

## MAINS MATRIX

## TABLE OF CONTENT

1. "Judiciary cannot tie President, Governor to timelines, says SC."
2. India's Fisheries and Aquaculture: Its Promising Course
3. 'Over 50% cases pending in Juvenile Justice Boards amid staff shortage'
4. Is Federalism in Retreat under Single-Party Hegemony?
5. Caste identity influences how teachers judge students in Bihar public schools: IIM-B study

**"Judiciary cannot tie President, Governor to timelines, says SC."**

## Context

- A five-judge Constitution Bench delivered an advisory opinion on the **16th Presidential Reference**.
- Issue: Whether courts can impose timelines on Governors/President regarding assent to State Bills.
- Triggered by: Tamil Nadu Governor's delayed action & earlier SC judgment (April 2024) setting a *three-month limit*.

## Core Supreme Court Findings

## A. Limits of Judicial Power

1. **Courts cannot impose strict timelines** for Governors/President to assent or refuse assent to Bills.
2. **Courts cannot create the doctrine of "deemed assent"** through judicial orders.

3. Doing so is **"antithetical to the Constitution"** & violates separation of powers.

## B Governor's Powers under Article 200

Governor has **3 options**:

1. **Assent** to Bill.
2. **Reserve Bill** for President's consideration.
3. **Withhold assent** and return Bill with comments (if not a Money Bill).

## Cannot:

- Withhold a Bill *without returning it* to the State legislature with reasons (except Money Bill).
- Sit indefinitely without communication.

## C. President's Role (Article 201 &amp; 143)

- When a Bill is reserved, President acts on *aid and advice of Union Council of Ministers*.
- President need **not** seek SC's advisory opinion each time;

discretion lies with Union government.

#### D. Judicial Review Scope

1. SC **cannot review the merits** of the Governor's assent decisions.
2. But SC **can issue limited mandamus** if the Governor engages in:
  - **Prolonged, unexplained, indefinite delay**, or
  - **Evasive inaction**.

This ensures **constitutional accountability** without violating separation of powers.

#### Key Judicial Observations

##### A. On Separation of Powers

- "Imposing timelines is a *one-size-fits-all* approach that distorts constitutional design."
- Judiciary cannot usurp the roles of constitutional authorities.

##### B. On Governor's Accountability

- Governors **cannot indefinitely sit** on a Bill; they must act with **reasonable dispatch**.
- However, they enjoy **personal immunity** under Article 361.

##### C. On Legislative Process

- People's will is expressed through the legislature.
- A Bill becomes law only after **assent by President or Governor**.
- Judiciary cannot adjudicate the **contents of a Bill** before assent.

#### Supreme Court's Advisory Opinion Table (Extracted)

##### Governor's Discretion (Article 200)

- May assent
- May reserve
- May return (if not a Money Bill)
- Must communicate reasons

##### Judicial Limits

- SC cannot impose timelines
- SC cannot create "deemed assent"

##### President's Role (Article 201)

- President acts on Union Cabinet advice
- No need for routine SC consultation

##### Governor's Accountability

- Cannot indefinitely delay
- Courts can direct "reasonable time" action
- Limited judicial review allowed

##### Why States Objected

- Non-BJP States (TN, Kerala) argued that the Presidential Reference was:
  - An “**appeal in disguise**”
  - Violating finality of SC's April 2024 judgment.

SC rejected this objection.

### 7. Supreme Court's Conclusion

- **No binding timelines** for President/Governor.
- **No deemed assent.**
- **But no prolonged, evasive inaction allowed.**
- Judiciary can intervene only to ensure *constitutional functioning*, not to direct *how* the discretion is exercised.

### HOW TO USE IT

This Supreme Court advisory opinion represents a delicate **constitutional balance**. It firmly upholds the **separation of powers** by refusing to micromanage the Governor's office with judicial timelines, while simultaneously reinforcing **constitutional morality** by prohibiting the Governor from indulging in "prolonged, unexplained, indefinite delay." It is a nuanced judgment that prioritizes constitutional principles over procedural rigidity.

**Primary Relevance: GS Paper II (Polity, Constitution, Governance)**

### 1. Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

- **How to use:** Analyze the judgment's interpretation of core constitutional provisions.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Articles 200 & 201:** The judgment provides the definitive contemporary interpretation of these articles. It clarifies that the Governor's discretion is **not absolute** but is bounded by constitutional propriety. The three options (assent, reserve, return) are exhaustive.
  - **Separation of Powers:** This is the central doctrine invoked. The Court reasoned that imposing strict timelines would be a **judicial overreach** into the executive domain of the Governor and the legislative process of the State.
  - **Basic Structure:** The Court's role is to ensure that no constitutional authority, including the Governor, acts in a manner that violates the **basic structure of the Constitution**, which

includes federalism and democratic governance.

