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Governors can't sit on Bills endlessly: SC judges

Judges say that Governors could neither delay the legislature's wisdom nor impede the Constitution

Governors 'cannot assume to be royalty in a Republic', say senior advocates representing T.N.

Sibal argues that States cannot go in search of political solutions to coax Governors' assent

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

hree of the five judges on the Presidential Reference Bench on Tuesday orally observed along with the States of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal that Governors cannot sit endlessly over Bills placed before them for assent.

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, Justices Vikram Nath and P.S. Narasimha separately remarked that Governors could neither delay the wisdom of the legislature indefinitely nor impede the functioning of the Constitution. "No organ can impair the functioning of the Constitution," Justice Narasimha said

Tamil Nadu, represented by senior advocates A.M. Singhvi and P. Wilson, said Governors "cannot assume to be royalty in a Republic" while senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for West Bengal, submitted that high offices under the Constitution must work collaboratively and not combatively with each other.

"When the Constitution is clear that a Governor should act with immediacy, why should he hold back Bills? There is a sense of urgency associated with the Governor's assent. Legislation is a sovereign act. It cannot wait," Mr. Sibal emphasised. Mr. Singhvi said that Bills are meant to realise the felt necessity of the times.

Mr. Sibal argued that "absurdity" would follow if the court agreed with the Centre's argument that Go-



vernors had absolute power to withhold State Bills under Article 200 (Governors' power to assent to Bills).

Countering the Centre, he said States cannot go in search of political solutions to coax Governors' assent. Gubernatorial delay thwarts the constitutional scheme, he said. "This Constitution has its genesis in history, but its alignment is with the future... And who decides the future of this country? You five in this case. The future of India is at stake if you give such absurd powers to the Governor," Mr. Sibal submitted.

The Bench is hearing a Presidential Reference of

Arlekar moves SC against CM's role in selecting V-Cs

NEW DELHI
Kerala Governor Rajendra
Vishwanath Arlekar on Tuesday
urged the Supreme Court to
exclude the State Chief Minister
from the process to select the
Vice-Chancellors for two
State-run universities. » PAGE 3

May questioning time limits placed on the Governors and the President to deal with State Bills.

The Reference followed an April 8 judgment pronounced by a two-judge Bench of the apex court in the case of the Tamil Nadu Governor, who had delayed assent to 10 State Bills since 2020, The Division Bench had imposed a or refer three-month deadline for the President and Governors to decide the fate of the Bills. If the Bills were left pending beyond three

months, they would be "deemed" to have received assent and become laws.

Time limits

The Bench, however, expressed doubts about the court imposing "general" time limits on the President and Governors and granting "deemed assent" to Bills. "What happens if the time limit of three months set by the Supreme Court [in the TN Governor judgment] is not followed by the President or Governors," Justice Nath asked. He queried why it was "deemed assent" alone. "Why cannot the other options - withholding assent or reference to the President – also be "deemed". Justice Narasimba said

Justice Narasimha said time limits could be prescribed in individual cases after considering the peculiar facts and circumstances of each.

Chief Justice Gavai said a broad brushstroke of a "general" timeline applicable to all cases of delay may amount to overreaching by the judiciary. "Timelines help in maintaining discipline and immediacy. This dispute began with individual cases. Kerala and Tamil Nadu came with their own cases. However, the problem [gubernatorial delay] has proven to be endemic and repetitive," Mr. Singhvi said explaining the reason for the Tamil Nadu Governor case judgment fixing a "general" threemonth deadline.

Supreme Court on Governors and State Bills English:

The Supreme Court observed that Governors cannot indefinitely delay assent to State Bills. Senior advocates argued that Governors are not "royalty in a Republic" and must act promptly as per Article 200. The case arises from delays by the Tamil Nadu Governor. The Bench debated whether courts can impose "deemed assent" timelines.

Relevance: Constitutional law, Centre-State relations, Governor's role (UPSC Polity / BPSC/JPSC Mains GS-II).

