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CLAT 2024 **RANBHOOMI** *THE FINAL SPRINT*

— THE CLAT COMBAT —
THE VERBAL WIZARD



ENGLISH LANGUAGE (RC)

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THE CLAT COMBAT

Reading Comprehension 2

Many governors are politicians on pasture, past their prime and needing to be housed well. Some have borne marks of distinction in administration or academia or other fields. They are meant to be above and beyond politics, being persons commanding respect, whose advice merits a listening ear, and whose presence enhances an occasion. A good governor can play a useful calming role in Centre–state relationships, smoothing the federal friction that can arise when the political line-up is one of odds. A respected governor is an asset to his state and a key representative in a mould different from a political chief minister. But what the governor is not supposed to be is an agent of the Central government for political and divisive ends. Sadly, as we look around it is the latter which we encounter more. Ravi is a prime example, both visible and voluble, in his espousement of causes and ideology dear to the party ruling at the centre. That cannot but bring him into conflict with his government in Tamil Nadu, and indeed that leads soon enough to the question whether this was why he was sent here. Ravi is no Ribeiro. The latter was a police officer who had acquired much distinction by the time he retired from the force, and he went on to become advisor to the governor of Punjab and Indian Ambassador to Romania.

By contrast little is known of Ravi's achievements while in the IPS and the IB. He was the interlocutor of the Indian government in talks with the militant Naga groups; headway seems to have been made but the effort floundered amidst accusations by the Nagas against Ravi. So it is not clear which impressive achievement propelled him to governordom; lacking this, speculation will naturally arise that skills of intelligence and counter-intelligence were key determinants. And indeed Ravi's tenure in Tamil Nadu has been marked by discord and disruption on frequent occasions. Not the least is the manner in which he has frustrated about 20 pieces of state legislation by the simple expedient of keeping them in his waiting tray; rejection invites reiteration after which he has no option. Tamil Nadu is a key opposition state, not an easy nut to crack for the ruling party at the centre, and gubernatorial assistance would be quite welcome. Some wholesome reflection and correction on his part following the rather petulant walk-out would have been welcome, but matters appear contrary. The next day, addressing aspiring entrants to the civil service, he opined that when they face challenges involving a conflict between the Centre and a state, they were obliged to choose the former because they were appointees of the UPSC. That is a good pointer to his thinking and behaviour.

From a governor, however, one would expect the sagacious advice of doing the right thing by the Constitution and the law. Ravi's latest initiative is to rename the state; he wants to discard Tamil Nadu—land of the Tamils, and instead use the expression Tamizhagam—area occupied by Tamils. Clearly the limits of office trouble him not, and he seems to have crossed over into the theatre of imaginings. It is time that the Centre realised that its man in Tamil Nadu does it more harm than good, and recalls him to spare the people of the state further embarrassment.

(SOURCE:with edits and Revisions)<https://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/2023/jan/14/-537639.html>

1. What is the main argument being made in the passage?

- (a) The Governor of Tamil Nadu, Ravi, is an asset to the state and a key representative.
- (b) The Governor of Tamil Nadu, Ravi, seems to be a likely agent of the Central government for political and divisive ends.
- (c) The Governor of Tamil Nadu, Ravi, is a respected figure whose presence enhances an occasion.
- (d) The Governor of Tamil Nadu, Ravi, is a prime example of a governor who should be recalled.

2. Which of the following implies Ravi's role in relation to the Naga groups?

- (a) He had a significant role in negotiations with the insurgent Naga organisations.
- (b) He made progress in negotiations with the armed Naga tribes.
- (c) The Nagas charged him with malfeasance.
- (d) He served as the Indian government's representative in negotiations with the militant Naga factions.

3. The passage claims that Governor Ravi's most recent endeavor in Tamil Nadu is

- (a) to rename the state to Tamizhagam.
- (b) to improve Centre-State relationships.

THE CLAT COMBAT

(c) to resolve the conflict with the Naga groups.

(d) to increase investments in the state.

4. Based on the passage, what does the author believe Governor Ravi's role should be?

(a) A Central government agent working for political and divisive purposes.

(b) A recognized individual who can serve as a soothing influence in Centre-State relations.

(c) A representative of Tamil Nadu's ruling party at the centre.

(d) An adviser to the Governor of Punjab and the Indian Ambassador to Romania.

5. What is the tone of the author in the passage?

(a) Didactic

(b) Acerbic

(c) Critical

(d) Condescending

1.Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct. The passage states that Ravi's tenure in Tamil Nadu has been marked by discord and disruption on frequent occasions and that he has frustrated about 20 pieces of state legislation by keeping them in his waiting tray. The passage also states that Ravi's latest initiative is to rename the state, which is not within his limits of office and that it is time that the Centre realizes that its man in Tamil Nadu does it more harm than good, and recalls him to spare the people of the state further embarrassment. Options (a) and (c) are general statements confiding those from the passage. Option (d) states a known fact that Ravi would be remembered for his achievements as a governor. Option (b) can be summarized from the explanation above.

2.Ans: (d)

Sol: Option (d) is correct. Consider the second paragraph. The passage states that Ravi was the interlocutor of the Indian government in talks with the militant Naga groups and that the effort floundered amidst accusations by the Nagas against Ravi. Options (a),(b) and (c) are not mentioned and thus out of scope. Option (d) can be understood from the given context. Hence (d).

3.Ans: (a)

Sol: Option (a) is correct. The passage highlights speculations about Governor Ravi and talks about his achievements. The concluding paragraph talks about his latest initiative that is -using the expression Tamizagham-area occupied by Tamils instead of Tamil Nadu. Hence (a).

4.Ans: (b)

Sol: Option (b) is correct. Consider the first paragraph, lines "A good governor can play a useful calming role in Centre-state relationships, smoothening the federal friction that can arise when the political line-up is one of odds. A respected governor is an asset to his state and a key representative in a mould different from a political chief minister." The author states further, "But what the governor is not supposed to be is an agent of the Central government for political and divisive ends." Thus option (b) is correct.

5.Ans: (c)

Sol: Option (c) is correct. The author's tone in the passage is critical. The author expresses their disapproval of the governor's actions and behavior, and suggests that the governor is causing harm to the people of the state. The author calls for the governor to be recalled. Option (a) is incorrect as the author is not instructing but commenting on the governor's qualities and tactics. The author is not doing so in a harsh tone or expressing his own views as a superior so options (b) and (d) are also incorrect. Hence (c).