

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (also known as ITPGRFA)

- The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (also known as ITPGRFA, International Seed Treaty or Plant Treaty, is a comprehensive international agreement in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity,
 - It aims at guaranteeing food security through the conservation, exchange and sustainable use of the world's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), the fair and equitable benefit sharing arising from its use, as well as the recognition of farmers' rights.
 - It was signed in 2001 in Madrid, and entered into force on 29 June 2004.
 - There are 148 contracting parties to the Plant Treaty (147 Member States and 1 intergovernmental organization, the European Union)
 - The treaty has implemented a Multilateral System (MLS) of access and benefit sharing, among those countries that ratify the treaty, for a list of 64 of some of the most important food and forage crops essential for food security and interdependence.
 - The list of plant genetic material included in the Multilateral System of the Treaty is made of major food crops and forages. The Forages are also divided in legume forages and grass forages. They were selected taking into account the criteria of food security and country interdependence
 - The treaty recognises farmers' rights, subject to national laws to:
 - The protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
 - the right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilisation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; and
 - The right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
 - The Treaty establishes the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing to facilitate plant germplasm exchanges and benefit sharing through Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA).
- India**
- India stood for the creation of an option for implementation of

farmers rights, and proposed that use of Global Information System (GIS) for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture needs capacity building among contracting parties

- It also mentioned that the country wants continued efforts towards conservation and sustainable use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- “India, as member of Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use, proposed joint programs with international and regional organisations/institutes to fulfil this agenda.

THE HINDU

PLI SCHEME

- The Cabinet on Wednesday cleared a ₹19,500-crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme to incentivise manufacture of domestic solar cell modules to reduce the industry’s reliance on Chinese-made panels.
- Production Linked Incentive or PLI scheme is a scheme that aims to give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.
- The scheme invites foreign companies to set up units in India, however, it also aims to encourage local companies to set up or expand existing manufacturing units and also to generate more employment and cut down the country’s reliance on imports from other countries.
- It was launched in April 2020, for the Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing sector, but later towards the end of 2020 was introduced for 10 other sectors.
- This scheme was introduced in line with India’s Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign.
- Based on the ten sectors to which the Production Linked Incentive scheme was expanded to, the government aims at achieving the following targets:
 - The government aims to make India an integral part of the global supply chain and enhance exports
 - India is expected to have a USD 1 trillion digital economy by 2025 as it expects the demand for electronics to increase under its projects like Smart City and Digital India
 - The PLI scheme will make the Indian automotive Industry more competitive and will enhance the globalisation of the Indian automotive sector
 - The Indian Textile Industry is one of the largest in the world and with this scheme, it shall attract large investment in the sector to further

boost domestic manufacturing, especially in the manmade fibre (MMF) segment and technical textiles

- India, being the second-largest producer of steel in the world, introducing it under the PLI scheme will benefit the country as it may expand export opportunities
- Similarly, telecom, solar panels, pharmaceuticals, white goods, and all the other sectors introduced can contribute to the economic growth of the country and make India a manufacturing hub globally.
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The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022

- Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the rules governing The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022
- The Act seeks to repeal the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920, which is over 100- years-old.
- The old Act's scope was limited to capturing of finger impression, footprint impressions and

photographs of convicted prisoners and certain category of arrested and non-convicted persons on the orders of a Magistrate

- The Act empowers a Magistrate to direct any person to give measurements, which till now was reserved for convicts and those involved in heinous crimes.
- It also enables the police upto the rank of a Head Constable to take measurements of any person who resists or refuses to give measurements.
- As per the rules, "measurements" include finger-impressions, palm-print, footprint, photographs, iris and retina scan, physical, biological samples and their analysis, behavioural attributes including signatures, handwriting or any other examination referred to in Section 53 or Section 53A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974). Though it has not been specified, analysis of biological samples could also include DNA profiling.
- The Opposition members termed it "unconstitutional" and an attack on privacy as it allowed the record of samples of even political detainees.

Who will be the repository of the data?

- The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under MHA will be the one-stop agency for storing and preserving the data of arrested persons.
- The State governments can also store the data, but it shall provide compatible application programming interfaces for sharing the measurements or record of measurements with the NCRB.
- What are the provisions for destruction of records in case a suspect is acquitted?
- The procedure for destruction and disposal of records are yet to be specified by the NCRB.
- The rules state that any request for destruction of records shall be made to the Nodal Officer who is to be nominated by the respective State Government.
- The nodal officer will recommend the destruction after verifying that such record of measurements is not linked with any other criminal cases.
- The horrific fire accident on September 12 in Secunderabad, Telangana
- A report by the Regional Fire Officer pointed out several irregularities, including absence of set-back spaces and escape routes, defunct firefighting equipment, spiral staircase around the elevator shaft, basement utilised illegally for commercial purposes, and absence of smoke management and emergency lighting.
- Applicability of fire safety norms is another gap through which several builders escape.
- Almost all commercial establishments where fire mishaps took place in recent past did not fall into the category

FIRE SAFETY NORMS

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FIRE SAFETY

of smoke management and emergency lighting

- The residents need to conduct Fire Safety Audits in every half-yearly and submit its report to the regulated fire department.
- Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment (HIRA) shall focus on identifying potential hazards.
- A comprehensive Fire Safety Audit will address the inherent fire hazards of the daily activities in occupancy and shall recommend fire measures to reduce them.
- Each Municipal Corporation having a population of more than 1 million must put in a fire hazard response and prevention plan for their respective jurisdictions.
- 13th Finance commission recommendation on fire safety must get implemented.
- A part of the grant allocated by the commission to the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) must get utilized on refurbishing the Fire services in their jurisdiction.
- The Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) shall provide financial support to State Fire Services Department.

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