

Today's Prelims Topics

SC Judgement on assent to Bills by Governor

Context

The Supreme Court has delivered a strong judgment against Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi for inaction on 10 Bills passed by the Tamil Nadu State Legislature.

Key points of the Supreme Court Judgment

- **Governor's Inaction Unconstitutional:**
 - SC held that the prolonged delay by the Tamil Nadu Governor in acting on 10 Bills was **unconstitutional and violated Article 200** of the Constitution.
- **Assent Deemed Given:**
 - The court used its powers under **Article 142** to deem that **all 10 re-passed Bills** had received **valid assent**.
- **Governor Cannot Delay Indefinitely:**
 - Governors must act "**as soon as possible**" and cannot **sit indefinitely** on Bills — this would amount to a **pocket veto**, which is not allowed.
- **No Presidential Reservation After Re-passage:**
 - Governor **cannot refer a re-passed Bill to the President**. If he wanted to reserve it, he should have done so the **first time**.
- **Governor Must Follow Constitutional Advice:**
 - Governor is **bound by the advice** of the **State Cabinet** and cannot act on **personal discretion**, especially after a Bill is re-passed.
- **Time Limits Introduced:**
 - SC has **fixed specific timeframes** within which a Governor must act on Bills to ensure **transparency, accountability, and constitutional governance**.

Article-200 ▶▶ When a bill is sent to the Governor, he/she can:

- Assent the bill.
- Withhold his/her assent to the bill
- Return the bill (if it is not a money bill) for reconsideration of the state legislature.
- **However, if the bill is passed again by the state legislature with or without amendments, the Governor has to give his/ her assent to the bill.**

Article-201 ▶▶ **Reservation for President's consideration; He/She can**

- Give assent to the bill
- Withhold assent to the bill
- Direct the governor to return the bill (**exception: money bill**) for reconsideration of the state legislature.

Reconsideration of Reserved Bills:

- The legislature must reconsider a returned Bill within six months.
- Once passed again, it is presented to the President.
- The President is **not obligated to grant assent to a reconsidered Bill**.

Governor's action on Bill	Time Limit
● Assent to a Bill	Within 1 Month
● Withhold assent and return the Bill with message	Within 3 months
● Reserve the Bill for President's consideration	Within 3 months
● Assent to a re-passed Bill (after return by Governor)	Within 1 month (Mandatory)

Source:

- [Indian Express - Assent to Bills](#)
- [The Hindu](#)

New FCRA rules on Foreign Funds

Context

Recently the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued updated rules regarding acceptance of foreign funds under FCRA.

About Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)

- It is a legislative framework established by the Indian Parliament to oversee the receipt and usage of foreign contributions by individuals, associations and companies.
- It was enacted in **1976 during the Emergency period** to address concerns about foreign interference in India's internal affairs.
- Contributions made by a **Non-Resident Indian (NRI)** from their personal savings through normal banking channels are not treated as foreign contributions under FCRA.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** implements FCRA.
- **2020 Amendment in FCRA:** Introduced restrictions on fund transfers, reduced administrative expense allowance from 50% to 20%, and mandated a specific SBI branch in New Delhi for foreign fund receipts.

About latest amendment in rules

- **Mandatory Prior Permission:** Any entity under this category must **apply and obtain approval** from the MHA before receiving any foreign funds.
 - These are entities that are **not permanently registered** under FCRA but seek to receive foreign funds for a specific project or activity.
- Once prior permission is granted, the recipient is allowed to **receive foreign contributions only for up to 3 years** from the date of approval.
- **Time Limit to Utilize the Funds: Within 4 years** from the date of approval.
- If the entity **receives or uses** foreign funds **beyond these time limits**, it will be treated as a **violation** of the **FCRA, 2010**.

