



VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination

The Analyst

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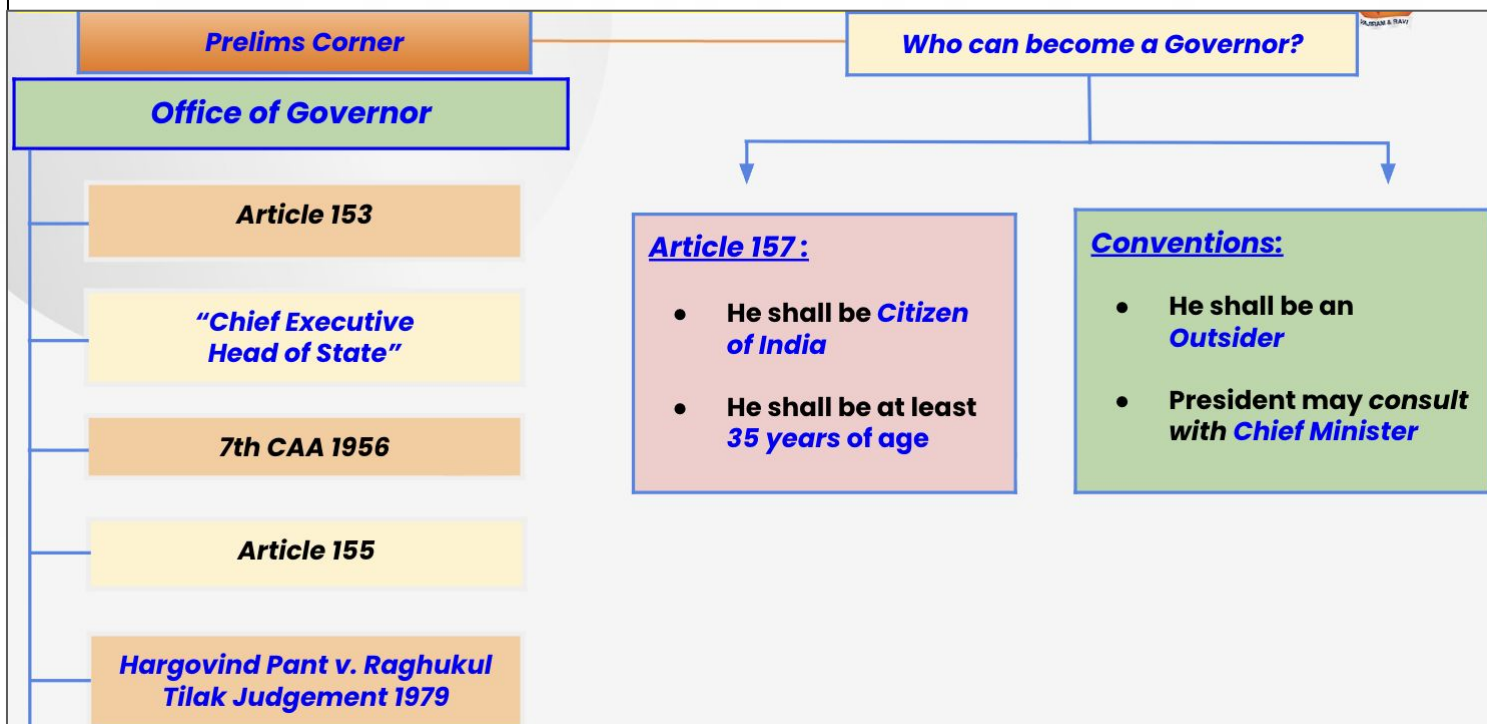
25th November 2025



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CONTEXT: The editorial raises some important challenging questions related to the advisory opinion by the Supreme Court which has made the “Discretionary power” of the Governor as Non – Justiciable

Chapter 1: Governor as “Head of State”:



