



1. Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act 1996

WHAT IS PESA ?

The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 or PESA is a law enacted by the Government of India for ensuring self governance through traditional Gram Sabhas for people living in the Scheduled Areas of India.

SOURCE: [HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/PANCHAYATS_\(EXTENSION_TO_SCHEDULED_AREAS\)_ACT,_1996](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panchayats_(Extension_to_Scheduled_Areas)_Act,_1996)

Topic: Governance

In News: Madhya Pradesh government has enacted Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act 1996.

More on the Topic

- Madhya Pradesh became one of the eight states to enact the law.
- Accounting for 21% of the state's population, Madhya Pradesh has the highest tribal population in the country.

About PESA Act:

- PESA is an Act to provide for the **extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas.**
- In terms of section 2 of this Act, **“Scheduled Areas” means the Scheduled Areas as referred to in clause (1) of article 244 of the Constitution.**
- Out of the ten PESA States, eight States namely; Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana have framed and notified their State PESA Rules under their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts.
- It ensures **self-governance through Gram Sabhas** (village assemblies) for people living in the Scheduled Areas.
- **The Ministry of Panchayati Raj** is the nodal Ministry for implementation of the provisions of PESA in the States.



Powers provided to Gram Sabha under PESA:

- **Control Over Resources:** consultation before the land acquisition, prevent land alienation, power to enforce prohibition, prior approval of all developmental projects and control over tribal sub-plan, maintenance of cultural identity and tradition, control over schemes affecting the tribals etc.
- **Dispute resolution as per traditional laws and customs:** the collective resolution of disputes on the basis of customs, traditional laws and religious beliefs of tribal areas.
- **Ownership and management of natural resources:** E.g. water, forest, common lands ('Jal, Jangal, and Zameen'), minor forest produce, minor minerals, etc.
- **Minor Forest Produce:** It has been defined under FRA 2006, as those including all non timber forest produce of plant origin, including bamboo, brushwood, stumps, cane, tussar, etc

Source: Indian Express

2. 'Loss and Damages' fund for climate reparations

What is “loss and damage”?

The phrase refers to costs already being incurred from climate-fuelled weather extremes or impacts, like rising sea levels

■ Climate funding so far has focused on cutting CO2 emissions, while a third of it went towards helping communities adapt to future impacts

■ Loss and damage funding is expected to cover the cost of damage that countries cannot avoid or adapt to

■ A report by 55 vulnerable countries estimated that their combined climate-linked losses in the last two decades totalled



\$525 billion, or 20% of their collective GDP. This could go up to \$580 billion per year by 2030

■ Vulnerable countries and campaigners argue that rich countries that caused the bulk of climate change with their historical greenhouse gas emissions should pay

Source: Reuters

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: COP27 has established ‘Loss and Damages’ fund for climate reparations.

More on the Topic:

- The fund is intended to compensate the most vulnerable countries for damages from climate-linked disasters.
- Crucial questions such as who will manage this fund, whether contributions are expected from large developing countries and what the fair share of contributors will be have been left to a **“transitional committee”**.
- The committee will make recommendations to enable the actual adoption of the fund at the next Conference of the Parties (COP) of the U.N.’s Framework Convention for Climate Change, to be held in the **United Arab Emirates next year**.

The About Loss and Damage fund:

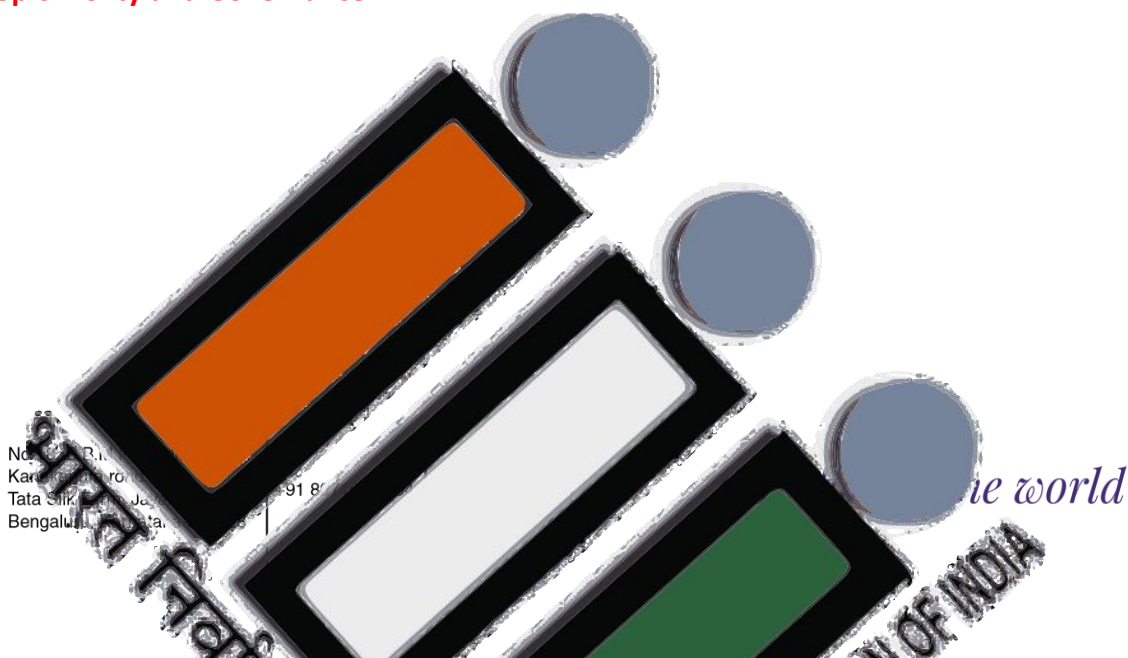
- Its aim is to unlock a greater ambition to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

- “Loss and Damage” is the term that is used to refer to the cost being incurred from climate-induced weather extremes or impacts like rising sea levels.
- Till date, climate funding mostly focused on reducing carbon dioxide emissions and addressing global warming. A third of this funding supported communities to adapt to climate change consequences.
- The “Loss and Damage” funding is different since **it covers the cost of damages caused by climate crisis that the countries cannot escape from or adapt to.**
- According to reports by 55 vulnerable countries, **their combined climate-linked losses over the past 20 years is 525 billion USD or 20 per cent of their collective GDP.** According to several studies, these losses are expected to reach 580 billion per annum by 2030.

