



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 17-02-2025

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1. President's Rule
2. NITI Aayog Report on Higher Education

GS-3

3. Revised Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) Guidelines
4. Denial of Service (DoS) attack
5. Kallur Balan

President's Rule

Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity – President's Rule.

Context:

- President's rule among options for Manipur: What is the provision, its history

Constitutional Provisions on President's Rule

Article 356 of the Constitution

- President's Rule is imposed under **Article 356** when the President, based on the Governor's report, is **satisfied** that the state government **cannot function in accordance with the Constitution**.
- The President issues a **Proclamation**, transferring:
 - Executive powers of the state government to the **Central Government**.
 - Legislative powers of the state legislature to **Parliament**.
 - **Exception:** High Courts continue to function normally.

Duration of President's Rule

- Initially valid for **two months**.
- Must be approved by **both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha** within two months.
- If approved:
 - Extended for **six months** at a time, up to a **maximum of three years**.
 - Extensions beyond one year require:
 - **National Emergency** in the country or state, OR
 - **Election Commission's certification** of difficulties in holding elections.

Historical Perspective: Instances of President's Rule

- **Total Impositions:** 134 times since 1950 across 29 states and UTs.
- **Most Frequent:** Manipur and Uttar Pradesh (10 times each).
- **Longest Durations:**
 - **Jammu & Kashmir** – Over **12 years** (4,668 days).
 - **Punjab** – Over **10 years** (3,878 days), mainly due to militancy.
 - **Puducherry** – Over **7 years** (2,739 days), due to political instability.

- **Most Recent: Puducherry (2021)** – After Congress lost the majority in the Assembly.

Judicial Review: Supreme Court's Stand

S. R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994)

- A landmark case where the **Supreme Court restricted the arbitrary use** of Article 356.
- **Key rulings:**
 - President's Rule is **subject to judicial review**.
 - Courts can examine whether the proclamation is based on **relevant material** and not on **malafide or extraneous reasons**.
 - The **state legislature gets suspended**, but the **executive machinery continues to function** unless Parliament ratifies the proclamation.
 - If not approved by **both Houses within two months**, the **dismissed government must be reinstated**.
 - **States are not mere appendages of the Centre**, as emphasized by **Justice B P Jeevan Reddy**.

Impact of the Bommai Case

- **Reduced misuse** of Article 356.
- Strengthened **federalism** by ensuring that Centre-state relations remain balanced.

Contemporary Relevance of President's Rule

- The BJP, in the **Manipur political crisis (2024)**, is trying to avoid President's Rule due to **political and governance concerns**.
- **Avoiding President's Rule** aligns with the **principle of cooperative federalism**.
- Post-1994, President's Rule is **used sparingly** due to **Supreme Court restrictions**.

Conclusion

- Article 356 is a **necessary safeguard** but should be **used only as a last resort**.
- The **Bommai judgment** ensures that it is not misused for **political gains**.
- Strengthening **state autonomy** and **constitutional governance** remains key in a **democratic federal setup**.

Practice Qs:

Q. Examine the constitutional, political, and judicial dimensions of President's Rule in India. How has the S.R. Bommai case impacted its implementation?

NITI Aayog Report on Higher Education

Syllabus: GS-2: Social Justice – Education.

Context:

- The NITI Aayog report, “Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities,” highlights disparities in state-wise spending on higher education, urging increased public investment, especially in State Public Universities (SPUs).

NITI Aayog Report: Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities

Key Findings on Higher Education Funding

State-Wise Higher Education Expenditure

- **States Allocating the Most to Higher Education (% of GDP):**
 - Jammu & Kashmir (8.11%)
 - Manipur (7.25%)
 - Meghalaya (6.64%)
 - Tripura (6.19%)
- **States with the Lowest Higher Education Expenditure (% of GSDP):**
 - Telangana (0.18%)
 - Gujarat (0.23%)
 - Rajasthan (0.23%)

Higher Education Budget (Absolute Amount)

- **Highest Budgets:**
 - Maharashtra (₹11,421 crore)
 - Bihar (₹9,666 crore)
 - Tamil Nadu (₹7,237 crore)
- **Lowest Budgets:**
 - Sikkim (₹142 crore)
 - Arunachal Pradesh (₹155 crore)
 - Nagaland (₹167 crore)

Growth in Per Youth Spending on Higher Education

- Increased from ₹2,174 (2005-06) to ₹4,921 (2019-20).
- **States with Consistently High Per Youth Spending:** Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana.
- **States Lagging in Higher Education Investment:** Rajasthan, Punjab, Chhattisgarh.