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि राज्यपाल किसी भी बिल पर अनिश्चितकाल तक हस्ताक्षर टाल नहीं सकते। वरिष्ठ वकीलों ने दलील दी कि राज्यपाल "गणराज्य में राजा" नहीं हो सकते और उन्हें अनुच्छेद 200 के तहत तुरंत कार्रवाई करनी चाहिए। मामला तमिलनाडु के राज्यपाल की देरी से जुड़ा है।

प्रासंगिकता: संवैधानिक प्रावधान, केंद्र-राज्य संबंध, राज्यपाल की भिमका।

India sets eyes on \$1-tn semiconductor market; PM promises faster approvals

Saptaparno Ghosh

NEW DELHI

India will soon hold a significant share in the global semiconductor market, which is set to reach \$1 trillion in size, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday, adding that the government is working to ensure faster approvals to reduce the time it takes to start manufacturing semiconductors in India.

He added that work is "underway" on the next phase of the India Semi-conductor Mission.

Speaking at the 2025 edition of Semicon India, the annual semiconductor conference, the Prime Minister noted that India has achieved a GDP growth rate of 7.8% even as the rest of the world is mired in "self-interest", adding that this growth has come from across sectors.

"In 2025, we gave clea-



Focus area: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the gathering at the Semicon India 2025 in New Delhi. PTI

rance to five more projects to bring the cumulative count to 10 projects," Mr. Modi said. "These projects have drawn a combined investment of \$18 billion or ₹1.5 lakh crore. This is reflective of the world's confidence in India."

'Key economic drivers'

Semiconductor chips are the "digital diamonds" and the most important economic drivers of the 21st century, the Prime Minister said, in much the same way as crude oil drove growth in the previous century.

"The shorter the time from file to factory, and the lesser the paperwork, the sooner wafer work can begin," Mr. Modi said, explaining the government's approach. In this regard, the national single window system enables access to all approvals from both the Centre and States on a single platform, he said.

It is time for "execution with precision" and delivery on scale, the Prime Minister said. He emphasised that the government's policies were not directed at "short-term signals but long-term commitments", assuring the semiconductor ecosystem in India of his full support.

"The days are not far when the world will take note of [chips] designed in India, made in India, and trusted by the world," he said.

Speaking amidst global trade uncertainties triggered by new U.S. tariffs, Mr. Modi praised India's growth in challenging times. "There is concern in economies around the world, there are challenges created by economic self-interest," Mr. Modi said

India's \$1 Trillion Semiconductor Ambition English:

At Semicon India 2025, PM Modi said India will soon hold a significant share in the global semiconductor market (\$1 trillion). Government cleared 10 projects worth \$18 billion. Faster approvals via a single-window system are being introduced.

Relevance: Indian economy, Digital India, Industrial policy, Technology strategy. ਵਿੱਟੀ

सेमिकॉन इंडिया 2025 सम्मेलन में प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने कहा कि भारत जल्द ही वैश्विक सेमीकंडक्टर बाज़ार (1 ट्रिलियन डॉलर) में बड़ी हिस्सेदारी रखेगा। 10 परियोजनाओं को मंज़ूरी दी गई है जिनमें 18 बिलियन डॉलर का निवेश होगा। सिंगल-विंडो सिस्टम से मंज़ूरी प्रक्रिया तेज होगी।

प्रासंगिकताः भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था, डिजिटल इंडिया, औद्योगिक नीति, तकनीकी रणनीति।

Behind Maratha issue resolution on Day 5 of stir, a climbdown by both Mahayuti govt. and activist

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit MUMBAI

Behind the resolution of the Maratha agitation, which had crippled Mumbai for five days, was a climbdown by both the Mahayuti government as well as the agitators. The State government on Tuesday issued a government resolution and a notification accepting six of the eight demands made by Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil, successfully resolving the deadlock.

As Mr. Jarange-Patil claimed victory and broke his fast, he also ended a two-year feud. "Devendra Fadnavis Saaheb, you should come here. Our enmity is over," he said, as Maharashtra Minister Radhakrisha Vikhe Patil looked on and later announced that the Chief Minister was the architect of the resolution.