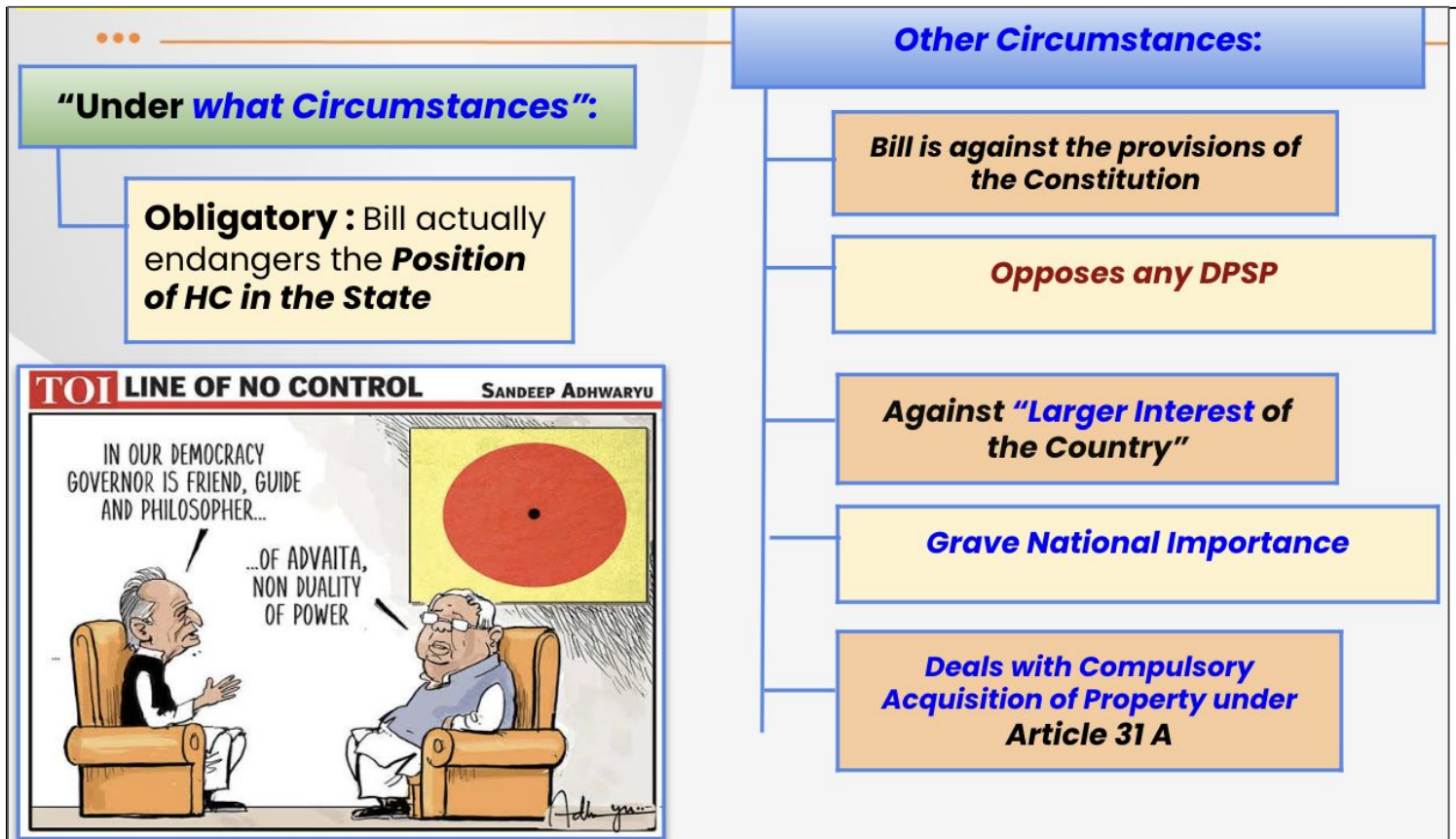
Chapter 2: Legislative Power of Governor :

Powers	GOVERNOR (Article 200)	Today's Editorial : GOI Act 1935	Options with President (Article 201)
Ordinary Bill	- Give assent to the Bill Withhold his assent - Return the bill for Reconsideration of State Legislature Reserve the Bill for Consideration of President	Section 32 : Governor – General Section 75 : Governors of Provinces had “Discretionary” powers to give assent, withhold or return the bills	- Give assent to the Bill - Withhold his assent Return the bill for Reconsideration of State Legislature
Money Bill (Article 199)	- Give assent to the Bill - Withhold his assent Reserve the Bill for Consideration of President	Article 175 of “Draft” Constitution : Discretion to return a bill of Unicameral legislature Original Constitution : Removed “Discretion” & “Single House”	Give assent to the Bill Withhold his assent

