

## **APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNOR: POLITY**

**NEWS:** New Governors for Goa and Haryana; Ladakh gets new Lt. Governor

### **WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?**

Recent gubernatorial appointments include Kavinder Gupta as the new LG of Ladakh and Ashok Gajapathi Raju as Governor of Goa.

The Governor is a constitutional head appointed under Articles 153–161, with executive, legislative, financial, and judicial powers.

### **Recent Appointments of Governors and Lieutenant Governor**

#### **1. Kavinder Gupta – Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh**

- Former **Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Appointed as the **Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Ladakh**, replacing **Brig. (Retd.) B.D. Mishra**.
- Ladakh, a Union Territory without legislature, is administered by a **Lieutenant Governor appointed by the President**.

#### **2. Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju – Governor of Goa**

- Senior **Telugu Desam Party (TDP)** leader and former **Union Civil Aviation Minister**.
- Appointed as **Governor of Goa**, succeeding **P.S. Sreedharan Pillai**.

#### **3. Ashim Kumar Ghosh – Governor of Haryana**

- Senior **BJP** leader from **West Bengal**.
- Appointed as the **Governor of Haryana**, replacing **Bandaru Dattatreya**.

### **Governor – Constitutional Position and Appointment**

#### **1. Constitutional Head of the State**

- The Governor is the **nominal executive head** of the state, functioning as the link between the **Union and State Governments**.

#### **2. Constitutional Provisions Related to the Governor**

- **Article 153:** There shall be a Governor for each state.
  - The **same person** may be appointed Governor for **two or more states**.
- **Article 155:** Appointed by the **President of India**.
- **Article 156:** Holds office **at the pleasure of the President**.
  - Normally serves a **5-year term**, but can be **removed earlier or reappointed**.

- **Article 157 – Eligibility Criteria:**
  - Must be an **Indian citizen**.
  - Must be at least **35 years of age**.
- **Article 158 – Conditions of Office:**
  - Shall not be a **member of Parliament or State Legislature**.
  - Shall not hold any **office of profit**.
  - Entitled to **official residence and salary**, charged from the **Consolidated Fund of the State**.

## **Powers and Functions of the Governor**

### **A. Executive Powers (Article 154)**

- Vested with all **executive powers of the State**.
- Appoints:
  1. **Chief Minister** (usually the leader of the majority party/alliance).
  2. On CM's advice: appoints **Council of Ministers** and allocates portfolios.
  3. **Advocate-General of the State**.
  4. **Chairman and Members** of the State Public Service Commission (SPSC).
  5. **Subordinate court judges** in consultation with the High Court.
- Is **consulted** in the appointment of **High Court judges** by the President.

### **B. Legislative Powers**

- The Governor is an **integral part of the State Legislature**.
- Articles related to legislative powers:
  - **Article 174:** Can **summon, prorogue, or dissolve** the State Legislature.
  - **Article 175:** May **address the House** and send messages.
  - **Article 176:** Must **deliver the opening address** at the beginning of the first session each year or after general elections.
- **Assent to Bills:**
  - Can **assent, withhold assent, return the bill** (if not a money bill), or **reserve it for the President's consideration**.

- **Ordinance Power:**

- Can issue **ordinances** when the Legislative Assembly is not in session.
- Ordinances must be **approved within 6 weeks** of Assembly reconvening.

### C. Financial Powers

- **Money Bills** can only be introduced in the Legislative Assembly **with Governor's prior recommendation**.
- **State Budget** (annual and supplementary) is presented in the name of the Governor.
- Controls the **State Contingency Fund** to meet urgent expenditures pending legislative approval.

### D. Judicial Powers

- **Article 161:** The Governor can grant:
  1. **Pardon**
  2. **Reprieve**
  3. **Respite**
  4. **Remission**
  5. Can also **suspend, remit or commute** sentences for offences under laws falling under the State's jurisdiction.

### Additional Points

- The Governor acts as a **constitutional head**, but the **real executive power lies with the elected Council of Ministers** led by the Chief Minister.
- In case of **President's Rule** (Article 356), the Governor acts as the **agent of the Centre**, taking over direct administration.
- The role of the Governor often comes under criticism for being **politicised**, especially in **coalition scenarios** and **assembly dissolutions**.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/president-droupadi-murmu-appoints-governors-for-haryana-and-go-a-and-lieutenant-governor-for-ladakh/article69810265.ece>