Extension of State Laws to Chandigarh

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Polity & Governance*

Why in News?

Recently, Union Government has extended provisions of 5 State legislations, to the UT of Chandigarh under Section 87 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966.

- **Aim –** To modernise legal system, improve transparency, and boost the ease of living and doing business in Chandigarh, which does not have its own legislature.

Legal Basis

- **Section 87, Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966** – It allows the Centre to extend any law in force in a State to the UT of Chandigarh.

  President of India *is the ultimate administrator of all UT under* ***Article 239*** *of the Constitution, the specific power mentioned in Section 87 is exercised by the Central Government via notifications in the Official Gazette.*

- **Established practice** – Chandigarh being a UT without legislature, state laws are extended via notifications.

  Chandigarh (UT) – Capital of Punjab and Haryana.

Key Legislations Extended

Property Valuation & Taxes (Punjab)	
• ***Previous –*** *Indian Stamp Act, 1899 (as applied to Punjab/Chandigarh)*	• ***Present –*** *The Indian Stamp (Punjab Amendment) Acts, 2001 and 2003.*
• *Largely based on the declared value.* • Easy evasion.	• Stricter valuation of properties and collection of stamp duty. • Legal mechanism to detect and correct undervaluation. • Enhances transparency and reduces tax evasion in property transactions.
Village Land Records (Punjab)	

• ***Previous*** • No formal framework for recording ownership in *Abadi Deh* (traditional habitation) areas.	• **Present –** *Punjab Abadi Deh Act, 2021* • Legal process for survey and recording of ownership rights • Creates formal Records of Rights • Reduces disputes • Supports land administration, and enables collateral use for loans.
Travel Agent Regulation (Punjab)	
• **Previous –** The Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860	• **Present –** *Punjab Prevention of Human Smuggling Act, 2012 (Amendment 2014) –*
• Primary tool used by police, but only *after* a crime (like cheating or fraud) had already occurred. • It did not require agents to register or follow specific business standards.	• Mandatory licensing • Enforcement and penal provisions • Protects citizens (students, job seekers) from smuggling scams.
Fire Safety (Haryana)	
• **Previous –** The Punjab Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act, 1991	• **Present –** Haryana Fire and Emergency Services Act, 2022
• Outdated rules • Manual renewals • Vague penalties	• Risk-based fire safety regime • Streamlined approvals • Longer validity of certificates • Rationalised penalties • Improves safety of life and property while reducing compliance burden.
Rental Housing (Assam)	
• **Previous –** East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act, 1949	• **Present –** Assam Tenancy Act, 2021 (aligned with Model Tenancy Act, 2021)
• Tenant biased. • Difficult eviction. • Unfair rent controls.	• Balanced framework Mandatory written agreements • Rent Tribunal for speedy dispute resolution • Clear landlord-tenant rights and obligations • Promotes transparency and rental housing availability.

Quick Facts

• UTs in India are federal administrative units governed directly by the Union Government, established primarily for strategic, security, or administrative reasons rather than as self-governing states.
• They are designated under **Part VIII (Articles 239 to 242)** of the Constitution.
• **Currently, there are eight UTs**: Delhi, Andaman & Nicobar, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry.

Key Constitutional Articles for Union Territories:

• **Article 239 -** Deals with the administration of UTs by the President through an appointed administrator (Lieutenant Governor or Administrator).
• **Article 239AA -** Contains special provisions for the National Capital Territory of Delhi, creating a legislative assembly.
• **Article 240 -** Empowers the President to make regulations for the peace, progress, and good government of certain UTs (e.g., Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry).
• **Article 241 -** Enables Parliament to create High Courts for Union Territories

Reference

- The Hindu | Extension of State Laws

