

FINDER

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FORTUNE IAS NEWS DAILY EXPLAINER

The Governor who forgot his job

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies. Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

1. Context

- The 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly Election 2026 delivered a **clear verdict** in a **234-member House**.
- **Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam(TVK)** emerged as the **single largest party (108 seats)** in its **first election**.
- **Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam(DMK)** got **59 seats**, while **All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam(AIADMK)** won **47 seats**.
- C. Joseph Vijay(TVK founder) defeated Dravidian parties ruling for **59 years**.
- Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar(Governor) demanded **118 MLA support letters** before **swearing-in**.
- After support from **Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi and Indian Union Muslim League (total 121 MLAs)**, oath fixed for **May 10** with **floor test by May 13**.

2. Constitutional Role of Governor & Issues

- The governor's role is to **invite the leader most likely to command the majority, not verify numbers beforehand**.
- **No constitutional provision** requires **pre-swearing majority proof**.
- **Sarkaria (1988), Venkatachaliah (2002), Punchhi (2010)** Commissions prioritise:
 - ➔ **Pre-poll alliance → single largest party with support**
- **Article 164(2)** implies majority is tested **on the floor of the House**.
- Governor's action seen as **deviation from established conventions**.

3. Precedents & Minority Governments

- Earlier deviations favoured certain parties:
 - ➔ **Goa (2017), Manipur (2017), Karnataka (2018) — smaller parties invited over larger ones.**
- **Minority governments are common:**
 - ➔ Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1996) **sworn in without majority**.
 - ➔ P. V. Narasimha Rao **completed full term as minority PM**.
 - ➔ Manmohan Singh (2004) **ran a minority government with outside support**.
- Majority is tested only on the **floor, not through letters**.

4. Issues & Need for Judicial Clarity

- Demand for **support letters before oath** lacks **constitutional and historical basis**.
- **72-hour deadline** for floor test may **encourage horse-trading**.
- Supreme Court of India (**Karnataka 2018**) stressed **context-based timelines**.
- Needed clarifications:
 - ➔ **Follow order of preference** in government formation
 - ➔ **Allow minority governments**
 - ➔ **Test majority via floor test or no-confidence motion**, not arbitrary conditions
- Core principle: **respect electoral mandate and legislative process**,
- **Way forward: clear judicial guidelines and codification of conventions to limit gubernatorial discretion**.

Advancing India-South Korea defence innovation ties

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

1. Background of India-South Korea Defence Ties

- India and South Korea established diplomatic relations in **1973**.
- Important agreements:
 - **2005 MoU on Defence Industry and Logistics** → cooperation in **production, R&D, and procurement**.
 - **2010 Defence Cooperation MoU** → training, expertise exchange, visits, and joint exercises.
 - **2010 Defence R&D MoU** → collaboration in **marine, electronics, and intelligent systems** between Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Korean industries.
- In **2015**, ties were upgraded to a **Special Strategic Partnership**.
- The **2020 Roadmap for Defence Industries Cooperation** expanded work in:
 - **Land, naval, aerospace, and guided weapon systems**
 - **Technology transfer** and investments in India's defence corridors.
- Major success:
 - **K9 Vajra-T self-propelled artillery system**, produced jointly by Larsen & Toubro and Hanwha Aerospace under **Make in India**.

2. What is KIND-X?

- On **April 20, 2026**, during the summit between Narendra Modi and Lee Jae Myung, the **Korea-India Defence Accelerator (KIND-X)**, a new defence innovation platform, was launched.
- KIND-X aims to connect:
 - **start-ups**
 - **businesses**
 - **investors**

- **universities**
- **incubators and defence industries** of both countries.
- It is similar to:
 - **INDUS-X** (India-U.S.)
 - **FRIND-X** (France-India).
- Expected leadership:
 - South Korea's **Defence Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA)**
 - India's **Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)**.
- It aligns with India's **India's Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) programme** and South Korea's defence innovation systems.

3. Opportunities and Benefits of KIND-X

KIND-X can become a "defence innovation bridge" for:

- **Joint R&D**
- **Co-development**
- **Co-production**
- **Technology innovation.**

Possible initiatives:

- **Joint grants and innovation challenges** for start-ups.
- Shared access to **testing facilities and laboratories**.
- Cooperation in **certification and standardisation**.
- **Accelerator and incubator programmes** linking innovators and investors.

