



**TATHASTU**  
Institute Of Civil Services

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## 24th November, 2025



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**Topics Covered**

- Presidential Reference , Pg-1
- Article 240, Pg-1
- IBSA , Pg-1
- The future of health lies in harmony, Pg-8
- African Grey Parrot , Pg-14
- Mount Semeru Volcano

**Page-1**

# Former CJI: opinion given in Presidential Reference does not overrule a judgment

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, who retired from the post on Sunday, said the Presidential Reference opinion against tying Governors to timelines was not intended to shift the burden back on States to run pillar-to-post to get recalcitrant Governors to pass pending Bills on time.

"If the Constitution does not provide for a timeline, we [judiciary] cannot read something that is not there. It is for the Parliament to do that," he said.

He explained that an opinion given in a Presidential Reference did not overrule a judgment but only clarified the law.

"In a Presidential Reference, we cannot overrule a judgment, but we can lay down the law, and while

laying down the law, we can observe that the law laid down in a particular manner [in a judgment] is not correct," he said.

The Presidential Reference was triggered by a judgment in the Tamil Nadu Governor case on April 8, which broke the silence in the Constitution and held that Bills must be cleared by the Governors and President in three months or they would be "deemed" to have got assent. On November 20, a five-judge Bench, in its advisory opinion, contradicted the April 8 judgment and concluded that Governors and the President cannot be forced to follow a timeline.

**CONTINUED ON**

» **PAGE 12**

**'UPHELD LETTER AND SPIRIT'**

» **PAGE 8**

# No plan to bring Bill on Chandigarh, says Centre

Govt. had listed Bill that would align Chandigarh with other Union Territories; but following outrage, Home Ministry says proposal to 'simplify' law-making process is under 'consideration'

**Vijaita Singh**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Union Home Ministry said on Sunday that the Centre has no intention of introducing a Constitution Amendment Bill to bring Chandigarh under Article 240 of the Constitution in the upcoming session of Parliament.

The clarification came following outrage in Punjab with parties, including the Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal and Aam Aadmi Party, opposing the move which would pave the way for the appointment of an independent administrator in Chandigarh, bringing the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana under the direct control of the Ministry.

The claim over Chandigarh has been a sensitive political issue ever since the Punjab Reorganisation Act of 1966.

## The Chandigarh question

The Centre hurried to issue a clarification on a Bill that aims to align Chandigarh with other Union Territories without legislatures

■ On November 21, the Lok Sabha Bulletin listed the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025 among **10 Bills** for the Winter Session

■ Chandigarh has been a **sensitive issue** since the Punjab Reorganisation Act of 1966. Currently, the Governor of Punjab serves as its Administrator

**With protests in Punjab, the Ministry issued a clarification**

■ Proposal is still under consideration, **no final decision yet**

■ It does **not seek** to alter Chandigarh's governance or administrative structure

■ No Bill will be **introduced** in the upcoming Winter Session

## Opposition targets BJP over emotive issue

### CHANDIGARH

Political parties on Sunday criticised the BJP even as the Union government clarified that it had no intention of introducing a Bill on Chandigarh in the Winter Session of Parliament. Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring termed the clarification vague. » **PAGE 14**

garh has been a sensitive political issue ever since the Punjab Reorganisation Act of 1966.

The November 21 Lok Sabha Bulletin had listed the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025 among 10 Bills proposed to be passed during the Winter Session of Parliament from December 1.

The description said the Bill is proposed for discussion and passage to align Chandigarh with other Union Territories without legislatures when its Legislative Assembly is dissolved or suspended.

The Ministry said that the "proposal to simplify the Central Government's law-making process for the Union Territory of Chandigarh is still under consideration..."

**CONTINUED ON**  
» **PAGE 12**

# UNSC reforms no longer an option but a necessity: Modi at IBSA meet

**Press Trust of India**  
JOHANNESBURG

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was no longer an option but a necessity, and asserted that the India-Brazil-South Africa troika should send a clear message for changes to institutions of global governance.

Addressing the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) leaders summit here, Mr. Modi said that at a time when the world appeared fragmented and divided, the IBSA could provide a



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (left) and Brazil President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. ANI

message of unity, cooperation, and humanity.

He proposed institutionalising the IBSA NSA-level

meeting to strengthen security cooperation among the three countries.

"In the fight against ter-

rorism, we must move forward in close coordination. There is no place for any double standards on such a serious issue," Mr. Modi said at the meeting attended by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The Prime Minister said the IBSA was not just a group of three countries but an important platform connecting three continents, three major democratic nations, and three major economies.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» **PAGE 12**



# The future of health lies in harmony

**A**s the world grapples with rising lifestyle diseases, environmental degradation, and social fragmentation, there is a growing realisation that restoring the balance between people and the planet, progress and sustainability, innovation and intuition is a necessity.

Health, in its truest sense, has always been a reflection of harmony – within the human body and between humanity and nature. This is the principle that is at the heart of traditional medicine systems worldwide, which view health not merely as the absence of illness but as the presence of equilibrium. The science of well-being, therefore, is not new. It is the rediscovery of a traditional understanding, now being reaffirmed through evidence-based research.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that around 90% of WHO member-states have reported on the use of traditional medicine. For billions of people, it remains the first line of care, particularly in low- and middle-income nations where accessibility and affordability are paramount.

Its value, however, extends well beyond health care. Traditional medicine supports biodiversity, nutrition, food security and livelihoods, embodying the holistic concept of integrative health. Market analysts estimate India's AYUSH sector at \$43.4 billion – a figure that tells a larger story. This surge is driven not only by consumer preference but also by a paradigm shift: health-care systems are evolving from reactive treatment models to proactive, preventive, and personalised ones. This global shift represents a shared realisation – that well-being cannot be achieved through fragmented approaches. It demands an ecosystem of balance – between mind and body, human and environment, science and spirit. It is a fact that India has emerged as a hub of innovative research and development initiatives,



**Prataprao Jadhav**

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

The Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine will strengthen recognition of traditional medicine as a scientific and social asset

transforming the global traditional medicine sector.

