



## Foreign Visit of the State Government Ministers

**For Prelims:** World Cities Summit, Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Central Administrative Ministry, Prime Minister's Office

**For Mains:** Centre-State Relations and Significance of Governor's Role in state

### Why in News?

Recently, Delhi's Chief Minister was **denied permission to attend the World Cities Summit in Singapore**.

- Also, the state transport minister of Delhi filed a plea in Delhi high court to set aside the need for travel clearances by the Centre for private foreign visits of State government Ministers.

### What's the Issue?

- The Chief Minister of Delhi was invited by the Singapore government to participate in the **world cities conference** but his clearance to visit was denied by the central government.
  - Further, the central government said the trip to Singapore was "not advisable," noting that it was **mostly attended by mayors and that, in any case, urban governance in Delhi was not solely the responsibility of the state government**.
- Also, in 2019 the Delhi Chief Minister's proposed visit to Copenhagen for attending the 7<sup>th</sup> [C-40 World Mayors Summit](#) was rejected by the MEA without providing any reason.

### Under which Provisions are approvals Required?

- In 1982 the **cabinet secretariat** issued guidelines regarding foreign travel of Ministers of State government and Union Territories and State government officials.
  - Foreign visits by members of the State governments in their official capacity would require **clearances from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Ministry of Home Affairs, Finance Ministry, and the Central Administrative Ministry**.
- Further, another order circulated in 2004, modifying the provisions to the extent that the final orders were to be issued by the Finance Ministry.
  - It stated that Chief Ministers required **further approval from the Prime Minister's Office** before an official visit.
- Again in 2010, another directive was issued that made political clearances mandatory before private visits of Ministers in State governments.

### On what Grounds has the Petition been Filed?

- **Violates [Right to Privacy](#):**
  - Requiring permission for visiting abroad by state government Ministers violates their right to privacy and dignity of their constitutional office.
- **Beyond Jurisdiction of Governor's Office:**

- It argues that **Governor** advising against the proposed Singapore visit is beyond the jurisdiction of his office's authority.
- **Violates Article 21:**
  - The use of arbitrariness and unaccountable implementation of power by the Governor and Central Government is **against national interest and good governance** and **impinges upon the right to travel abroad as guaranteed under Article 21.**

**Source: TH**

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