"Though I faced severe criticism, I had only one



Maratha community members celebrating in Mumbai after the Maharashtra government's acceptance of their demands. PTI

goal in mind. That the Maratha community should be given justice, and that no two communities should be pitted against each other," Mr. Fadnavis said. The OBCs had threatened a similar mass agitation if the Marathas were given reservation from the OBC quota.

the Cabinet subcommittee on Maratha reservation held four meetings. Drafts for the orders were kept ready, but the government maintained that it was firm on finding a constitutional

Over the last few days,

solution to the deadlock. One of the key demands made by the quota activist in his memorandum of demands was to declare Marathas as Kunbis without any exception.

"The first breakthrough came on Sunday, August 31, when Manoj Jarange-Patil, for the first time, publicly decided to concede this important demand. The government had always maintained that it was not possible to declare Marathas as Kunbis without an exception. There was no

point in holding any discussions if this demand was the first one," a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

Three judgments

The official said the Cabinet subcommittee had discussed the three judgments of the Bombay High Court and the Supreme Court that had refused to address all the Marathas as Kunbis. As per government sources, references to these judgments were given to the Maratha activist - the October 17, 2003 judgment of the Bombay High Court in Jagannath D. Hole by the Division Bench of Justices B.H. Marlapalle and A.S. Bagga; the Supreme Court judgment of April 15, 2005, in the appeal against the Bombay High Court verdict; and the Bombay High Court judgment of October 6, 2002, by the Division Bench of Justice Marlapalle and Justice N.V. Dabholkar in the Suhas Dashrathe case. In this 2002 judgment, the High Court had observed, "If these contentions are accepted, every person belonging to the 'Maratha' caste has to be issued a certificate that he belongs to 'Kunbi' caste, and this would be against the stark social realities of Maharashtra State."

Government sources said that after these judgments were brought to the notice of Mr. Jarange-Patil, he let go of the demand for terming all Marathas as Kunbis. The government thereafter held discussions on the implementation of the Hyderabad gazetteer and the Satara gazetteer.

Mr. Jarange-Patil had also demanded that the criminal cases against Maratha agitators should be withdrawn and monetary compensation or jobs should be granted to the families of the deceased members. Sources claimed that a separate notification was issued for the same.

Maratha Quota Agitation - Breakthrough English:

The Maharashtra government formed a committee to issue Kunbi caste certificates to eligible Marathas, based on historical gazetteers. Activist Manoj Jarange-Patil ended his hunger strike after five days. The compromise accepted six of eight demands.

Relevance: Reservation policy, Caste dynamics, Social justice, Indian polity.

महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने योग्य मराठों को कुणबी जाति प्रमाणपत्र देने के लिए सिमति गठित की है। यह निर्णय ऐतिहासिक गजेटियर पर आधारित है। कार्यकर्ता मनोज जरांगे-पाटिल ने पांच दिन की भूख हड़ताल समाप्त की।

प्रासंगिकताः आरक्षण नीति. जातिगत आंदोलन, सामाजिक न्याय।

Bihar Cabinet nod for 7 medical colleges, 3,233 new govt. posts

Amit Bhelari

PATNA

The Bihar Cabinet on Tuesday approved a proposal from the Health Department to open seven new medical colleges in the State.

According to a media briefing by Cabinet Secretariat Department's Additional Chief Secretary Arvind Kumar Chaudhary, the new medical colleges will come up in Kishanganj, Katihar, Rohtas, Sheohar, Lakhisarai, Arwal and Sheikhpura districts of the State.

Apart from 20 underconstruction colleges in the State, there are currently 12 State-run government medical colleges.

In another decision, the Cabinet sanctioned ₹20,000 crore to roll out 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana' under which one woman of every family will be given ₹10,000 to start a business, Mr. Chaudhary said.

The Cabinet also gave its nod for the creation of 3,233 posts in government departments, he added.

'Risk allowance' hiked

In yet another move, the Cabinet increased the basic salary by 30% per month as "risk allowance" for police officers and personnel who are either working or on deputation in the Anti-Terrorism Squad.

