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Institute of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 09 April 2025

REGISTRAR GENERAL OF INDIA



- In 1949, the Government of India established a permanent organisation under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, headed by the **Registrar General and Ex-Officio Census Commissioner of India**.
- This position's role is mainly to ensure a **systematic collection of statistics** related to India's **population size, growth, and distribution**.
- The RGI is also **responsible for implementing the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969**.
- The **Registrar General** is typically a **civil servant of Joint Secretary rank**.

Key Functions of the RGI

- **Conducting the Census of India:** The **Census of India** offers detailed data about the **demographic, socio-economic, and geographic** characteristics of the population.
 - Since its **first complete round in 1881**, the **Census has been conducted 15 times**, with the most recent in **2011**.
 - Post-1949, the **Census was conducted under the RGI and Census Commissioner**.
- **Linguistic Survey of India (LSI):** Conducted alongside the decennial Census, this survey provides a **comprehensive picture of the linguistic diversity** in India.
 - It is instrumental for **educational and social planning** in different States.
 - The **first Linguistic Survey** was completed by **George Abraham Grierson** in **1928**.
- **Civil Registration System (CRS):** It is a **mandatory system for birth and death registration** in India.
 - It serves as a **real-time, continuous population data collection mechanism**.
 - Hospitals, especially government ones, are expected to act as **registration authorities**.

QUANTUM SUPREMACY



- Quantum supremacy refers to the ability of a quantum computer to solve a problem that classical computers cannot solve efficiently.
- It marks a **milestone in quantum computing**, proving that **quantum machines can outperform classical computers** for certain specific tasks.

The Quantum Supremacy Game

- The game is based on the "**odd-cycle graph colouring problem**":
 - Can you colour a circle with an odd number of sections using only two colours, such that **no two adjacent sections share the same colour**?
 - **Mathematically, this is impossible** in classical terms for any odd-numbered cycle.
- It uses **only two entangled qubits**, making the setup **far simpler** than earlier quantum supremacy demonstrations.
 - **Google's 2019 experiment** used **random circuit sampling** on its **Sycamore processor with 53 superconducting qubits**, which required massive computational resources.
 - **China's Jiuzhang quantum computer** used **Gaussian boson sampling**, again demanding complex tools and mathematics.
- In contrast, this new game-based method is **minimalist yet powerful**, demonstrating **clear quantum advantage with far fewer resources**.

Power of Qubits:

- As the number of **qubits increases**, the computational capacity increases **exponentially** compared to classical bits.
- For instance, a 50-qubit quantum processor can potentially **outperform the fastest classical supercomputer**.

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GOVERNOR'S ASSENT TO BILLS



- The Supreme Court of India in a landmark verdict reprimanded **Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi** for **withholding assent** or **delaying action** on **10 state bills**, which were re-presented by the state legislature.
- The **Governor had reserved these bills for the President's consideration**, which the Court held to be **unconstitutional**.

Case Context

- In **2023**, the **Tamil Nadu Government** approached SC, citing **deliberate delay** by the Governor.
- **12 bills** (including one from 2020) were **pending assent**.
- On **November 13, 2023**, the Governor **withhold assent** to 10 bills.
- The Assembly **re-enacted** these bills on **November 18, 2023**.
- The Governor again **reserved some bills for the President** on **November 28, 2023**.

Key Constitutional Provisions Involved

- **Article 200**: Deals with the powers of the **Governor** regarding **bills passed by the State Legislature**. The Governor can:
 - **Give assent**
 - **Withhold assent**
 - **Reserve the bill for President's consideration**
- **Article 201** – President's veto power on bills reserved by the Governor.
- **Article 142** – Supreme Court's plenary power to ensure complete justice.

Supreme Court's Major Observations

- The Governor's action of reserving 10 bills for the President was declared illegal and arbitrary.

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- **Bills re-presented** to the Governor shall be **deemed to have received assent** from the date of re-presentation.
- The **Governor does not have discretion** under Article 200 and must act **on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers**.
- The Governor **cannot exercise an “absolute veto” or “pocket veto”** by sitting indefinitely on bills.
- Delays in granting assent cripple the legislative process and are against the spirit of federalism and democracy.

Timelines Fixed by the Supreme Court (First Time Ever)

Scenario	Maximum Time Allowed
Withhold Assent or Reserve for President (with aid & advice of CoM)	1 Month
Withhold Assent without CoM’s advice	Must return the bill within 3 Months
Bill Re-passed by Assembly (2nd time)	Governor must give assent within 1 Month

Judicial Oversight Introduced

- If these timelines are **not followed**, the **Governor’s inaction** becomes **subject to Judicial Review**.
- **The Supreme Court invoked Article 142** to declare the bills as deemed to have received assent.

Clarification on Reserve Power (Article 200)

- Once a **bill is re-passed** by the Assembly, the **Governor cannot reserve it again** unless the **content has materially changed**.
- Any attempt to delay action **violates the Governor’s constitutional oath**.

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INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

- The IPU is the **global organization of national P**
- It was **founded in 1889** as the **first multilateral political organization** in the world, encouraging cooperation and dialogue between all nations.
- The **slogan** of IPU is “**For democracy. For everyone.**”
- Today, the IPU comprises **181 national Member Parliaments**.
- It also has 15 Associate Members – mostly parliaments drawn from groups of nations, or similar bodies.
- It **promotes democracy** and helps parliaments become stronger, younger, gender-balanced and more diverse.
- It also **defends the human rights of parliamentarians** through a **dedicated committee made up of MPs** from around the world.
- **Twice a year**, the **IPU convenes** over 1,500 parliamentary delegates and partners in a **world assembly**, bringing a parliamentary dimension to global governance, including the work of the United Nations and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The IPU's **principal administrative and policy-making body** is the **Governing Council**, which meets at each Assembly.
- The Governing Council is **made up of three MPs from each Member Parliament**.
- The **headquarters** of IPU is in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **Funding**: It is financed primarily by its **members out of public funds**.