## 2. Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.

- **How to use:** This is the core of the federalism debate ignited by gubernatorial inaction.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Federal Tension:** The entire reference was triggered by actions of Governors in non-BJP ruled states (TN, Kerala), highlighting the **politicization of the Governor's office** and its use as a tool to obstruct state legislatures.
  - **Safeguarding State Autonomy:** By explicitly stating that a Governor *cannot* "sit indefinitely" and must act with "reasonable dispatch," the Supreme Court has provided a **constitutional weapon to states** against obstructive Governors. This reinforces the federal balance.
  - **Limited Judicial Review as a Safeguard:** The Court's assertion that it

can issue a *mandamus* in cases of prolonged delay acts as a crucial check and balance, ensuring that the Union-appointed Governor does not undermine the elected state government.

## 3. Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions.

- **How to use:** This judgment is a masterclass in the separation of powers.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Judicial Self-Restraint:** The Court demonstrated restraint by refusing to impose timelines or create a "deemed assent" doctrine, acknowledging that these are **executive-legislative functions**.
  - **Defining Boundaries:** It clearly demarcates the boundary of judicial intervention: courts cannot review the *merits* of the assent decision, but they can ensure that the *process* is not vitiated by malafide or indefinite delay.

## 4. Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary.

- **How to use:** Understand the practical functioning of the offices of the President and Governor.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Role of the President (Article 74):** The judgment reaffirms that the President (and by extension, the Governor in most cases) acts on the **aid and advice of the Council of Ministers**.
  - **Constitutional Morality vs. Immunity:** While the Governor enjoys personal immunity under **Article 361**, the judgment emphasizes that this does not grant a license for constitutional impropriety. The office must be exercised with **constitutional morality**.

### India's Fisheries and Aquaculture: Its Promising Course

#### 1. Introduction

Fisheries and aquaculture have emerged as one of India's fastest-growing food-producing sectors, contributing significantly to livelihoods, nutritional security, exports, and rural development. Backed by technological innovations and supportive institutional

frameworks, the sector shows strong potential to drive India's Blue Economy.

#### 2. Significance of the Sector

- **Livelihoods:** Supports over 2.8 crore fishers and fish farmers.
- **Food Security:** Provides affordable animal protein and micronutrient-rich diets.
- **Economic Contribution:** Major component of agricultural GDP and foreign exchange through marine exports.
- **Regional Development:** Critical for coastal, riverine, and inland communities.

#### 3. Key Challenges

##### A. Environmental Strains

- Overfishing and stress on marine stocks.
- Habitat destruction of lakes, mangroves, estuaries.
- Water pollution from industrial effluents and agricultural runoff.
- Climate change-induced warming and extreme weather events.

##### B. Socio-Economic Issues

- Small-scale fishers lack **credit access, insurance, modern gear**.



- Market asymmetries and weak bargaining power.
- Gendered vulnerabilities in post-harvest activities.

### C. Supply Chain Limitations

- Poor cold chain infrastructure and post-harvest losses.
- Inadequate **traceability** affecting export competitiveness.
- Unsafe handling practices compromising food quality.

## 4. Current Status and Growth

### Global Context (FAO, 2024)

- **Capture fisheries:** 23 million tonnes (2022).
- **Aquaculture:** 130.9 million tonnes (record) worth USD 313 billion.

### India's Progress

- **Total aquatic animal production:** 10.23 million tonnes.
- **Rank:** World's **second-largest aquaculture producer**.
- Production expanded from **2.44 million tonnes (1980s)** to **17.54 million tonnes (2022–23)**.
- **Aquaculture** remains the key growth driver, reflecting sectoral modernization and inland expansion.

## 5. Institutional Support & Government Initiatives

### A. Major Bodies

- ICAR Fisheries Institutes
- MPEDA
- National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)
- Coastal Aquaculture Authority

### B. Flagship Schemes

- Blue Revolution
- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)
  - Infrastructure modernisation
  - Fisher welfare, safety, and insurance
  - Aquapark and cold chain creation

### C. Key Reforms

- Vessel transporters for safety at sea.
- Kisan Credit Card inclusion for fishers.
- **Matsya Seva Kendras** for last-mile service delivery.
- **Climate-Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages Programme.**
- **Draft National Fisheries Policy 2020** promoting sustainability and value chain efficiency.

