Ordinance in Constitution

❖ Context

➢ Recently, the central government promulgated an Ordinance.

❖ Key Highlights:

- It undid the unanimous verdict of a five-judge Constitution Bench of **the Supreme Court**.
- On May 11 SC gave the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government of Delhi control over the transfer & posting of officials in the **National Capital Territory (NCT),** except with regard to public order, police, & land.
- The Ordinance gave the **Lieutenant Governor of Delhi,** power over services.
  - It also established a **"National Capital Civil Service Authority**" comprising the Chief Minister and two senior IAS officials, which would decide matters "by majority of votes of the members present and voting" — essentially creating a situation in which the view of the elected CM could potentially be overruled.

❖ Ordinance in Constitution:

- **Article 123 of the Constitution**
  - Power of President to promulgate Ordinances during **recess** of **Parliament**.
  - if at any time, except when both Houses of Parliament are in session, the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action, he may promulgate such Ordinances as the circumstances appear to him to require.
- An Ordinance "shall have the **same force and effect as an Act of Parliament".**
- But the government is required to bring an Ordinance before Parliament for ratification.
  - Failure to do so will lead to its lapsing "at the expiration of six weeks from the reassembly of Parliament.
- The Ordinance may lapse earlier if the President withdraws it — or if both Houses pass resolutions disapproving it.
  - Rejection of an Ordinance would, however, imply the government has lost majority.
- If an Ordinance makes a law that Parliament is not competent to enact under the Constitution, it shall be considered **void**.
- Since the President acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers, it is in effect the government that decides to bring the Ordinance.
  - The President may return the recommendation of the Cabinet once if she feels it warrants reconsideration.
  - If it is sent back (with or without reconsideration), she has to promulgate it.
- **Article 213** deals with the broadly analogous powers of the Governor to promulgate/ withdraw an Ordinance when the state legislature is not in session.
- An Ordinance is **valid for six weeks, or 42 days,** from the date on which the next session starts.
  - If the two Houses start their sessions on different dates, the later date will be considered, say the explanations in **Articles 123 and 213.**
- **Repromulgation of Ordinance**
  - If, for whatever reason, an Ordinance lapses, the only option for the government is to reissue or repromulgate it.
  - The court clarified that there might be circumstances permitting the **re-promulgation of an Ordinance.**
  - However, it said, repeated re-promulgations without bringing the Ordinance to the legislature would usurp the legislature's function, and will be unconstitutional.

Baralacha La

❖ Context:

➢ Police and officials from the Border Roads Organisation successfully rescued approximately 250 stranded tourists from Baralacha La.

❖ Key Highlights:

- **Location:**
  - Baralacha La is a high mountain pass located in the **Zanskar Range** of the Himalayas in Himachal Pradesh, India.
- **Elevation:**
  - It sits at an altitude of approximately **4,890 meters (16,040 feet)** above sea level.
- **Connectivity:**
  - Baralacha La serves as a crucial link between the districts of **Lahaul and Spiti** in Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Importance:**
  - It is a significant pass on the Manali-Leh highway, a popular route for road trips and treks.

Chandrayaan-3

❖ Context

➢ Chandrayaan-3 will be launched in July 2023, chief of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) S Somanath confirmed recently.

❖ Key Highlights:

- **Objective:** Chandrayaan-3 aims to demonstrate critical technologies for landing on the lunar south pole within two months.
- It is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate **end-to-end capability** in safe landing and roving on the moon.
- **Scientific Instruments:** The mission carries instruments to study lunar regolith's thermo-physical properties, lunar seismic activity, lunar surface plasma environment, elemental composition, & spectro-polarimetric signatures of Earth from lunar orbit.
- Spacecraft Configuration: Chandrayaan-3 consists of three modules - propulsion, lander, and rover. The propulsion module, launched by LVM3, will carry the lander & rover to a lunar orbit of 100 km.
- **Lander Payloads:** The lander carries payloads such as the Chandra's Surface **Thermophysical Experiment** (to measure thermal conductivity and temperature), **Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity** (to measure seismicity), **Langmuir Probe** (to estimate plasma density), and a **Laser Retroreflector Array** for lunar laser ranging studies.
- **Rover Payloads:** The rover carries payloads including **the Alpha Particle X-ray** Spectrometer and Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy for analyzing the elemental composition near the landing site.
- **Soft Landing Capability:** The lander has the ability to **softly land** at a predetermined lunar site and deploy the rover for in-situ chemical analysis of the lunar surface.
- Propulsion Module Function: The propulsion module's primary function is to carry the lander to a **100 km circular polar orbit** around the Moon before separating from it. It also includes an additional scientific payload.
- **Note: "End-to-end capability"** refers to the ability of a system or mission to perform all the necessary functions & tasks from start to finish covering the entire process or lifecycle.

