

Supreme Court (SC) Prescribes Time Limits for Governors to Act on Bills Under Article 200

SC, in a landmark ruling, addressed Governor's powers concerning **assent or withholding of assent** to bills presented by **State legislature under Article 200 of the Constitution**.

➤ SC invoked **Article 142** to pass this order, using its special powers to ensure complete justice.

Key Takeaways from State of Tamil Nadu vs Governor of TN case

➤ SC ruled, **Constitution does not allow** Governor to exercise "**absolute veto**" or "**pocket veto**." The term "**as soon as possible**" in **Article 200** **underscores urgency in the Governor's decision-making**.

⊕ **Absolute Veto**: Withholding assent to bill passed by legislature.

⊕ **Pocket Veto**: Governor takes no action on a bill and keeps it pending indefinitely.

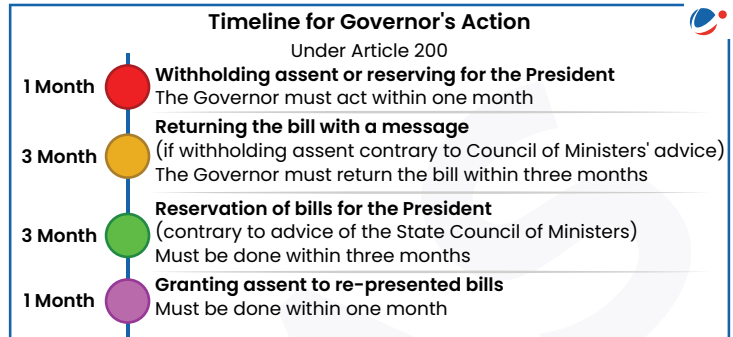
➤ **Governor Cannot Send Bill to President Once Re-presented**: If the bill is unchanged, Governor must assent to it, unless the bill differs in content from original one.

➤ **Governor Must Act on Aid and Advice of State Government**: Court ruled, Governor **has no discretion** & must **act as per Council of Ministers' advice**.

⊕ **Only exception**: Bills affecting powers of High Court or Supreme Court (Art. 200)

➤ **Court established clear timelines (see image) for Governor's actions under Article 200** to ensure expediency.

⊕ Failure to comply with these timelines would make the Governor's inaction **subject to judicial review**.



Assent to Bills under Article 200

➤ **Governor's Options**: Upon presentation of a Bill, the Governor shall either:

⊕ **Grant assent**

⊕ **Withhold assent**

⊕ **Reserve the Bill for the President's consideration**

➤ **Return for Reconsideration**: The Governor may return a non-Money Bill for reconsideration with recommendations for amendments.

⊕ If Bill is re-passed by the legislature, **with or without modifications**, the Governor is obligated to grant assent to it.

➤ **Reservation for President**: Governor may reserve a Bill if it threatens the powers of the High Court.

Centre Announced 4th Phase of Amalgamation of Regional Rural Banks (RRB)

Department of Financial Services notifies amalgamation of 26 RRBs on the principles of "One State One RRB".

About RRBs Amalgamation

➤ **Background**: Based on **Vyas Committee recommendations**, the Centre began consolidating RRBs in 2004–05.

⊕ Through three phases, the number of RRBs was reduced from 196 to 43 by 2020–21.

➤ **Legal Provision**: Under **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) Act, 1976**.

➤ **One State One RRB Principle**: Each state will have only one RRB which will be sponsored by a major public sector bank.

➤ For example, In Bihar, **Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank** and **Uttar Bihar Gramin Bank** will be combined into **Bihar Gramin Bank**, headquartered in Patna, **sponsored by Punjab National Bank**.

About RRBs

➤ **Genesis**: Set up in **1975** under the RRB Act, 1976.

➤ **Aim**: To provide **credit and banking services to small farmers, labourers, artisans, and rural entrepreneurs** to boost agriculture, trade, and small industries.

➤ **Establishment**: Set up by the **Central Government** on the request of a **sponsor bank**.

➤ **Joint Ownership**: Owned by the Central Government (50%), State Government (15%), and the sponsoring bank (35%).

➤ **Supervision and Regulation**

⊕ RRBs are regulated by the RBI under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

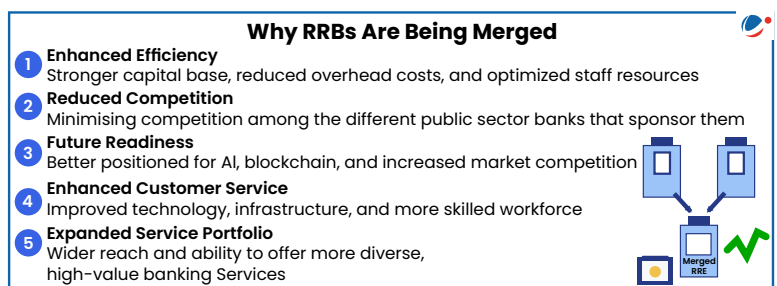
⊕ **NABARD** supervises RRBs.

