

CORPORATE OFFICE

Delhi Office

706 Ground Floor Dr. Mukherjee
Nagar Near Batra Cinema Delhi -
110009

Noida Office

Basement C-32 Noida Sector-2
Uttar Pradesh 201301

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Date: 29 April 2024

ARTICLE 244(A)- STATE WITHIN A STATE

THIS ARTICLE COVERS 'DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS' AND THE TOPIC DETAILS OF "ARTICLE 244(A)- State within a State". THIS TOPIC IS RELEVANT IN THE "POLITY and GOVERNANCE" SECTION OF THE UPSC CSE EXAM.

Why in the News?

In the Diphu Lok Sabha constituency of Assam, where tribal communities form the majority, candidates across political affiliations have committed to enforcing Article 244(A), which seeks to create an autonomous entity within the existing state framework. This measure is designed to empower tribal regions with greater autonomy.

MORE ABOUT DIPHU LOK SABHA CONSTITUENCY OF ASSAM

- The Diphu Lok Sabha constituency is located in the state of Assam. It is known for its significant tribal population, with tribes such as the Karbis, Dimasas, and others residing in the region. Diphu serves as the administrative headquarters of the Karbi Anglong district.
- This constituency, designated for Scheduled Tribes (STs), encompasses six legislative Assembly segments situated within three hill districts of Assam, namely Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong, and Dima Hasao. These districts are governed according to the regulations outlined in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Why the demand for autonomy?

- The demand for self-governance and development in the tribal-majority Diphu Lok Sabha constituency in Assam, particularly focusing on the implementation of Article 244(A) of the Constitution, has historical origins tracing back to the 1950s.
- This demand emerged from a movement advocating for a separate hill state, which eventually led to the establishment of Meghalaya as a full-fledged state in 1972. However, leaders in the Karbi Anglong region opted to remain within Assam, anticipating autonomy through Article 244(A).

- The Autonomous State Demand Committee (ASDC), a mass organization championing regional autonomy, played a pivotal role in pushing for increased autonomy in the area.



- In 1995, the ASDC, in collaboration with local student groups, reached a Memorandum of Settlement with state and central governments to enhance the authority of the two autonomous councils in the region. Frustrated by the delay in achieving autonomy, the demand escalated into armed insurgency over time, prompting peace negotiations between the governments of Delhi and Guwahati and various militant factions, including those of the Karbi and Dimasa communities. Several peace agreements were signed, offering promises of greater autonomy and development initiatives.
- In 2021, a peace settlement was brokered with five militant groups in Karbi Anglong, followed by a similar agreement with the Dimasa National Liberation Army in 2023. The quest for autonomy in Diphu reflects a longstanding aspiration for self-governance and progress in the region.

What is Article 244(A)?

- Article 244(A) of the Indian Constitution permits the establishment of an autonomous entity within Assam, encompassing specific tribal territories. The key aspects of Article 244(A) are as follows:

- It was introduced via the Constitution (Twenty-second Amendment) Act of 1969.
- It empowers Parliament to establish an autonomous area within Assam, incorporating designated tribal regions such as Karbi Anglong.
- This autonomous area may have its own legislative body or council of ministers, or both, providing it with greater autonomy compared to the existing provisions of the Sixth Schedule.
- The autonomous authorities granted under Article 244(A) extend beyond the decentralized governance outlined in the Sixth Schedule, encompassing jurisdiction over law enforcement and other matters.
- Difference between the Sixth schedule and Article 244(A)
- The primary distinctions between the Sixth Schedule and Article 244(A) of the Indian Constitution are outlined as follows:

SIXTH SCHEDULE

- ❖ Establishes enhanced political autonomy and decentralized governance within specific tribal regions of the Northeast through the institution of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs).
- ❖ ADCs are vested with legislative authority to enact laws concerning various aspects such as land, forests, agriculture, inheritance, indigenous customs and traditions, and the collection of certain taxes.
- ❖ ADCs possess designated powers and responsibilities across legislative, executive, and judicial realms, functioning akin to miniature states.
- ❖ However, the Sixth Schedule does not confer jurisdiction to ADCs over law and order matters.