Annual KIND-X Summits may:

- Bring together governments, industries, universities, and think tanks,
- Review progress,
- Strengthen strategic cooperation.

4. Future Significance of KIND-X

- KIND-X can support cooperation in:
 - **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
 - **Autonomous weapons and robotics**
 - **Space technologies**

- ➔ Satellites and Intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) systems
- ➔ Critical minerals
- ➔ Defence semiconductors.
- It will connect:
 - ➔ South Korean innovation hubs like **Changwon, Daejeon, and Gumi**
 - ➔ with **Indian defence corridors** in **Tamil Nadu** and **Uttar Pradesh** and with **aerospace hubs** in **Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad.**
- KIND-X supports:
 - ➔ India's **Defence Forces Vision 2047**
 - ➔ South Korea's **Defence Innovation 4.0** strategy.
 - ➔ Success depends on:
 - ➔ Clear **funding mechanisms**
 - ➔ Strong **joint projects**
 - ➔ Effective **coordination between defence ministries.**

Governor's role in govt. formation

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.

Mains: General Studies - 2
Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies. Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

1. Constitutional Provisions on Appointment of Chief Minister

- **Article 164(1)** of the Constitution provides that the **Chief Minister of a State shall be appointed by the Governor**, while **other ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister.**
- If a party gets a **clear majority**, the Governor invites its leader to form the government.
- In a **hung Assembly** (no party gets majority), the Governor uses **discretionary powers** to appoint the Chief Minister.
- The Constitution does **not clearly specify rules** for choosing a Chief Minister in such situations.

2. Recommendations of Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions

The **Sarkaria Commission (1987)** and the **Punchhi Commission (2010)** suggested guidelines for appointing the **Chief Minister** when **no party gets a clear majority** in the Assembly:

1. **Pre-poll alliance** with majority support.
 2. **Single largest party** with support from others.
 3. **Post- electoral coalition** where all alliance partners join the government
 4. **Post- electoral alliance** with some parties joining the government and the remaining parties supporting the government from outside.
- ➔ These recommendations aim to ensure a **stable government** and **impartial conduct** by Governors.

3. Issues and Controversies

- Governors have often acted **inconsistently** in hung Assemblies.
- In **Goa (2017)** and **Manipur (2017)**, BJP-led post-poll alliances were invited despite Congress being the **single largest party.**
 - ➔ These governments **later proved their majority in the Assembly**
- In **Karnataka (2018)**, the Governor invited the **BJP as the single largest party** instead of the Congress-JD(S) alliance.
- In **Maharashtra (2019)**, a BJP-led coalition was sworn in despite doubts over majority support.
 - ➔ In **both cases**, the **Chief Ministers resigned** because they **could not prove majority** support in the Assembly.
- Such actions raised concerns that Governors act as **agents of the Union government** rather than **impartial constitutional authorities.**

4. Supreme Court Views and Way Forward

- In **S. R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994)**, the Supreme Court held that the **floor of the House** is the correct forum to test majority support.
- This principle was reaffirmed in the **Rameshwar Prasad case (2006).**

- In Tamil Nadu's case, the issue was whether the alliance had support of **118 MLAs**, though majority is decided by **members present and voting** in the Assembly.
- The **Justice Kurian Joseph Committee** recommended adding a **new constitutional schedule** to clearly define the Governor's discretionary powers.
- The need of the hour is for Governors to act in a **bona fide, impartial, and constitutional manner**.

What measures are needed to address Delhi's heat crisis?

Prelims: General Studies Paper - 1
Current events of national and international importance

Mains: General Studies - 2
Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

1. Intensifying Heatwaves in Delhi NCR

- Delhi and the NCR (National Capital Region) are **facing longer and more intense heatwaves**.
- The **Urban Heat Island effect has evolved** into a "heat re-trap" phenomenon.

The **Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect** is a phenomenon where urban areas become significantly hotter than surrounding rural areas due to concrete structures, roads, vehicles, and human activities. **Cities absorb and retain more heat** during the day and release it slowly at night, causing higher temperatures and reduced cooling.

- **Rapid urbanisation and concrete-heavy infrastructure worsen** heat retention.
- Shrinking green cover **reduces natural cooling** capacity.
- The city now retains heat even during nighttime.

