

1. What is timed out rule in Cricket?

Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews was timed out in a first for international cricket during the World Cup clash against Bangladesh in Delhi on November 6.

The player was unhappy with the strap on his helmet, and not ready to face his first delivery after coming in at No 6 for Sri Lanka during the match.

What is the timed out rule?

According to the men's cricket World Cup 2023 playing conditions, "After the fall of a wicket or the retirement of a batter, the incoming batter must, unless Time has been called, be ready to receive the ball or for the other batter to be ready to receive the next ball within 2 minutes of the dismissal or retirement."

If the batsman fails to do so, he will be considered out.

Does the bowler get the credit for the wicket?

No, the bowler doesn't get credit, according to the playing conditions.

Relevance: GS Prelims

Source: The Indian Express

2. Delhi Odd-Even Scheme and Its Impact on Vehicular Pollution

Reducing Peak Pollution Levels

The Delhi odd-even scheme aims to reduce vehicular pollution levels, particularly during periods of severe air quality. The scheme allows cars with only odd or only even number plates to travel on a particular day.

Exemptions for Two-Wheelers and Taxis

The odd-even scheme is not a comprehensive solution to the pollution problem, as it exempts two-wheelers and taxis from the restrictions, which contribute significantly to emissions.

Two Aspects of Transport Emissions

Vehicular pollution comprises two components: exhaust emissions from the tailpipe and particulate matter generated from tire and brake wear. The exhaust emissions include PM2.5, soot, organics, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and poly-aromatic hydrocarbons.



Transport as the Primary Pollutant Source

Transport is the leading contributor to pollutants when air quality remains 'severe.' Vehicles are a major source of pollution, and addressing them is essential during emergency actions.

Difficulty in Estimating Pollution Reduction

Experts find it challenging to estimate the exact impact of the odd-even scheme, as it is influenced by various factors, including emissions from outside Delhi and the presence of exemptions.

Mixed Results from Previous Implementation

A study on the 2016 odd-even scheme showed limited success in mitigating air pollution. It revealed modest reductions in PM_{2.5} concentrations, with varying outcomes in different parts of Delhi.

Comprehensive Approach to Pollution Control

The odd-even scheme is just one of several emergency measures to address pollution. Its primary purpose is to prevent additional pollutant loading when other factors like weather conditions hinder pollutant dispersion.

In summary, the Delhi odd-even scheme is a measure aimed at reducing vehicular pollution, but its effectiveness is limited due to exemptions and the need for a comprehensive approach to address air pollution. It is one of several emergency actions taken in response to severe air quality conditions.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper III; Environment

Source: The Indian Express & The Hindu

3. Watermelon - a symbol of the Palestine cause

In the many posts showing support for Palestine on social media, a popular symbol is the watermelon. Pictures and emojis of the sliced fruit, as well as artwork featuring it, are often used to express solidarity with the people of Palestine.

Why a watermelon?

A watermelon when sliced shows the colours of the Palestinian flag — red, green, black, and white. As carrying and displaying the Palestinian flag has often been barred by Israeli authorities, a watermelon is used to symbolise it instead. Moreover, many claim that posts with overt Palestinian symbols are restricted by the US-headquartered bigger platforms, and hence, the sliced watermelon comes in useful here too.

The watermelon is also widely cultivated in Palestine, from the West Bank to Gaza, and features prominently in Palestinian cuisine.



Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Relations

Source: The Indian Express

4. Non-BJP States Accuse Governors of Delaying Crucial Bills

Governors Accused of Unreasonable Delays

Several non-BJP ruled states have accused their Governors of causing unreasonable delays in passing crucial bills into law, leading to legislative gridlocks and administrative challenges.

Accusations and Allegations by Specific States

Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Punjab have separately raised concerns about their Governors' alleged misuse of discretion, resulting in prolonged delays in approving vital bills. These delays have led to administrative hurdles and a standstill in key sectors such as public health, higher education, Lokayukta, and cooperative societies.

The Role of Governors in Passing Bills

Article 200 of the Constitution covers the options before the Governor when a Bill passed by both Houses of the Legislature is presented to him. The first proviso to the Article says the Governor could either declare his assent to the Bill or withhold the assent if it is not a Money Bill or reserve the law for the consideration of the President.

In case the Governor chooses to withhold assent, he should return the Bill "as soon as possible" with a message requesting the Legislative Assembly to reconsider the proposed law or any specified provisions or suggest amendments. The Assembly would reconsider and pass the Bill, and this time, the Governor should not withhold his assent. In short, the constitutional head of the State would bow to the considered decision of the elected representatives of the people.

Limited Discretion of Governors

The discretion of Governors was restricted through amendments made by the Constituent Assembly in 1949, emphasizing the importance of the Governor acting on the advice of the State Cabinet. The role of the Governor is seen as a representative of the State government rather than an independent decision-maker.

Understanding the Phrase "As Soon as Possible"

The first proviso of Article 200 says it should be "as soon as possible". The Constitution is silent on what exactly this phrase means. The Supreme Court has interpreted "as soon as possible" in the proviso to mean "as early as practicable without avoidable delay" in its 1972 judgment in *Durga Pada Ghosh versus State of West Bengal*. Justice (now retired) Rohinton F. Nariman, in his 2020 judgment in the *Keisham Megha Chandra Singh* case, said a 'reasonable time' would mean three months.

The States have urged the court to interpret the phrase in the proviso and fix a time limit by which Governors should assent or return a Bill. The 1988 Sarkaria Commission report on Centre-State relations had suggested consultation with the Governor while drafting the Bill and fixing a deadline for its disposal.

Push for Judicial Clarification and Review

Certain states, particularly Kerala, have urged the Supreme Court to reexamine a previous judgment regarding the absence of a time limit within which Governors should make decisions on bills. This call for review is based on the contemporary context of Governors potentially withholding bills indefinitely, leading to constitutional conflicts and administrative uncertainties.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Polity & Governance

Source: The Hindu

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