Bihar Cabinet Decisions

English:

The Bihar Cabinet approved:

- 7 new medical colleges (Kishangani, Katihar, Rohtas, Sheohar, Lakhisarai, Arwal, Sheikhpura).
- ₹20,000 crore for *Mukhya Mantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana* (₹10,000 to one woman per family).
- Creation of 3,233 new government posts.
- 30% risk allowance hike for ATS personnel.

Relevance: Bihar-specific GK, Economy, Social welfare schemes.

हिंदी:

बिहार मंत्रिमंडल ने स्वीकृत किया:

• 7 नए मेडिकल कॉलैज।

- 20,000 करोड़ रुपये *मुख्यमंत्री महिला रोजगार योजना* के लिए।
- 3.233 नई सरकारी नौकरियां।
- एटीएस कर्मियों के लिए 30% जोखिम भत्ता।
 प्रासंगिकता: बिहार सामान्य ज्ञान, अर्थव्यवस्था, कल्याणकारी योजनाएँ।

FTs can issue arrest warrants, send 'foreigners' to detention centres

Vijaita Singh

NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has given the Foreigners Tribunals (FT), so far unique to Assam, powers of a first class judicial magistrate. The fresh Immigration and Foreigners Order, 2025, notified on Monday paves the way to send persons to a detention or a holding centre if they fail to produce any proof that they are "not a foreigner". This was earlier enforced through executive orders.

The 2025 order, which replaces the Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 1964, empowers the FTs to issue arrest warrants if a person whose nationality has been contested fails to appear in person. The order has been notified under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, passed by Parliament in April repealing four other laws.

According to Assam's Home Department, there were 11 Illegal Migrant Determination Tribunals (IMDT) in the State that were converted to tribunals after the Supreme



Tense moments: In this 2019 photo, people wait at the Foreigners Tribunal office in Barpeta in Assam. AP

Court scrapped the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983, in 2005. In total, 100 FTs are currently operational in the State.

The number of FTs was increased after the National Register of Citizens (NRC) was published in 2019 in Assam on the orders of the Supreme Court. The NRC, again unique to Assam, excluded 19 lakh out of 3.29 crore applicants and FTs were to give adequate opportunity to the those excluded from NRC to present their case.

Though the order is applicable across the country, FTs are functional only in Assam.

In other States, an illegal migrant is produced before a local court.

Curbs on employment

The order also bars employing foreigners in private undertakings that are engaged in the supply of power or water, in the petroleum sector, in the fields of defence, space technology, nuclear energy and human rights without the Central government's nod.

"The designated Border Guarding Forces or the Coast Guard shall take steps to prevent illegal migrants attempting to enter into India by sending them back after capturing their biometric information and available demographic details on the designated portal of the Central Government," the order said. It added that matters related to detection and deportation of illegal migrants settled in the country shall be closely monitored by a nodal officer designated for this purpose by the State government.

The order states that a foreigner may be refused entry or stay in India, "if he is convicted on charges of anti-national activities, espionage, rape and murder, crime against humanity, terrorist and subversive activity... human trafficking, racketeering in fake travel document and currency (including crypto currency), cyber crime, child abuse or found involved in such offences."

The Ministry notified the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025 exempting Nepal and Bhutan citizens, Tibetans, and Sri Lankan Tamils from the Act.

Foreigners Tribunals Empowered (National Issue) English:

The Union Home Ministry gave Foreigners Tribunals (earlier unique to Assam) powers of first-class magistrates under the new Immigration & Foreigners Act, 2025. They can issue arrest warrants and send declared foreigners to detention centers. Employment restrictions on foreigners in key sectors were also added.

Relevance: Internal security, Citizenship/NRC issues, Assam polity.