2. Why Delhi Retains Heat ?

- **Concrete, asphalt, steel, and glass absorb heat** during the day and release it slowly at night.
- **Surface temperatures in dense urban areas reach 50–60°C** during peak afternoons.
- **Glass-heavy buildings in Gurgaon and Noida increase indoor heating** and AC dependence.

- Roads and highways like **NH-48 act as continuous thermal corridors**.
- Dense construction and narrow streets **restrict airflow and trap hot air**.

3. Air Conditioning and Rising Temperatures

- **Air conditioners cool interiors** but release heat outdoors.
- Dense neighbourhoods experience a **1–2°C rise in ambient temperature due to AC use**.
- **Increased heat leads to greater cooling demand**, creating a feedback loop.
- Delhi's summer **electricity demand has crossed 8,000 MW**.
- India's cooling demand is projected to **grow nearly eightfold by 2050**.

4. Economic and Ecological Impacts

- Heat **reduces industrial efficiency and affects machinery performance**.
- **Worker productivity falls by 2–3%** for every degree rise above optimal temperatures.
- **India loses over \$100 billion annually** due to heat-related productivity decline.
- **Supply chains suffer** because of reduced transport hours and poor storage conditions.
- **Loss of wetlands, green cover, and Yamuna floodplains** weakens natural cooling systems.

5. Measures to Address the Crisis

- Cities **should adopt cool roofs, reflective coatings, and high-albedo materials**.

High-albedo materials are surfaces that **reflect a large portion of sunlight and absorb less heat, helping reduce urban temperatures**. Examples include white reflective roof paint, light-coloured concrete pavements, and reflective tiles used on buildings.

- **Buildings need insulation, shading, and cross-ventilation designs**.
- **Urban planning must restore ventilation corridors** and improve airflow.

- **Expansion of urban forests, parks, and water bodies** is essential.
- **Sustainable transport, electric mobility, district cooling systems,** and community cooling centres are needed.

KEYWORDS

ECINet

- ECINet is a **unified digital platform launched by Election Commission of India in 2026 to integrate more than 40 existing election-related mobile and web applications** into a single secure interface.
- It **consolidates platforms such as cVIGIL, Voter Helpline App, Suvidha, and Voter Turnout App** to simplify electoral services for citizens and officials.
- The **platform aims to improve transparency, efficiency, cybersecurity, and public trust** in the electoral process.
- **ECINet provides features such as digital electoral roll search, real-time poll day data entry, voter services,** and election statistics for over 100 crore voters.
- The platform **also helps voters, candidates, political parties, and election officials access electoral information** through a single login and streamlined interface.

Homogeneous accretion

- Homogeneous accretion is a **theory explaining the formation of the Earth and other planets.**
- It **states that planetesimals, which are small rocky and metallic bodies in the early solar system, combined rapidly from the primitive solar nebula, a huge cloud of gas and dust surrounding the young Sun.**
- In this model, **metallic and silicate materials were initially mixed together, giving the Earth a nearly uniform composition** in its early stage.
- Later, **due to intense internal heating, heavier materials like iron sank to form the core while lighter materials formed the mantle and crust** through differentiation.

- This theory differs from heterogeneous accretion, where the Earth's layers formed simultaneously during accretion itself.

Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging

- fMRI (Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging) is a **brain imaging technique used to measure brain activity by detecting changes in blood flow.**
- It **works on the principle that active regions of the brain receive more oxygen-rich blood** than inactive regions.
- Unlike normal MRI, which mainly shows brain structure, **fMRI provides real-time information about brain function and neural activity.**
- The **technique uses strong magnetic fields, radio waves, and computer processing to produce detailed images of the brain.**
- fMRI is **widely used in neuroscience research and in diagnosing disorders** such as depression, stroke, epilepsy, and brain tumors.

