

## TN Governor's Misadventure

### What is the issue?

\n\n

\n

- The utility of a politically vested governor (particularly if he is incongruous to the concerned state government) has been contested for long.

\n

- Amid multiple controversies brewing, the calls for removing the current TN governor has gained significant strength.

\n

\n\n

### What is the role of the Governor?

\n\n

\n

- **Constitutional** - Governor is the bridge between the concerned state government and the union government.

\n

- The office needs to be above politics to maintain neutrality and deserve the trust all concerned political parties and people.

\n

- He is the nominal executive head of the concerned state and exercises certain functions in accordance with the Constitution.

\n

- The Governor will normally be aided and advised by the Council of Ministers except in those functions which specifically calls for his discretion.

\n

- **State Laws** - Governor also enjoys statutory powers under laws made by the state legislatures (which can also be modified by the concerned legislatures).

\n

- For example, Governor functions as ex-officio Chancellor of some universities through university specific laws like "Anna University Act - 1978".

\n

- The reason for such conferment is to ensure that the university administration and finances come under stricter and high profile supervision.

\n

- In his capacity as chancellor, as the Governor is bound by state laws, it implicitly means that he has to work on the advice of the council of ministers.  
\n
- Significantly, this was even iterated in some of the previous Supreme Court pronouncements in landmark cases like “Samsheer Singh vs. Punjab - 1974”.  
\n

\n\n

## **What are the TN Governor’s misgivings?**

\n\n

- The Governor has also been conducting “review meetings” with officials across the state, which is an over-reach of his Constitutional duties.  
\n
- The appointment of a vice-chancellor to Anna University without consulting the state government is also a blatant violation of law.  
\n
- **The Scandal** - Recently, an assistant professor was found to be involved coercing her college students into an allegedly high profile sex-racket.  
\n
- Leaked voice tapes had actually even indicated the involvement of some form within the governor’s office - which was a shocker.  
\n
- In this backdrop, in an unprecedented over-reach into the state government’s domain, the governor commissioned an enquiry into the episode.  
\n
- Hence, when a press briefing was called for by the governor, it was thought that he would clarify the legal basis for his actions.  
\n
- **Suspicion** - Once the media interactions began, it became amply clear that he was ill prepared to handle the barrage of questions that were hurled at him.  
\n
- His only counter point to the accusations against of his alleged involvement in the controversy was that he was really old for such mis-deeds.  
\n
- **Professionalism** - At the end of the press interaction, the Governor patted a woman journalist in her cheek instead of replying to a question of hers.  
\n
- This was perceived as “sexually inappropriate, paternalistic and unprofessional” and prompted outrage.  
\n
- Significantly, the governor had later clarified that it was merely a

grandfatherly affection and had apologised for the same, but that didn't cut ice.

\n

\n\n

### **How does the future look?**

\n\n

\n

- Due to the multiple controversies that the Governor has courted, many political parties have called for removal (or voluntary resignation).

\n

- But the Governor is expected to braze the storm with stubbornness due the strong political backing that he seems to be enjoying from the ruling quarters.

\n

- Significantly, the Supreme Court has specified multiple clauses for the removal of a Governor and "Unprofessional Conduct" is one of them.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: Indian Express**

\n