हिंदी:

गृह मंत्रालय ने नए *इमिग्रेशन एंड फॉरेनर्स एक्ट, 2025* के तहत विदेशी न्यायाधिकरणों को प्रथम श्रेणी मजिस्टेट की शक्ति दी। अब वे विदेशी घोषित व्यक्तियों को हिरासत केंद्र भेज सकते हैं। प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में विदेशियों की नौकरी पर रोक लगाई गई।

प्रासंगिकताः आंतरिक सरक्षा. नागरिकता/एनआरसी महे. असम।

Ahead of PM's Manipur trip, officials set to meet Kuki-Zo groups today

Vijaita Singh

NEW DELHI

Union Home Ministry officials are all set to meet representatives of Kuki-Zo insurgent groups Wednesday to finalise the extension of the suspension of operations (SoO) agreement that has been in limbo since February 29, 2024 when the Manipur government pulled out of the tripartite pact, a government source told The Hindu on Tuesday.

The move comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's expected visit to Manipur in the second week of September, as reported by The Hindu.

This will be the Prime Minister's first visit since May 2023 when ethnic violence erupted in the north-



Narendra Modi

eastern State. The Kuki-Zo civil society groups are likely to agree to open two key National Highways number 2 and 37 – ahead of the visit. The two highways, passing through Kuki-Zo-inhabited areas, are key to connecting the landlocked Imphal valley, where the Meitei people live, to Nagaland and Assam, respectively. They are critical for supply of essentials and other commodities but have been shut for the past two years for the movement of Meitei peo-

Manipur has been under President's Rule since February 13.

The Home Ministry resumed talks with the Kuki-Zo SoO groups on June 9 after a gap of two years to renegotiate the SoO pact with stringent ground rules. One of the conditions is reduction in the number of SoO camps from the existing 14 to seven, away from Meiteidominated areas.

On Wednesday, the insurgent groups will hold talks with A.K. Mishra, Adviser (Northeast), Home Ministry, and Intelligence Bureau officials.

Prior to May 3, 2023, when ethnic violence erupted in the State, the primary demand of the SoO groups was autonomous territorial councils within Manipur but after the violence, they changed the stance to demand a separate administration, defining it as a Union Territory with legislature.

The agreement in place since 2008 has been periodically extended each year except on February 29, 2024 when the Manipur government refused to extend the tripartite pact. The Home Ministry and SoO groups are the other two signatories.

Meitei groups have accused the armed SoO groups of armed attack.

Manipur Peace Process - Kuki-Zo Talks **English:**

Ahead of PM Modi's visit to Manipur, the Home Ministry is set to meet Kuki-Zo insurgent groups to extend the Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact. Talks include reducing SoO camps and opening National Highways 2 & 37. Kuki-Zo demand separate administration.

Relevance: North-East insurgency, Internal security, Federal challenges.

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की मणिपुर यात्रा से पहले गृह मंत्रालय कूकी-जो उग्रवादी समूहों से समझौते पर बातचीत कर रहा है। चर्चा में 2 और 37 नंबर राजमार्ग खोलना और कैंपों को घटाना शामिल है। कुकी-जो अलग प्रशासन की मांग कर रहे हैं।

प्रासंगिकताः पूर्वोत्तर समस्या, आंतरिक सरक्षा, संघीय चनौतियाँ।

Delhi riots conspiracy case: HC rejects bail pleas of 10 accused

The court stresses that allegations involved a well-orchestrated conspiracy to destabilise law and order, hence careful balancing of individual liberty with the safety of the public at large is required; it rejects the claim that delays justify bail

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

he Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed the bail pleas of 10 accused, including former JNU students Sharjeel Imam and Umar Khalid, in the 2020 Delhi riots larger conspiracy case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

A Bench comprising Justice Navin Chawla and Justice Shalinder Kaur passed separate orders dismissing the petitions filed by Imam, Khalid, Athar Khan, Abdul Khalid Saifi, Gulfisha Fatima, Meeran Haider, Shifa-ur-Rehman, Mohammad Saleem Khan, and Shadab Ahmed.

