



04 Sep 2024

National and International News

23rd Law Commission

Context:

- **President Droupadi Murmu** has sanctioned the constitution of **23rd Law Commission of India** for a period of **three years** from **September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2027**.
- **Objective:**The commission's primary objectives include **identifying obsolete laws for repeal, auditing laws** that adversely affect the poor, and **providing opinions on legal matters referred by the Law and Justice Ministry**.

Key points:

Structure and Composition:

- **Chairperson and Members:** Provision to appoint sitting Supreme Court and High Court judges as chairperson and members.
- **Full-Time Positions:** The commission will have a full-time chairperson and four full-time members, including a member-secretary.
- **Ex-Officio Members:** Secretaries of the Department of Legal Affairs and the Legislative Department will serve as ex-officio members.
- **Part-Time Members:** The commission can include up to five part-time members.

Service and Compensation:

- **Judicial Members:** Judges serving as chairperson or members will do so full-time until retirement or the commission's term ends.
- **Service Recognition:** Their time in these roles will be treated as "actual service."
- **Salary for Non-Judicial Appointees:** The chairperson will receive a fixed monthly salary of ₹2.50 lakh, and members will receive ₹2.25 lakh per month.

22nd Law Commission:

- The previous, 22nd Law Commission, was notified in February 2020, but its chairperson and members were only appointed in November 2022.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 22nd Law Commission was chaired by former Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi. • The 22nd Commission was working on reports concerning the Uniform Civil Code and simultaneous elections.
<p>Unified Lending Interface (ULI)</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is working towards building a robust digital public infrastructure in India. • As part of this initiative, the RBI announced the introduction of a new technology platform called the Unified Lending Interface (ULI), developed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub in Bengaluru. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ULI aims to provide seamless credit access, initially targeting farmers and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). • Data Integration: The platform supports the seamless and consent-based flow of digital information, including state land records, reducing the time needed for credit appraisal. • API Architecture: ULI employs common and standardized Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) that operate on a 'plug and play' model, allowing for digital access to information from various sources. <p>Origin of ULI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Announcement: On August 10, 2023, the RBI announced the establishment of a Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit, later branded as ULI. • Pilot Project: In September 2022, a pilot project was initiated to digitalize Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans of less than ₹1.6 lakh in selected districts of Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra.
<p>Saora tribe</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Odisha has become the only state in India to grant habitat rights to the highest number of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Saoras, a tribal community in Gajapati district, are the fifth PVTG in the state to receive such rights. <p>Key points:</p> <p>Significance of Habitat Rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat rights enable the Saoras to protect and preserve their ancestral lands, including natural entities, sacred sites, and places of religious and spiritual significance. These rights are vital for the community to continue practicing their cultural and religious ceremonies without interference. The district-level committee in Gajapati, under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), recently approved the habitat rights for the Saoras. <p>Legal Framework Under FRA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per section 2(h) of the FRA, habitat includes areas comprising customary habitats and other areas within reserved and protected forests that belong to primitive tribal groups, pre-agricultural communities, and other forest-dwelling scheduled tribes. The rights are granted under section 3(1)(e) of The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. <p>Previous Habitat Rights Grants in Odisha:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ST and SC Development department has previously facilitated habitat rights for other PVTGs in Odisha: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paudi Bhuyans in Deogarh district Juangs in Keonjhar and Jajpur districts Chuktia Bhunjia in Nuapada district <p>Habitat Rights in Other States:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apart from Odisha, Madhya Pradesh has granted habitat rights to the Bharia PVTG. Chhattisgarh has provided similar rights to the Kamar and Baiga PVTGs.
<p>Rule 170 of Drugs Act</p>	<p>Context:</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Supreme Court of India has recently scrutinized the AYUSH Ministry concerning its handling of Rule 170 under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduced in 2018, Rule 170 aims to prevent misleading advertisements related to AYUSH products, which include Ayurvedic, Siddha, and Unani medicines.• Objective: The rule mandates that AYUSH drug manufacturers obtain approval and a unique identification number from the state licensing authority before advertising their products.
<p>Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Initiative</p>	<p>Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on World Environment Day, has reached a significant milestone.• As of September 3, 2024, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Sh. Bhupender Yadav, announced that over 52 crore saplings have been planted across India under this initiative. <p>About:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has launched 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign on the occasion of World Environment Day.• World Environment Day is celebrated annually on June 5th and is the United Nations' largest global platform for environmental public outreach.• The theme for World Environment Day 2024 is "Our Land, Our Future. We are #GenerationRestoration".



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