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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

25 April 2024

West Bengal News

Ramakrishna Math	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">On April 24, 2024, Swami Gautamanandaji Maharaj was elected as the 17th president of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission during a meeting of the Math's board of trustees and the Mission's governing body held at Belur Math. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Born in Bengaluru in 1929, Swami Gautamanandaji's spiritual journey began with his introduction to the Bengaluru branch of the Ramakrishna Order, headed by Swami Yatishwarananda Maharaj.He received Mantra Diksha (spiritual initiation) in 1955 and joined the New Delhi branch of the Ramakrishna Mission the following year, dedicating himself to monastic life.
Governor Assents to Two Bills	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose has approved the West Bengal Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill 2024 and The West Bengal Additional Tax and One Time Tax on Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2024. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">These Bills aim to simplify the over four-decade-old motor vehicle tax system and introduce attractive rebates for one-time tax payments.Commercial vehicles weighing less than 6 tonnes previously had to pay taxes every three months, but will now pay annually.A 15% rebate will be allowed for all commercial vehicles if tax is paid three years in advance, increasing to 30% for five years in advance and 40% for 10 years in advance. <p>Constitutional Provisions Related to the Governor:</p> <p>Appointment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Governor appointed for each State under Article 153.One person can be Governor for multiple States.Appointed by the President as a nominee of the Central Government. <p>Role and Functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Governor has a dual role.Constitutional head of the state, bound by the advice of his Council of Ministers (CoM).



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Functions as a vital link between the Union Government and the State Government. <p>Eligibility Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specified in Articles 157 and 158.• Must be a citizen of India, at least 35 years of age.• Cannot be a member of either House of Parliament or the State Legislature.• Cannot hold any office of profit. <p>Powers and Functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power to grant pardons, reprieves, etc., under Article 161.• A Council of Ministers (CoM) with the Chief Minister (CM) at the head aids and advises the Governor, except under certain conditions for discretion (Article 163).• Appoints the Chief Minister and other Ministers (Article 164).• Assents withholds assent, or reserves bills for the President's consideration passed by the Legislative Assembly (Article 200).• May promulgate Ordinances under certain circumstances (Article 213).
<p>Call for Constitutional Amendment to Expedite Bill Clearance by Governors</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Biman Banerjee, has called for a constitutional amendment to establish a specific time frame for the Governor to act on bills passed by the state Assembly. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He highlights that bills in Bengal often remain pending for years without any reason.• Banerjee suggests that if the Governor delays a bill beyond a certain period, it should be deemed as passed.• State Minister Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay agrees, stating that bills are meant for the people's welfare and should not be delayed indefinitely.• Chakshu Roy of PRS Legislative Research emphasizes the importance of legislature secretariats and the need to share experiences for the benefit of employees.
<p>Kolkata Municipal Corporation Initiates Water Body Conservation Drive</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) is prioritizing the conservation of water bodies, considering their crucial role in purifying the air and ensuring a habitable environment for future generations. <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• KMC has compiled a list of large water bodies in the Cossipore area for conservation work.



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- Illegal construction and dumping of materials into water bodies have prompted this conservation initiative.
- The Mayor stressed the need for citizen involvement, suggesting that local clubs and private entities utilize their CSR funds for conservation and beautification projects.
- To curb illegal constructions, KMC is now uploading sanctioned building plans on its website for public verification.

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