

PSIR & GS-2 Daily Brief

About this initiative : Briefs, scans the best academic platforms, national newspapers & leading think tanks to pick the most relevant articles & research. It converts them into crisp, high-impact points you can directly use in your mains answers.

PSIR
Optional by
Amit Pratap
Singh
| ForumIAS |



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Article - 1 : The many facets of Federalism

12:07 PM

Bar and Bench Sign

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1 Column

Legal Notes by Arvind Datar:
The many facets of federalism
Datar explains the evolution of Indian federalism, its strong-Centre tilt despite federal features and the need for the Union and the States to respect constitutional limits.



Legal Notes by Arvind Datar

Context This article explains how Indian federalism has evolved from a strong-Centre model to a richer constitutional idea involving cooperative, asymmetric and contestative federalism.

Theoretical Lens

■ **Federalism** : "A constitution is either unitary or federal. The latter involves separate states uniting without sacrificing own political integrity."

■ **Asymmetric federalism** : "This was a case of asymmetric federalism whereby not all states have the same degree of autonomy and power."

■ **Basic structure doctrine** : "Three out of nine judges elevated federalism to be part of basic structure."

Facts

- S.R. Bommai (1994) elevated federalism to level of basic structure.
- Article 239 AA & Delhi cases show the idea of cooperative federalism.
- Mohit Minerals (2022) recognised space for state dissent in GST, strengthening contestative federalism.

Analytical Crux

The article's central point is that Indian federalism is not weak merely because the Centre has more powers. Its real strength lies in the constitutional discipline that both the Union & the States must respect their limits. Over time, the SC has widened the meaning of federalism from a simple Centre-State division to include cooperation, asymmetry and even healthy contestation. Indian federalism is flexible but not limitless; it allows a strong centre, but not an unlimited Centre. A strong India is possible only through strong states.

Verbatim Quotes

"The states were not appendages of the Centre and were supreme within the spheres allotted to them."

- Supreme Court in S.R. Bommai case

"A strong India can only be the aggregate of strong states."

- Arvind Datar

Article - 2 : Why Capitalism persists

Why Capitalism Persists

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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Review Essay

Why Capitalism Persists

How Tensions and Resistance Can Drive Reinvention

JEREMY ADELMAN

May/June 2026
Published on April 21, 2026



JOHN LEE

Context The article argues that capitalism has survived repeated crises because it can absorb tension, resistance and criticism, then reinvent itself in new forms.

Theoretical Lens

■ Postliberalism: "A post liberal world now awaits, one in which a capitalism shorn of its liberal qualities may predominate."

■ "Neoliberal capitalism saw a fundamental rewiring of the international division of labor."

Facts

- The slave population in Brazil, Cuba & U.S. rose from 1 million in 1770 to 6 million by 1860.
- Extreme poverty declined from over 2 billion in 1990 to around 800 million by 2025.

Analytical Crux

The article's deeper argument is not that capitalism is morally clean or naturally stable. It says capitalism has survived because it is highly adaptive: it converts resistance, crisis and reform into new arrangements. Liberalism helped capitalism become more flexible by creating space for debate, labour movements, welfare reforms & democratic contestation. But capitalism has also carried exploitation, slavery, colonialism & inequality, so its history cannot be romanticised. For PSIR, the key takeaway is that capitalism persists not because it avoids contradictions, but because it repeatedly reorganises itself through them.

Verbatim Quotes

"The world has entered an era of autopsies and prophecies."

- Jeremy Adelman

"The golden age of industrial revolution, was thus also a golden age of slavery."

- Sven Beckert

Article - 3 : The two-thirds threshold as a political tool



The two-thirds threshold as a political tool

Weaponising the amendment rule under Article 368 to stage the bill's failure defeats the constitutional spirit

V Venkatesan Last Updated : 24 April 2026, 01:25 IST

Context The article argues that the two-thirds amendment rule under Article 368 was meant to build consensus, but it is being weakened when governments use it for political signalling rather than sincere constitutional reform.

Theoretical Lens

■ Constitutional safeguard: "Article 368's two-thirds rule was designed to compel consensus."

■ Federal Bargaining: "A two-thirds bar is an instrument of federal bargaining."

Facts

- The First Amendment was enacted in 1951 & inserted Articles 31A, 31B and the Ninth Schedule.
- All 106 numbered amendments have crossed the Article 368 two-thirds threshold.

Analytical Crux

The article's core point is that Article 368 is not just a technical rule; it is a constitutional discipline meant to force dialogue, negotiation and consensus. The two-thirds threshold works only when governments bring amendments in good faith and genuinely try to pass them. **If an amendment is introduced knowing it will fail, the rule is turned from a safeguard into a political weapon.** The deeper lesson for students is that constitutionally morality depends not only on written rules, but also on the sincerity with which political actors use them. In short, **the spirit of Article 368 is consensus-building, not staged failure.**

Verbatim Quotes

"What is abused is not the amendment but its engineered defeat, recast as opposition obstruction."

"Two-thirds was the price of disciplined change."

PSIR & GS2 Daily Brief

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Upcoming Batch: 22 June, 2026

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