Supreme Court's Suo Motu Cognisance Explained

Discussion on the Supreme Court's power to take suo motu cognisance in public interest.

Suo motu cognisance refers to a court's power to initiate judicial action on its own accord, without any formal petition or complaint.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Suo motu cognisance** allows the **Supreme Court** to initiate **judicial action** without a formal petition.
- It is an **extraordinary court-initiated mechanism** that relaxes conventional **procedural barriers**.
- This power is crucial for ensuring **constitutional remedies** and **access to justice**.
- It plays a significant role in protecting **public interest** and **vulnerable groups**.
- The power is derived from the Supreme Court's existing **constitutional jurisdictions** and **remedial powers**.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The Supreme Court's power of suo motu cognisance is often exercised under **Article 136** and **Article 142** of the **Constitution**.

Article 32 grants citizens the right to move the Supreme Court for the enforcement of **fundamental rights**.

Suo motu cognisance is closely associated with the concept of **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)**.

PIL in India was pioneered by Justices **P.N. Bhagwati** and **V.R. Krishna Iyer**.

The concept of **judicial activism** is reflected in the Supreme Court's use of **suo motu powers**.

The **Supreme Court** can take suo motu action to ensure **complete justice** in any matter.

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Suo motu cognisance allows the Supreme Court to initiate judicial action on its own, often under Articles 136 and 142.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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