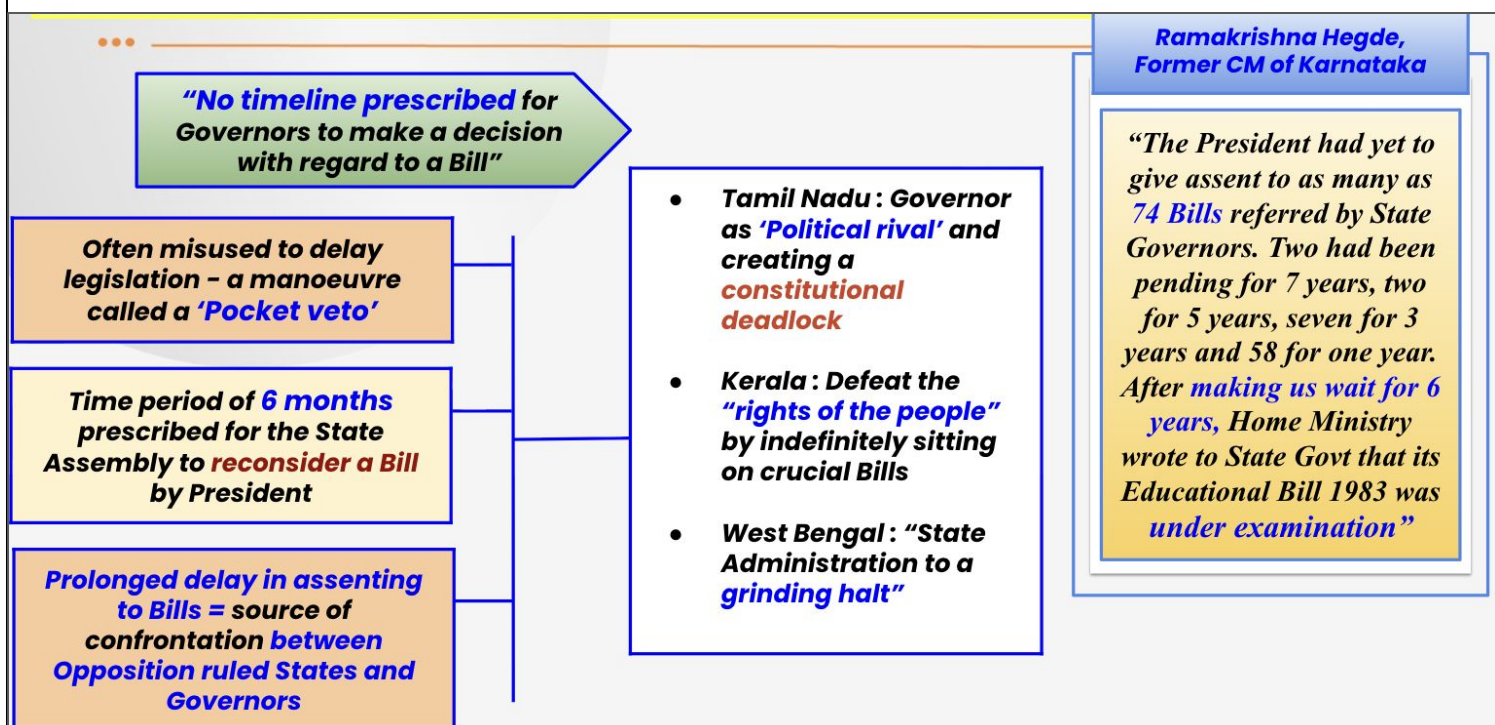


25th November 2025

CONTEXT: The editorial raises some important challenging questions related to the advisory opinion by the Supreme Court which has made the "Discretionary power" of the Governor as Non - Justiciable



Chapter 3 : Issues arising from "Pocket VETO" :



25th November 2025

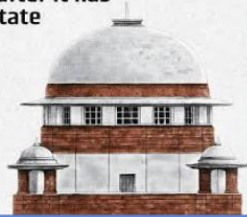
CONTEXT: The editorial raises some important challenging questions related to the advisory opinion by the Supreme Court which has made the "Discretionary power" of the Governor as Non - Justiciable

State of TN v. Governor of TN 2025

TIMELINE SET BY SUPREME COURT FOR GOVERNOR'S DECISION ON BILLS

1. To withhold assent of bill or to reserve it to President as per State Govt's advice - **One Month**
2. To withhold assent of bill against State Govt's advice - **3 Months**
3. To reserve Bills for President against State Govt's advice - **3 months**
4. To grant assent to bill after it has been re-enacted by the State Assembly - **1 month**

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Article 143 : "Authorises President to seek Opinion of Apex Court "

On any question of law or fact of Public importance which has arisen or likely to arise

Supreme Court may tender or may refuse to tender its opinion to the President

On any dispute arising out of Pre - Constitutional treaty, agreement or Sanad

"Must" tender its opinion

Opinion expressed by SC is only advisory and not binding on President

Chapter 4 : The SC's Advisory Opinion :

Fourteen questions and court's responses

The Presidential Reference came after the April 8 judgment of the Supreme Court that granted 'deemed assent' to 10 Tamil Nadu Bills

Is the Governor bound by the aid and advice tendered by the Council of Ministers under Article 200?

The Governor enjoys discretion and is **not bound** by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers

Is the exercise of constitutional discretion by the Governor under Article 200 justiciable?

- Discharge of the Governor's function under Article 200 is **not justiciable**
- However in glaring circumstances of **indefinite inaction** = Court has a limited power to **issue a mandamus** to the Governor to **decide within a reasonable time period**

Is Article 361 an absolute bar to judicial review in relation to the actions of a Governor under Article 200?

Article 361 is an absolute bar on judicial review in relation to **personally** subjecting the Governor to judicial proceedings

Can timelines be imposed under Article 200?

It is not appropriate as the **Constitution is silent**

Can the exercise of constitutional powers and the orders of President or Governor be substituted in any manner under Article 142?

cannot be substituted in any manner under Article 142 nor does it allow for the **concept of 'deemed assent' of Bills**



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Chapter 5 : “Governor is NOT employee of the Union” :

“Evolution of Timeline by SC” :

P. Nambudiri v. State of Kerala 1962	“Constitution framers did not intend for a Bill pending assent to be at risk of lapsing on dissolution of the House”
DP Ghosh v. State of WB 1972	Interpreted the phrase to mean “ as early as practicable without avoidable delay”
National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution 2002	Time limit, desirably 6 months , to give assent or to reserve a Bill for consideration of the President.
KM Singh v. Speaker of Manipur Assembly 2020	3 Months ‘reasonable time’ within which the Speaker must act on disqualification petitions against defecting MLAs

“SC on Discretionary Power of Governor” :

Shamsher Singh v. State of Punjab 1974	Act only on the ‘ advice ’ of the Council of Ministers under Article 163
Nabam Rebia Case 2016	Only those matters where the Constitution expressly permits the Governor to act autonomously cannot be challenged before a court of law
Rameshwar Prasad v. UOI 2006	Judicial Immunity under Article 361 is not absolute & can be challenged in the court

When a Bill Lapses?

SC : If there **doesn’t exist discretion**, then in case of **Non - Constitutional advice** also, Governor will be bounded by such advice”

- ❑ **Article 107 (5)** : If **NOT** passed by LS before it’s dissolution
- ❑ If passed by LS but pending in RS & LS dissolves
- ❑ **Money Bill or Finance Bill** pending in LS lapses on Dissolution

“If there takes place **Political change**, the new ministry of Party B would naturally advise the Governor to **send back the bill to legislature**” : There doesn’t exist “**implied discretion**” in **Article 200**

Members of Council of Ministers take oath to owe allegiance to the Constitution, why they will render such an advice?

If such unconstitutional advice is tendered to Governor, he/she can report to Union under **Article 356**. For this purpose, there is need for aid & advice or NOT?