⊕ For tax purposes, they are treated as **cooperative societies** under the **Income Tax Act, 1961**.

➤ **Key Requirements**

⊕ Must maintain a **Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)** of 9%, as per RBI norms

⊕ **Must allocate 75% of ANBC (Adjusted Net Bank Credit) or CEOBE (Credit Equivalent of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure)** whichever is higher to **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)**.



Preliminary Findings Of The GenomeIndia Project Published In The Journal Nature Genetics

Preliminary findings of the **GenomeIndia project** revealed **180 million genetic variants** from **9,772 individuals** across India.

- A gene variant is a **permanent change in the DNA sequence** that makes up a gene.
- **Genome** is entire set of genetic material (DNA or RNA in some) present in an individual or species.

About the study

- **Coverage:** Both **tribal and non-tribal groups** of **Tibeto-Burman, Indo-European, Dravidian**, and other tribal groups including **Austro-Asiatic, and Admixed populations**.
- **Types of Chromosomes Studied:** Both non-sex chromosomes (autosomes) as well as sex chromosomes (X and Y).

Why Does This Study Matter?

- **Understanding the Unique Genetic Makeup:** About 0.1 % of the entire sequence differs between any two individuals.

⊕ These genetic variations among individuals are crucial for **understanding our disease predispositions and rare inherited disorders**.

⊕ It will help in understanding the **history, natural selection and adaptation** of these communities.

- **Building a Reference Panel:** This could **facilitate creating a variant panel** useful for future **small-scale studies**, helping fill in missing data and link genes to diseases in the **Indian population**.

- **Application in Healthcare:** It will develop **low-cost diagnostic kits, furthering Precision medicine efforts** by disease diagnosis and predicting the genetic basis of drug responses etc.

⊕ It will help in advancing **public health interventions** as well.

Genome India Project



Genesis

Initiated by Department of Biotechnology in 2020, with collaborations of 20 institutions to map India's genetic diversity.



Objective

The primary aim is to construct a comprehensive catalogue of genetic variations of the Indian population that will better capture our unique diversity.



Achievement

Whole genome sequencing has been completed for 10,000 samples towards creating a comprehensive catalog of India's unique genetic diversity.



Data Storage

At Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) in Faridabad, Haryana.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj Introduces Panchayat Advancement Index to Assess Gram Panchayat Performance

There are **2.5 lakh gram panchayats** in the country. Out of these, data of **around 2.16 lakh gram panchayats** from 29 States have been assessed.

- **Panchayat** means an institution of self-government constituted under Article 243B, for the rural areas.

About Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)

- **Concept:** PAI is a multi-domain and multi-sectoral index that is intended to be used to assess the overall holistic development, performance & progress of panchayats.

- **Aims:** Measure how well these grassroots institutions are achieving localized Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- **Themes:** The index evaluates panchayats based on **nine key themes** related to local development (See image).

Categories in the PAI

⊕ **Achiever (0%):** No panchayat in India achieved the 'achiever' rank in this year's assessment.

⊕ **Aspirant (61.2%):** The largest percentage of panchayats fall under this category.

⊕ **Performer (36%):** A significant portion of panchayats has achieved moderate progress.

⊕ **Front-Runner:** Gujarat topped the rankings with the highest number of panchayats in this category.

Panchayat Development Themes



Theme 1

Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Panchayat



Theme 2

Healthy Panchayat



Theme 3

Child Friendly Panchayat



Theme 4

Water Sufficient Panchayat



Theme 5

Clean and Green Panchayat



Theme 6

Self-sufficient Infrastructure in Panchayat



Theme 7

Socially Just and Socially Secured Panchayat



Theme 8

Panchayat with Good Governance



Theme 9

Women Friendly Panchayat

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) notifies Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme

The scheme provides **differentiated fiscal incentives on target segment products, depending on the specific challenges** being faced by the industry to:

- Develop a **robust component manufacturing ecosystem** by attracting investments (global/domestic) across the value chain, leading to an **increase in Domestic Value Addition (DVA)**.
- Increase the **share of India's exports in global electronic trade** by integrating its domestic electronic industry with the Global Value Chains (GVCs).

Why Does India Need to Boost Domestic Manufacturing of Electronic Components?

- **National Security:** Dependence on **foreign-made electronic components**, especially in defense and critical infrastructure, poses risks such as **data breaches and supply chain disruptions**.
 - ⊕ **China, Hong Kong account for 56% of India's total imports** of electronics, telecom, electrical products (GTRI).
- **Rising Imports, Despite Domestic Production of End Products:** Due to past initiatives by MeitY, India's electronics production grew from **₹1.90 lakh crore in FY15 to ₹9.52 lakh crore in FY24**.
 - ⊕ However, **imports of components also increased**, as local capacity for component manufacturing remained underdeveloped.
- **Strategic Opportunity: China+1 Shift-** With global firms looking beyond China, India has a strong opportunity to attract investments in **component and sub-assembly manufacturing**.
- **Growing Importance of Electronics:** Electronics is one of the fastest-growing global industries, driven by digitization.

The latest scheme is **expected to addressing structural challenges** in the sector including high capital costs, long gestation periods, low profit margins, and lack of scale which were also raised by NITI Aayog.

Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme

Fiscal Incentives

Turnover Linked Capex Incentive Hybrid Incentive

Tenure

- Turnover linked incentive: **6 years + 1 optional gestation year**
- Capex support: **For investments made within 5 years from approval**

Eligibility

- Open to **Greenfield (new) and Brownfield** projects

Implementation Details

- **Base Year:** FY 2024-25
- **Nodal Agency:** Project Management Agency (PMA)

IUCN Releases First Green Status Assessment for the Lion (Panthera leo)

The Green Status **complements the IUCN Red List** by providing a tool for assessing the recovery of species and measuring their conservation success.

First Green Status assessment for the lion (Panthera leo)

- **Lion's Green Status:** Largely depleted, while the species remains **Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List**.
- **Human Impact:** Human activities are preventing the lion from being ecologically functional across its range.
- **Extinct Regions:** The lion is extinct in North Africa and Southwest Asia.
- **Conservation Success:** Efforts in parts of **West and Southern Central Africa, South Africa, and India** have helped prevent likely extinctions.

IUCN Green Status of Species

- **Background of IUCN Green Status of Species:** IUCN called for the creation of "Green Lists" to measure conservation success for **species, ecosystems, and protected areas**, at **2012 World Conservation Congress**.
- **Purpose:**
 - ⊕ **Complementing the Red List:** While the **Red List** focuses on **extinction risk**, **Green Status** adds insight into how **species can recover** and **what conservation actions are required**.
 - ⊕ **Highlighting Conservation Success:** Even species with low extinction risk (e.g., Saltwater Crocodile) might still need recovery across their historical range, showing that **conservation isn't just about extinction prevention**.
- **There are eight Green Status Categories:** Extinct in the Wild, Critically Depleted, Largely Depleted, Moderately Depleted, Slightly Depleted, Fully Recovered, Non-Depleted and Indeterminate.
 - ⊕ There are now **over 100 IUCN Green Status of Species assessments** on the IUCN Red List.

How Green Status Defines Species Recovery?

- **A species is fully recovered if:**
 - ⊕ It is present in **all parts of its historical range** (including areas lost due to human impact).
 - ⊕ It is **viable** (not at risk of extinction) across its range.
 - ⊕ It **performs its ecological functions** in all parts of its range.
- These factors together give a **"Green Score" (0–100%)**, indicating how close a species is to full recovery.

Also In News



Trends in maternal mortality estimates 2000 to 2023 report

Report is launched by **United Nations Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group (MMEIG)**

- This group comprises of **WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank Group and the UNDESA/Population Division**.
- **Reducing maternal mortality to less than 70 maternal deaths per 100 000 live births by 2030** is one of the targets of SDG

Key Findings

- **40% global reduction** in maternal deaths from 2000 to 2023
- **Central & Southern Asia saw the highest drop** in MMR (72.9%) from 2000 to 2023
- **in 2023, Nigeria (~75 000 deaths)** suffered highest maternal deaths whereas India suffered 19 000 death.



Research Projects Launched for Himalayan Ecosystem

Ministry of Earth Sciences launched **"ICE-CRUNCH"** and also inaugurated India's first High-Altitude Climate Research Station.

- **ICE-CRUNCH** (Ice nucleating particles and cloud condensation nuclei properties in the North-Western Himalayas)" is collaborative study between scientists of **India and Switzerland**,

About High Altitude Climate Research Station

- **Location:** Nathatop, Jammu and Kashmir
- **Objective:** **Climate research, capacity building, training of young scientists**, and development of **climate modelling capabilities**.
- **Key Role:** It will serve as a **long-term research hub** affiliated with the **World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) Programme**.



India Skills Accelerator

The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** has collaborated with the World Economic Forum to launch the "India Skills Accelerator" initiative.

