

1. **Critically examine important recommendations made by M. M. Punchi commission to strengthen Centre-state relations in India.** (250 Words)

**Answer:**

The Central government constituted the **Punchi Commission in 2007** to examine Centre-State relations. It was chaired by the **former Chief Justice of India M.M. Punchi**. It submitted its recommendation in 2009. Some of its important recommendations are:

1. It recommended for giving a fixed term of five years to the governors and their removal by the process of impeachment (similar to that of the President) by the State Legislature. The governor should have the right to sanction prosecution of a minister against the advice of the council of ministers.
2. It called for an **amendment of Articles 355 and 356** to enable centre to bring specific trouble-torn areas under its rule for a limited period. Hence, it proposed 'localizing emergency provisions' under which either a district or parts of a district can be brought under the central rule instead of the whole state. Such an emergency should not be for more than 3 months.
3. There should be **clear guidelines for the appointment of chief ministers**, so that there is sort of regulation on discretionary power of Governor. A pre-poll alliance should be treated as one political party, because that lays down the order of precedence that ought to be followed by the governor in case of a hung house as follows:
  - **The group with the largest pre-poll alliance commanding the largest number.**
  - **The single largest party with support of others.**
  - **The post-electoral coalition with all parties joining the government.**
  - **The post electoral alliance with some parties joining the government and remaining including independents supporting from outside.**
4. There should be a mechanism through which the centre consults states before introducing a bill on concurrent list items. **This consultation mechanism should be through inter-state council. Centre should occupy only that much of subjects in concurrent list** or any other overlapping jurisdiction which is absolutely needed to achieve uniformity of policy in national interest.
5. It proposed that **Centre should have power to deploy its forces in case of communal violence without state's consent for a short period of a week.**

## **PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

**Answer the following Questions**

1. Analyze the provisions related to legislative relations between Centre and State as envisaged by the Constitution in the light of concepts of Federalism.
2. Critically analyze the working of Federalism in India since Independence.