The accused had argued that their prolonged incarceration and the slow pace of proceedings violated their fundamental right to liberty under Article 21. They pointed out that the prosecution planned to examine nearly 900 witness-



Umar Khalid being detained by the police after protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act in New Delhi in December 2019. PTI

es, making an early conclusion of the trial unlikely.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, however, opposed the pleas, asserting that the violence was not a routine outbreak but a "well-orchestrated conspiracy" timed with the then U.S. President's visit. He alleged that Imam and Khalid played central roles in instigating violence through inflammatory speeches and organisation al planning. The Bench observed that while peaceful protest was a protected right under Article 19(1)(a), it could not extend to conspiratorial violence.

"Any conspiratorial violence under the garb of protests or demonstrations by the citizens cannot be permitted," the Bench said, adding that the roles attributed to Imam, Khalid and others were "prima facie grave". In the case of accused Athar Khan, Shadab Ahmed, Abdul Khalid Salem Khan, the Bench said, "prima facie" they played their respective active role in the conspiracy and were involved in the creation of protest sites such as Khureji, Chand Bagh, Karawal Nagar, Kardam Nagar, and Nizamuddin, among others.

For Shifa-Ur-Rehman and Meeran Haider, the Bench took note of the fact that they played an active part in executing the conspiracy as they were alleged to be among the key fundraisers for the protest sites.

In Gulfisa Fatima's case, the court was told by the prosecution that she played an active role in the execution of the conspiracy, as she was responsible for managing and actively guiding the protest sites at Seelampur-Jafrabad in northeast Delhi areas.

The court rejected the

claim of the accused that the delays justified bail. It noted that the trial had reached the stage of arguments on the framing of charges, indicating progress in the proceedings.

It emphasised that the allegations involved a "premeditated and well-or-chestrated conspiracy" to destabilise law and order, and therefore, required careful balancing of individual liberty with the "safety and security of the public at large".

The court also distinguished the present accused from co-accused such as Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal, and Asif Iqbal Tanha, who were granted bail earlier. It said parity could not be claimed as a matter of right, since the "roles ascribed to the present appellants are distinct".

During the day, another Bench rejected the bail plea of Tasleem Ahmed, who was arrested on June 24, 2020 in the riots case.

Delhi Riots Conspiracy Case - Bail Denied

Delhi High Court dismissed bail pleas of Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, and others in the 2020 riots conspiracy case under UAPA. Court held that allegations involved "premeditated conspiracy" and distinguished from earlier bailed co-accused.

दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने 2020 दंगों की साजिश मामले में उमर खालिद, शरजील इमाम सहित 10 आरोपियों की जमानत याचिका खारिज की। अदालत ने कहा कि आरोप "पूर्वनियोजित साजिश" से जुड़े हैं।

प्रासंगिकताः आंतरिक सुरक्षा, यूएपीए कानून, नागरिक स्वतंत्रता।

Indian, Thai soldiers begin joint exercise in Meghalaya

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The India-Thailand joint military exercise MAI-TREE-XIV commenced on Monday with a ceremonial opening at the Joint Training Node, Umroi in Meghalaya.

The 14th edition of the exercise will run from September 1 to 14. Aimed at enhancing interoperability and mutual understanding, the exercise is part of the ongoing military-to-military exchange programme between the two nations.

The previous edition was held at Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province, Thailand. The Indian Army contingent of 120 personnel from a battalion of the Madras Regiment is participating alongside 53 soldiers of the Royal Thai Army's 1st Infantry Battalion, 14th Infantry Brigade.

This year's focus is on company-level, counter-terrorist operations in semi-urban terrain under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

India-Thailand Maitree Exercise

English:

14th edition of *Maitree-XIV* joint military exercise between India and Thailand began at Umroi, Meghalaya. Focus: counter-terror operations in semi-urban terrain under UN Charter Chapter VII.

Relevance: Defence cooperation, International relations.

हिंदी:

भारत-थाईलैंड संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास *मैत्री-XIV* मेघालय के उमरोई में शुरू हुआ। उद्देश्य: संयुक्त राष्ट्र चार्टर के तहत अर्ध-शहरी क्षेत्रों में आतंकवाद-रोधी अभियान।

प्रासंगिकता: रक्षा सहयोग, अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध।