s reported contempt petition alleges that Andhra Pradesh’s decision to conduct local body elections violates an earlier Supreme Court directive to maintain status quo. Such allegations require judicial examination rather than unilateral conclusions.

3. Governance and Residents’ Rights

Competing administrative arrangements can create uncertainty regarding public services, welfare benefits, electoral participation and accountability. Residents’ interests must remain central to the resolution.

Way Forward

Both states should comply with applicable court directions, maintain administrative communication and pursue negotiations alongside legal remedies. Clear coordination on public services and protection of residents’ democratic rights can reduce tensions.

Conclusion

The Kotia dispute highlights the need to balance state claims, judicial authority and citizens’ interests through constitutional processes and cooperative federalism.

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