FCRA Registration Criteria and Regulations

- **Eligibility:** FCRA registrations are issued to entities engaged in specific sectors such as culture, economy, education, religion and social work.
- **Applicant Authenticity:** Applicants must be genuine, not fictitious or in someone else's name, and must not have engaged in forced or induced religious conversions.
- **Validity Period:** An FCRA registration remains valid for **five years**, requiring renewal submissions **six months before its expiration**.
- **Cancellation Conditions:** Registrations can be revoked if false information is discovered in the application.
- **Post-Cancellation Restrictions:** NGOs with cancelled registrations face a **three-year prohibition on re-registration**.
- **Suspension Authority:** The government can suspend an NGO's registration for up to **180 days** during investigations and can also freeze its financial assets.
- **Legal Recourse:** Decisions made by the government regarding FCRA matters can be appealed in the High Court.

Source:

- [Indian Express - FCRA](#)

Revised classification by CPCB

Context

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has revised the classification of industries based on their pollution potential.

Features of New Classification

- Industries are classified in **5** categories according to their pollution potential.
- A **new category**, called the “**Blue Category**”, has been introduced specifically for industries that provide **Essential Environmental Services (EES)**.
- It includes **industries or utilities essential for environmental management**, such as:
 - Waste-to-Energy plants
 - Certain Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants
 - Landfill maintenance services
 - Biomining operations
- **Extended Validity:** Industries in the Blue category will receive an **additional 2 years validity** for their **Consent to Operate (CTO)**, as an **incentive**.

Criteria & Examples of Industries

Industry	Pollution Index (PI) Range	Examples
● Red	PI > 80	Thermal power plants, Cement manufacturing, Tanneries
● Orange	55 ≤ PI < 80	Brick manufacturing, Dry cell battery, coal washeries etc.
● Green	25 ≤ PI < 55	Ice cream manufacturing, Assembly units (non polluting)
○ White	PI < 25	Solar power generation, Medical oxygen etc.
● Blue	Variable PI	Waste to Energy plants, Landfill operators, CBG plants

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- It is a **statutory body** constituted in 1974, under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**. It is also entrusted with the powers and functions under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
- **Functions:**
 - Preventing, controlling and abating water pollution
 - Preventing, controlling, and abating air pollution & Improving air quality.
 - Advising the central government on water and air pollution

Source:

- [Hindustan Times - CPCB](#)

News in Shorts

Niveshak Didi Initiative

- It is a **financial literacy** initiative for training rural women as financial educators.
- Its first phase was launched in November 2022.
- **Launched by: Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)**, in collaboration with **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**.
- Under this initiative **Women postal workers** and **community leaders** are trained to become "*Niveshak Didis*", who act as **local financial educators**.

About IEPFA

- It is a statutory body established under the **Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, as per the Companies Act 2013.
- It was established to **promote investor education** and **protect investors' interests**.

Source:

- [PIB - Niveshak didi](#)

Project Varsha

- It is a **classified Indian Navy project** to develop a **strategic underground naval base**.
- **Location:** near Rambilli village, Andhra Pradesh.
- It will house **nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs)**—a critical arm of **India's nuclear triad**.
- India currently has **4 nuclear submarines**.
- A similar project to safeguard India's west coast is also under construction in **Karwar (Karnataka)**. It is named **Project Sea-Bird**.

What is Nuclear Triad ?

- It refers to the capability of delivering nuclear weapons by **aircraft, land based ballistic missiles and submarine launched missiles**.

Source:

- [Economic Times - Varsha](#)

China's Deep Sea Station in South China Sea

- China is building the **world's first permanent undersea research station** in the **South China Sea (SCS)** to study gas hydrates.
- SCS is a disputed area between **China, Taiwan, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei**.



What Are Gas Hydrates?

- **Gas hydrates** (or methane hydrates) are **crystalline solids** where **methane gas** is **trapped inside a cage of water molecules**.
- They are found under seabeds in cold, high-pressure environments like continental slopes and permafrost.
- When extracted and decomposed, they **release methane**, a **clean-burning natural gas**.
- They are classified as **unconventional hydrocarbons** because extracting them requires advanced and non-traditional technologies.
- **Potential Methane Hydrates reserves in India:** Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin, A&N islands.

Source:

- [Eurasian Times - SCS](#)

CAPTCHA

- CAPTCHA stands for **Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart**.
- Its purpose is to distinguish between real users and bots on the internet.
- **How Does CAPTCHA Work?**
 - It presents **challenges easy for humans but hard for bots**, such as:
 - Recognizing **distorted text or characters**.
 - Selecting images with objects (e.g., traffic lights, buses).
 - It is based on the **Turing Test**: A test designed to determine if a machine can mimic human intelligence.

