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## Why federalism can't be just another slogan

**DIVISION OF POWER** Regional parties with powerful leaders are no longer subservient to the party at the Centre. Their priorities, too, have come to the fore

PAVAN K VARMA



citizenship; all-India services, which serve in the states, are controlled by the Centre; and, emergency powers to take over the government of states lie with the Centre. It is for this reason that our republic has been described as "federal in concept but unitary in spirit". In the early years after Independence, federalism seemed to be working well enough because the Congress party that held power at the Centre was also in power in most states.

When, in later years, different parties ruled at the Centre and in states, the definition of what constitutes actual federal practice began to crop up. That is why today, there is talk of

the need not only of federalism, as outlined in the country's Constitution, but "cooperative federalism", which ensures that the letter of the Constitution is practised in spirit as well.

In many ways, such a debate is inevitable. Significant regional priorities have now come to the fore; there are deep-seated regional aspirations in evidence; strong regional parties with powerful leaders are no longer subservient to the party at the Centre; and new environmental and economic challenges have emerged.

Earlier, institutional structures that guided Centre-state relations, such as the Planning Commission, have been



HT PHOTO

• A strong unitary spirit underlies Indian federalism.

abolished. The mandate of the Niti Aayog that replaced it is, at best, amorphous. This has led to the Union Finance Commission, which handles the key issue of allocation of financial resources between Centre and states, emerging as the most important—and the most contentious—institution to judge whether there is, indeed, the spirit of cooperative federalism at work.

The 14th Finance Commission increased the quantum of transfers to the states from the central tax kitty, from 32% to 42%. On paper, this seemed a substantive favour done to the states. However, in reality, this was just a compositional

shift. The increase in tax transfers was negated to a large extent by the reduction of allocations by the Centre for the centrally planned and sponsored schemes. In fact, as a result, in spite of the rise in overall percentage share, the share of many states actually fell in the divisible pool of taxes. Any arbitrary or unilateral change in the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Finance Commission also affects the 'cooperative' manner in which federal scheme of things should run. Such changes should be brought about only after comprehensive consultations with states, and avoid politically inspired subjectivities such as "performance-based

incentives". Finally, no federalism can be genuinely cooperative if it does not take into account the growing regional disparities in the Union.

Some five or six relatively developed states continue to get the overwhelming flow of both public and private investment, whereas others in which the largest number of Indians live, continue to languish in a vicious cycle of poverty. For instance, although Bihar has for many years now had one of the highest annual economic growth rates in the country, it will still require, even at these growth rates, another 25 years before it reaches the mean national per capita income.

Obviously, such a situation requires institutional affirmative action from the central government in the form of reduced state contributions for centrally sponsored schemes, improved access to external resources, and tax breaks on private investment. This is the basis of the demand for Special Category Status, which is required not only for Bihar, but for states such as West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand.

Cooperative federalism cannot, therefore, be just a slogan. In the increasingly competitive and acrimonious politics of today, it must be based on a transparent institutional framework that ensures justice to all constituents of the Union, and makes them respected stakeholders in the functioning of the Republic.

Arun Jaitley, Union minister for youth affairs and sports

TOMORROW

Rajyavardhan Rathore, Union minister for youth affairs and sports

Concepts of federalism are, ultimately, a matter of enlightened practice, and not only constitutional phraseology. The very first clause of our Constitution states categorically that India is a "Union of states". It allows for a central government, and state governments; it lays down divisions of powers between both; and it accepts that in a country of the size of India, there must be a structured federal component that allows for diversities to be accommodated.

However, there is a strong unitary spirit underlying this federalism. The balance of power is, undeniably, vested in the central government: there is no dual

### speaker profile



HIMA DAS, Athlete

### Obscurity to fame in 51 seconds

Before July 12 this year, not many would have known where Dhim was. That changed after a track run in Tampere, Finland, which fetched Assam girl Hima Das the 400m gold in the world under-20 championship, the first by an Indian. The journey from relative obscurity to fame took all of 51.46 seconds. Given the gap she opened up on the home stretch, it could actually have been shorter. Hima hasn't looked back since. They now call her the Dhim Express. The Commonwealth Games—prior to the world championship, where Das took part in the

400m and the 4x400m relay—seemed to have prepared her for a glorious take-off. After twice breaking the national record to win the 400m silver at the 2018 Asian Games, the 4x400m relay gold and the mixed relay silver, Das, already an Arjuna award-winner, is still flying. Yet, she says nothing's really changed. "Personally, I don't think much has changed, neither do I want life to change so soon. I only want to think about training and running in my next event. Yes, when I go back home, people try to touch me, hug me... that's when I get the feeling that I have achieved something," Das recently said.

ARUN JAITLEY, Minister of finance and corporate affairs

### NDA's chief troubleshooter

When it is to do with fuel price rise, the government turns to one man to explain the global context of the crisis. When it is under attack on the Rafale deal, it is him again, articulating a strong case on behalf of the government. When the government is being criticised over allegations of interfering in the judiciary, it is the same leader who defends its record and commitment to democratic values. When it comes to portraying achievements, or launching a fierce attack on the Congress, or framing the 2019 election as a contest between the NDA's stability and the chaos the Opposition might unleash, few can

do a more eloquent job. And that is only one reason why Union finance minister Arun Jaitley is the NDA government's key political strategist and troubleshooter. From playing a key role in the government's big decisions, to managing what is arguably the most important portfolio—finance—Jaitley wears many hats. As elections approach, the BJP will turn to him to frame its key political messages, project its record to urban India and in the media, and use his wide links across party lines to stitch alliances and neutralise opponents. One of India's most articulate and influential leaders, he brings civility and reason to public discourse.



Illustration: PRANAB SAHA

**AMISH TRIPATHI**  
AUTHOR

**TWINKLE KHANNA**  
AUTHOR, COLUMNIST & FILM PRODUCER

**RICHARD ALLAN**  
VP POLICY SOLUTIONS, FACEBOOK

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**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of Regulation 60 of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 and Section 91 of Companies Act, 2013 and Rules made thereunder that **Record Date** has been fixed as per below details for considering the entitlement of beneficial ownership for making payment of interest on the following -

**ISIN - INE347G08035 i.e. 9.05% Unsecured Redeemable Taxable Non-Convertible Debentures (NCD) (Series II) (Option II) for a period of 5 years of Rs. 600 crore.**

**Record Date - 13th October, 2018**

The interest payment will be made on 29th October, 2018 for the period from 28th October, 2017 to 27th October, 2018 (both days inclusive), on the basis of Beneficial Ownership details to be furnished by NSDL and CDSL in respect of said Record Date.

For Petronet LNG Limited  
Sd/-  
(Rajan Kapur)  
Vice President - Company Secretary

**Ministry of Science & Technology**  
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)  
Engg. Services Division, CSIR Complex  
Pusa, New Delhi-12

**PRESS NOTICE (NIT)**

Online e-tenders are invited for the following works:-

- Renovation of Conference Room at First floor, CSIR Science Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. Estimated cost of the work is **Rs. 18,39,000/- (Rs. Eighteen lakh thirty nine thousand only)** based on DSR-2016 (Excluding cost index) and prevailing market rates. The Earnest Money is **Rs. 36,800/- (Rs. Thirty six thousand eight hundred only)** and tender fee is **Rs. 500/- (Non refundable)**. The time for completion of the work is **45 days**.
- Supplying, Fabrication & Installation of Vertical Garden at Science Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. Estimated cost of the work is **Rs. 7,90,000/- (Rs. Seven lakh ninety thousand only)** based on prevailing market rates (including GST & Labour Cess). The Earnest Money is **Rs. 15,800/- (Rs. Fifteen thousand eight hundred only)** and tender fee is **Rs. 500/- (Non refundable)**. The time for completion of the work is **30 days**.
- Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of CCTV Cameras and related accessories in the campus of CSIR Complex, Pusa, New Delhi. Estimated cost of the work is **Rs. 7,96,261/- (Rs. Seven lakh ninety six thousand two hundred sixty one only)** based on prevailing market rates and DSR-16. The Earnest Money is **Rs. 15,925/- (Rs. Fifteen thousand nine hundred twenty five only)** and tender fee is **Rs. 500/- (Non refundable)**. The time for completion of the work is **02 months**.

Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online only at SI. No. 1 and 2 from **03.10.2018 to 12.10.2018 upto 1100 Hrs.** Technical bid will be opened on **15.10.2018 at 1500 Hrs.** and SI. No. 3 from **03.10.2018 to 11.10.2018 upto 3.00 P.M.** Technical bid will be opened on **12.10.2018 at 3.30 P.M.** from <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>

NIT also be seen at our Website [www.csirhrdg.res.in](http://www.csirhrdg.res.in)

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given by Citibank, N.A. and Citicorp Finance (India) Ltd. (CFIL) that a fraudulent entity having a deceptively similar name 'Citi Finance Service' started operations at Zero Mile Dadar Road, Muzaffarpur, Bihar-842001. 'Citi Finance Service' was found to be taking deposits, purporting to open savings/current accounts and offering loans to members of the public. The scale of the fraud included recruitment interviews, issuing appointment letters and luring individuals into employment.

The Public is hereby notified that Citigroup Inc., along with its subsidiaries including Citibank, N.A. and CFIL, is in no way associated with 'Citi Finance Service' and hereby cautions the public not to invest, associate or avail any banking/financial services provided/offered by the said fraudulent entity or any person claiming through them.

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**NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (Pr.) CITY & SPZ**  
Room No. 300, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Old Hindu College Building  
Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110006 Tel No. 011-23988845  
No. EE/Project/CSPZ/TC/2018-19/17 Dated : 01.10.2018

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Request of tender document from	03.10.2018 18.00 Hrs.
Request of tender document to	15.10.2018 15.00 Hrs.
Issue of tender document from	03.10.2018 18.01 Hrs.
Issue of tender document to	15.10.2018 15.10 Hrs.
Pre bid meeting	10.10.2018 15.00 Hrs.
Tender closing Date and Time	16.10.2018 18.00 Hrs.
Submission of Technical Bid (Manually)	17.10.2018 15.00 Hrs.
Opening Date of Technical Bid	17.10.2018 15.10 Hrs.
Opening of financial bids of technically qualified bidders (Tentative)	24.10.2018 15.00 Hrs.

The Executive Engineer (Pr.) City-S.P. Zone on behalf of the Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation invites the proposal from reputed Consultants for services of "Providing Consultancy Services for preparing the development plan of adjoining of open land adjacent to Park 7 (Opposite Parade Ground Car Parking) City-S.P. Zone"

**Name of Work:** Providing Consultancy Services for preparing the development plan of adjoining of open land adjacent to Park 7 (Opposite Parade Ground Car Parking) City-S.P. Zone. **Head of Account:** 66-2882. **Tender Amount:** Item Rate, **Earnest Money:** ₹8,000/-. **Time of completion:** 12 months, **Rate Hold Good for:** 5 months, **Cost of Tender:** ₹1,000/-. **Tender No.:** EE Pr CSPZ/TC/2018-19/15/01

The tender document form may be downloaded from official website of NDMC, i.e. [www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER](http://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER) and [www.mcdonline.gov.in](http://www.mcdonline.gov.in) or before 03:00 PM of 15.10.2018. The downloaded bid documents may be used for tender purposes.

Ex. Engineer (Pr.)  
R.O. No. 74/DPI/North/2018-19  
City-S.P. Zone