Does the President have any discretionary power, if such advice is tendered by the Union Cabinet?

Mains Practice Question: What are the Legislative powers of the Governor under **Article 200**? Explain in the context of the recent judgements of the Supreme Court.

(10 Marks, 150 words)



25th November 2025

CONTEXT: The editorial highlights the use of Technology & Aadhaar Card as an "Electoral Document" & suggest innovative steps for its future adoption

Citizenship Act 1955

- Central government may **compulsorily register every citizen** of India & issue National Identity Card
- National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC)** by verifying citizenship status of all people in the National Population Register (NPR)

Legal & Constitutional Basis

- Article 324** : ECI has plenary constitutional powers to conduct, supervise & **revise electoral rolls**
- Section 21 of RPA 1950** : ECI has authority to conduct SIR
- Section 28 of RPA 1950** : ECI can give binding directions to CEO regarding **"Documents required"**
- SC in **PUCL Judgement 2003** : "ECI may specify identity & verification requirements"

Pillar 1: Backdrop of the Debate around "Right Aadhaar":

Aadhaar is part of statute, can be used by voters, says Supreme Court

Section 23(4) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 permits Election Commission of India officials to use Aadhaar to authenticate entries in the electoral rolls

Identity card issued prior to 1st July, 1987

Permanent Residence or Forest Rights Certificate

Pension Payment order By Central or State

Caste Certificate

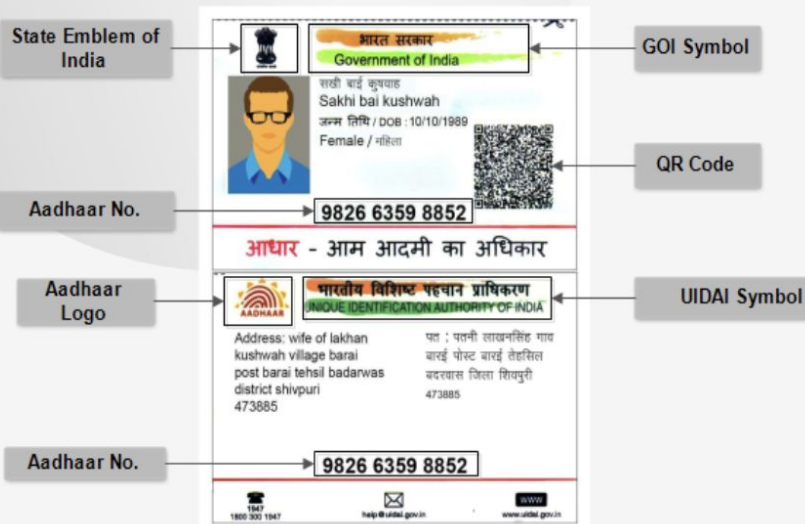
Birth Certificate or Passport

Family Register prepared by State

Educational Certificates

Land or House Allotment Certificate

Pillar 2: What is Aadhaar?



Issued by
UIDAI

Authorised under
Aadhaar Act 2016

"Proof of identity"
& **"Proof of address"**
for Residents

Who can register?

Unique for each individual & valid for lifetime

Unique Features of an Aadhaar Card [Front & Back]

25th November 2025

CONTEXT: The editorial highlights the use of Technology & Aadhaar Card as an "Electoral Document" & suggest innovative steps for its future adoption

Pillar 2: What is **Aadhaar**?

Mandatory for availing Government services?

Section 7 of Aadhaar Act 2016 :Mandate requirement of Aadhaar for benefits & subsidies of schemes

Funded out of **Consolidated Fund of India** or State

Required for filing ITR & linking with PAN

Conflict of "Usage" = **EPFO v. ECI**

How mandatory Aadhaar authentication leads to exclusion of the marginalised from PDS

Issue highlights a systemic failure that undermines constitutional guarantees and perpetuates hardship for the most vulnerable segments of society.

What Aadhaar is **NOT**?

No profiling on basis of Caste, Religion & Language basis

Not mandatory for every Indian resident

Information not available to all public or private entities

Pillar 3: **Benefits** of having Aadhaar Card :

Promotion of Transparent & Good Governance

Governance reaching "Bottom of Pyramid"

Providing Income support for "Antyodaya"

Reduced down **RED Tapism** & Curb down **Corruption**

Bombay HC v. State of Maharashtra 2022

People centric Governance

Aadhaar Card for Government Schemes :

- DBT of LPG Subsidy under **PAHAL Scheme**
- **PM JDY** : Aadhaar as document sufficient for opening bank accounts
- Storage of data on **DIGILOCKER**
- Mandatory linking of Aadhaar Card with **Voter ID Card**
- Linkages with **PAN Number**

25th November 2025

CONTEXT: The editorial highlights the use of Technology & Aadhaar Card as an "Electoral Document" & suggest innovative steps for its future adoption

Pillar 4 : Persisting Issues in Aadhaar Card :

(A) Bio-metric verification failure :

- Hard labour - fingerprints
- Elderly people - iris pattern
- "False negative" - exclusion of eligible beneficiaries
- Failure in delivery of public services

(B) Technological Hurdles → Biometric authentication requires sound Digital infrastructure

- Uninterrupted power supply
- functioning PoS machine
- Adequate mobile & internet connectivity
- Smooth functioning of Data Repository services

(C) Not a "full proof process" → Issue of Duplication & delays in deactivating the cards of "deceased"

No Aadhaar, No Food? Girl, 11, Died 'Begging For Rice', Says Jharkhand Family

The child's family was refused subsidized food allegedly because their ration card had not been linked to their Aadhaar unique ID number following a government rule in February.

