



THE HINDU



## GS Paper 2-Governance

# What was 'gross' about the 12 Bills kept pending for 3 years: SC to T.N. Governor

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked what Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi found so "gross" about the 12 Bills the State government sent him for assent that they were kept pending for over three years.



You [Governor] are saying 'I withhold consent', but at the same time,

I will not ask them to reconsider the Bills. This would only frustrate the procedure under Article 200...

The Governor seems to have adopted his own procedure here

**JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA**

Supreme Court Judge



## KEY POINTS

- Article 200 of the Indian Constitution gives the Governor four options when a Bill is presented for assent: approve, withhold assent, return for reconsideration, or reserve for the President. The Governor usually acts on ministerial advice, as confirmed by the Supreme Court.







- The Sarkaria (1987) and Punchhi (2010) Commissions recommended that Governors decide on Bills within six months, but these suggestions remain unimplemented.





THE HINDU



# GS Paper 2-Governance

## On the appointment of ad-hoc judges to High Courts

What did the Supreme Court order? Have such appointments been made previously? What did the rule set in the *Lok Prahari* judgment state? What does Article 224-A mandate?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

**The story so far:**

To address the growing backlog of criminal cases, the Supreme Court on January 30, allowed High Courts to appoint retired judges on an ad-hoc basis, provided they hear only criminal appeals as part of a Bench led by a sitting judge. A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna and Justices B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant relaxed a rule set in *Lok Prahari Through Its General Secretary S.N. Shukla IAS*

judges to High Courts on an ad-hoc basis. Such appointments require the consent of both the retired judge and the President of India. These judges receive allowances as determined by the President's order and exercise the same jurisdiction, powers, and privileges as a sitting High Court judge. The detailed procedure for such appointments is outlined in the 1998 Memorandum of Procedure (MoP).

**When are such appointments made?**

In *Lok Prahari*, the Court identified specific circumstances that could warrant

the Supreme Court expressed concerns that Article 224A could result in "inaction in making recommendations" for regular judicial appointments. Consequently, the Court clarified that ad-hoc judges can only be appointed when recommendations for filling less than 20% of vacancies have not been made, after considering both the number of sitting judges and the pending proposals for judicial appointments.

The Court outlined several "trigger points" for such appointments, although the list is not exhaustive. These include –

form a panel of retired judges, along with soon-to-retire judges, for appointments.

**What does the latest order say?**

The CJI-led Bench noted that, as of January 25, there are 62 lakh pending cases across High Courts, according to data from the National Judicial Data Grid. Of these, over 18.2 lakh are criminal cases, while more than 44 lakh are civil cases. To tackle this growing pendency, the Court decided to set aside the condition laid down in *Lok Prahari*, which permitted the appointment of ad-hoc judges only when judicial vacancies exceeded 20% of the sanctioned strength.

It further ruled that ad-hoc judges can only hear criminal appeals. Additionally, the number of ad-hoc judges cannot exceed 10% of a High Court's sanctioned judicial strength, meaning each High Court can have only 2 to 5 such appointments.

**Have there been prior instances?**

There have only been three documented instances of ad-hoc judicial appointments.

### THE GIST

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna and Justices B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant relaxed a rule set in *Lok Prahari Through Its General Secretary S.N. Shukla IAS (Retd.) vs Union of India* (2021).

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## KEY POINTS

The Supreme Court has allowed High Courts to appoint retired judges as ad-hoc judges to address the backlog of criminal cases. These judges can only hear criminal appeals, and their number cannot exceed 10% of the court's sanctioned strength. This decision relaxes the 2021 rule that allowed ad-hoc appointments only when judicial vacancies exceeded 20%.



- The appointments require the consent of both the retired judge and the President.
- There have been only three prior instances of such appointments, with notable cases in Madhya Pradesh, Madras, and Allahabad High Courts.





## GS Paper 3-Defence

### Demchok now open to visitors under battlefield tourism initiative

**DIVYAA**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

DEMCHOK, WHICH was among the two main points of the recent border row with China, has now been opened for visitors as part of the Centre's new initiative of Battlefield Tourism. Run jointly by the Ministry of Defence, along with state governments and the Ministry of Tourism, the list of 77 forward sites includes 21 from Arunachal Pradesh, 14 in Ladakh, 11 in Jammu and Kashmir, and

much of the forward locations as possible, so that citizens get a feel of the pitched battles fought at some of these locations that have inhospitable terrain and weather.

Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Shekhawat said, "The Indian Army, in collaboration with the state governments and Ministry of Tourism, has put in place risk mitigation and safety measures to ensure the well-being of visitors to these sensitive and remote locations."

In a written reply in Lok Sabha Monday, Shekhawat said,



## KEY POINTS

Demchok, a key site in the India-China border dispute, is now open for civilian visitors as part of India's Battlefield Tourism initiative. The initiative, covering 77 forward sites across several states, promotes tourism while ensuring safety through coordination with the Army.





# **The Indian EXPRESS**

## GS Paper 3-Environment

### HOW THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS INTENSIFYING MARINE HEATWAVES

**ALIND CHAUHAN**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

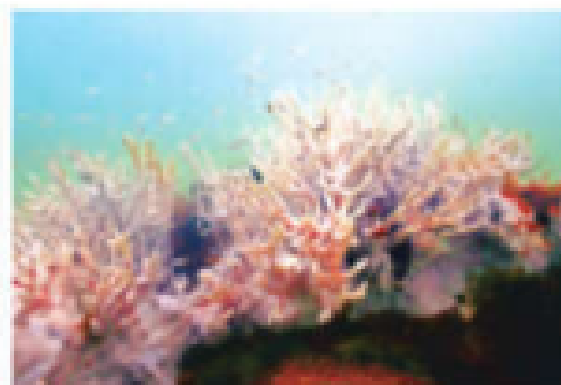
THE MARINE heatwaves (MHWs) linked to the death of more than 30,000 fish off the coastal Western Australia in January were made up to 100 times more probable due to climate change, a new analysis said. The MHWs began in September 2024 and are still ongoing in the region.

The analysis was carried out by the non-profit Climate Central. It also said the severity of the MHWs is intensifying as sea surface temperatures (SST) in some areas touched 2 degrees Celsius or more above average for this time of the year.

The current MHWs are the second-worst in Western Australia's recorded history. The region saw its most intense MHWs during the summer of 2010-11.

#### What are marine heatwaves?

A marine heatwave occurs when the surface temperature of a particular region of the sea rises to 3 or 4 degrees Celsius above the average temperature for at least five days. MHWs can last for weeks, months or even years, according to the US government agency National Oceanic and



Marine heatwaves can lead to coral bleaching. *Reuters*

creased the global mean SST by close to 0.9 degrees Celsius since then, with a rise of around 0.6 degrees Celsius over the last four decades, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service.

That is why coastal Western Australia has been witnessing a spike in MHWs and their intensity.

The situation will likely worsen across the world. The 2018 study said the current number of MHWs was projected to increase on average by a factor of 16 for global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius and by a factor of 23 for global warming of 2.0 degrees Celsius.





## KEY POINTS

- MHWs occur when sea surface temperatures rise 3–4°C above average for at least five days.
- Marine heatwaves (MHWs) have become more frequent and intense due to climate change, making events like the one off Western Australia in January 2025 up to 100 times more likely.





MHWs, driven by rising sea surface temperatures, are expected to increase dramatically with further global warming, severely impacting coral reefs and marine life.

- These heatwaves, which started in September 2024, have caused fish deaths and are harming marine ecosystems.

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# PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



# GS Paper 1-Culture

Ministry of Culture



## Bali Jatra commemorates rich maritime heritage and culture of Odisha

Posted On: 06 FEB 2025 5:53PM by PIB Delhi



## KEY POINTS

- Bali Jatra is an annual festival in Cuttack, Odisha, celebrating the maritime trade between Odisha and Southeast Asia, particularly Bali.
- Held on Kartika Purnima, it features fairs, rides, food, dance, and the 'Boita Bandana' ritual, where women float lighted boats on the Mahanadi. The festival honors the skill of ancient sailors of the Kalinga empire.







## GS Paper 2(IR)

### Meeting To Strengthen Defence Cooperation





## KEY POINTS

The 5th Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between the Ministry of Defence of India and Spain was held in New Delhi today. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the ongoing bilateral defence cooperation activities and discussed the plan for multiple joint activities, including in the maritime domain.

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