Source: Down to Earth

3. Election Commission

Topic: Polity and Governance





In News: Former bureaucrat Arun Goel was appointed as Election Commissioner recently.

More on the Topic:

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a **constitutional body**.
- It was established by the Constitution of India to conduct and regulate elections in the country.
- **Article 324 of the Constitution** provides that the power of superintendence, direction, and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of the president of India, and the office of vice-president of India shall be vested in the election commission.
- Thus, the Election Commission is an **all-India body** in the sense that it is common to both the Central government and the state governments.
- Being a constitutional authority, Election Commission is amongst the few institutions which function with both autonomy and freedom, along with the country's higher judiciary, the Union Public Service Commission and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Appointment and Removal of Election Commissioners:

- The **President of India** appoints the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.
- They have tenure of **six years**, or up to the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier.
- They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to **Judges of the Supreme Court** of India.
- The **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** can be removed from office **only through impeachment** by Parliament.



- The CEC can be removed from office only through a process of removal similar to that of a **Supreme Court Judge** by Parliament.
- The President of India can remove the other officers on the **Chief Commissioner's recommendation**.
- They can **resign anytime** or can also be removed before the expiry of their term.

Source: Hindu

4. Scheme for “Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for 2022-23”

Scheme has been divided into **7 parts**:

- **Part I:** ₹80,000 Cr in proportion to central taxes & duties
- **Part II:** PM Gati Shakti related Expenditure
- **Part III:** PMGSY
- **Part IV:** Incentives for Digitization
- **Part V:** Optical Fibre Cable
- **Part VI:** Urban Reforms
- **Part VII:** Disinvestment and Monetization



Source: <https://finance.cg.gov.in> | Guidelines on the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for 2022-23 | 1-4

Topic: Economy

In News: The central government has sanctioned ₹ 60,000 crore of long-term capital expenditure funds to states this fiscal under Scheme for “Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for 2022-23.

More on the Topic:

- The scheme intends to **build roads, ports, bridges, airports and highways across the country**.
- The scheme envisages giving ₹ **1 trillion of 50-year interest-free loans to states**, over and above the normal borrowing they are allowed, so that local administrations get more financial resources for building productive assets, which will also add jobs.



- The scheme entails ₹ 80,000 crore to be given based on the **Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC) formula** and ₹ 20,000 crore, which is linked to reforms.
- The scheme will bring reforms at the state level, which would help **improve ease of doing business**.
- Funds provided are to be used for **new and ongoing capital projects**.
- Project with outlay of less than 5 crore (2 crore for North Eastern States) and repair and maintenance projects will not be considered.

How 7 parts of the scheme:

- For capital works (PM Gati Shakti Master Plan will receive priority);
- PM Gati Shakti related expenditure;
- PM Gram Sadak Yojana;
- Incentives for digitisation;
- Optical Fibre Cable;
- Urban reforms;
- Disinvestment and monetisation.

Source: PIB

5. Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA)

Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: India has opposed KJWA which sought to minimize greenhouse gas emissions from the agriculture sector.

More on the Topic:

- The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) is a special decision under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that aims to recognize the unique potential of the agriculture sector in addressing the climate change.
- The agriculture sector is responsible for 7 per cent of global GHG emissions
- India opposed it saying emissions from the agricultural sectors are not “luxury” emissions but “survival emissions” of the poor.

Source: Business Standard

6. Red Crowned Roofed Turtle



Topic: Environment and Ecology

In News: India has put forward a proposal to better protect a species of freshwater reptile called the red-crowned roofed turtle (Batagur kachuga) under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

More on the Topic:

- The turtle, native to India and Bangladesh, is at a high risk of extinction.
- The red-crowned roofed turtle is already classified as **critically endangered under the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.**
- Threats to the specie include **habitat loss due to pollution and hydrological projects specific in the Ganga lowlands of northern India and Bangladesh.**

- **Overharvesting the animal for illegal consumption and illegal international trade are other reasons** for its extinction threat.
- Over 11,000 tortoises and freshwater turtles have been seized in India from 2009-2019, found a study by TRAFFIC, a global NGO working on trade in wild animals and plants and their conservation.

Source: Business Standard

7. Uda Devi



Topic: Modern Indian History

In News: Events to commemorate the martyrdom of Uda Devi, a freedom fighter from the Pasi community, were held at various places in Uttar Pradesh.

More on the Topic:

- Uda Devi Pasi was an Indian women freedom fighter who participated in the war on behalf of Indian soldiers against the British East India Company, during the Indian Rebellion of 1857.
- She was part of the royal guard of Begum Hazrat Mahal of Awadh.
- She was known for her courageous battle in **Lucknow** termed as **Battle in Sikandar Bagh**.



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Source: Business Standard

No 18, B.B.M.P Building
Kanakapura road ,
Tata Silk Farm, Jayanagar,
Bengaluru, Karnataka-560028

+91 89710 43904

rvta@rvei.edu.in

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