News in Between the Lines

De-risking

❖ Context

➢ Recently, in a statement issued at the end of the leaders' summit in Hiroshima, Japan, **G7** countries said they would build economic resilience for themselves, based on a strategy of **"diversifying & deepening partnerships & de-risking, not decoupling".**

❖ Key highlights:

- The US State Department describes de-risking as "**the phenomenon of financial institutions terminating or restricting business relationships with clients or categories of clients to avoid, rather than manage, risk".**
- Simply put, de-risking is to move business away from areas that are considered risky in terms of the returns they could generate.
- In the context of China, de-risking can be interpreted as a reduction of the reliance on China in the economic sphere — for the supply of materials or as a market for finished goods — so that potential risks to trade and disruption of supply chains are reduced.

Girish Chandra Murmu

❖ Context

➢ Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), has been re-elected as the External Auditor of the WHO.

❖ Key Highlights:

- **Term:** His re-election is for a four-year term from **2024 to 2027.**
- **Previous Term:** Girish Chandra Murmu has been serving as the External Auditor of the WHO since 2019 for a four-year term from **2019 to 2023.**
- **Election:** The re-election took place recently at the Seventy-sixth World Health **Assembly held in Geneva.**
- **Majority Support:** In the first round of voting, Girish Chandra Murmu was re-elected with an overwhelming majority, receiving **114 out of 156 votes.**
- **Recognition:** This appointment is a recognition of the CAG's standing within the international community and its professionalism, high standards, global audit experience, and strong national credentials.
- **Second International Audit Assignment:** Earlier in March 2023, the CAG was also selected for the position of External Auditor of the **International Labour Organisation,** making this the second major international audit assignment for the CAG this year.

Mohenjodaro's Dancing Girl

❖ **Context**

➢ Recently, the **Dancing Girl figurine discovered** in Mohenjodaro in 1926 found itself at the centre of controversy.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- On the occasion of **International Museum Day (May 18)**, Prime Minister inaugurated the International Museum Expo in Delhi's Pragati Maidan.
- During the ceremony, PM Modi also unveiled the Expo's mascot – a "contemporised" version of the famous Dancing Girl of Mohenjodaro.

❖ **Dancing Girl:**

- This mesmerizing sculpture, famously known as **'The Dancing Girl,'** is one of the highest achievements of the artists of Mohenjodaro.
- The 'Dancing Girl' is a sculpture made of bronze.
- It **belongs to the Indus Valley Civilization** and dates back to circa 2500 BCE. It is 10.5 cm in height, 5 cm in width and 2.5 cm in depth.
- It is dark and completely in the nude with the exception of multiple bangles and a necklace.
  - However, the adapted mascot has fairer skin, and is dressed in a bright pink blouse and an off-white waist-coat.
- She has **24 bangles in one hand and 4 in the other.**
- Presently, it is on display in the Indus Valley Civilization gallery in the National Museum, New Delhi.
- **Side Note**
  - The formal announcement of the discovery of the Indus or Harappan Civilization was made in 1924 by John Marshall, the then Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India.

Sufiyana Mausiki

❖ **Context**

➢ Sufiyana Mausiki and Tchakri are devotional folk songs that have been integral to the culture of carpet and shawl weavers in Kashmir for centuries.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- **Reviving the Tradition:** 'Dastaan-e-Bahaar,' an event organized,aimed to reconnect with the past and revive the vibrancy of celebrating the onset of summer.
- **Tribute to Master Weavers:** The event paid tribute to the master weavers of shawls and carpets and prominent folk singers.
- **Importance of Sufiyana Music:** Sufiyana music, which has been granted **classical status,** brings peace to the heart and has traditionally played a significant role among artisans in Kashmir.

