

## RBI vs Centre

The RBI-government relationship has often seen conflicts over autonomy and policy. As Shaktikanta Das' tenure as RBI Governor ends, disputes over monetary policy echo past tensions.

### Laws Governing RBI-Centre Relations:

1. **RBI Act, 1934:**
  - Establishes the RBI's role and functions.
  - **Section 7:** Empowers the central government to issue directions to the RBI in matters of public interest.
2. **Banking Regulation Act, 1949:**
  - Governs banking sector regulation, providing the RBI authority over banking operations.
3. **Public Debt Act, 1944:**
  - Empowers the RBI to manage public debt on behalf of the government.
4. **Monetary Policy Framework Agreement (2016):**
  - Introduced inflation targeting, mandating coordination between the RBI and the government.

### History of Rift Between RBI and Centre:

1. **Y.V. Reddy (2003-2008):**
  - Clashes over forex reserves usage and financial market development priorities.
  - Opposition to loan waivers and Tobin tax proposals.
2. **D. Subbarao (2008-2013):**
  - Resisted government pressure to lower interest rates during the global financial crisis.
  - Opposed the Financial Stability and Development Council, citing undermining of RBI's role.
3. **Raghuram Rajan (2013-2016):**
  - Advocated RBI independence, resisting regulatory shifts to SEBI.
  - Advised against demonetisation, emphasizing preparation and costs.
4. **Urjit Patel (2016-2018):**
  - Dispute over surplus reserve transfer.
  - Resigned citing government interference under **Section 7 of the [RBI Act](#)**.

### **Factors Leading to Tussles:**

1. **Monetary Policy Autonomy:** RBI focuses on inflation control; governments prioritize growth stimulation.
2. **Surplus Reserve Transfers:** Governments often seek access to RBI reserves for fiscal spending.
3. **Interest Rate Policy:** Frequent government demands for rate cuts to boost investment and growth.
4. **Regulatory Overreach:** Conflicts over RBI's regulatory authority in banking and financial markets.
5. **Political and Economic Divergences:** Immediate political goals of governments clash with the RBI's long-term stability goals.

### **Consequences of RBI-Centre Conflicts:**

1. **Erosion of Institutional Trust:** Weakens credibility of [RBI](#) as an autonomous institution.
2. **Policy Uncertainty:** Impacts investor confidence due to lack of clear economic policy direction.
3. **Economic Instability:** Misdirected monetary or fiscal policies can harm economic stability.
4. **Resignations and Leadership Gaps:** Leadership disruptions, as seen during Urjit Patel's tenure.

### **Way Ahead for Resolving Issues:**

1. **Enhance Dialogue:** Regular consultations between the RBI and the government to align policy priorities.
2. **Strengthen Frameworks:** Revisit and reinforce the [Monetary Policy Framework Agreement](#) to clarify roles.
3. **Limit Political Interference:** Avoid invoking **Section 7** except in extraordinary circumstances.
4. **Transparent Decision-Making:** Encourage data-driven, transparent monetary policy decisions.
5. **Institutional Reforms:** Establish a formal mechanism for resolving disputes between the RBI and the government.

### **Conclusion:**

The RBI-government tussles underscore the delicate balance between monetary autonomy and fiscal accountability. Strengthening mutual respect and institutional frameworks is critical to fostering stability and confidence in India's financial ecosystem.

## Removal of Judges

The Opposition parties in the Rajya Sabha are gearing up to submit a motion for the impeachment of Allahabad [High Court judge](#) Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav, following his controversial remarks made at a Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) event.

### Procedure for Removal of Judges:

- **Constitutional Provisions**
- - **Articles Involved:**
    - Article 124: Governs the removal of Supreme Court judges.
    - Article 218: Governs the removal of High Court judges.
- **Grounds for Removal:** A judge can be removed on grounds of ‘**proven misbehaviour or incapacity**’

### Judges Inquiry Act, 1968:

- The procedure for removal is elaborated in the Judges Inquiry Act, 1968, which outlines the following steps:
- **Initiation of Motion:**
  - A motion for impeachment can originate in either house of Parliament.
  - Requires:
    - At least **100 members** from the Lok Sabha to sign a notice to the Speaker.
    - At least **50 members** from the Rajya Sabha to sign a notice to the Chairman.
- **Admission of Motion:**
  - The Speaker or Chairman may consult relevant individuals and materials before deciding whether to admit or reject the motion
- **Investigation Committee Formation:**
  - If admitted, a **three-member committee** is constituted:
    - A Supreme Court judge.
    - The Chief Justice of a [High Court](#).
    - A distinguished jurist.
  - The committee investigates the charges and frames them accordingly
- **Report Submission:**

- After investigation, the committee submits its report to the Speaker or Chairman.
- If misbehaviour or incapacity is found, the motion is taken up for consideration in Parliament.
- **Parliamentary Approval:**
  - The motion must be adopted by both houses:
    - Requires a **majority of total membership** and a **two-thirds majority** of those present and voting in each house
    - **Presidential Order:**
      - Once both houses pass the motion, it is sent to the President, who issues an order for removal
- **History:**
  - No Supreme Court judge has been successfully impeached so far; notable attempts include those against Justice V. Ramaswami and Justice Dipak Misra, both of which did not succeed in Parliament

## Subramania Bharati

Prime Minister released the complete works of the eminent Tamil poet and freedom fighter Subramania Bharati.