ARTICLE 244(A)

- Facilitates the formation of an 'autonomous state' within the broader state of Assam, encompassing select tribal territories.
- Endows these tribal areas with heightened autonomous powers compared to those provided under the Sixth Schedule, including governance over law enforcement.
- Allows for the autonomous state to establish its own legislative body or council of ministers, or both.
- The autonomous authorities granted by Article 244(A) extend beyond the decentralized governance framework offered by the Sixth Schedule.
- What are the implications of implementing Art-244(A) in Assam?
- The implementation of Article 244(A) in Assam carries significant implications for the region. Here are some key considerations:
 - ❖ **Increased Autonomy:** Enforcing Article 244(A) would provide heightened autonomy to specific tribal areas within Assam, paving the way for the establishment of an autonomous state with its own

legislative body and/or Council of Ministers. This expanded autonomy has the potential to empower local communities and bolster self-governance.

- ❖ **Allocation of Legislative and Executive Powers:** Executing Article 244(A) would delineate the powers and responsibilities of the autonomous state's Legislature or Council of Ministers, specifying domains where they can enact laws and delineating their executive authority. This would afford the autonomous state greater control over its governance.
- ❖ **Fiscal Independence:** Article 244(A) permits the assignment of state-imposed taxes to the autonomous state, ensuring fiscal autonomy and financial stability for the region. This financial self-sufficiency can facilitate local development endeavours and foster economic growth.
- ❖ **Enhanced Representation and Engagement:** The provision of Article 244(A) guarantees representation and engagement of tribal areas in the legislative arena, fostering more inclusive governance and decision-making processes that reflect the interests and concerns of local communities.
- ❖ **Promotion of Socio-Economic Progress:** By endowing the autonomous state with increased powers and resources, the implementation of Article 244(A) can stimulate socio-economic advancement in the region. It can facilitate targeted development initiatives, infrastructure undertakings, and programs aimed at enhancing residents' quality of life.
- ❖ **Advancement of Peace and Stability:** Meeting the demand for autonomy through Article 244(A) has the potential to contribute to peace and stability in the region by addressing long standing grievances and aspirations of tribal communities. It could potentially mitigate conflicts and foster harmony among diverse ethnic groups.

- How can granting autonomy affect the social landscape of Assam?
- Bestowing autonomy in Assam could significantly reshape the social landscape of the region, yielding various potential outcomes:
 - **Empowerment of Indigenous Communities:** Autonomy has the potential to empower indigenous groups such as the Bodos, Karbis, Koch Rajbongshis, Dimasas, and Tiwas, enabling them to exercise greater authority over their governance, resources, and cultural heritage preservation.
 - **Preservation of Cultural Diversity:** Autonomy may contribute to safeguarding the distinct cultural identities of Assam's diverse ethnic communities, granting them the ability to safeguard and promote their languages, customs, and heritage.
 - **Fostering Social Harmony:** Autonomy might cultivate a sense of solidarity and collaboration among diverse communities by championing inclusive governance frameworks that honour and accommodate the interests of all segments of society.

Prelims based Question

Q1. What is the purpose of Article 244(2) of the Indian Constitution relating to special provisions for states having scheduled areas?

- (a) To provide constitutional protection to minorities
- (b) To ensure representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in State Legislatures
- (c) To establish district councils for tribal regions within states
- (d) To empower the Governor of a state to declare emergency provisions in scheduled areas

ANSWER: C

Mains based Question

Q1. What are the potential implications of implementing Article 244(A) on Assam's socio-political landscape, particularly in terms of governance, representation, and socio-economic development?

Vikas



CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION

This article covers ‘daily current affairs’ and the topic details of” central pay commission”. This topic is relevant in the “economy” section of the upsc cse exam.

