

SC on Art 200

- The Supreme Court sent a strong message that Governors should return Bills that they do not agree to “as soon as possible” and not sit over them, making State Legislative Assemblies wait indefinitely.
- Article 200 of the Constitution, mandates that Governors should not dally over Bills sent to them for assent after they had been passed by Legislative Assemblies.”

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Wagner Group

What is the Wagner group?

- The Wagner group is a Russian paramilitary organization headed by Yevgeny Prigozhin. Though it has been reportedly engaged in counter-militancy operations in Africa, its involvement is believed to have a more extensive scope covering political, economic, and military fields. There have also been reports of the group supplying arms and weapons, and training regional forces in fighting jihadist threats.
- Despite its involvement in the Russia-Ukraine war, the Wagner group’s presence in Africa has continued.

- By siding with the domestic actors in a civil war situation, the group’s actions have impacted the democratic process in Africa. Additionally, the West has been raising concerns over human rights violations and abuse of civilians related to the Wagner group’s presence in Africa.

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Relative humidity

- Humidity is the amount of moisture in the air around us, and there are three ways to track it.
- The most common of them is absolute humidity the mass of water vapour in a given volume of air and water vapour mixture, expressed as kg/m³.
- The second is specific humidity, equal to the mass of the moisture divided by the mass of air. It is expressed as a dimensionless number (but sometimes as grams per kilogram among other similar units).
- The third way is relative humidity: it is important because it factors in the amount of vapour that air can hold at different temperatures.
- The higher the relative humidity of the air, the more it is filled with moisture. When air already contains

a lot of moisture, it won't easily accept more. This means that the sweat on your skin can't evaporate.

- At the same time, the body keeps sweating as it is still expecting to cool itself.
- As a result, if the relative humidity is high, you can sweat on a hot day even when you are sitting still while your body keeps accumulating heat. This can quickly become dangerous.
- Modern, electronic psychrometers can calculate the relative humidity directly.

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Nuclear liability

- Two years after the French energy company Electricite de France (EDF) submitted its techno-commercial offer for the construction of six nuclear power reactors in Maharashtra's Jaitapur, talks between Indian and French officials over several issues, including liability, have not resulted in any breakthrough yet.

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Vibrant villages

- The Centre's ambitious Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP), which aims to develop infrastructure and

open up villages along the China border to tourists, will be integrated with the Prime Minister's Gati Shakti mega project.

- The digital platform of the Gati Shakti project brings 16 Ministries, including Railways and Highways, together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects and allows departments to break operational silos.
- One of the objectives of the Vibrant Villages Programme is to stop the migration of the border population, a senior government official said.
- The objective is to motivate people to continue to stay there and "it will also help to gather intelligence from the people of border villages."

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Malaria

- Malaria is all set to become a notifiable disease across India, with Bihar, Andaman, Nicobar Islands, and Meghalaya too in the process of putting the vector-borne disease in the category.
- This will then require by law that cases be reported to government authorities. Currently, malaria is a notifiable disease in 33 States and Union Territories in India.

- A notifiable disease is any disease that is required by law to be reported to government authorities.
- The collation of information allows the authorities to monitor the disease and provides early warning of possible outbreaks.



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- It further said that it supports “unobstructed oceanic movement”.
- As part of its strategy, Bangladesh will support the upholding of national sovereignty and oppose interference in the internal affairs of members of the region.



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Bangladesh and Indo Pacific

- Bangladesh will work with all the stakeholders for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and counter-terrorism initiatives in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Bangladesh will aim for “inclusive development by strengthening free, transparent and rules-based international order.
- Bangladesh will also pursue the agenda of “women, peace, and security” in the Indo-Pacific. Spelling out the country’s priorities, the document declared that Bangladesh supports the “existing structure of maritime security and wants to strengthen it”.

RBI guidelines

- The central bank’s draft guidelines on ‘Fair Lending Practice’ are aimed at obviating a practice where lenders have hitherto levied a penal interest over and above the contracted rate of interest when borrowers delay repayment or default.
- Observing that the regulatory intent of a penal levy was solely to foster credit discipline among borrowers through a negative incentive, the RBI noted that lenders, however, had in practice turned the penal interest into a revenue enhancement tool.
- Supervisory reviews had found that some entities were in fact charging ‘excessive’ rates of penal interest,

leading to hardship to the borrowers and disputes. Lenders had also, in certain cases, been capitalizing the penal interest, thereby increasing the principal amount that the borrower would ultimately have to repay.

- The banking regulator has now emphatically laid down that penal charges should be recovered separately and must not be added either to the principal outstanding or the rate of interest charged on the loan.

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GOVERNOR ROLE

- Article 355 of the Constitution says that it shall be the duty of the Union to ensure that the government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- The Constitution requires the Governor to act when a Bill is passed by the Assembly and present it to him as per the options given in Article 200.
- If he does not act in accordance with the Constitution and sits on the Bills indefinitely, he is creating a situation where governance of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with constitutional provisions.
- In such a situation, the government of the State has a constitutional duty to invoke Article 355 and inform the President about it, and request her to give suitable instructions to the Governor to ensure that the government is carried on in accordance with the Constitution. Article 200 provides options to the Governor when a Bill is presented to him after being passed by the legislature.
- These options are: to give assent; to withhold assent; to send it back to the Assembly to reconsider it; or to send the Bill to the President for his consideration.
- In case the Assembly reconsiders the Bill as per the request of the Governor under the third option, he has to give assent even if the Assembly passes it again without accepting any of the suggestions of the Governor..
- It is only logical to think that when the Constitution gives certain options to the Governor he is required to exercise one of them.
- Since sitting on a Bill passed by the Assembly is not an option given by the Constitution, the Governor, by doing so, is only acting against the constitutional direction.
- Under Article 154 of the Constitution, the Governor can

exercise his executive powers only on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

- So, there is a view that the Governor can withhold assent to a Bill only on ministerial advice.
- One of the judgments is Purushothaman Namboothiri vs the State of Kerala (1962). The issue that was decided in this case was that a Bill which is pending with the Governor does not lapse on the dissolution of the Assembly.
- But this judgment does not deal with the justiciability of the process of assent. Similarly, Hoechst Pharmaceuticals Ltd. And ... vs State Of Bihar And Others (1983) deals with the power of the Governor to reserve a Bill for the consideration of the President.
- The Court had held that a Governor reserves a Bill for the consideration of the President in the exercise of his discretion.
- The Court cannot go into the question of whether it was necessary for the Governor to reserve the Bill for the consideration of the President; thus, this case too does not deal with the justiciability of assent.

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