

The Governor

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise The Governor. We've distilled years of previous exam questions (PYQs) into one powerful, concise resource. Everything you need to know, nothing you don't.

- **PYQs, Decoded:** All key concepts from past exams, organized and simplified.
- **Revise in Record Time:** Short, precise, and designed for last-minute review.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Master high-probability topics and boost your confidence.

The Governor of a State (Indian Constitution)

I. Constitutional Role and Appointment

- **Constitutional Head:** The Governor is the constitutional head of a state government (Article 153).
- **Appointing Authority:** Appointed by the **President of India** (Article 155).
- **Executive Role:** The Governor is the head of the State's Executive Power (Article 154(1)).

II. Term of Office and Tenure

- **Term:** The normal term of office is **five years** (Article 156(3)).
- **Tenure:** The Governor holds office "**during the pleasure of the President**" (Article 156(1)). This means:
 - They can be **dismissed by the President at any time**.
 - There is **no specific procedure** for removal (e.g., impeachment).
 - The state legislature has **no power** in their removal.
- **Continuation:** A Governor continues in office until their successor assumes charge.

- **Resignation:** A Governor can resign by writing to the President.

III. Qualifications and Conditions for Office

- **Citizenship:** Must be a **citizen of India**.
- **Age:** Must have **completed the age of 35 years**.
- **Other Conditions:** Must **not be a member** of either House of Parliament or a State Legislature.
- **Oath of Office:** Must be administered before entering office (Article 159).
 - **Administered by:** The **Chief Justice of the State High Court** or, in their absence, the senior-most judge of that court.

IV. Powers of the Governor

A. Discretionary Powers (Exercised without ministerial advice)

- Sending a report to the President for imposing **President's Rule** in the state (under Article 356).
- **Reserving certain bills** passed by the state legislature for the **consideration of the President** (Article 200).
- Determining the need to summon the assembly for a **floor test** to prove majority.
- **Dismissing a Chief Minister** who has lost the confidence of the legislative assembly.
- Sending a bill back to the legislative assembly for reconsideration (if it is not a Money Bill).

B. Legislative Powers

- **Ordinance Making Power:** Can promulgate ordinances when the state legislature is not in session (Article 213). These must be approved by the legislature within **six weeks** of its reassembly.
- **Nomination:** Has the power to nominate some members to the **State Legislative Council** (where it exists).
- **Assent to Bills:** A bill passed by the state legislature becomes law only after the Governor gives assent.

C. Executive Powers

- Appoints the **Chief Minister** and, on the CM's advice, other **Ministers**.
- Appoints the **Advocate General** of the state.
- Appoints members of the **State Public Service Commission**.

D. Judicial Powers

- Has the power to **pardon, reprieve, or suspend a sentence**.
- **Limitation:** The Governor **cannot pardon a death sentence**.

V. Limitations on Power

- **Does not appoint Judges** of the State High Court (this is done by the President, who consults the Governor).
- **Has no emergency powers** (these are vested with the President).

VI. Privileges and Immunities

- **Legal Immunity:**
 - **No criminal proceedings** can be instituted or continued against a Governor in any court during their term of office (Article 361).
 - **Civil proceedings** can be initiated after a **2-month notice**.
- **Salary & Allowances:**
 - Charged to the **Consolidated Fund of the State**.
 - Their emoluments and allowances **cannot be diminished** during their term of office.



VII. Special Scenarios and Context

A. Multi-State Governor

- The **same person** can be appointed as the Governor for **two or more states** simultaneously.
- In such a case, the emoluments and allowances are allocated among the states in a proportion determined by the **President**.

B. Historical and Advisory Context

- The original draft of the Constitution proposed **elected Governors**, but this was dropped due to concerns about cost, potential conflict with the Chief Minister, and an elected Governor feeling superior.
- The **Sarkaria Commission (1983)** recommended that the Governor should be an eminent person from **outside the state**, without intense political links.

C. Special Case (Historical)

- **Jammu & Kashmir (Pre-2019)**: The Governor was appointed by the President of India (reflecting the pre-2019 constitutional status).

VIII. Historical Instances and Firsts

- **First Governor Dismissals:**
 - **Prabhudas Patwari** was the first Governor to be dismissed (Tamil Nadu, 1980).
 - **Raghukul Tilak** was the first Governor of Rajasthan to be dismissed (1981).
- **First Women Governors:**
 - **First Woman Governor in India: Sarojini Naidu** (Governor of Uttar Pradesh, 1947-1949).
 - **First Woman Governor of West Bengal: Padmaja Naidu** (Governor from 1956-1967).
 - **National Women's Day** in India is celebrated on **February 13th** in memory of Sarojini Naidu's birth.

Know More About The Governor:

- [The Governor – Old Year Questions](#)
- [The Governor One Liner Questions & Answers](#)