

## PESA

### ❖ Context

- A political party has made an electoral promise in relation to implementation of the **Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act** in Gujarat's Chhota Udepur district.

### ❖ Key Highlights of the Act

- Enacted in **1996**. It recognises the **right of tribal communities** to govern themselves through Gram Sabhas.
- To provide for the extension of the provisions of **Part IX of the Constitution** relating to Panchayat to the Scheduled Areas.
- Under the Act, Scheduled Areas are those referred to in **Article 244(1)**.
- Under Article 244(1), the provisions of the **Fifth Schedule** apply to the states other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura & Mizoram.
- The Act empowers Gram Sabhas to play a key role in approving development plans & controlling all social sectors.

- **10 states** have notified Fifth Scheduled Areas -
  - Andhra Pradesh
  - Chhattisgarh
  - Gujarat
  - Himachal Pradesh
  - Jharkhand
  - Madhya Pradesh
  - Maharashtra
  - Odisha
  - Rajasthan and Telangana
- The Union government circulated **model PESA rules** after the enactment of PESA Act, So far, **6 states have notified these Rules**.

## START

### ❖ Context

- Russia told the US that it would not allow on site inspection under the START treaty because the travel restrictions imposed by Washington and its allies deprives Russia the right to conduct inspections on US territory.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- New START treaty superseded the **Treaty of Moscow (SORT)**, which expired in December 2012.
- It follows the START I treaty which expired in December 2009.
- It was signed in April 2010 in Prague and entered into force in February 2011. It is expected to last until February 2026, having been extended in 2021.
- The treaty limits each side to 1,550 deployed strategic warheads on up to 800 strategic nuclear delivery vehicles (deployed and nondeployed).

### ❖ START I

- **Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)** was a bilateral treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union on the reduction and the limitation of strategic offensive arms.
- The treaty was signed on 31 July 1991 and entered into force on 5 December 1994.

- It aimed at reducing those two countries' arsenals of nuclear warheads and of the missiles and bombers capable of delivering such weapons.
- The verification measures included **on-site inspection** and access to **missile telemetry**, which provides details of the characteristics of missiles being tested.

### ❖ SORT

- **Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT)**, also known as the **Treaty of Moscow**, was also a strategic arms reduction treaty between the two countries. The treaty was in force from 2003 to 2011.
- It differed from START in two ways :
  - It did not require the elimination of delivery systems;
  - It allowed non-deployed warheads to be stored instead of destroyed.

## Passenger Name Record Information Regulations, 2022

### ❖ Context

- **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has notified Passenger Name Record Information Regulations, 2022.



### ❖ Key Provisions

- Every airline will have to transfer the passenger name record (PNR) information to the Customs Department **for every international flight** departing from India or arriving into the country.
- **National Customs Targeting Centre for Passengers** or the database set up by the CBIC will collect the information for "risk analysis of passengers" for the purpose of "prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of offences under the **Customs Act, 1962**."

- Such data can also be shared with **law enforcement agencies** or government departments of **India or any other country**.
- Such data will be retained for a **maximum period of five years** after which it will be disposed of by depersonalisation or anonymisation.
- However, it can be **re-personalised and unmasked** when used in connection with an identifiable case, threat or risk for the specified purposes.

### Face to Face Centres



## Ordinance Making Powers of the Executive

### ❖ Context

- Kerala Governor took exception to the State government's move to reissue 11 ordinances instead of getting the executive orders ratified by the Assembly.

### ❖ Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 123 & Article 213** of the Constitution grants the President & the Governor respectively, certain law making powers to promulgate Ordinances when it is not possible to enact laws due to :
  - In case of Union: either of the two Houses of Parliament is not in session.
  - In case of a State having a unicameral legislature: Legislative Assembly is not in session.
  - In case of a State having a bicameral legislature: Both Legislative Assembly & Council are not in session.
- The following limitations exist with regard to the Ordinance making power of the executive :
  - Immediate action is required.
  - Ordinances must be approved by Parliament or State Legislature within six weeks of reassembling or they shall cease to operate. They will also cease to operate in case resolutions disapproving the Ordinance are passed by both the Houses.
  - An Ordinance shall relate to any subject that the Parliament/State Legislature has the power to legislate on.

