Protocol for President's visit

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee not nominating even a minister to receive President Droupadi Murmu is unusual.

- **Bluebook -** The Blue Book defines all ***arrangements necessary for the visits of the dignitaries.***
- **Prepared by** - It is prepared and updated time-to-time by the ***Union Home Ministry*** and numbered (every copy has a number) copies are circulated to those concerned.
- **Maintained by -** At the ground level, in every district the book is kept in the custody of the District Magistrate and the head of the district police.
- **Included Dignitaries -** ***President, Vice-President and Prime Minister***.
- The protocol suggests that all these 3 dignitaries visiting a state should be welcomed by the Governor and the Chief Minister.
- However, on a number of occasions, the Chief Minister designates one of the ministers to receive them.
- The Blue Book provisions are very strict and even a minor deviation opens inquiries at many levels.
- **Advance Approval -** A "Line-up" (list of people allowed to meet or receive the President) must be sent to the **President's Secretariat** and approved weeks in advance.

Quick Facts

- **Article 356 (1) -** If the President receives a report from a Governor (or is otherwise convinced) that a State Government is failing to function according to the Constitution, the President can issue a Proclamation to:
  - **Take Control -** Assume all or any functions of the State Government.
  - **Suspend Authority -** Transfer the powers of the State Legislature to the Parliament.

- **Dismiss the Executive** - Dismiss the State Council of Ministers (led by the Chief Minister).

Reference

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