



**Sanskriti IAS**



**THE HINDU**



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# **SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT EDITORIALS**

**11th May 2026**

## **TOPICS:-**

**1. The Governor who forgot his job**

(GS Paper II Polity)

**2. Advancing India-South Korea defence innovation ties**

(GS Paper II International Relations, GS Paper III Science and Technology)

**3. Judicial reform shouldn't stop at SC**

(GS Paper II Polity)

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# 1. THE GOVERNOR WHO FORGOT HIS JOB

(GS Paper II Polity)

This editorial 'The Governor who forgot his job' was published in **The Hindu** on 11th May 2026, highlights how the **Tamil Nadu Governor's** post-election actions **violated** settled constitutional conventions on government formation.

## Gubernatorial Discretion and Constitutional Convention

- Tamil Nadu's 2026 verdict gave TVK 108 seats in a 234-member Assembly, while **DMK** won 59 and **AIADMK** 47.
- The Governor's role is to identify who is most likely to command **House confidence**, not act as an arbitrator demanding pre-oath proof.
- The **Sarkaria**, Venkatachaliah and **Punchhi** Commissions placed the largest pre-poll alliance first, followed by stable post-poll combinations.
- Similar breaches occurred in Goa, Manipur, Karnataka and Maharashtra, where Governors favoured **post-poll alliances** over the **single largest party**.
- The editorial sees Tamil Nadu as sharper partisanship, since the BJP is not a contender and the Centre's preferred ally has been routed.

## Minority Governments and Floor-Test Principle

- Indian parliamentary practice accepts **minority governments**, as seen under Vajpayee in 1996, Narasimha Rao after 1991 and Manmohan Singh in 2004.
- Article 164(2) implies that a government survives until it loses **Assembly confidence**, not until it proves majority through signatures before swearing-in.
- Requiring Joseph Vijay to produce signed support letters is an invented condition, since no **constitutional provision** or Commission precedent supports it.
- MLAs opposed to Vijay could move a no-confidence motion and vote openly, which is how **parliamentary democracy** and anti-defection rules operate.
- Ordering a confidence vote by May 13 compresses normal procedure, as majority is usually tested after the Chief Minister addresses the **first session**.
- A three-day deadline invites resort politics and engineered defection, making the Governor's action a short window for **horse-trading** before suppression.

## Judicial Clarification Needed

- The Supreme Court has addressed gubernatorial discretion in **S.R. Bommai**, Rameshwar Prasad and Karnataka 2018, but has not settled government-formation law fully.
- The Court should clarify that the Governor cannot demand pre-swearing proof of absolute majority from a claimant following the accepted **preference order**.

- Majority must fall only on the **floor of the House**, while the Opposition should bring a no-confidence motion if it wants removal.
- An immediate confidence motion is improper because it may kill **minority governments** before they govern, debate or face normal legislative accountability.
- Governors are appointed by the President, not elected, and must respect the people's **electoral mandate**, not the Centre's political preference.

## BEYOND EDITORIAL

### Need for a Codified Framework on Government Formation

- **Clear preference order:** Codifying the Sarkaria and Punchhi Commission sequence can reduce Raj Bhavan discretion, as repeated controversies in Goa, Manipur and Karnataka showed ambiguity enables partisan interpretation.
- **Written reasons:** Governors should record reasons for inviting a claimant, because transparent justification can make post-poll decisions reviewable and reduce suspicion of political favouritism.
- **Floor-test primacy:** Majority should be tested only on the Assembly floor, as reaffirmed in S.R. Bommai, because legislative confidence cannot be replaced by Raj Bhavan assessment.
- **Reasonable timeline:** A time-bound but fair floor test can prevent horse-trading without denying legitimate coalition-building, as seen in the Supreme Court's Karnataka 2018 intervention.
- **No signature coercion:** Pre-swearing demands for signed MLA support should be barred, because they shift government formation from elected House processes to gubernatorial gatekeeping.
- **Judicial fast-track:** Disputed government-formation cases should receive urgent judicial review, because delay can allow an unconstitutional ministry to consolidate power before scrutiny.
- **Federal neutrality:** A rule-based framework can protect state mandates from central influence, making the Governor's office a constitutional umpire rather than a political instrument.

## 2. ADVANCING INDIA-SOUTH KOREA DEFENCE INNOVATION TIES

*(GS Paper II International Relations, GS Paper III Science and Technology)*

This editorial 'Advancing India-South Korea defence innovation ties' was published in **The Hindu** on 11th May 2026, highlights how **KIND-X can deepen** India-South Korea defence cooperation through innovation, co-development and start-up collaboration.

## Evolution of Defence Cooperation

- India and South Korea have maintained defence ties since 1973, with the 2005 MoU promoting cooperation in production, research and procurement.
- The 2010 memorandum expanded defence research exchanges, visits, training and joint exercises, especially in marine, electronics and intelligent systems.
- The 2015 Special Strategic Partnership and 2020 Roadmap widened cooperation across land, naval, aerospace, guided weapons and technology-transfer areas.
- The K9 Vajra-T, produced in India by L&T and Hanwha Aerospace, shows how bilateral defence industry cooperation can create follow-on production.

## KIND-X as the New Defence Innovation Platform

- The **Korea-India Defence Accelerator** was announced at the April 2026 summit to connect businesses, incubators, investors, defence start-ups and universities.
- Kinetic innovation under **KIND-X** mirrors **INDUS-X** and **FRIND-X** models, but is expected to be led by South Korea's DAPA and India's Defence Innovation Organisation.
- The platform aligns with the **2020 Roadmap** and links South Korea's specialised innovation system with India's Innovations for Defence Excellence ecosystem.
- **KIND-X** can become a **defence innovation bridge** by expanding research and development, innovation, co-development and co-production across both countries.