## 6. FAO's Role & Collaboration in India

### A. Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP)

- Improved small-scale fishing technologies, safety, and post-harvest handling.

### B. BOBLME Project

- Promoted **Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)**.
- Supported action plans against **IUU fishing**.

### C. GEF-funded Andhra Pradesh Project

- Applying **Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture (GSA)**.
- Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA).
- Climate-resilient aquaculture practices.

### D. Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP)

- Upgrading port management in **Vanakkara and Jakhau (Gujarat)**.
- Focus on capacity-building, hygiene, and sustainability.

## 7. Path Forward: Ensuring Sustainability and Competitiveness

### A. Sustainability Imperatives

- Science-based **stock assessment** and fishing effort regulation.

- Strengthened **Monitoring, Control & Surveillance (MCS)** to curb IUU fishing.
- Adoption of ecosystem-based management approaches.
- Promotion of climate-resilient aquaculture technologies.

### B. Enhancing Competitiveness

- Improved certification and **traceability systems** for global markets.
- Digital tools for market access, logistics, and transparency.
- Inclusive policies ensuring benefits for small-scale fishers and women.

### C. FAO's Continuing Commitment

- Guidance for a **resilient and inclusive Blue Revolution**.
- Focus on lowering environmental footprints while enhancing India's food security.

## 8. Conclusion

India's fisheries and aquaculture sector stands at a strategic juncture. With strong growth momentum, supportive policies, and international collaboration—especially with FAO—the country is poised to transition towards a sustainable, productive, and equitable Blue Economy. Prioritising environmental stewardship, modernisation, and inclusive

development will be key to unlocking its full potential.

### HOW TO USE IT

India's fisheries and aquaculture sector represents a critical **nexus of food security, livelihood generation, and economic growth**, positioned at the heart of the **Blue Economy** initiative. The strategic challenge is to balance **rapid production growth** with **environmental sustainability** and **socio-economic equity** for millions of small-scale fishers.

**Primary Relevance: GS Paper III (Economy, Environment, Security)**

#### 1. Indian Economy (Agriculture, Employment, Infrastructure):

- **How to use:** Analyze the sector as a vital component of the rural economy and agri-exports.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Economic Contribution:** The sector supports over **2.8 crore livelihoods** and is a major contributor to India's **agricultural GVA and foreign exchange earnings** (through exports).
  - **Infrastructure Deficit:** Challenges like **poor cold chain infrastructure** and post-harvest losses are classic

examples of supply-side constraints that hinder the sector's full potential, a common theme in Indian agriculture.

- **Government Initiatives:** Schemes like the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** and the **Blue Revolution** are key government interventions aimed at modernizing infrastructure, enhancing productivity, and ensuring the welfare of fishers.

#### 2. Environment & Ecology:

- **How to use:** This is a core area, as the sector's growth is directly linked to environmental health.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Environmental Challenges:** **Overfishing, habitat destruction** (mangroves, estuaries), and **water pollution** are major threats to marine and aquatic ecosystems. This directly links to topics of biodiversity conservation and environmental degradation.
  - **Climate Change:** The impact of **climate change-induced warming and extreme weather** on fish stocks is



a critical concern, making the sector highly vulnerable.

- **Sustainable Practices:** The emphasis on the **Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)**, combating **Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing**, and promoting **climate-resilient aquaculture** are essential for sustainable development.

### 3. Food Security:

- **How to use:** Position fisheries as a key pillar of nutritional security.
- **Key Points:**
  - The sector provides **affordable animal protein and essential micronutrients** to a large population, making it crucial in the fight against malnutrition.

### 4. Security:

- **How to use:** Link fisheries management to maritime security.
- **Key Points:**
  - Combating **IUU fishing** is not just an environmental issue but also a **maritime security and sovereignty**

**issue**, as it often involves foreign vessels in Indian waters.

- The **Vessel transporters** and safety measures for fishers are also linked to their security at sea.

### Linkages to Other GS Papers

#### GS Paper II (Governance)

- **Government Policies & Interventions:** The role of institutions like **MPEDA, NFDB, and the Coastal Aquaculture Authority** demonstrates the governance structure for the sector.
- **Social Justice & Welfare:** The focus on **gendered vulnerabilities** and the inclusion of fishers in the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** scheme are examples of targeted welfare and financial inclusion for vulnerable groups.