Fake Aadhaar cards used for property registration: Madras High Court directs Sub-Registrar to file police complaint

Pillar 4 : Persisting Issues in Aadhaar Card :

Data Security Concerns :

- Banking correspondents using AePS operate without any Accountability Framework
- Cases of illegal money withdrawals
- Violation of "Consent"

How the personal data of 815 million Indians got breached | Explained

An American cyber security company has said that the personally identifiable information of many Indian citizens, including Aadhaar numbers and passport details, were being sold on the dark web

Violation of Right to Privacy :

- Data leaks from Government Servers
- Prone to Cyber Attacks
- Breaching Right to Privacy

UIDAI refutes Wikileaks reports of Aadhaar data snoop, says system is secure

The statement by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) came after WikiLeaks hinted that CIA had allegedly accessed the Aadhaar database.



CONTEXT: The editorial highlights the use of Technology & Aadhaar Card as an "Electoral Document" & suggest innovative steps for its future adoption

Pillar 5 : The Way Forward :

Steps that can be taken :

CIS : Shift to "Smart Cards"

Limiting use of Aadhaar in "Public Domain"

Linking Aadhaar with **DPDP Act 2023**

Aadhaar Amendment Rules 2025

SC's 2018 Ruling :
Restricting **Private entity usages**

Today's Editorial :

death, citizens may be offered the facility of Aadhaar authentication, ideally face-based, via a smartphone or with assistance at a common service centre. Those who authenticate are automatically marked as "verified alive"; only the remainder would require field verification. A secure portal or app could allow a new 18-year-old to authenticate with Aadhaar and submit the equivalent of Form 6 digitally. Those who find it a challenge can visit an assisted kiosk. Anomalies in addresses, such as tens of voters at a non-existent house number, or clearly fictitious entries, can be algorithmically flagged by cross-checking electoral addresses against Aadhaar address fields. Booth level officers would then investigate a much smaller and more meaningful list of suspect entries.

Mains Practice Question: What are the issues flagging the Aadhaar Card in India? Provide relevant examples citing the recent committee's reports. What are the steps that can be taken by the Government of India in this regard?

(10 Marks, 150 words)



25th November 2025

Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Health
Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 12

GAVI – UNICEF Deal for Malaria Vaccine

Context of News :

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have announced a new agreement that it said will make the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccines significantly more accessible and affordable, paving the way for protecting more children.

SYMPTOMS OF MALARIA



The deal, executed by UNICEF, is expected to generate up to \$90 million in savings for Gavi and countries, equivalent to more than 30 million additional doses – enabling full vaccination of nearly seven million more children against malaria over the next five years. It is fi-

GAVI : Public – Private Partnership

Funding : WHO + World Bank + Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

International Finance Facility for Immunisation mechanism

GAVI : 40 million doses of Malaria Vaccines in 24 African countries : 70% of Malaria Burden

2023 : Malaria claimed 6 Lakh lives : 95% in African region



GAVI – UNICEF Deal for Malaria Vaccine

Disease caused by Mosquito :

"Lingering Threat"

Increasing threat to global health due to rapid urbanisation, extreme weather events & water logging issues

Prelims Facts about Malaria :

Malaria : Parasitic infection transmitted by Mosquitoes

"Only female Anopheles mosquitoes can spread Malaria"

"Seizures, fluid in lungs, organ damage & death"

India : 80% drop in cases (2014-2024)