## Possible Areas of Collaboration

- Joint challenges and grants by **DAPA** and **DIO** can help start-ups develop defence technologies in areas identified under the 2020 roadmap.
- **KIND-X** can enable access to testing facilities, joint certification, standardisation and **accelerator programmes** across universities and laboratories.
- Workshops can help stakeholders navigate export controls, funding models, production systems, **intellectual property** and licensing requirements for co-development.
- An annual summit, like **INDUS-X**, can bring defence ministries, industry, investors, think tanks and academia together across Seoul, New Delhi and other hubs.
- Track 1.5 dialogues under the **KIND-X** summit can reinforce strategic rationale, improve networking and periodically review progress on deliverables.

## Strategic and Industrial Significance

- **KIND-X** can build on existing ventures such as **K9 Vajra-T**, creating templates for future projects through L&T and Hanwha Aerospace.
- The platform can connect South Korea's clusters in **Changwon**, Daejeon and Gumi with India's defence corridors and aerospace hubs.

- Participation by Hyundai, L&T, Tata Advanced Systems, Mahindra, Bharat Forge, Hanwha, LIG and **Kangnam** can widen industrial linkages.
- Dual-use sectors such as shipbuilding, artificial intelligence, space, critical minerals and **semiconductors** can strengthen defence convergence.
- Aligning India's **Defence Forces Vision 2047** with South Korea's Defence Innovation 4.0 can support forward-looking cooperation in emerging technologies.
- Potential areas include AI platforms, autonomous weapons, robotics, satellites for **ISR**, space situational awareness, navigation and defence semiconductors.

## BEYOND EDITORIAL

### Defence Innovation Diplomacy as a Pillar of Strategic Autonomy

- **Co-development shift:** India must use platforms like KIND-X to move from buyer-seller defence ties to joint design, as seen in BrahMos cooperation with Russia.
- **Supply-chain resilience:** Partnerships with South Korea can diversify defence inputs and reduce overdependence on limited suppliers, especially in electronics, shipbuilding and critical technologies.
- **Start-up integration:** Linking iDEX-type defence start-ups with Korean innovation clusters can convert small firms into suppliers for drones, sensors, robotics and dual-use systems.
- **Technology absorption:** Joint testing, certification and licensing mechanisms can help India absorb advanced know-how, avoiding shallow assembly-based cooperation under technology-transfer agreements.
- **Indo-Pacific relevance:** India-South Korea defence innovation can strengthen a rules-based Indo-Pacific by building interoperable capabilities without turning cooperation into a formal military alliance.
- **Civilian spillover:** Dual-use collaboration in artificial intelligence, semiconductors and space can benefit civilian industry, similar to how defence research often supports wider technological ecosystems.
- **Export ambition:** Successful co-production can help India become a defence manufacturing hub, building on examples such as K9 Vajra-T and growing artillery-platform capabilities.

## 3. JUDICIAL REFORM SHOULDN'T STOP AT SC

*(GS Paper II Polity)*

This editorial '**Judicial reform shouldn't stop at SC**' was published in **The Indian Express** on 11th May 2026, highlights that **increasing Supreme Court judges** must be paired with deeper systemic reforms across India's judiciary.

## Supreme Court Expansion and Limited Impact

- The Union Cabinet's Bill raising Supreme Court strength from **34 to 38** is welcome, but risks being absorbed by fresh arrears without structural reform.
- As per the **National Judicial Data Grid**, the Supreme Court had over 93,000 pending cases on May 7, rising by over 45% since 2019.
- Supreme Court pendency is only **0.14%** of total judicial backlog, making district courts and high courts central to any serious reform.

## Structural Causes of Judicial Backlog

- The Supreme Court's judge strength roughly doubled, yet annual case institution now crosses **90,000**, showing that capacity expansion alone cannot solve delay.
- Additional judges or calendar reform may ease benches, but cannot address litigation driven by **state action** and the country's largest litigant.
- In **State of U.P. v Nagarthna**, the Court urged the government to litigate with restraint and act as a model litigant.

## Need for System-Wide Reform

- Courts must match rising dispute volumes accompanying population growth and economic activity, especially as delayed justice weakens **access to justice**.
- In the apex court, prolonged incarceration of undertrials due to delay undermines the **right to liberty**.
- A top-down reform model is unsustainable because **district courts** alone handle 4.92 crore pending cases.
- Law Commission reports show India's **judge-population ratio**, at 19 judges per million, remains far below the U.S. and China.

## BEYOND EDITORIAL

### Demand-Side Judicial Reform and Litigation Management

- **Government litigation:** Since the state is India's largest litigant, a model litigant policy can reduce avoidable appeals, as many service and land cases arise from routine government resistance.
- **Pre-litigation mediation:** Mandatory mediation in suitable civil and commercial disputes can prevent cases from entering courts, as the Commercial Courts Act encourages pre-institution mediation.
- **Better legal drafting:** Clearer laws, rules and contracts can reduce interpretive litigation, as vague tax and regulatory provisions often generate long appeals across forums.

- **Tribunal efficiency:** Strengthening tribunals with vacancies, infrastructure and independence can prevent specialised disputes from returning to high courts and adding to constitutional court burden.
- **Frivolous litigation control:** Realistic costs for repetitive or bad-faith petitions can discourage misuse of courts while preserving access for genuine rights-based claims.
- **Digital triage:** E-filing, case tagging and automated listing can identify similar matters early, helping courts club connected disputes instead of hearing fragmented petitions repeatedly.
- **Settlement culture:** Legal aid, Lok Adalats and negotiated settlements can reduce small-value disputes, as many pending cases involve recoveries, family matters and local conflicts.