### About Subramania Bharati:

- **Birth and Early Life:**
- **Born:** December 11, 1882.
- **Location:** Ettayapuram, Tamil Nadu.
- **Literary Contributions:**
- Revolutionized Tamil literature with his innovative style and social themes.
- Translated the Bhagavad Gita into
- Promoted themes of equality, women's empowerment, and freedom through his poetry.
- **Major Works:**
  - **Kuyil Pattu:** A poem celebrating the simplicity of nature.
  - **Kannan Pattu:** Depicts divine love and spirituality.
  - **Panchali Sabatham:** A poetic re-telling of the Mahabharata's Draupadi episode with a focus on justice and valor.
  - **India Weekly (1906):** First Tamil newspaper to include political cartoons.
- **Significance:**
- Infused [patriotism and cultural](#) pride among Indians during the freedom struggle.
- Advocated for women's rights and education, breaking societal barriers.
- His vision for a united and progressive India continues to inspire generations.

## Hyperloop

India's first hyperloop test track, a collaboration between Indian Railways, IIT-Madras, and TuTr Hyperloop, was inaugurated at IIT-Madras' Discovery Campus in Chennai.

### About Hyperloop:

- **What is Hyperloop?**
- A high-speed transport system where pods travel inside low-pressure vacuum tubes, achieving speeds comparable to aircraft.
- Operates using **magnetic levitation and propulsion**, eliminating the need for traditional tracks.
- **Developed by:**
- Concept proposed by Elon Musk in 2013.
- India's test track is developed by Indian Railways, IIT-Madras' Avishkar Hyperloop team, and TuTr Hyperloop.
- **India's Status in Hyperloop:**
- India's first 410-meter-long test track launched in Chennai, tested successfully at 100 km/h.
- Plans underway to achieve speeds of 600 km/h in the next phase.
- Feasibility studies for Hyperloop projects between Chennai Airport and Parandur, Mumbai-Pune, and Amritsar-Chandigarh.
- **How Hyperloop Works:**
- Pods travel in vacuum tubes using magnetic levitation and propulsion technology.
- Minimal air resistance and friction allow ultra-fast travel speeds.
- Pods can accommodate 40-100 passengers, depending on design specifications.

## Malaria

The World Malaria Report 2024 by WHO highlights India's significant progress in reducing malaria cases but underscores the country's continued burden in Southeast Asia.

### About Malaria:

- **What is Malaria?**
- A life-threatening disease caused by *Plasmodium* parasites, primarily *falciparum* and *P. vivax*, transmitted through infected female *Anopheles* mosquito bites.
- **How it Spreads:** Non-contagious; transmitted via mosquito bites.
- **Vectors:** Female *Anopheles* mosquitoes.
- **Symptoms:**
- Begin 10–15 days after a mosquito bite.
- Common symptoms: fever, chills, and headache; can be mild in partially immune individuals.
- **Prevention and Cure:**
- **Prevention:**
  - Vector control (e.g., insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor residual spraying).
- **Treatment:**
- - Preventable and curable with early diagnosis and prompt treatment to reduce disease transmission and fatalities.

### India's Present Status on Malaria:

- **Reduction in Cases:**
  - From 22.8 million (2000) to 4 million (2023) — an 82.4% decrease.
- **Decrease in Deaths:**
  - From 35,000 (2000) to 6,000 (2023) — an 82.9% reduction.
- **Case Incidence:**
  - 93% reduction since 2000.

## The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024

The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024 aims to modernize and streamline the legal framework governing Indian Railways by incorporating the provisions of the colonial-era Indian Railway Board Act, 1905 into the Railways Act, 1989.

### About The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024:

- **Purpose:**
  - Repeals the Indian [Railway](#) Board Act, 1905.
  - Incorporates its provisions into the Railways Act, 1989, simplifying the legal framework.
- **Key Features:**
  - Grants **statutory backing** to the Railway Board, ensuring legal authority.
  - Empowers the central government to determine the number of board members, their qualifications, terms, and conditions of service.
  - Establishes an **independent regulator** to oversee tariffs, safety, and private sector participation.
- **Operational Improvements:**
  - Decentralizes decision-making to railway zones for greater autonomy.
  - Aims to fast-track infrastructure and train service approvals, benefiting underserved regions.
- **Historical Context:**
  - The Indian Railways Board Act, 1905, was enacted to separate railways from the Public Works Department.
  - Its incorporation into the 1989 Act aligns with recommendations from committees like the **2014 Sreedharan Committee** and the **2015 [Restructuring Railways Committee](#)**.