

## 1. The Tribunal Reform Act

**In News:** The Tribunal Reforms Act of 2021 has been challenged in the supreme court.

### More on the Topic:

- According to the petitioner, the law raises a serious threat to judicial independence by giving the government wide powers regarding appointments, service conditions, salaries etc., of members of key tribunals.
- The petitioners have argued that the Act was introduced in the Lok Sabha just days after the Supreme Court struck down the Tribunal Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance of 2021.
- The Act brought back the very same provisions in the ordinance which were struck down by the Supreme Court.



### Issues with the Tribunal Reform Act and Tribunals in India:

- **Flaws in the Democratic Process:** There was no discussion over the bill in the Parliament.
- The government has re-enacted the very same provisions struck down by the Court in the Madras Bar association case (2021).
- It is “**unconstitutional legislative overriding**” of the judgment passed by the SC.
- The Centre government is not following the repeated directions issued by the Court to ensure the proper functioning of the Tribunals.
- **Security of Tenure:** The Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 bars appointments to tribunals of persons below 50 years of age.
- It undermines the length/security of tenure.
- **The large number of vacancies:** Currently, India has 16 tribunals including the National Green Tribunal, the Armed Forces Appellate Tribunal, and the Debt Recovery Tribunal, etc. Many of these tribunals suffer from crippling vacancies.
- **National Tribunals Commission (NTC):** The Centre is yet to constitute a National Tribunals Commission (NTC), an independent umbrella body to supervise the functioning of tribunals, appointment of and disciplinary proceedings against members, and to take care of administrative and infrastructural needs of the tribunals.
- The idea of an NTC was first mooted in **L. Chandra Kumar v. Union of India (1997) case**.

Source: Hindu

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## 2. Prevention of Money Laundering Act

**Topic: Polity and Governance**



**In News:** The Supreme Court had stepped in to put a check on the misuse of the The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

### More on the Topic:

- According to Some activists, PMLA and ED are misused to attack opposition camps with political embarrassment.
- The Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) – an equivalent of the FIR – is considered an “internal document” and not given to the accused.
- Because of this reason there is lack of transparency in the implementation of the act.

### About Money Laundering:

- Money laundering is concealing or disguising the identity of illegally obtained proceeds so that they appear to have originated from legitimate sources. It is frequently a component of other, much more serious, crimes such as drug trafficking, robbery or extortion.
- The money from the criminal activity is considered ‘dirty’, and the laundering process makes it look clean.

- According to the IMF, global Money Laundering is estimated between 2 to 5% of World GDP.

**About Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA):**

- It was enacted as a response to India's **global commitment (including the Vienna Convention) to curb the menace of money laundering.**
- It forms the core of the legal framework put in place by India to combat Money Laundering.
- The provisions of this act are applicable to all financial institutions, banks(Including RBI), mutual funds, insurance companies, and their financial intermediaries.
- PMLA was enacted in 2002 and it came into force in 2005, to curb money laundering (process of converting black money into white) and to provide for seizure of property derived from money-laundering.

**Enforcement Directorate (ED):**

- It is a **law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency** responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India.
- One of the main functions of ED is to Investigate offences of money laundering under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002(PMLA).
- It can take actions like **confiscation of property** if the same is determined to be proceeds of crime derived from a Scheduled Offence under PMLA, and to prosecute the persons involved in the offence of money laundering.

Source: Indian Express

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### 3. 'Sustainable Cities India program'

**Topic: Government Programmes**

**In News:** The World Economic Forum and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'.

**More on the Topic:**

- The 'Sustainable Cities India program' intends **to enable cities to decarbonize in a systematic and sustainable way** that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems.



- The Forum and NIUA will adapt the Forum’s City Sprint process and Toolbox of Solutions for decarbonization in the context of five to seven Indian cities across two years.
- The City Sprint process is a series of multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder workshops involving business, government, and civil society leaders to enable decarbonization, especially through clean electrification and circularity.
- City Sprints will help to **jumpstart and/or accelerate net zero planning and action**. The City Sprint process uses the Toolbox of Solutions - a digital platform containing over 200 examples of clean electrification, efficiency and smart infrastructure best practices and case studies across buildings, energy systems and mobility from over 110 cities around the world.
- The City Sprint process will also enable cities to run pilot solutions and, based on findings, India will be able contribute 10 to 40 best practice case studies which will be integrated into the Toolbox of Solutions and showcased across the world.

**About Net Zero Carbon Cities:**

- The World Economic Forum’s Net Zero Carbon Cities’ mission is **to create an enabling environment for clean electrification and circularity**, resulting in urban decarbonization and resilience.
- The program aims to do this by **fostering public-private collaboration** to bridge the gap across the energy, built environment and transport sectors.