#### GS Paper I (Society)

- The sector supports a vast population in **coastal and riverine communities**, shaping their social and economic life.

**‘Over 50% cases pending in Juvenile Justice Boards amid staff shortage’**

#### Key Content:

- More than half (55%) of the cases before 362 Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) across India remained pending as of October 31, 2023.
- A study by the **India Justice Report (IJR)** revealed that JJBs had disposed of fewer than half of the 1,00,904 cases.
- Pendency rates vary widely, from 83% in Odisha to 35% in Karnataka.

**Systemic issues contributing to the problem include:**

- Staff vacancies (24% of JJBs were not fully constituted).
- Inadequate legal aid (30% of JJBs lack an attached legal services clinic).
- High workload (an average of 154 cases pending per JJB annually).
- Inadequate data monitoring and funds.
- Lack of interagency coordination and data-sharing.
- The study also highlighted a weak culture of public data transfer and transparency, with many Right to Information (RTI) requests being rejected, unanswered, or transferred.
- Former Supreme Court Judge Madan B. Lokur expressed

concern over the gaps in the juvenile justice system, noting the detrimental effect on children.

**Is Federalism in Retreat under Single-Party Hegemony?**

**1. Introduction**

India's federal structure has historically evolved through political negotiations, constitutional design, and changing economic dynamics. The recent strain between several Opposition-ruled States and the Union government has reignited a critical debate: **Is federalism being weakened due to the emergence of single-party dominance at the Centre?**

This discussion reflects on how centralisation manifests across fiscal arrangements, governance structures, political bargaining, and institutional reforms.

**2. Evolution of Federalism: From Coalition Era to Single-Party Rule**

**Rise of Federal Assertion (1990s–2014)**

- Growth of regional parties reshaped national politics.
- Economic reforms and institutional restructuring took a **federal turn**, including:
  - Abolition of Planning Commission
  - Greater reliance on Finance Commission

- Enhanced Centre–State negotiation platforms
- Coalition governments strengthened federal bargaining.

#### Shift after 2014

- Emergence of strong single-party majority transformed Centre–State dynamics.
- New instruments of political and fiscal centralisation emerged.
- Regional parties weakened, reducing the intermediating role they historically played.

### 3. Fiscal Federalism Under Stress: GST and Beyond

#### GST as a Turning Point

- States surrendered key taxation powers.
- Dependence on **GST compensation** increased fiscal vulnerability.
- Finance Commission recommendations widened vertical fiscal imbalances, impairing States' development capacity.
- Smaller and poorer States face weakened bargaining power within GST Council deliberations.

#### Impact on Developmental Autonomy

- Limited fiscal room undermines States' ability to design context-

specific development programmes.

- Centralisation through GST disrupts the spirit of **cooperative federalism** envisioned during its introduction.

### 4. Redistribution, Regional Inequalities, and Fiscal Politics

- Southern States argue they disproportionately subsidise poorer northern States; however, redistribution remains constitutionally essential.
- Despite higher fiscal transfers, poorer States show weak job creation and industrial transformation.
- India's political economy creates a pattern of **extractive redistribution**—wealth generated in developed States funds central schemes without addressing structural deficits in lagging regions.

### 5. Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Erosion of State Autonomy

#### Centralised Schemes vs Local Priorities

- CSS dominate social and development spending, often overriding State priorities.
- Conditionalities, rigid cost-sharing formulas, and spending

ceilings limit innovation by States.

### **Institutional Gap After Planning Commission**

- Abolition of Planning Commission created a vacuum in Centre–State coordination.
- NITI Aayog lacks the binding authority required for federal consensus-building.
- India does not have a strong, empowered inter-governmental forum like other federations.

## **6. Politics of Hegemony: Party System and Federal Bargaining**

### **Political Conditions of Centralisation**

- Coalition era allowed regional parties to negotiate strongly within the Union architecture.
- Under single-party dominance:
  - Central leadership consolidates political authority.
  - Vertical distribution networks (capital, welfare, DBTs) strengthen central control.
  - Regional parties see diminished organisational and financial capacity.

### **Electoral Strategies and Regional Parties**

- Expansion of central party networks reduces the political space for regional outfits.
- Many regional parties now depend on alliances with the Centre, diluting federal contestation.

## **7. Emerging Stress Points: Census, Delimitation and ONOE**

- Proposed delimitation could sharply increase parliamentary seats in high-population northern States.
- Risk of long-term political imbalance between high-performing and high-population States.
- “One Nation, One Election” may:
  - Synchronise electoral cycles
  - But also centralise political power
  - Reduce diversity in political expression and diminish State autonomy.