### ❖ Key Debates on Ordinance Making Powers

Year	Legislative Development	Key Arguments
1970	RC Cooper vs. Union of India	The Supreme Court, while examining the constitutionality of the Banking Companies (Acquisition of Undertakings) Ordinance, 1969 held that the President's decision could be challenged on the grounds that 'immediate action' was not required; and the Ordinance had been passed primarily to by-pass debate and discussion in the legislature.
1975	38 <sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act	Inserted a new clause (4) in Article 123 stating that the President's satisfaction while promulgating an Ordinance was final and could not be questioned in any court on any ground.
1978	44 <sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act	Deleted clause (4) inserted by the 38 <sup>th</sup> CAA and therefore reopened the possibility for the judicial review of the President's decision to promulgate an Ordinance.
1980	AK Roy vs. Union of India	In AK Roy vs. Union of India (1982) while examining the constitutionality of the National Security Ordinance, 1980, the Court argued that the President's Ordinance making power is not beyond the scope of judicial review.
1987	DC Wadhwa vs. State of Bihar	The legislative power of the executive to promulgate Ordinances is to be used in exceptional circumstances and not as a substitute for the law making power of the legislature.
2017	Krishna Kumar Singh vs State Of Bihar	The Supreme Court had ruled that re-promulgation of ordinances tantamount to <b>subversion of the democratic legislative process</b> . The satisfaction of the President and of the Governor is <b>not immune from judicial review</b> . The court can examine whether the President or the Governor was spurred by an "oblique motive" to bypass the Legislature and promulgate an ordinance.

## 2G Ethanol Plant in Panipat

### ❖ Context

- On the occasion of World Biofuel Day 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022, Prime Minister inaugurated the newly developed 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Ethanol Plant at Panipat Refinery in Haryana.



### ❖ Key Highlights

- The 2G Ethanol Plant will be used to transform 2 lakh tonnes of rice straw (parali) into 3 Crore litres of Ethanol annually.
- The plant has been setup on **35 acres** of land and can produce **100 kilolitres** of ethanol per day by processing 750-tonne paddy straw.
- By setting up the 2G Ethanol Plant, the refinery will now buy the Rice Straw waste from farmers and use technology to transform it into Ethanol, which is a biofuel.

- To help source Rice Straw from farmers, a total of 12 collection centres have been established in **Panipat and Karnal**.
- ❖ **Significance**
  - Production of clean energy from agricultural residues.
  - Increase in the income of farmers, Direct Benefit to 1 Lakh Farmers.
  - Curb air pollution caused due to burning of crop residue.
  - Reduction in CO2 emissions of about 3 Million Tonnes annually.
  - The project will also boost employment in the region.

## News in Between the Lines

### Khayyam



### ❖ Context

- The Iranian remote sensing satellite, called Khayyam, was launched by a Russian Soyuz rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

### ❖ Key Highlights

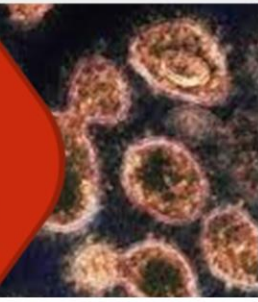
- It's named after **Omar Khayyam**, a Persian scientist.
- Iran says the satellite is designed for **civilian purposes** i.e. scientific research including radiation and environmental monitoring for agricultural purposes.
- It is alleged that the satellite would give Iran the ability to monitor Israel & other countries in the Middle East & **Russia may use it for surveillance of Ukraine**.

### Face to Face Centres

## Langya Virus

### What is Langya Virus?

Langya belongs to the same family as the deadly Nipah virus that is typically found in bats. Nipah also spreads through respiratory droplets like Covid-19 but is far more dangerous as it kills up to three-quarters of humans.



### ❖ Context

- Recently many people have been found infected with Langya virus in Shandong and Henan provinces of China.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The new virus has jumped from an animal to humans.
- The LayV virus RNA has been predominantly found in shrews, which may be its natural hosts.
- The study zeroed in on shrews after conducting a serosurvey of domestic and wild animals.
- Among domestic animals, seropositivity was detected in goats and dogs.

## Dinosaur Footprints in China



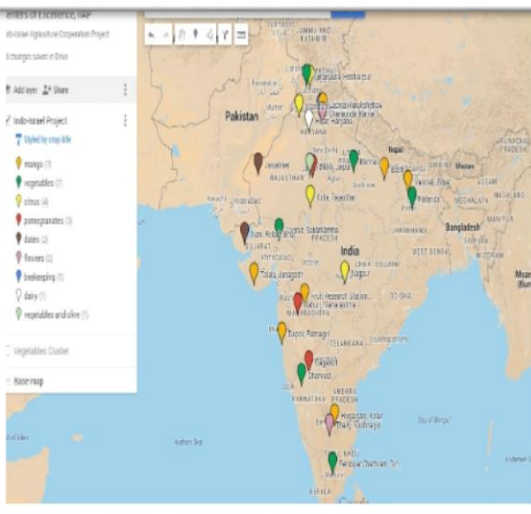
### ❖ Context

- Scientists have discovered over 4,300 dinosaur footprints in Hebei province of Zhangjiakou in northern China.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- This is the largest number of footprint fossils found in one spot in the country.
- The footprints were made between the Jurassic and Cretaceous ages, around 150 million years ago.
- The footprints show four different dinosaur species, one of which might be undiscovered.
- The footprints belong to **herbivores and carnivores** dinosaurs; while the former could reach lengths of nearly 15 metres, the latter was 4 to 5 metres.
- Scientists believe the area may have attracted dinosaurs due to the availability of water and trees at the time.
- In India, in 2014, footprints dating back 200-million-years were found in **Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**.