Foucault's Pendulum

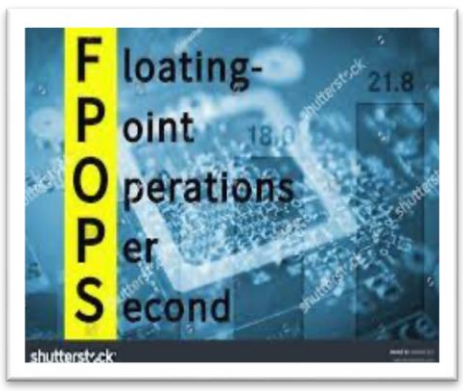
❖ **Context**

➢ Suspended from the ceiling of the Central Foyer of India's new Parliament building, inaugurated on Sunday (May 29), is a Foucault pendulum that all but touches the floor as it rotates on its axis.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- The pendulum hangs from a skylight at the top of the Constitution Hall, and signifies the "integration of the idea of India with the idea of the cosmos".
- It is created by the National Council of Science Museum (NCSM) in Kolkata.
- The pendulum is being dubbed as the largest such piece in India, 22 metre in height, and weighing a **staggering 36 kg.**
- On the ground, a circular installation has been created to allow the pendulum's movement, with a short grill around it, allowing the visitors to stand around.
- At the latitude of the Parliament, it takes 49 hours, 59 minutes, and 18 seconds for the pendulum to complete one rotation.
- **Foucault's Pendulum**
  - The original Foucault's pendulum, named after 19th century French scientist **Leon Foucault**, is a simple experiment to demonstrate earth's rotation.
  - When Foucault carried out this experiment for the public **in 1851,** it was the first direct visual evidence of the fact that the earth rotates on its axis.

Floating-Point Operations per Second (FLOPs)



❖ **Context**

- Recently, Union Earth Sciences Minister said that India will unveil its new 18 petaFLOP supercomputer for weather forecasting institutes later this year.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- **Significance**
  - **The new supercomputer is expected to**
    - Improve weather forecasts at the block level.
    - Help weather scientists give higher resolution ranges of the forecast, predict cyclones with more accuracy and better lead time (the difference between a phenomenon being forecast and actually occuring).
    - Provide ocean state forecasts, including marine water quality forecasts.
- **FLOPs in Computing**
  - FLOPs, or Floating-Point Operations per Second, is a commonly used metric to measure the computational performance – processing power and efficiency.
- **petaFLOP**
  - Due to the immense computing power of today's computers, the FLOPs metric is most often represented in **terms of billions (giga),** trillions (tera), or even quadrillions (peta) of operations per second **(GFLOPs, TFLOPs, PFLOPs, respectively).**
  - A petaflop is thus **equal to a thousand TFLOPs or 1015 FLOPs.**
  - Currently, the world's fastest computer in terms of PFLOPs is the **Hewlett Packard Enterprise Frontier,** or OLCF-5 with the capability to touch a peak performance of 1,685.65.

AL Mohed AL Hindi 23

❖ **Context**

- The sea phase of second edition of bilateral exercise 'Al Mohed Al Hindi 23', between Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF) was held recently off Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- **INS Tarkash, INS Subhadra** and Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft (MPA) participated in the exercise from the Indian side.
- The RSNF was represented by HMS Badr and Abdul Aziz, MH 60R helo and UAV.

Gongadi Shawls

❖ **Context**

- Gongadi shawls, traditionally crafted from the rough wool of Deccani sheep by pastoral communities in Telangana, have been repurposed into all-weather shoes for farmers.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- **Design Initiative:** Three alumni from the **National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, Santosh Kocherlakota, Nakul Lathkar, and Vidyadher Bhandare**, started the design initiative to address the footwear needs of farmers.
- **Problem Solving:** The designers recognized the challenges faced by farmers, including cracked feet, fungal infections & snake bites due to lack of suitable footwear.
- **Waterproof Shoes:** The designers discovered that gongadi shawls are waterproof. They utilized this quality and developed shoes that are resistant to different weather conditions.

❖ **About Telangana's Gongadi shawls:**

- These are a traditional form of handcrafted woollen shawls originating from the Deccan plateau in **Telangana, India.**
- Made from the rough wool of the **sturdy Deccani sheep.**
- Gongadi shawls are known for their **durability and all-weather qualities.**
- They are woven by **the Kuruma and Kuruba pastoral** communities, who skillfully transform the wool into a tough and resilient fabric.
- The shawls traditionally feature intricate patterns and vibrant colors, showcasing the **rich craftsmanship of the weavers.**
- **Significance:** These shawls hold cultural significance and are often worn as garments or used as blankets to protect against the **region's varying climatic conditions.**

MCQ Quiz
Daily Pre PARE Daily
Daily Current Affairs