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**News:** Kerala joins T.N., Bengal in bid to curb Governor's powers

- In the latest escalation of its running battle with Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, the Kerala government recently decided to remove him as Chancellor of State universities, seeking to replace him with “renowned academic experts”.
- In case Mr. Khan disagreed with the ordinance and withheld its promulgation, the government may introduce a Bill in the Assembly to remove him from the post of Chancellor.

## **Veto Power of the President and the Governor**

- Veto Power of the President of India is **guided by Article 111** of the Indian Constitution.
- **Article 200 of the Indian Constitution deals with the powers of the Governor with regard to assent given to bills passed by the State legislature and other powers of the Governor** such as reserving the bill for the President's consideration.
- **Article 201 pertains to ‘Bills Reserved for Consideration’.**
- **The Governor of India enjoys absolute veto, suspensive veto (except on money bills) but not the pocket veto.**

- Three Types of Veto Power enjoyed by the President of India are Absolute veto, Suspensive veto and Pocket veto.
- Exception: The President has no veto power when it comes to the constitutional amendment bills.
- Constitutional amendment bills cannot be introduced in the state legislature.
- Absolute Veto: It refers to the power of the President to withhold his assent to a bill passed by the Parliament. The bill then ends and does not become an act.
- Suspensive Veto: The President uses a suspensive veto when he returns the bill to the Indian Parliament for its reconsideration.
- If the Parliament resends the bill with or without amendment to the President, he has to approve the bill without using any of his veto powers.
- Exception: The President cannot exercise his suspensive veto in relation to the Money Bill.
- Pocket Veto: The bill is kept pending by the President for an indefinite period when he exercises his pocket veto.
- He neither rejects the bill nor returns the bill for reconsideration.
- Unlike the American President who has to resend the bill within 10 days, the Indian President has no such time-rule.

## Veto over State Bills

- The governor is empowered to reserve certain types of bills passed by the state legislature for the consideration of the President.
- Then, the Governor will not have any further role in the enactment of the bill.
- The President can withhold his assent to such bills not only in the first instance but also in the second instance.
- Thus, the President enjoys absolute veto (and not suspensive veto) over state bills.
- Further, the President can exercise pocket veto in respect of state legislation also.