## Center of Excellence for Vegetables



### ❖ Context

- Recently Agriculture Minister laid foundation stone of Indo-Israel Center of Excellence for Vegetables in Chandauli, UP.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The technology for the Center is provided by Israeli experts under the **India-Israel Action Plan (IIAP)** with funds for building infrastructure for demonstration purposes from (**Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture**) MIDH.
- These Centers of Excellence act as demonstration and training centers for the latest technologies in the field of Horticulture.
- The establishment of this center will play an important role in the development of the Chandauli district as well as the Purvanchal region.
- Here seeds and plants of improved vegetables will be cultivated and distributed to the farmers.
- Farmers can also sponsor the development of plants for themselves.
- By using the latest methods of farming, farmers will be able to get better yield and also export vegetables.
- Nursery of other agricultural produce including vegetables will be prepared at this Center of excellence to promote the Agriculture sector globally.
- The climate of Chandauli district, which is known as **the rice bowl of UP**, is suitable for setting up the Center of Excellence for Vegetables.

## New Chief Justice of India

### ❖ Context

- Recently Justice Uday Umesh Lalit was appointed as the **49th Chief Justice** of India with President signing his warrant of appointment.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- Justice **Lalit** will be the second CJI who was directly elevated to the apex court bench from the Bar.
- Justice **S M Sikri**, who became the 13th CJI in January 1971, was the first lawyer to be elevated directly to the top court bench in March 1964.

## Face to Face Centres





### ❖ Appointment of CJI:

- As is the protocol, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court is designated as the CJI.
- As per practice, a formal recommendation of the CJI-designate is sought from the incumbent CJI, roughly about a month ahead of the latter's date of retirement.
- The recommendation of the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court is officially communicated by the incumbent CJI to the Ministry of Law and Justice, which, then, relays the communication to the **Prime Minister** as per the existing **Memorandum of Procedure (MoP)**.
- The Prime Minister advises the President on the recommendation and the executive head subsequently makes the appointment under the powers conferred on her under **Article 124(2)** to make appointments of judges to India's top court.

### Chips & Science Act



### ❖ Context

- The US President signed a bill to provide subsidies for semiconductor production and research.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The legislation aims to alleviate a persistent shortage of chips that has affected everything from cars, weapons, washing machines and video games.
- The legislation authorises **\$200 billion over 10 years** to boost U.S. scientific research to better compete with China.

### AGM-88 HARM



### ❖ Context

- United States recently confirmed that it has supplied some "anti-radiation missiles" to Ukraine, which could be fired from some Ukrainian Air Force aircraft.

### ❖ What is the AGM-88 HARM missile?

- The acronym 'HARM' in the AGM-88 HARM air-to-surface missile stands for **High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missile**.
- It is a tactical weapon fired from fighter aircraft, and has the capability to detect and home into radiation emitted by hostile radar stations that have **surface-to-air detection capabilities**. It weighs around **360 kg** and carries a fragmentation type warhead that is optimised for radar targets.
- It also has an anti-radar homing seeker broadband RF antenna and receiver, and a solid state digital processor. The missile has a range of more than 100 km.

### Universal Postal Union



### ❖ Context

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister has approved the ratification of amendments to the Constitution of the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)**.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- This would fulfil the obligations arising from **Article 25 and 30** of the UPU Constitution which provides for **ratification of the amendments** to the Constitution adopted by a Congress as soon as possible by the member countries. The amendments to the Constitution of UPU adopted by the 27th UPU Congress ensure further legal clarity and stability to the Acts of the Union,
  - bring terminological consistencies,
  - resolve many long-standing discrepancies in the text and
  - accommodate provisions for '**acceptance or approval**' of the Acts consistent with Vienna Conventions on Law of Treaties, 1969.
- **Instrument of Ratification:** It is a document, which must be signed by an appropriate official of the respective national government, including the title of the person who has signed it and its date and place of issue.

### ❖ About Universal Postal Union

- The **Universal Postal Union (UPU)**, is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that coordinates postal policies among member nations.
- It oversees the Telematics and Express Mail Service (EMS) cooperatives.
- The UPU's headquarters is located in **Bern, Switzerland**.

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