These processes may collectively weaken the federal character of India’s polity.

## **8. Key Takeaways for India’s Federal Future**

- **Federalism is under stress**, not due to State resistance, but due

to increasing centralisation of political and fiscal power.

- India is transitioning from **cooperative** to **centralised or coercive federalism**.
- Need to strengthen inter-governmental mechanisms for dispute resolution, fiscal negotiation, and shared governance.
- Greater decentralisation and institutional innovation are essential to ensure balanced regional development.
- Reforms must move toward **true cooperative federalism** where both Union and States operate as equal stakeholders in India's growth.

### HOW TO USE IT

The debate on Indian federalism is shifting from a focus on **constitutional division of powers** to an analysis of the **political and fiscal practices** that shape Centre-State relations. The era of single-party hegemony at the Centre has accentuated trends towards **centralization**, testing the resilience of India's federal architecture and raising critical questions about the balance between **national unity and regional autonomy**.

**Primary Relevance: GS Paper II (Polity, Constitution, Governance)**

### 1. Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure:

- **How to use:** This is the central theme of the entire article. It provides a contemporary case study of federal tensions.

- **Key Points:**

- **From Cooperative to Coercive**

**Federalism:** The article argues that India is transitioning from a model of negotiation and cooperation (during the coalition era) to one of centralization and coercion. This is a key conceptual framework for understanding current disputes.

- **Institutional**

**Vacuum:** The abolition of the **Planning Commission** and its replacement with **NITI Aayog**, which lacks the former's financial clout and state representation, has weakened a key platform for inter-governmental dialogue.

- **GST Council as a Federal**

**Body:** The GST was a landmark moment of cooperative federalism, but its operation reveals



power imbalances. The article points out that smaller and poorer states have **weakened bargaining power** within the Council, and their fiscal vulnerability has increased.

## 2. Devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein:

- **How to use:** Analyze the fiscal tools of centralization.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Fiscal Centralization:** The argument that **Finance Commission** recommendations have widened vertical imbalances and the dominance of **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)** directly impacts the financial autonomy of states. States have less freedom to design and fund programs tailored to their specific needs.
  - **Erosion of State Autonomy:** Conditional CSS funding with rigid formulas overrides local priorities and limits state-level innovation, effectively making states mere implementing

agencies of central schemes.

## 3. Salient features of the Representation of People's Act:

- **How to use:** Link federalism to electoral processes.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Political Centralization:** The discussion on "**One Nation, One Election**" (**ONOE**) and **delimitation** connects electoral politics to federal structure. **ONOE** could centralize political narratives and reduce the focus on state-specific issues, while a delimitation based solely on population could lead to a **long-term political imbalance**, reducing the representation of southern states that have better controlled population growth.

## 4. Separation of powers between various organs:

- **How to use:** The role of the judiciary as an umpire in federal disputes is implied.
- **Key Points:**
  - In the absence of strong political forums, the Supreme Court often becomes the arena for

resolving federal disputes (e.g., disputes over governors' powers, distribution of funds). This places a greater burden on the judiciary to protect the federal balance.

economic growth and job creation.

**"Caste identity influences how teachers judge students in Bihar public schools: IIM-B study"**

### Linkages to GS Paper III (Economy)

#### 1. Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment:

- **How to use:** Analyze the economic consequences of fiscal federalism.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Redistributive Politics:** The tension between southern (contributor) states and northern (recipient) states highlights the challenge of **redistributive federalism**. The article critiques it as "extractive redistribution" if it doesn't address the structural deficits in lagging regions.
  - **Impact on Development:** Limited fiscal room for states impairs their capacity for context-specific development, potentially hampering overall

#### Key Finding

A new study by the **Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-B)** finds that **teachers in Bihar's public schools misjudge students' abilities based on caste**, even when students from different caste groups perform **equally well on standardized tests**.

#### -Misjudgment Strongly Tied to Caste

- Teachers, **especially from forward castes**, systematically **underrate backward-caste students**.
- This bias persists **even when backward-caste students' actual scores match forward-caste students' scores**.

#### -Systemic Nature of Bias

- Teachers' underestimation of lower-caste students becomes a **systemic issue** when caste markers are visible.
- Teachers expect backward-caste children to perform poorly **despite evidence to the contrary**.