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- The **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** is an **inter-governmental organisation** established on **7 March 1997.**
- It consists of **23 Member States** and **12 Dialogue Partners.**
- The Association focuses on six major priority areas:
 - ➔ **Maritime Safety and Security**
 - ➔ **Trade and Investment Facilitation**
 - ➔ **Fisheries Management**
 - ➔ **Disaster Risk Management**
 - ➔ **Tourism and Cultural Exchanges**
 - ➔ **Academic, Science and Technology Cooperation**

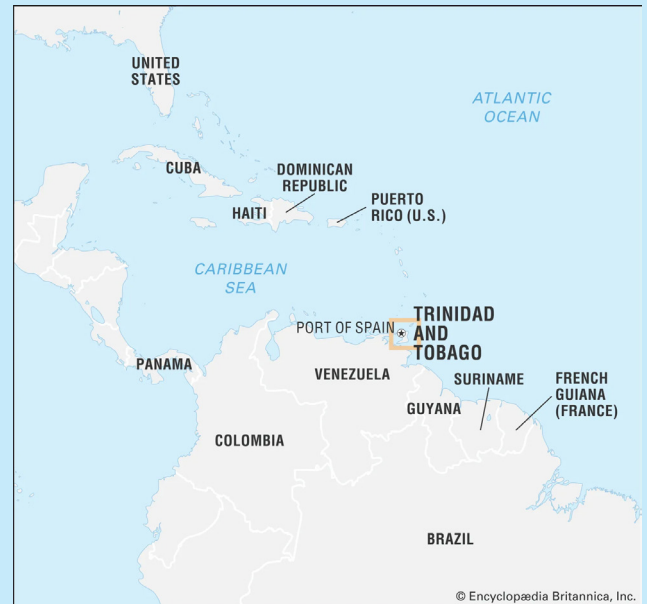
- It also addresses two important cross-cutting themes:
 - ➡ **Blue Economy** (sustainable marine-based economic growth)
 - ➡ **Women's Economic Empowerment.**

Girmitiya

- The term "**Girmitiya**" is a linguistic corruption of the English word "**agreement,**" referring to the **Indian indentured laborers** transported by the British to plantations in **Fiji, Mauritius, South Africa, and the Caribbean** during the **19th and early 20th centuries.**
- This **indentured labour system** was introduced by the **British colonial administration** to address **labour shortages** after the **abolition of slavery (1833)** in the British Empire.
- These labourers were often **recruited through deception** and subjected to **exploitative living and working conditions,** which **closely resembled slavery.**
- The issue became a rallying point for the **Indian National Movement,** with leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and Madan Mohan Malaviya campaigning against it, leading to its **abolition in 1917.**
- The **Girmitiya diaspora** is now important for **India's cultural diplomacy,** with initiatives like the **Girmitiya Studies Centre** at Nelson Island helping descendants trace their **ancestral roots.**

Places In News

Trinidad and Tobago



- The **Republic of Trinidad and Tobago** is an **archipelagic nation** located in the **southern Caribbean Sea.**
 - ➡ An **archipelago** is an area that contains a **chain or group of islands** scattered in lakes, rivers, or the ocean.
- It lies **northeast of Venezuela** and **south of Grenada** in the **Lesser Antilles.**
 - ➡ The **Lesser Antilles** are a long chain of **small islands in the Caribbean Sea,** extending in a **north-south direction** from the **Virgin Islands** to **Grenada.**
- The country also shares **maritime boundaries** with **Barbados** and **Guyana.**
- The country has a total area of about **5,128 sq. km** and consists of **two main islands- Trinidad and Tobago, along with 21 smaller islands.**
- **Trinidad** is the **larger and more populated island,** while **Tobago** is much smaller, accounting for only a small share of the country's area and population.
- The **capital city** of the country is **Port of Spain.**

Maghazi refugee camp



- Maghazi refugee camp is a **Palestinian refugee camp in central Gaza, established in 1949 after the Arab–Israeli war.**
- It shelters Palestinians displaced since the 1948 conflict.
- The camp is **managed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).**
- It is densely populated and faces severe humanitarian challenges.

Canary Islands

- The Canary Islands are a **Spanish autonomous community and archipelago** located in the **North Atlantic Ocean**, off the **northwestern coast of Africa** near **Morocco and Western Sahara.**
- The islands are of **volcanic origin** and include **Mount Teide on Tenerife**, which is an **active volcano**, the **highest peak in Spain**, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The archipelago gives its name to the **Canary Current**, a **cold ocean current** flowing southward along the African coast, forming part of the **North Atlantic Gyre** and **moderating the regional climate.**

- Geopolitically, the islands are significant along the **Atlantic migration route**, serving as a **major entry point into Europe** for migrants from **West Africa.**
- Recently, **Tenerife and Granadilla de Abona port** gained attention as an **emergency disembarkation zone** during a **hantavirus outbreak** on a cruise ship, highlighting their role in **maritime crisis management.**