Policy Recommendations

Enhancing Quality of Education & Research

Short-Term (0-2 Years)

- Develop a **National Research Policy** aligned with Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).
- Establish **Research Hubs and Patent Cells** in SPUs.
- Curate a list of **high-quality journals** in STEM and non-STEM fields.
- Implement **performance-based incentives** for faculty research.
- Expand **student-faculty research** pairing and mentorship programs.
- Increase **funding for post-doctoral fellowships**, especially for women.

Medium-Term (2-5 Years)

- Establish **R&D Advisory Committees** and incubation centers.
- Promote **SPU consortia** for sharing best practices and innovations.
- Strengthen **humanities research collaborations** with other institutions.

Long-Term (5+ Years)

- Develop **Centers of Excellence** in SPUs for regional problem-solving.
- Increase **funding for fundamental research** to attract global students.

Improving Pedagogy and Curriculum

Short-Term (0-2 Years)

- Establish **curriculum review committees** for industry-aligned syllabi.
- Implement **teaching quality evaluation** frameworks.
- Expand **multidisciplinary education** through electives and minors.
- Integrate **holistic education** (Environment, Human Values, Global Citizenship) into courses.

Medium-Term (2-5 Years)

- Introduce **interdisciplinary courses** on sustainability and emerging industries.

- Develop strategies to integrate **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** into academics.

Long-Term (5+ Years)

- Foster **innovation in curriculum design**.
- Transition **leading SPUs into Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs)**.

Digitalization of Higher Education

Short-Term (0-2 Years)

- Upgrade **IT infrastructure and internet connectivity** in SPUs.
- Implement **AI-driven student lifecycle management systems**.
- Establish **digital learning centers** for online education.

Medium-Term (2-5 Years)

- Provide **technical support and affordable devices** for underprivileged students.
- Train **faculty and students** in digital literacy and online teaching.

Long-Term (5+ Years)

- Collaborate with **technology firms** to develop advanced digital education tools.
- Foster **global partnerships** in research and digital capacity-building.

Internationalization of Higher Education

Short-Term (0-2 Years)

- Improve **infrastructure for international students** in leading SPUs.
- Offer **scholarships and exchange programs** for foreign students.
- Standardize **curriculum to global benchmarks**.
- Attract **Indian researchers from abroad** through outreach programs.

Medium-Term (2-5 Years)

- Establish **long-term university partnerships** for student and faculty exchange.

Long-Term (5+ Years)

- Enhance **global rankings and reputation** of SPUs through research collaborations.

Funding and Financing Higher Education

Short-Term (0-2 Years)

- Increase **education budget to 6% of GDP** (NEP 2020 recommendation).

- Establish a **dedicated infrastructure finance agency** for SPUs.
- Expand **alumni engagement and CSR funding** for research and infrastructure.

Medium-Term (2-5 Years)

- Develop **sustainable self-financed programs** aligned with market demand.

Long-Term (5+ Years)

- Implement **fee autonomy pilot programs** in select universities.
- Institutionalize **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)** in research and education.

Governance & Autonomy of State Public Universities

Short-Term (0-2 Years)

- Shift to a **regulatory-facilitator model** granting more autonomy.
- Develop a **Model Act** for SPUs to simplify governance.
- Establish **State Councils for Higher Education (SCHEs)** for policy oversight.

Medium-Term (2-5 Years)

- Implement **credit transfer systems** through the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC).

Long-Term (5+ Years)

- Enable **de-affiliation of high-potential colleges** for autonomy.
- Strengthen **localized accreditation frameworks** for SPUs.

Faculty Recruitment and Capacity Building

Short-Term (0-2 Years)

- Streamline **faculty recruitment** with centralized hiring systems.
- Provide **professional development** programs for faculty.
- Optimize **faculty workload** for balanced research and teaching.

