

- **Assent to bills** – LG can reserve certain bills for the consideration of the President such as the bills which may diminish the powers of High Court of Delhi, bills dealing with salaries and allowances of the speaker, deputy speaker, ministers and the members of the assembly, bills relating to official language, bills which the President may direct to reserve
- **LG's opinion for executive matters** – all executive actions must be taken in the name of the LG

### **Impact of the bill**

- **Undermines democracy**- by degrading the powers of elected assembly
- **Against federalism** – the bill may lead to centralization of power which is against the principles of federalism
- **Not in harmony with the Supreme Court verdict of 2018**- where the Court ruled in favour of the elected government.
- **Setback for Delhi's quest for statehood**.
- **Creates ambiguity over accountability**- as the elected government will lack sufficient powers to implement its manifesto

### **Conclusion**

- The **principle of subsidiarity demands** that India's national government may take some cues from global trends and cede more powers to the city government in capital territory.
- In Washington DC, with limited mandate, the DC Police has a say in city policing and law and order issues.
- The British Home Office, which earlier had the last word on the London Metropolitan Police, has over the years, conceded such supervisory powers to the elected mayor of London.
- **Justice DY Chandrachud**, in the 2018 case of the Supreme Court had observed, "In a democratic form of government, the real power must subsist in the elected arms of the state". There is a need to look into the given bill in the light of the given statement.

There is a need for greater collaboration and co-ordination between the Central government and Delhi government so that people of NCT are not deprived of good governance.

### **MISUSE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT DURING COVID 19**

According to political experts, the Centre's direction to the states during COVID 19 using the Disaster Management (DM) Act violated the principles of federalism in India.

### **Issues**

- **Damaging cooperative federalism**- With the Home Ministry issuing guidelines to states under DM Act, states are compelled to cede powers which are strictly under state list healthcare and law and order. For eg making compulsory the usage of Arogya setu app.
- **National lockdown**- according to experts, DM act gives power to the Centre to requisition state machinery for localized disaster but not for national lockdown.
- **Wide and vague powers to Centre under the DM act** – the Centre used such powers to give orders with respect to subjects like healthcare, law and order etc. For eg classification of the entire country into red, orange and green zones Union Ministry of Health and Family welfare.
- **Imposition of section 188 of IPC**- to make the citizens comply with the orders promulgated by the public servants was also seen encroachment on state subject

### **Other issues witnessed during the pandemic related to centre-state relation**

- **Unilateral decision making by the Centre**- because of non-consultation with the states several issues arose such as the migrant crisis.
- **Financial resources of the state**- the state's financial resources were heavily impacted by sudden imposition of lockdown and other measures by the Centre. Further, delay in payment of GST dues to states worsened the crisis.