Appointment of Governor

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Polity & Governance*

Why in News?

Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi has been appointed as the new Governor of West Bengal.

- **Governor** – He/She is a *nominal executive head of the state* & forms an important part of the state executive, where he/she acts as the chief executive head.
- **Appointment –** The Governor of a State in India is appointed by the *President of India* by warrant under his hand and seal.
- **Tenure** – Normally *5 years*, but the Governor holds office *at the pleasure of the President*.
- **Removal –** The Governor can be removed by the President at any time, without assigning reasons.
- There is *no impeachment procedure* for Governors, unlike the President of India.
- **Qualifications**
  - Must be a citizen of India.
  - Must be at least 35 years old.
  - Cannot hold any office of profit.
  - Cannot be a member of Parliament or State Legislature.
- **Dual Role** – The Governor acts as the constitutional head of the state and as a representative of the Union Government.
- **Constitutional Provisions**

Articles	Provisions
Article 153	There shall be a Governor for each state.
Article 154	Executive power of the state is vested in the Governor.
Article 155	The Governor is appointed by the President.
Article 156	Tenure of office
Articles 157–158	Qualifications and conditions of office.
Article 159	Oath of office.
Articles 160–162	Powers, contingencies, and extent of executive authority.
Article 200–201	Assent to bills, power to reserve bills for the President's consideration.
Article 213	Power to promulgate ordinances when the legislature is not in session.

- **Roles and Responsibilities**
- **Executive Role** – Appoints the Chief Minister and other ministers & oversees administration and ensures governance as per the Constitution.
- **Legislative Role** – Summons and prorogues the state legislature, can dissolve the Legislative Assembly & gives assent to bills or reserves them for the President.
- **Judicial Role** – Has the power to grant pardons, reprieves, or commutations (Article 161).
- **Discretionary Powers** – In situations like hung assemblies, breakdown of constitutional machinery, or when reserving bills for the President.
- **Various Committees & Commissions**
    - **Sarkaria Commission (1983)** – Recommended that Governors should be eminent persons, not involved in local politics & suggested consultation with the Chief Minister before appointment.
    - **Punchhi Commission (2007)** – Emphasised fixed tenure for Governors, recommended limiting discretionary powers to avoid misuse.
    - **Rajamannar Committee (1969)** – Suggested reducing the Union's interference through Governors.
- **SC Judgments**
    - **SR Bommai v. Union of India (1994)** clarified limits on the Governor's discretion in recommending President's Rule.
    - **Nabam Rebia v. Deputy Speaker (2016)** restricted the Governor's interference in legislative matters.

References

1. The Hindu | TN Governor R.N. Ravi transferred to West Bengal
2. Govt of Maharashtra | Role of Governor

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