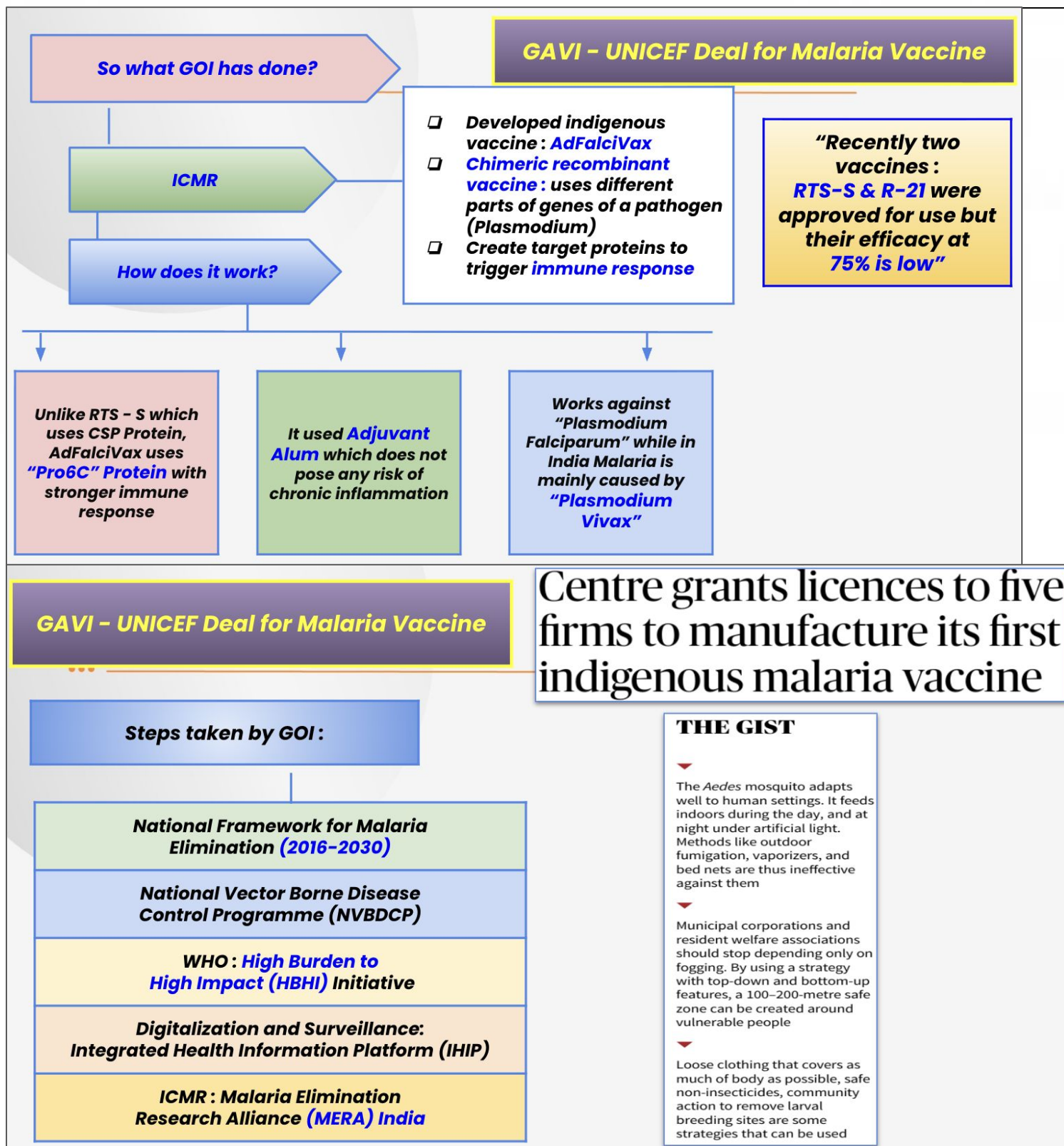
Persistent transmission : Odisha, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand etc

- **Malaria & Dengue**
- **West Nile Virus**
- **Zika Virus**
- **Yellow Fever**
- **Lymphatic Filariasis**
- **Chikungunya**



25th November 2025

Syllabus: GS Paper 2: Health
Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 12



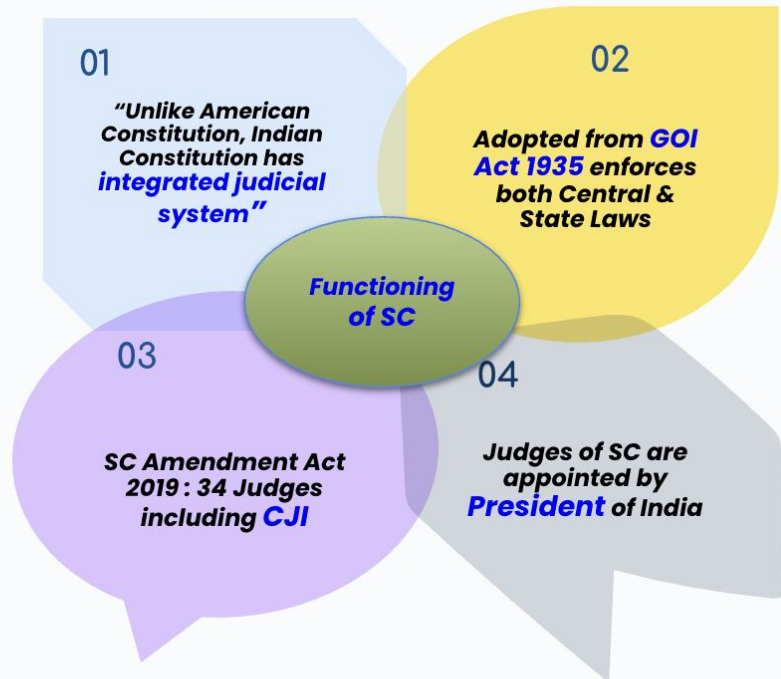
Syllabus: Prelims: Important Constitutional Bodies & Judiciary
Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 10

Context of News :

Justice Surya Kant took oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of India at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on Monday.

President Droupadi Murmu swore in Justice Kant merely days after Justice Kant, as a member of the 16th Presidential Reference Bench, advised her that neither she nor the State Governors, while dealing with State Bills, are bound by timelines "imposed" by the Supreme Court as in the April 8 judgment in the Tamil Nadu Governor case.

Justice Kant took the oath of office in Hindi.



Article 124 (2) : CJI is appointed by President of India

1st Judges Case 1982

- Appointed by President after "consultation" with CJI & other judges of SC & HC
- Consultation does NOT mean "concurrence" & only implies exchange of views

2nd Judges Case 1993

- Consultation = "Concurrence"
- Advice tendered by CJI is binding on President
- Advice = CJI + 2 Senior Most Judges

3rd Judges Case 1998

- Consultation = "Opinion of Plurality of Judges"
- Collegium system = CJI + 4 Senior Most Judges
- 2 Judges give adverse opinion = NOT send the recommendation

4th Judges Case 2015 : Struck down National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC)

Prelims 2019 PYQ :

45. Consider the following statements :

- The 44th Amendment to the Constitution of India introduced an Article placing the election of the Prime Minister beyond judicial review.
- The Supreme Court of India struck down the 99th Amendment to the Constitution of India as being violative of the independence of judiciary.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2



25th November 2025

53rd Chief Justice of India

Syllabus: Prelims: Important Constitutional Bodies & Judiciary
Newspaper: The Hindu, Page No. 10

Special Powers of CJI :

CJI is the
"Master of Roaster"

- CJI decides which Bench will hear which cases
- Composition of bench
- Upheld in "**Ashok Pande v. SC**" 2018 Case

Power to appoint
"Ad Hoc Judges"

Article 127 : CJI may appoint High Court Judges as **Ad - Hoc Judges** with President's approval

Appoint
"Retired Judge"

CJI can request a "retired judge" of the SC or retired judge of HC to act as Judge of SC for **temporary period**

Appointment of CJI :

- Established "**Convention**" from **1950-1973** : Appointment of Senior Most Judge of SC
- 1973 : **AN Roy** appointed as CJI superseding 3 senior judges
- 1977 : **MU Beg** as CJI superseding Senior-most judge
- **2nd Judges Case 1993** : "Senior most judge should alone be appointed as CJI"



Bridging India's Numeracy Gap



Syllabus: Prelims: Government Schemes
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 7

Bridging India's Numeracy Gap

Context of News :

The National Education Policy 2020 rightly identifies Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) as the cornerstone of all future learning. The NIPUN Bharat Mission has translated this policy intent into action by focusing on learning outcomes rather than just inputs. Foundational learning outcomes – stagnant for decades – have shown measurable improvement, as confirmed by government as well as independent surveys. Despite these gains, numeracy continues to lag behind literacy.

Annual State of Education Report (ASER 2024) :

48.7% of Class 5 students can read "fluently"

Only 30.7% can solve a basic "division problem"

Missed concepts in "Lower grades" = Future complex concepts inaccessible

NGO Pratham = Grade - level teaching & "passing the exam" approach

Disconnect between school learning & "real life" application

Bridging India's Numeracy Gap

Provisions of NIPUN Bharat

Universal Foundational Literacy and Numeracy

By 2027 every child in **Grade 3** shall achieve "foundational competency" in Reading, writing & numeracy

Activity based pedagogy:
Play, discovery & activity based learning

Capacity building of teachers under **NISHTHA**

Assessment & Monitoring System :
Group work, quizzes, short tests etc

Provisions of PM - SHRI

Upgrade **14,500 existing schools** into model schools with modern infrastructure

Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched under **NEP 2020**

School Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF):
PARAKH

Under the larger Objective of **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan**



Syllabus: Prelims: Government Schemes
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 7

Bridging India's Numeracy Gap

"The National Education Policy has transformed the education sector in the recent years. I am certain that the PM SHRI schools will further benefit lakhs of students across India in the spirit of NEP."

- [PM Narendra Modi](#)

Scheme of PM SHRI schools will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme; **total project cost of Rs. 27360 crores** includes a central share of Rs. 18,128 crores for the period **2022-23 to 2026-27**

Over **18 lakh students** are expected to be direct beneficiaries of the scheme; impact will be generated through the **mentoring and handholding of the schools in vicinity** of PM SHRI schools

**Ministry of Education**
Government of India





PM SHRI

PM Schools for Rising India

Empowering students to become nation-builders

Monitoring Mechanism

- Monitoring at Ministry/State/ District/BRC/CRC level
- School Quality Assessment Framework (SQUAF)
- Committee under District Collector to monitor
- Continued assistance over a period of five years based upon the improvements shown in performance
- Robust ICT based tracking, monitoring and evaluation through:
 - Unified District Information System for Education Plus(UDISE+);
 - Comprehensive child tracking
 - PRABANDH, online monitoring system,

- National level Vidya Sameeksha Kendra
- Periodic Achievement Surveys
- Higher Educational Institutions to be involved
- Each Geo-tagged school will be monitored for improvement





25th November 2025

Syllabus: Prelims: Monetary Policy
Newspaper: Indian Express, **Page No.** 19

THE FISCAL and monetary steps announced in the current year will lead to a virtuous cycle of private investment and growth, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in an article on Monday.

In order to support economic growth, the government and the RBI has announced a slew of measures, including GST rationalisation, relief in income tax and a 100 basis points (bps) reduction in the repo rate.

Finance Act 2016 amended RBI Act 1934 : **Inflation targeting** as primary objective of Monetary policy

Target Range : 4% CPI Inflation
(+/- 2% tolerance band)

Target range validity : 31st March, 2026

Accountability Clause : "Fails to keep inflation within band for 3 consecutive quarters" : Report to Government about reasons & remedial actions

Authoritative Body : MPC :
(RBI Governor + Deputy Governor + RBI official) + 3 members nominated by Government

How RBI controls inflation?

Repo Rate Adjustment

- **Hike Repo Rate** = Borrowing gets costlier = Reduces demand = Low Inflation
- **Cut Repo Rate** = Cheaper Borrowing = Boost demand = High Inflation

Reverse Repo Rate

- **Increase RRR** = High incentive for Banks to "park money" with RBI = Low inflation

High CRR & SLR

- Low money with Banks to give loans = Less money supply = Low inflation

Open Market Operations

- **RBI buy Government securities** = Money with Government to do capital expenditure = High money supply = High Inflation



25th November 2025

Syllabus: Prelims: Important Events

Newspaper: Indian Express, **Page No.** World Page

Context of News :