To support this transformation, WHO's Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC) serves as a knowledge hub for evidence-based collaboration and innovation. With its strategic focus on evidence and learning, data and analytics, sustainability and equity, the GTMC aims to optimise the contribution of traditional medicine to global health and sustainable development. It also upholds a guiding principle often overlooked in the age of globalisation – a respect for local heritages, resources, and rights.

Established in Jamnagar, Gujarat, with the foundational support of the Government of India, the GTMC is an expression of shared global leadership. It reflects WHO's vision that harnessing the potential of traditional medicine, when grounded in evidence, innovation, and sustainability, can be a game-changer for health.

India's commitment to this vision stems from the belief that knowledge must serve humanity collectively. The establishment of the Centre in India is a testament to this spirit.

Under the Prime Minister's emphasis on evidence-based research in the field, there have been initiatives such as a dedicated AYUSH department at the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), development of global standards in AYUSH Systems through ISO/TC 249/SC 2 subcommittee, paving the way for wider global acceptance of India's traditional medicine.

The growing recognition of traditional medicine as a scientific and social asset took a decisive step in August 2023, when the first WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, alongside the G-20 Health Ministerial Meeting. The gathering of Ministers, scientists, practitioners and communities from around the world mobilised political commitment, fostered data-driven action, and laid the groundwork

for evidence-based integration of traditional medicine into national health systems. The Gujarat Declaration, adopted at the Summit called for the protection of biodiversity, fair benefit-sharing, digital innovation, and equitable access to traditional health knowledge.

The global community is now ready to take the next step – to deepen scientific understanding, encourage innovation, and align traditional medicine's potential with modern global health priorities. Thus, WHO and the Government of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to co-host the Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine (New Delhi, December 17-19, 2025), marking a new chapter in global collaboration for health and sustainability. With its theme, "Restoring balance: The science and practice of health and well-being", it will mobilise multi-stakeholder action in support of WHO's new 10-year Global Traditional Medicine Strategy (2025-34), adopted at the 78th World Health Assembly earlier this year.

These initiatives are designed not only to celebrate traditional medicine's heritage but also to propel it into the future – where it stands validated by science, empowered by technology, and guided by ethics. As the birthplace of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa, India's contribution lies in demonstrating how traditional knowledge can coexist with modern science.

Its approach is rooted in integration – uniting tradition with technology, research with community participation, and well-being with sustainability. As the world gathers once again under a shared commitment to restore balance, India's message is simple yet profound: health must heal, not harm; progress must sustain, not consume; and science must serve, not separate.

The summit is more than an event – it is a global convergence to reaffirm that the future of health lies in harmony.

## State Forest Departments across India have no record of African grey parrot trade, reveal RTI responses

**Rohan Premkumar**  
UDHAGAMANDALAM

There are no registered breeders or authorised pet shops to sell African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) - one of the most easily procurable animals in the country. While the bird is extensively available in pet markets, the Forest Departments in different States said no breeder had registered with them. The departments had responded to applications filed by *The Hindu* under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, to understand the trade in the exotic species.

The parrot, listed under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), requires special permits, including individual CITES registration

and import certificates, for their trade in the domestic and international markets.

Extensive capture for the international pet trade has decimated the bird's populations in their home ranges encompassing parts of Central Africa. The species is also listed as 'Endangered' by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

### RTI findings

Out of 19 States and Union Territories to which applications were sent asking about the trade in the species, only Kerala's Forest Department reported receiving 17 applications for the registration of breeders' licences for the species. The State also said registration of pet stores was delegated to the State Animal Welfare Board. Meanwhile, most other States



African grey parrot is listed as 'Endangered' by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

gave generic responses stating they did not have access to the data requested, while some forest divisions also responded individually, stating that the species was not found in their divisions.

Despite Tamil Nadu claiming that as per their records, there were no registered breeders, traders, or pet stores dealing in the commercial trade of Afri-

can grey parrots, the Forest Department said it was compiling inspection reports and audits of breeding facilities, pet shops, and sellers of the species.

### Breeding licence

To breed CITES Appendix I species like the African grey parrot, a valid breeding licence is required. To obtain this, an application must be submitted to the

Chief Wildlife Warden under the Breeders of Species Licence Rules, 2023. The applicant must also have the CITES import permit, a Directorate-General of Foreign Trade import licence number, and a no-objection certificate from the respective Chief Wildlife Warden for the import before applying for the breeding licence, a researcher familiar with the trade in exotic wildlife said.

Shekhar Kumar Niraj, the South Asia head of the Wildlife Justice Commission, said it was mandatory for each State's Forest Department to maintain records of exotic species. "Even prior to importing, buyers have to receive approval from their respective State's Chief Wildlife Wardens, aside from import certificates and CITES

approvals," he said. "The trade in exotic species is on the rise, and maintaining registries of these species is extremely important as they pose a biohazard with the potential for spreading zoonotic diseases and also for becoming invasive species," he added.

### Trade hubs

Chief Executive Officer at Wildlife Trust of India Jose Louies said Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka have become hubs for the import and trade in exotic species.

However, he does not lay the blame on the Forest Department. "You cannot expect the Forest Department to go house to house and search for these animals," he said. People buy animals without paperwork, and also breed them illegally.



## Mount Semeru

Volcanic eruption at Indonesia's Mount Semeru sends ash over 6,500 feet into the sky, threatening air traffic