WHY IN THE NEWS?

- Recently, the ministry of personnel, public grievances, and pensions under the department of personnel & training (do&pt) has forwarded a letter from the indian railways technical supervisors’ association to the department of expenditure regarding the formation of the 8th central pay commission for the further action.
- The indian railways technical supervisors’ association (irtsa) letter made many key demands. The first demand is the constitution of a new central pay commission. The association also wants the government to rectify disparities and anomalies in the salaries of various groups of employees.
- The indian railways technical supervisors’ association wants ample time allocated to the pay commission in a bid to clear all existing anomalies concerning pay and allowances, working conditions, promotional avenues, and post-classifications. The association also writes that central pay commissions are set up at regular intervals of 10 years to examine, review, evolve, and recommend changes regarding the principles that should govern the emoluments’ structure, including pay, allowances, and other facilities/benefits, in cash or kind, as well as the specialized needs of various departments, agencies, and services in respect of central government employees.

What is the central pay commission?

- The central pay commission (cpc) is a governmental body in India responsible for recommending changes in the salary structure of central government employees, including civil and defence personnel.
- The commission evaluates and makes recommendations regarding pay, allowances, pensions, and other benefits for government employees.
- The cpc is part of the department of expenditure (ministry of finance).
- The first central pay commission was set up in 1946.
- Pay commissions are usually constituted every ten years.
- The last pay commission (7th) was set up in 2014, and its recommendations took effect in 2016.
- The pay commission’s recommendations are not mandatory for the government. The government can accept or reject them.

Importance of the pay commission:

- ❖ **Salary structure:** The cpc recommends revisions to the salary structure, allowances, and benefits of central government employees, including armed forces personnel and employees of central public sector undertakings. These recommendations have far-reaching effects on the financial well-being of millions of government employees and their families.
- ❖ **Standardization:** by setting standards for pay and benefits across various government sectors, the cpc aims to ensure fairness and uniformity in compensation, reducing employee disparities and grievances.
- ❖ **Inflation management:** The cpc's regular revisions help adjust salaries to keep pace with inflation, ensuring that government employees maintain their purchasing power and standard of living.
- ❖ **Economic impact:** The cpc's recommendations can significantly impact government expenditure and fiscal deficit. Balancing the need to provide fair compensation with fiscal prudence is a key challenge for the government.
- ❖ **Political implications:** the decisions of the cpc can have political ramifications, as they directly affect the livelihoods of a large voter base. Therefore, the government must carefully consider the recommendations to maintain public support.

Way forward:

- Ensure that the cpc conducts its proceedings transparently, with representation from various stakeholders, including government officials, employees' unions, economists, and experts from relevant fields. This helps build trust and credibility in the recommendations.
- The recommendations are based on comprehensive data analysis, considering factors such as inflation rates, cost of living indices, productivity levels, and economic growth projections. This ensures that salary revisions are well-founded and reflect the current economic realities.
- Reduce disparities in compensation between different categories of employees, such as those serving in urban and rural areas or those in different ranks or grades. This will promote equity and fairness within the workforce.
- Ensure that recommendations are financially sustainable for the government in the long term, considering budgetary constraints and the impact on fiscal deficit. Striking a balance between meeting the needs of employees and maintaining fiscal discipline is crucial.
- Establish mechanisms for seeking feedback from employees and relevant stakeholders on implementing cpc recommendations. This will help identify issues and challenges in the implementation process and allow for timely adjustments.
- The cpc recommendations address the immediate needs of government employees and contribute to broader goals of economic growth, social equity, and good governance.

Prelims practice question:

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The government pays dearness allowance (da) to its employees and pensioners to offset the impact of inflation.
2. DA is calculated based on the all-India consumer price index for the past 12 months.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

Mains practice question:

Q. How does the central pay commission ensure fair and equitable salary adjustments across all levels of government employees while considering the country's economic constraints?

Amit pradhan