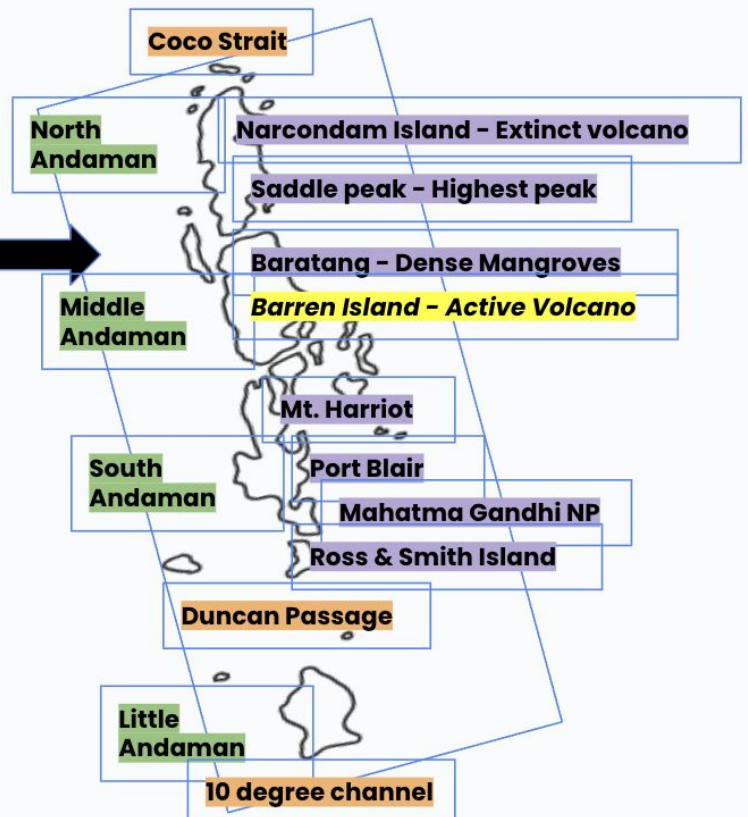
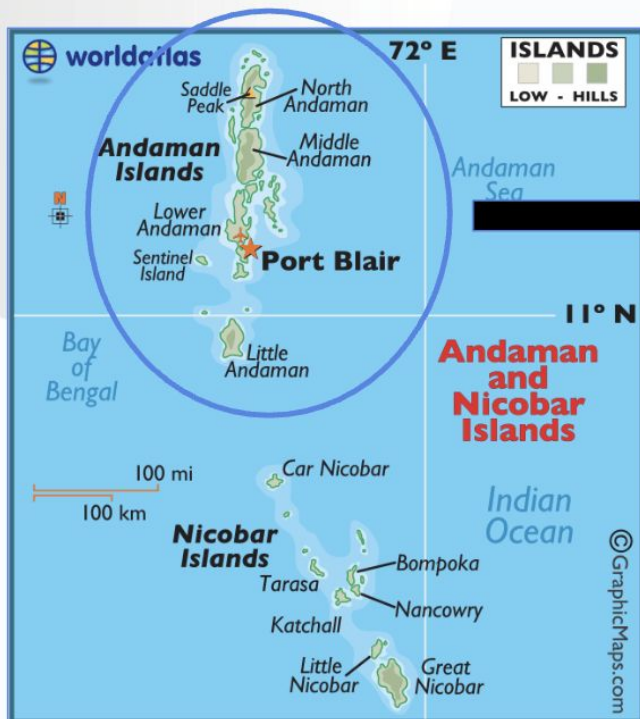
A LONG-DORMANT volcano erupted in northern Ethiopia over the weekend, sending ash plumes across the Red Sea over Yemen and Oman, with parts of it also reaching India.

The eruption had set thick plumes of smoke and volcanic ash up to 14 km into the sky.

The Hayli Gubbi volcano in the Afar region of Ethiopia, which erupted on Sunday after over 10,000 years, left the neighboring village of Afdera covered in dust.

Important Volcanoes for Prelims :

Mount Etna	Sicily, Italy	Mount Kilimanjaro	Tanzania
"Lighthouse of Mediterranean"	Mount Stromboli, Italy	World's largest shield Volcano	Mauna Loa, Hawaii, USA
Mount Fuji	Japan	Mount St. Helens	USA
Mount Merapi	Indonesia	Barren Island, East of Port Blair	ONLY active volcano in South Asia



Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Office of the Governor in India:

1. The Governor can exercise executive power both on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers and at his discretion.
2. The Governor's discretionary power to reserve a Bill for the consideration of the President is not justiciable.
3. The removal of a Governor by the President can be challenged in a court of law.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: c

Q2. With reference to Aadhaar, consider the following statements:

1. The UIDAI is a statutory authority established under the Aadhaar Act, 2016.
2. No private entity whatsoever can use Aadhaar authentication under any circumstance.
3. Aadhaar cannot be made mandatory for receiving any subsidy or benefit that is charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: a

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding Malaria in India:

1. In India, Malaria is mainly caused by the parasite Plasmodium vivax.
2. India's national malaria elimination target is to achieve zero indigenous cases by 2030.
3. Malaria is transmitted only by female Anopheles mosquitoes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Chief Justice of India (CJI):

1. As per the Constitution, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed as the Chief Justice of India.
2. The oath to the Chief Justice of India is administered by the President of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the PM-SHRI (Prime Minister – Schools for Rising India) scheme:

1. Schools selected under PM-SHRI should implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in their entirety.
2. The scheme is funded entirely by the Union Government, with no financial participation from States.
3. PM-SHRI aims to develop selected schools as model schools that showcase all components of NEP 2020.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None

Answer: b





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