BIOMASS SATELLITE MISSION



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- It is a **European Space Agency (ESA)** mission to provide more accurate **measurements of forest biomass** to enhance our understanding of the **carbon cycle**.
- It will provide detailed **3D maps** of the world's most **dense and remote tropical forests**.
- The mission will lift off aboard the Vega C rocket from Europe's spaceport in French Guiana.
- It will be placed in a **sun-synchronous orbit (SSO)** — a type of orbit in which satellites are in sync with the Sun — at an altitude of around 666 km.
- It is the **first space satellite to carry a long-wavelength radar, called P-band**.
- This special radar means that it can **scan deep through the forest canopy** and collect **information on different parts** of the forest, such as tree trunks, branches, and stems, **where trees store most of their carbon**.
- This will allow the satellite to provide experts on the ground with new information on forest height and above-ground forest biomass from space.
- Scientists will then be able to find out more about the state of our forests and how they are changing, and further our **knowledge about the role that forests play in the carbon cycle**.

ELECTRONICS COMPONENTS MANUFACTURING SCHEME



- It is the **first dedicated production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme** to promote the **manufacturing of select passive electronic components**, including resistors, capacitors, speakers, microphones, special ceramics, relays, switches and connectors.
- The scheme will offer **three incentive structures**:
 - **Turnover-linked** incentive (based on revenue)
 - **Capex-linked** incentive (for investments in plants & machinery)
 - **Hybrid** incentive model (a combination of both)

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- **Incentives** for incremental investments and turnover **range from 1–10% depending on the year and the component.**
- **Employment generation** will be a **mandatory requirement for all applicants**, including both component manufacturers and capital equipment producers. Thus, the scheme not only boosts manufacturing but also creates skilled jobs.
- This scheme has a **tenure of six years**, with a **one-year gestation period.**
- The scheme **focuses particularly on passive electronic components.** In contrast, **active components fall under** the purview of the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).**
- This scheme is set to benefit a number of industries, such as automobiles, consumer electronics, and electronics.

GLOBAL REACTIONS TO TRUMP'S TARIFF STANDOFF

Countries are responding to Trump's retaliatory tariffs with three distinct strategies. One approach is the Chinese strategy of "resolute opposition" and tit-for-tat retaliation.

China's Commerce Ministry has vowed to take countermeasures to protect its interests, responding to Trump's threat of imposing a 50% tariff on Chinese imports if Beijing doesn't retract its 34% tariff on American goods.

Japan's Negotiated Approach Gains Traction Amid Tariff Tensions

- Japan is taking a diplomatic route to resolve tariff issues with the U.S., sending a team to negotiate with Washington.
- This move follows discussions between U.S. President Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba.
- Japan's stock markets reacted positively, with significant gains in the Nikkei 225 and Topix, driving optimism across Asian markets.
- **Asian Markets Hopeful for Diplomatic Resolution**
 - Asian markets are buoyed by the belief that Japan's approach may lead to a successful negotiation, potentially easing U.S. tariffs.

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- Other nations, such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Vietnam, are also adopting a conciliatory stance to avoid retaliatory tariffs.
- Whether this diplomatic strategy will gain traction in Europe and the U.S. remains a key factor for market sentiment.

EU's Balanced Approach: Negotiation and Retaliation Options

- The European Union is taking a middle ground in its response to U.S. tariffs, expressing a preference for negotiations while preparing a potential retaliation list.
- With the trans-Atlantic trade relationship valued at 1.5 trillion Euros, EU officials are keen to resolve the issue diplomatically.
- However, they are ready to retaliate if needed.

India's Quiet Diplomacy Amid Tariff Concerns

- India has remained largely silent on the issue of U.S. tariffs, offering only basic statements and downplaying the impact.
- Privately, officials suggest that India prefers a diplomatic approach over retaliation, a shift from its previous strategy under the first Trump administration when it took countermeasures against U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs.

China's Firm Stance Amid Escalating Tariff War

- China is responding to the U.S. tariffs with resolute opposition, facing deep losses in its markets, especially with the Hang Seng Index plunging.
- The series of escalating tariffs, including the latest threat of a 50% levy, has raised concerns about an economic blockade between the two largest economies.

U.S. Faces Economic Constraints in Ongoing Tariff Conflict

- The U.S. may struggle to sustain its position in the trade war, lacking significant fiscal options and facing an impending conflict with the Federal Reserve over interest rate cuts.
- This could make it harder for the U.S. to engage in a prolonged tariff standoff with China.

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A HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

- **Traditionally, the MHA has been synonymous with crisis management.** Whether in quelling riots, responding to insurgencies, or restoring law and order after disasters, its interventions were typically reactive.
- For decades, **India's internal security landscape was defined by violence in Kashmir, insurgency in the North-East, and Naxalite movements in Central India.**
- These **conflict zones dictated the Ministry's priorities**, resulting in the loss of thousands of lives, both civilian and personnel.
- The **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) were deployed extensively** as many States lacked the capacity to modernise their police forces.
- The **MHA's growing responsibilities during these years shaped its identity as a Crisis Ministry.**
- This **reactive approach extended into legislation.** Key security laws such as the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA), the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), and the formation of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) were born out of violent episodes.
- While these legal responses were necessary, **they often lacked continuity and long-term vision.**
- **Frequent changes in leadership** during critical political periods **also undermined consistent policymaking in internal security.**