Source:

- [The Hindu - CAPTCHA](#)

What Are Metallo-Nanozymes ?

- Recently scientists from **CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai** have developed a **new metallo-nanozyme called Cu-Phen**.
- **Metallo-nanozymes** are a type of nanozyme that use **metal ions** (like copper, iron, etc.) to perform enzyme-like activities.
 - **Nanozymes** are **artificial enzymes** made from **nanomaterials** that display enzyme-like characteristics.
 - **Enzymes** are proteins that speed up chemical reactions in living organisms.
- These artificial catalysts are used in **energy, medical, and environmental applications** because they are **more stable, cost-effective and tunable** than natural enzymes.

Source:

- [PIB - Metallo Nanozymes](#)

Slippage Ratio

- Slippage ratio is the **rate at which good loans are turning bad**.
- **It is measured by:** Fresh accretion of NPAs during the year $\times 100$ / Total standard assets at the beginning of the year
- **Trends:**
 - **High slippage ratio** suggests that a bank is experiencing a significant increase in bad loans, which can negatively impact its profitability and financial health.
 - **Low or no slippage ratio** indicates that a bank is effectively managing its asset quality.

Source:

- [The Hindu - Slippage Ratio](#)

What is Active Mobility ?

- Active mobility refers to using human-powered modes of transportation, like walking, cycling, and skateboarding, for regular travel, rather than just for recreation.
- **Its importance is growing due to:**
 - Increasing **traffic congestion**.
 - **Air pollution**.
 - **Health concerns**.
 - Rising **pedestrian deaths** in metro cities.

Source:

- [The Hindu - Active Mobility](#)

Editorial Summary

The gradual transformation of the Home Ministry

Context

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has seen various gradual transformations over years.

Background Of The Home Ministry

- **Focus on Hotspots Only:** For decades, violence in Kashmir, insurgency in the North-East, and Naxalite movements in Central India **dictated the Ministry's priorities.**
 - This resulted in significant loss of life and extensive deployment of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) due to states' inability to modernize their police forces.
- **Reactive (Event-Driven) Legislation:** Laws were made in response to specific incidents:
 - **Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA)** after **Punjab insurgency.**
 - **Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA)** after the **2001 Parliament attack.**
 - **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** was formed after the **26/11 Mumbai attacks.**
- **Leadership Instability:** Frequent changes in leadership, particularly during Indira Gandhi's third term and Rajiv Gandhi's tenure, led to instability in internal security reforms.
 - This instability hindered the implementation of long-term strategies, as seen with multiple Home Ministers during their tenures.
- **Crisis Management Frameworks:** While the MHA was involved in crisis management, broader frameworks for disaster management were developed later.
 - The National Disaster Management Act of 2005 led to the establishment of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC), which aimed to provide a more coordinated and proactive approach to disaster management.

Evolution Towards Proactive Measures: Key Reforms Undertaken

- **Legislative Reforms:**
 - Passage of three new criminal laws: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam in 2023.
 - Amendments to the NIA Act and UAPA to define terrorism in Indian law and financially choke terror groups.
 - Over 27 legislative reforms since 2019 to establish strong security jurisprudence.
- **Institutional Modernization:** Establishment of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU).
 - Full implementation of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), integrating police stations, courts, jails, and forensic labs.
 - Revamping intelligence-sharing mechanisms like the Multi-Agency Centre (MAC).
- **Budgetary Expansion:** The MHA budget crossed ₹1 lakh crore in 2019 and surged to ₹2.33 lakh crore in 2025.
 - Enhanced expenditure on Central Paramilitary Forces from ₹38,000 crore in 2013-14 to ₹97,000 crore in 2024-25.
- **Focus on Technology and Coordination:** Creation of technology databases for intelligence.
 - Promotion of a "duty to share" culture among agencies.
- **Conflict Resolution:**
 - Dilution of Article 370 for Kashmir integration.
 - Peace accords in the North-East.
 - Dual strategies combining security measures with development initiatives in Naxal-affected areas