## Consequences

### A. Impact on Learning

- Misjudgments can have **long-term negative effects**:
  - Poorer teacher-student interaction
  - Lower academic confidence
  - Underperformance due to stereotypes

### B. Reinforcement of Social Inequality

- Bias leads to:
  - Achievement gaps
  - Differentiated teacher expectations
  - A classroom version of the “Pygmalion Effect”
    - Higher teacher expectations → better performance
    - Lower expectations → poorer performance

### How to use it

The IIM-B study exposes how **deep-seated social prejudices (caste) permeate formal institutions (schools)**, thereby **reinforcing and perpetuating social inequality** instead of acting as a tool

for social mobility. It highlights that inequality is not just a matter of economic access but is also reproduced through **implicit biases and systemic discrimination** within the education system itself.

### Primary Relevance: GS Paper I (Society) & GS Paper II (Social Justice, Governance)

#### 1. GS Paper I: Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

- **How to use:** This is the core sociological dimension. The study provides empirical evidence for how caste, a traditional social hierarchy, continues to operate in modern settings.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Persistence of Caste:** The study proves that caste is not just a relic of the past but an **active determinant of social interaction** in contemporary India, even in a progressive space like a classroom.
  - **Social Reproduction:** The education system, often seen as a great equalizer, is instead functioning as an instrument of **social reproduction**. The biases of teachers ensure that children from

marginalized communities internalize their "place" in the social order, thus reproducing caste hierarchies across generations.

## 2. GS Paper II: Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections & Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services.

- **How to use:** Analyze the failure of the education system as a social service to deliver equitable outcomes.
- **Key Points:**
  - **Failure of Inclusive Education:** Government policies like the **Right to Education (RTE) Act** focus on physical access and infrastructure. This study reveals a critical gap: **access does not guarantee equitable and discrimination-free learning experiences.** The "quality" of education is deeply compromised by teacher bias.
  - **Governance and Implementation**  
**Gap:** The problem lies in the implementation and the human element of governance. It points to a critical need for **teacher training and**

**sensitization** as part of educational governance, which is currently a major deficit.

## 3. GS Paper II: Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions and Bodies for the Protection of Vulnerable Sections.

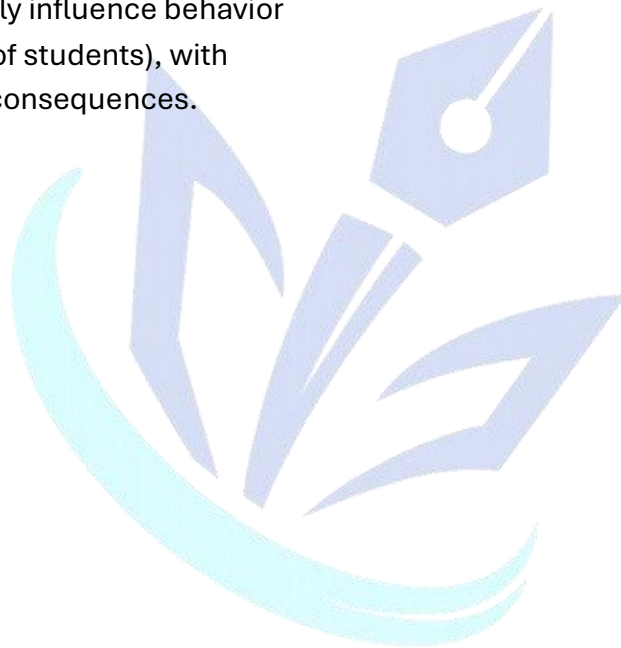
- **How to use:** Highlight the limitations of legal and constitutional safeguards in tackling subtle, everyday discrimination.
- **Key Points:**
  - While the Constitution provides for **abolition of untouchability (Article 17)** and promotes social equality, this study shows how bias operates in a **subconscious, non-legislatable manner.** The challenge is beyond what laws alone can address; it requires a change in mindset.

### Linkages to Other GS Papers

#### GS Paper IV (Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude)

- **Impartiality and Non-partisanship:** The study is a classic case of a lack of **impartiality** among public servants (teachers in government schools). Their judgment is clouded by primordial loyalties and prejudices.

- **Emotional Intelligence:** Teachers lacking empathy and social awareness fail to create an inclusive environment, directly impacting the emotional well-being and self-esteem of children from backward castes.
- **Attitude:** The study reveals how **ingrained attitudes** about caste directly influence behavior (treatment of students), with significant consequences.



# MENTORA IAS

“YOUR SUCCESS, OUR COMMITMENT”