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The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution

Why in News?

- Recently, noted environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk, sat on a hunger strike, demanding hunger strike, demanding statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion under the Sixth Schedule.

More About the Sixth Schedule

- Since the repeal of Article 370 and the creation of Ladakh's union territory status, there have been continuous demands for

both granting it statehood and including it within the Sixth Schedule.

- In December 2021, Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal spoke in the Lok Sabha in favour of Ladakh's sixth schedule status to secure the land, employment and cultural identity of Ladakh and its people.
- The Sixth Schedule exclusively controls the administration of tribal areas in the North Eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- Protections under the Sixth however are significantly stronger providing for self-governance to tribal communities through the creation of District and Regional Councils that have significant legislative and executive authority with considerable powers.
- From the debates and the text of the Sixth Schedule, it appears that a region was considered candidate for Sixth Schedule protection based on the following criteria:-
 - (i) It should be a North Eastern Hill Tribe with a distinctive culture that needs special protections.
 - (ii) The second criteria appears to the existence of an intention to secede.
- According to the Sixth Schedule, each autonomous district will have a District Council with a maximum of 30 members, of whom not more than four persons shall be nominated by the Governor, and the rest shall be elected on the basis of adult suffrage.
- The Governor is empowered to organize and reorganize the autonomous districts. He can also increase, decrease the boundaries, or alter the name of any autonomous district. There are presently

6th Schedule of India Constitution

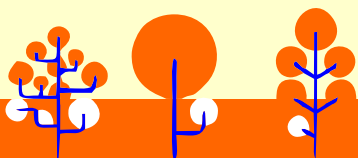
The 6th schedule talks about the administration in tribal dominant area of four North-eastern states of India.

Assam, Mizoram, Tripura & Meghalaya

The 6th schedule was added in the constitution on the recommendation of Bardoloi Committee.

It provides a limited autonomy to the tribal region, so that they can conserve their Rights, Culture and Ethnicity.

Gopinath Bardoloi was also the 1st Chief Minister of Assam.



three Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) in Assam, Mizoram and Meghalaya, respectively, while Tripura has one.

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)

Why in the News?

- Recently, the Supreme Court has issued notice to the Election Commission (EC) on a writ petition seeking a direction to mandatorily cross-verify the count in Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) with votes verifiably recorded as cast by counting all Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips.

More About VVPAT

- Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) is an independent system attached with the Electronic Voting Machines that allows the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended.



- When a vote is cast, a slip is printed containing the serial number, name and symbol of the candidate and remains exposed through a transparent window for 7 seconds. Thereafter, this printed slip automatically gets cut and falls in the sealed drop box of the VVPAT.
- Introduced first time in India in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, VVPAT or the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail is basically a ballot-less vote verification system connected with the EVM.

- The VVPAT generates a paper slip to be viewed by the voter and allows him/her to verify whether the vote was cast correctly on the EVM. The slip contains the name and symbol of the party they have voted for.
- The machine also has a transparent window for the voter to see the printed slip. Eventually, the slip goes inside a sealed box of the machine. This can, however, be opened if there is a dispute.

Tornadoes

Why in the News?

- Recently, a deadly tornado struck the Mainaguri area of Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal for 10 minutes and killed five people and injured over a 100.

More About Tornadoes

- In recent years, an increasing number of tornadoes have formed across India and caused destruction. A warming Bay of Bengal and land, along with anomalous wind patterns could be a reason behind this.
- A tornado is a land-based vertical column of violently rotating air that forms from a thunderstorm to the ground. It can have wind speeds in the range of 105-322 kilometres per hour, according to the National Weather Service (NWS) of the United States. The system itself can be stationary or can move at a speed of around 97 km/hour.
- These extreme storms are rare in India and have mostly been reported in the eastern states of West Bengal, Odisha and



Jharkhand during the pre-monsoon period. But there is evidence of some of them having formed in northwest India as well.

- Any collision of warm, moist air with dry, cool air in the presence of a low pressure system like a trough causes thunderstorms and tornadoes.
- Tornadoes need warm air and humidity and a seed has to be put down in terms of rotation. The cool northeast winds can push on top of warm, moist ocean air and cause these tornadoes.
- In India, tornadoes should not get so strong as the land is not homogenous and the distances that it can travel is short. But wind patterns over many parts of India, including the eastern region, have been showing changes.
- The warm ocean and the warming land with the anomalous wind patterns are beginning to let the seeds sprout into tornadoes. Other factors include weak background winds during the pre-monsoon season, which allow tornadoes to persist, and lower speeds of vertical winds, which allow them to grow.
- A research paper published by India Meteorological Department (IMD) scientists in 2016 provides different records for possible tornadoes in eastern India. Most of these tornadoes occurred in March and a few in April.

SEBI Launched New Complaint Redress System – SCORES 2.0

Why in the News?

- Recently, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched a new and more user friendly version of its complaint redress system – SCORES 2.0.

More About the News

- The new version of SCORES will make the process more efficient through auto-routing, auto-escalation, monitoring by the designated bodies and reduction of timelines.



- According to SEBI, the timeline for redressal of complaints in SCORES 2.0 has been reduced to 21 calendar days. Besides, there will be two levels of review, first by the 'Designated Body' and if the investor is dissatisfied, SEBI will undertake a second review.
- The market regulator has enabled integration with the KYC Registration Agency database for easy registration of the investor on SCORES.
- The old SCORES app has been discontinued and a new App will be launched soon.

About the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India was established as a statutory body in the year 1992 and the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (15 of 1992) came into force on January 30, 1992.
- The basic functions of SEBI is to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote and regulate the securities market.
- It is run by its board of members. The board consists of a Chairman and several other whole time and part time members.
- The chairman is nominated by the union government. The others include two members from the finance ministry, one member from Reserve Bank of India and five other members are also nominated by the Centre.
- The headquarters of SEBI is situated in Mumbai and the regional offices are located in Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Chennai and Delhi.

Categorization of Food Products

Why in the News?

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has asked all e-commerce Food Business Operators (FBOs) to ensure appropriate categorization of food products being sold on their websites.

More About the News

- FSSAI has noted instances of food products licensed under 'Proprietary Food' with the nearest category – Dairy Based Beverage Mix or Cereal Based Beverage Mix or Malt Based Beverage – being sold on e-commerce websites under the category 'Health Drink', 'Energy Drink' etc.
- FSSAI has clarified that the term 'Health Drink' is not defined or standardized anywhere under the FSS Act 2006 or rules/regulations made thereunder. Therefore, FSSAI has advised all e-commerce FBOs to promptly rectify this misclassification by removing or de-linking such drinks or beverages from the category of 'Health Drinks / Energy Drinks' on their websites and place such products in the appropriate category as provided under the extant law.
- Proprietary Foods are items of food that are not standardized in Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations and Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose,

Functional Food, and Novel Food) Regulations but use standardized ingredients.

- The term – 'Energy' Drinks – is permitted to be used only on the products licensed under Food Category System (FCS) 14.1.4.1 and 14.1.4.2 (Carbonated and Non-carbonated water based flavoured drinks), standardized under sub-regulation 2.10.6 (2) of Food Product Standards and Food Additives Regulations 2011 (Caffeinated Beverage).
- This corrective action aims to enhance clarity and transparency regarding the nature and functional properties of the products, ensuring that consumers can make well-informed choices without encountering misleading information.

About Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under Food Safety and Standards, 2006 which consolidates various acts & orders that have hitherto handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments.
- FSSAI has been created for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.
- The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI.



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