

Extension of State Laws to Chandigarh

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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)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous - Indian Stamp Act, 1899 (as applied to Punjab/Chandigarh) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present - <u>The Indian Stamp (Punjab Amendment) Acts, 2001 and 2003.</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largely based on the declared value. • Easy evasion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous • No formal framework for recording ownership in <i>Abadi Deh</i> (traditional habitation) areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present - <i>Punjab Abadi Deh Act, 2021</i> • 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)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous - The Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present - <i>Punjab Prevention of Human Smuggling Act, 2012 (Amendment 2014)</i> -
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary tool used by police, but only <i>after</i> a crime (like cheating or fraud) had already occurred. • It did not require agents to register or follow specific business standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory licensing • Enforcement and penal provisions • Protects citizens (students, job seekers) from smuggling scams.
Fire Safety (Haryana)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous - The Punjab Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act, 1991 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present - Haryana Fire and Emergency Services Act, 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdated rules • Manual renewals • Vague penalties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous - East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act, 1949 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present - Assam Tenancy Act, 2021 (aligned with Model Tenancy Act, 2021)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenant biased. • Difficult eviction. • Unfair rent controls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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](#)