Impact on the Ground

- **Reduction in Violence:** Violence across Kashmir, North-East, and Naxal areas has declined by 70%.
 - Stone-pelting incidents in Kashmir have reduced substantially.
 - Insurgency in the North-East has weakened.
- **Integration and Stability:** Political stability and economic growth are evident in previously conflict-prone regions.
 - Social transformation is visible in Naxal strongholds due to development initiatives.
- **Enhanced Governance:** Improved coordination between states and the Centre through Articles 355 and 356 of the Constitution.
 - Strengthened federal governance structures integrating security with administrative functions

What are the Various Challenges Related To MHA

Governance Challenges

- **Ethnic Violence and Regional Instabilities: Manipur ethnic violence** has exposed limitations in the MHA's ability to curb unrest despite central intervention.
 - Critics argue that the tussle between state and central powers has further complicated governance.
- **Sikh Militancy and International Relations:** The resurgence of Sikh militancy, particularly linked to pro-Khalistan groups abroad, has strained India's relations with countries like Canada. Intelligence agencies have flagged concerns about radicalism and secessionist movements in Punjab.

Legislative and Policy Concerns

- **Hasty Drafting of Laws:** Critics have pointed out that legislative enactments often lack thorough scrutiny and stakeholder consultations, leading to implementation challenges.
 - E.g., the Gram Nyayalaya Act failed to adequately address operational issues such as financial implications or its impact on reducing judicial pendency.
- **Pre-Legislative Scrutiny:** A lack of pre-legislative scrutiny has been flagged as a recurring issue, with calls for wider consultations and cost-benefit analyses before enacting laws.
 - This gap undermines the effectiveness and adaptability of new legislation.

What are the Current Challenges Associated With MHA

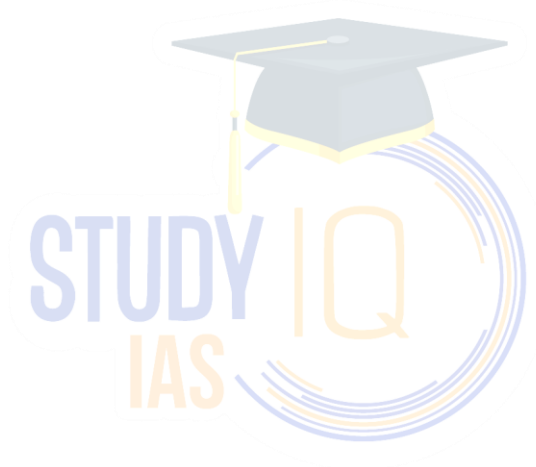
- **Restoring Peace in Jammu & Kashmir:** Despite reduced terror in recent years, **fresh attacks** in Poonch and Reasi districts have raised alarms.
 - The **Amarnath Yatra** needs foolproof security.
- **Unresolved Ethnic Violence in Manipur:** Violence between communities is ongoing and spreading to new areas like **Jiribam**.
 - State-Centre coordination is strained, and stolen weapons are yet to be recovered.
- **Resurfacing of Sikh Militancy: Pro-Khalistan elements** gaining visibility — both in India and abroad, especially in Canada.
 - Two radical Sikh leaders won Lok Sabha seats — showing **growing support for hardliners**.
- **Implementing New Criminal Justice Laws:** The **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam** kick in from **July 1, 2025**.
 - These laws are **technology-driven**, but many states **lack trained personnel and digital readiness**.
- **Sino-India Border Tensions:** Despite military-level talks, the **border dispute with China** is unresolved.
 - MHA must ensure **internal preparedness**, especially in border areas like Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh.

- **Ending Maoist Violence:** Violence is down 70%, but the job isn't over.
 - The Home Minister has promised a **Maoist-free India in 3 years** — needs smart operations, local support, and development.
- **Concluding the Naga Peace Accord:** Other peace accords in the North-East have worked, but **Naga talks remain stuck.**

Way Forward

- Strengthen intelligence-sharing and surveillance in vulnerable regions.
- Promote inclusive dialogue to address ethnic and regional unrest.
- Implement new laws with proper training and infrastructure support.
- Link internal security efforts with local development initiatives.

Source: [The Hindu: The gradual transformation of the Home Ministry](#)



Strengthening enforcement of judicial orders

Context

Despite clear judicial rulings, enforcement remains lax.

More in News

- **NGT's order on banning air horns in Jaipur between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.**, which has remained unimplemented even after two years, causing continued public distress.

Reasons Behind Ineffective Judicial Orders

- **Lack of Implementation Planning:** Judicial bodies often pass orders without ensuring they are realistic or practically enforceable.
- **Poor Coordination Among Agencies:** Agencies like police, pollution control boards, and transport departments **fail to work in sync** to carry out directives.
- **Perception of "Minor" Violations:** Enforcement agencies often **deprioritize orders they see as low-impact**, like noise pollution controls.
- **Circumvention of Orders:** As seen in the **liquor ban case (State of Tamil Nadu v. K. Balu, 2017)**, state authorities **found loopholes**, like reclassifying roads, undermining the original intent.
- **Lack of Accountability:** There's **no direct accountability mechanism** to ensure implementation officers follow through.



Previous Instances of Ineffective and Effective Enforcement

Ineffective Enforcement:

- **Liquor Ban Case (State of Tamil Nadu v. K. Balu, 2017):** SC banned liquor sales within 500 meters of highways to reduce drunk driving. But implementation failed due to **loopholes like road reclassification** and slow execution.

Effective Enforcement:

- **Common Cause v. Union of India (2018):** Legalised passive euthanasia with **detailed guidelines, oversight mechanisms, and hospital-level protocols.**
- **Taj Trapezium Zone Case:** Effective due to **inter-agency coordination**, creation of **green belts**, and **continuous air quality monitoring.**

What Needs to Be Done (Way Forward)

- **Judicial Foresight in Framing Orders:** Courts must **anticipate practical hurdles** during decision-making to ensure enforceability.
- **Designate Accountability Officers:** Appoint **compliance officers in every department** to oversee and report implementation.
- **Tech-enabled Monitoring:** Use **digital tools for real-time tracking** of orders and automatic reporting systems for updates.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Engage citizens through **awareness drives** and encourage them to **report violations.**
 - E.g., In Kathmandu in Nepal, strict enforcement of noise control measures, combined with public awareness campaigns, has led to remarkable change.
- **Inter-agency Collaboration:** Mandate **joint task forces** between police, transport, and local bodies for smoother implementation.

Source: [The Hindu: Strengthening enforcement of judicial orders](#)

Do We Need Increased Parliament Strength?

Context

Population disparities between northern and southern states have sparked demands to increase Parliament's strength, raising concerns over regional representation and equity.

Do We Need Increased Parliament Strength? (Arguments Against)

- **No Proven Link Between More MPs and Better Governance:** Past experience shows that increasing the number of MPs **does not lead to better law-making or debates**.
 - Legislative effectiveness depends more on **quality, not quantity**, of representatives.
- **High Financial and Administrative Costs:**
 - More MPs = more housing, staff, transport, allowances, and administrative infrastructure.
 - Leads to a **huge cost to the exchequer** with **little or no value addition**.
- **Bloated Executive:** As per **Article 75(1A)**, 15% of Lok Sabha can be Ministers.
 - More MPs could push **cabinet size up to 90–100**, leading to **patronage politics**, not efficient governance.
- **Risk of North-South Divide:** Fresh delimitation using population data will reduce southern states' representation due to their **success in population control**.
 - Northern states will gain seats, creating **regional imbalance** and **political resentment**.
- **Constitutional Provisions Need Rethinking:** Articles 81 & 82 need amending to **cap Lok Sabha strength permanently at 550**.
 - The principle of **population proportionality is no longer workable** due to unequal demographic trends.

Conclusion

India does **not need more MPs**, but **better parliamentary productivity, inclusiveness, and regional balance**. Freezing current strength and focusing on representative equity, not just numbers, is the way forward.

Source: [Indian Express: For United India, Freeze Lok Sabha](#)