Medium-Term (2-5 Years)

- Ensure **full-time faculty hiring** for long-term stability.

Long-Term (5+ Years)

- Encourage **faculty research and innovation** through dedicated funding.

Enhancing Employability & Industry Collaboration

Short-Term (0-2 Years)

- Integrate **internships and apprenticeships** into curricula.

- Develop **Internship Banks** and collaborate with NSDC Skill Councils.
- Promote **entrepreneurship & incubation centers** in SPUs.

Medium-Term (2-5 Years)

- Establish **innovation hubs and startup incubators**.
- Develop **lifelong learning centers** for continuous skill development.

Long-Term (5+ Years)

- Institutionalize **physical education and wellness** programs for holistic development.

Strengthening Academia-Industry Collaboration

Short-Term (0-2 Years)

- Establish **Industry Relations Cells (IRCs)** in SPUs.
- Sign **MoUs with industries** for research and skill development.
- Appoint **Professors of Practice** from industry backgrounds.

Medium-Term (2-5 Years)

- Align **curriculum updates with industry trends**.

Long-Term (5+ Years)

- Institutionalize **corporate partnerships and professional certifications** in SPUs.

Conclusion

- The proposed **short-term, medium-term, and long-term** reforms aim to transform **State Public Universities (SPUs)** into **centers of excellence**.
- Focus areas include **greater autonomy, financial sustainability, improved pedagogy, research excellence, digitalization, and employability**.
- Successful implementation will ensure **higher education accessibility, quality, and global competitiveness** in India.

Revised Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) Guidelines

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy – Agricultural Price Policy.

Context:

- The Government has revised the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) guidelines, increasing the procurement limit from 20% to 25% and expanding procurement agencies.

Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)

Introduction

- **Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)** is a **price support scheme** under the **Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**.
- It is part of the **PM-AASHA scheme**, ensuring **remunerative prices** for farmers.
- It is implemented for **perishable crops** (horticultural & agricultural commodities) that **do not have Minimum Support Price (MSP)**.
- Activated on the request of **State/UT Governments** when **market prices drop by at least 10%** compared to the previous season.

Key Features of Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)

A. Ad-hoc Scheme

- Applied only **during market price crashes** to support farmers.

B. Cost-Sharing Between Centre and States

- **50:50** between the **Central and State Governments**.
- **75:25** for **North-Eastern & Hilly States**.

C. Implementing Agencies

- **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)**.
- **National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF)**.
- **State Government agencies**.

Revised Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) – Key Changes

A. Increased Procurement Limit

- Procurement coverage raised from **20% to 25%** of **total production**.

B. Introduction of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

- States can now **pay farmers directly** for the **price difference** between the **Market Intervention Price (MIP)** and the **market price**.

C. Expansion of Procurement Agencies

- More agencies involved in procurement, including:
 - **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).**
 - **Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs).**
 - **State-nominated agencies.**
 - **Central Nodal Agencies (NAFED, NCCF, etc.).**

D. Focus on TOP Crops (Tomato, Onion, Potato)

- Special procurement mechanism for highly volatile perishable crops.

E. Reimbursement of Storage & Transport Costs

- **Central Nodal Agencies (CNA)** will **reimburse storage and transport costs** for moving crops from **producing to consuming States**.

Significance of the Revised MIS

- **Greater Market Stability:** Prevents distress sales by farmers.
- **Enhanced Coverage:** More farmers benefit due to the increased procurement limit.
- **Improved Payment System:** DBT ensures **faster & transparent payments**.
- **Strengthened Logistics Support:** Storage & transport reimbursement reduces post-harvest losses.

Challenges & Way Forward

Challenges:

- **Implementation Issues:** Coordination between Centre and States is crucial.
- **Limited Storage Infrastructure:** Need for better cold storage and logistics.
- **Market Intelligence & Forecasting:** Lack of a robust system to predict price fluctuations.

Way Forward:

- **Expansion of Cold Storage & Warehousing** to reduce post-harvest losses.
- **Better Coordination** between Centre and States for timely procurement.
- **Integration with e-NAM (National Agricultural Market)** for price transparency.
- **Encouraging Food Processing & Value Addition** to stabilize farmer incomes.