About India Skills Accelerator

- The **India Skills Accelerator** is a **national public-private collaboration platform** aimed at facilitating **cross-sectoral innovation** and solutions in skill development.
- **Core Objectives:** The Accelerator seeks to catalyze change across **three critical levels-**
 - ⊕ **Raising awareness** on future skill needs,
 - ⊕ **Enhancing collaboration** and knowledge sharing,
 - ⊕ **Reforming institutions** and policies for a responsive skilling ecosystem.
- **Strategic Focus Areas:** Inclusive upskilling, lifelong learning investment, alignment with high-growth sectors like AI, robotics, and energy etc.



Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) Ltd.

CCI has procured 100 lakh bales of seed cotton under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations.

About Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI)

- **Nodal Ministry:** CCI is a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Textiles.
- **Genesis:** Established in 1970,
- **Major Role:**
 - ⊕ Undertakes price support operations **without any quantitative limit.**
 - ⊕ **Purchases cotton** to meet raw material needs of the domestic textile industry.
- **Key initiatives**
 - ⊕ **Cott-Ally mobile app**, available in nine **regional languages**, enables farmers to access real-time information on MSP
 - ⊕ **All cotton bales produced by CCI are traceable via QR codes.**

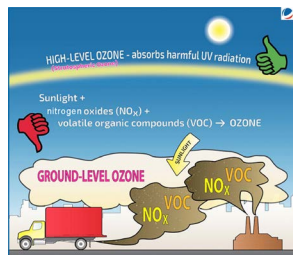


Ozone Pollution

A study by IIT Kharagpur reveals that **surface ozone pollution** is severely affecting major food crops, especially in the **Indo-Gangetic Plain** and **central India**.

About Ozone Pollution

- **Ground Level Ozone:** Ozone is a **secondary pollutant** formed by chemical reactions between nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight.
- **Effect:** Contributes to **smog** and **damages crops and health**
- **AQI:** Air Quality Index shows **ground Ozone**.



Chittorgarh Fort

Rajasthan government told the Supreme Court it is considering a **total mining ban within 10 km of Chittorgarh Fort**.

About Chittorgarh Fort

- **Located:** At Rajasthan
- Built by a local Mori Rajput ruler **Chitrangada Mori** in the **7th century**.
- **Historic Significance**
 - ⊕ It served as the **capital of the kingdom of Mewar**.
 - ⊕ As per **Malik Muhammad Jayasi's poem, Padmavat**, **Alauddin Khilji** invaded Chittorgarh Fort to **capture Ratnasimha's queen, Padmini**.
 - ◆ Rani Padmini committed mass **jauhar (self-immolation)** to safeguard their honour.
- **Cultural Significance:** Declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 2013 under the **Hill Forts of Rajasthan**.



"Niveshak Didi"

IEPFA and IPPB have signed a MoA to jointly launch **Phase 2 of the "Niveshak Didi" initiative**.

About Niveshak Didi

- **Launched by:** India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) in collaboration with Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA).
- It is a unique initiative that **trains women postal workers (a female dakiya) and community leaders** to **act as financial educators** within their local regions.
- **Objective:** Promote financial literacy 'By the women, for the women'.
- **About India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**
 - **Establishment:** Established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication, Government of India.
 - **Ownership:** 100% equity owned by the Government of India.
 - **Launch:** 2018.



India UAE Relations

Visit of Crown Prince of Dubai to India

- This is his **first official visit** to India.

Key outcomes

- **IIM Ahmedabad campus** and **Indian Institute of Foreign Trade** overseas campus to open in Dubai.
- **Ship-repair** clusters to be developed at **Kochi** and **Vadinar**.
- **India Office of Dubai Chamber of Commerce** to be opened.
- **Virtual Trade Corridor (VTC):** Acknowledgment of its role in facilitating trade and supporting India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC).

India UAE Relations

- **Comprehensive and Strategic partnership** since 2015.
- **Plurilateral cooperation:** IMEEC, BRICS, I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA) and UFI (UAE-France-India) Trilateral.

Place in News



Slovakia (Capital: Bratislava)

The President of India arrived in Slovakia

Political Features:

- **Location:** Slovakia, **landlocked country of central Europe**.
- **Borders:** Poland (north), Ukraine (east), Hungary (south), Austria (southwest), and the Czech Republic (northwest).
- **Grouping:** Slovakia is a member of the European Union

Geographical Features

- **Mountain:** **Carpathian Mountains** (**High Tatras** is the highest part) and the **Danube River Basin**.
- **Major Rivers:** **Danube** (part of the border between Slovakia and Hungary)



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI