Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine how constitutional safeguards and federal principles protect opposition-led State governments in India. Discuss the importance of political neutrality and institutional accountability in Centre–State relations.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 21/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Cooperative federalism, Article 14, Article 19, Article 356, constitutional morality, political neutrality, misuse of authority, judicial review, institutional accountability, democratic opposition.

Model Answer

Introduction

India's federal system distributes powers between the Union and State governments. Allegations of political harassment involving an opposition-led Chief Minister highlight the importance of constitutional safeguards and impartial administration. The specific allegations in the report require independent verification.

Constitutional Safeguards

- **Equality before law:** Article 14 requires public authorities to act fairly and prohibits arbitrary discrimination.
- **Freedom of expression:** Article 19(1)(a) protects citizens' freedom of speech, subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2).

- **Federal autonomy:** State governments exercise powers within their constitutionally assigned spheres.
- **Protection against arbitrary dismissal:** Article 356 provides for action in cases of failure of constitutional machinery, subject to constitutional limitations and judicial review.

Institutional Accountability

1. **Neutral administration:** Government agencies and public authorities should act according to law rather than partisan considerations.
2. **Judicial review:** Courts can examine allegations of unlawful or arbitrary state action.
3. **Parliamentary oversight:** Legislative scrutiny and transparent procedures strengthen accountability.
4. **Political dialogue:** Regular Centre–State consultation helps resolve disputes without undermining democratic institutions.

Conclusion

Healthy Centre–State relations depend on constitutional restraint, institutional impartiality and respect for democratic opposition. Allegations of misconduct should be investigated objectively, with accountability and due process applying equally to all political actors.

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