Conclusion

- The revised **Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)** aims to strengthen **price support for perishable commodities**.

- The **increase in procurement limit, inclusion of DBT, and expanded procurement agencies** enhance its effectiveness.
- Addressing **storage, logistics, and implementation challenges** can further improve its impact on farmers' income security.

Denial of Service (DoS) attack

Syllabus: GS-3; Science & Technology

Context

- In January 2025, Karnataka's property registration portal, Kaveri 2.0, faced severe server outages due to a **Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack**, disrupting property registrations.
- The Revenue and E-Governance Departments confirmed it was a deliberate cyberattack.

What is a DDoS Attack?

- A **DDoS attack** overwhelms a server with traffic using a botnet of compromised systems. Unlike a **Denial of Service (DoS) attack**, which uses a single source, DDoS attacks come from multiple sources, disrupting services and potentially serving as a distraction for other cyber intrusions.

Impact on Kaveri 2.0

- **Fake Accounts & Database Overload:** 62 fake email accounts linked to 14 IP addresses flooded the system.
- **Traffic Surge:** In January 2025, malicious users generated 6.2 lakh requests in two hours, crippling the portal.
- **Registration Disruptions:** Property registrations and encumbrance certificate (EC) searches suffered.

Preventing Future Attacks

- **Traffic Filtering & Monitoring:** Detect and block suspicious activity.
- **Rate Limiting:** Restrict excessive user requests.
- **Bot Detection:** Use CAPTCHA and behavioral analysis.

- **Security Audits & Cybersecurity Collaboration:** Regular assessments and partnerships with security agencies.
- **User Awareness:** Promote strong passwords and multi-factor authentication.

Restoration & Lessons Learned

- Kaveri 2.0 was restored on **February 5, 2025**, but the attack highlights the urgent need for **stronger cybersecurity defenses** in government services.

Notable DDoS Attacks

- **X Platform (Aug 2024):** Elon Musk's X faced a major DDoS attack before a scheduled conversation with Donald Trump.
- **GitHub (2015):** A China-based botnet targeted GitHub to disrupt tools bypassing censorship.

These incidents stress the importance of **cybersecurity vigilance** to prevent service disruptions and financial losses.

Kallur Balan

Syllabus: GS-3: Environmental Conservation.

Context:

- Kerala's green man Kallur Balan, an exceptional conservationist credited with planting around 20 lakh tree saplings over the last 25 years, died in Palakkad Monday. He was 75.

Kerala's Green Man: Kallur Balan

Introduction

- Kallur Balan, also known as A.V. Balakrishnan, was an exceptional conservationist from Kerala.
- He planted around **20 lakh tree saplings** over **25 years** to enhance biodiversity.
- Passed away at the age of **75** in Palakkad.



Contributions to Conservation

- Started his **environmental mission in 2000** and focused on biodiversity conservation.
- **Major initiatives:**
 - Feeding **birds and wild animals** in forest areas.
 - Greening **barren hills** of Palakkad.
 - Planting **thousands of Palmyra saplings**, making it a **symbol of Palakkad**.
 - Developed a **100-acre man-made forest** at **Ayyarmala** in Palakkad.
- **Recognitions:**
 - Awarded **Vanamitra (Friend of the Forest) Award** by the Kerala Forest Department in **2011**.
- His efforts were **supported by the social forestry wing** of the state forest department, which provided him saplings.

Unique Approach to Conservation

- Wore a **green T-shirt and lungi**, symbolizing his environmental commitment.
- Used a **jeep to collect abandoned fruits** and fed forest birds and animals.
- Worked extensively in **Walayar, Ayyarmala, and Vazhukkapara forests**.
- Planted **shaded trees along roads** in Palakkad, Thrissur, and Malappuram.

Personal Life & Inspiration

- Born into a **toddy tapper's family** and initially pursued the traditional occupation.
- Influenced by **social reformer Narayana Guru**, leading him to leave his job.
- Took up **odd jobs** before dedicating his life to conservation.
- Survived by his **wife and three sons**.

Legacy

- Transformed the landscape of **Palakkad and neighboring districts**.
- Inspired environmentalists and conservationists with his **dedication and selfless service**.
- Leaves behind a **rich green heritage** that continues to benefit future generations.