**About NIUA:**

- Established in 1976, the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) is India’s leading national think tank on urban planning and development.

**Source: Indian Express**

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## 4. Core financial services solution

**Topic: Indian Economy**

**In News:** Reserve Bank asked certain class of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC) to mandatorily implement ‘Core Financial Services Solution (CFSS)’ by September 2025.

**More on the Topic:**

- Core Financial Services Solution (CFSS) will provide **seamless customer interface in digital offerings and transactions** relating to products and services with anywhere / anytime facility.



- Further, it will enable **integration of NBFCs’ functions, provide centralised database and accounting records**, and be able to generate a suitable management information system (MIS), both for internal purposes and regulatory reporting.
- It is akin to Core Banking Solutions of the banks.

**About Core Banking Solutions:**

- Core Banking Solutions (CBS) can be defined as a solution that enables banks to offer a multitude of customer-centric services on a 24x7 basis from a single location, supporting retail as well as corporate banking activities. The centralisation thus makes a “one-stop” shop for financial services a reality.
- **e-Kuber** is the Core Banking Solution of Reserve Bank of India which was introduced in 2012.
- The e-kuber system can be accessed either through **INFINET or Internet**. The INFINET is a Closed User Group Network for the exclusive use of member banks and financial institutions and is the communication backbone for the National Payments System.

Source: Indian Express

## 5. Draft Integrated Plant Nutrition Management Bill 2022

**Topic: Agriculture**

**In News:** Government of India has come up with a draft Integrated Plant Nutrition Management Bill, 2022.

**More on the Topic:**

- It is aimed at **promoting development and sustainable use of balanced fertilizers**, including bio-fertilizers, nano-fertilizers, bio-stimulates, and organic fertilizers.
- The bill seeks to establish an ‘Integrated Plant Nutrition Management Authority of India’.
- States have been empowered to appoint State Controllers of Fertilisers and Fertiliser Inspectors, who can conduct impromptu inspections on industry and trade armed with overarching powers to search, seize and confiscate.
- No person would be able to manufacture, import for sale, sell, or market **without obtaining appropriate registration**.
- It seeks to **simplify the process for manufacturing production, distribution and price management** of fertilizers across India. This will help in improving the ease of doing business.



**Concerns:**

- The Bill empowers the Centre with **arbitrary powers to cap the maximum selling prices** for fertilisers, while allowing it to fix different prices for different regions and customers.
- The Centre will have powers to restrict the movement of fertilisers from one State to another and to dictate the quantities of fertiliser a manufacturer may sell in each State.
- The bill may take the industry back to the Dark Ages of licences and controls.

**About Integrated Nutrient Management:**

- Integrated Nutrient Management refers to **the maintenance of soil fertility and of plant nutrient supply at an optimum level** for sustaining the desired productivity through optimization of the benefits from all possible sources of organic, inorganic and biological components in an integrated manner.

Source: PIB

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## 6. Khajuraho Dance Festival

**Topic: Culture**

**In News:** Renowned artists from across the country will be performing in the week-long 48th Khajuraho Dance Festival – 2022, the signature annual event of Madhya Pradesh.

**More on the Topic:**

- The festival is being held in the temple premises after 44 years.
- The permission was granted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to organise the festival at the site.
- The dance festival was started being organised at this site some 46 years ago in 1974 with the objective of promoting the heritage and tourism.



**Khajuraho temple:**

- Khajuraho is the **group of monuments comprising of Hindu temples and Jain temples**.
- It is located in the **Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh**.
- It is included in the UNESCO World Heritage Site list.
- Khajuraho temples are famous for **nagara-style architecture**. Most of the temples were built between 885 AD and 1050 AD by **Chandela dynasty**.

Source: Indian Express

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**MCQs:**

1. Which of the following statement/s is/are true?



**1 Karakattam is an ancient folk dance of Telangana.**

**2. The performers balance a pot on their head.**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: b**

**2. Vinaya Pittaka is related to?**

- (a) Buddhism
- (b) Jainism
- (c) Zoroastrianism
- (d) Hinduism

**Ans: a**

**3. TRIPS Agreement is related to?**

- (a) Agriculture
- (b) Intellectual property
- (c) Banking system
- (d) Data Security

**Ans: b**

**4. Which of the following statement/s are true?**

**1. A patent represents a powerful intellectual property right, and is an exclusive monopoly granted by a government to an inventor for a limited, pre-specified time.**

**2. It provides an enforceable legal right to prevent others from copying the invention.**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only



- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans c**

**5. Which of the following States Kuki Tribes belong to?**

- (a) Mizoram
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Himachal Pradesh

**Ans: a**