

In a first, the draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022, released on Friday, has used the pronouns 'she' and 'her' to refer to all individuals, as against the use of 'he', 'him' and 'his'. In line with the "philosophy of women's empowerment that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government works, [we have attempted] to use the words she and her in the entire Bill, instead of he, him and his. So this is an innovative thing which has been attempted in the Bill," Minister of Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to intervene and direct the government to create an independent Indian Environment Service within the All India Service cadre. A Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul declined a petition by advocate Samar Vijay Singh for a specialised environment service along the lines of one recommended in the T.S.R. Subramanian Committee report in 2014.

The Centre's significantly shortened and revised draft Bill on personal data protection proposes a hefty increase in penalty amounts up to ₹ 500 crore, while also easing rules on cross-border data flows, in a big relief for large tech firms. The revised draft — now called The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022 — comes just over three months after its earlier avatar was withdrawn from Parliament by the Central government.

With countries unable to arrive at a consensus, the 27th edition of the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP) in Sharm el-Sheikh, which was scheduled to end on Friday, has been extended by a day. "The COP was supposed to wrap up its work today but has been extended by a day to attempt to take the ongoing negotiations to a logical end. Consensus is key on several issues and the extension is an attempt towards achieving it," Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said in a blog late on Friday.

The new draft Bill, on which stakeholder comments have been invited till December 17, narrows down the scope of the data protection regime to personal data protection, leaving out non-personal data from its ambit — a move welcomed by the industry. The Bill proposes to impose a penalty of ₹10,000 on individuals providing unverifiable or false information while applying for any document, service, proof of identity or address, or registering a false or frivolous complaint with a Data Fiduciary (who collects and processes the data) or with the Board.

Certain countries support terrorism as part of their foreign policy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at an international conference on terror

### CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SANCTIONED ₹60,000 CRORE CAPEX TO STATES

1. Long-term capital expenditure funds to states is under the Scheme for "Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for 2022-23". It is a redesigned version of an earlier 'Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure', launched in 2020-21 after COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Key feature of the revamped scheme-₹ 1 lakh crore has been allocated for 2022-23. ₹80,000 crore: based on 15th Finance Commission formula and ₹20,000 crore: linked to reforms. Assistance is provided in the form of 50-year interest free loan, over and above Normal Borrowing Ceiling allowed to States.
3. **7 parts of the scheme: For capital works (PM Gati Shakti Master Plan will receive priority); PM Gati Shakti related expenditure; PM Gram Sadak Yojana; Incentives for digitisation; Optical Fibre Cable; Urban reforms; Disinvestment and monetisation.**
4. Funds provided are to be used for new and ongoing capital projects. Project with outlay of less than 5 crore (2 crore for North Eastern States) and repair and maintenance projects will not be considered.
5. Capital expenditure refers to outlay of government funds in the form of investments or development spending towards creation of assets for the long term.
6. It also includes repayment of loan as it reduces liability of government. Importance of Capital expenditure: generates revenue, generate demand in the economy, attract private investments, sustain economic growth etc.

### DEVELOPED NATIONS BACKTRACK ON LOSS AND DAMAGE FUNDING FACILITY: SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

1. Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and other developing countries are concerned with lack of progress made on funding arrangements for loss and damage. Loss and damage finance is money paid by countries who've benefited financially from fossil fuel investment, to countries feeling the direct unavoidable losses and permanent damage arising from climate change.
2. India argues that responsibility for providing support—financial, technical, capacity-building—is based on cumulative contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions. According to Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC, India's share of cumulative emissions is less than 4 per cent.
3. According to Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC, India's share of cumulative emissions is less than 4 per cent. Developed countries, led by the US, want loss and damage to flow through existing financial instruments, and do not support creation of a new facility.
4. **SIDS are a distinct group of 58 island states that face unique social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities owing to their geophysical and structural constraints.** Three geographical regions in which SIDS are located: Caribbean, Pacific, and Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS).
5. Initiatives taken for SIDS-Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) by SIDS and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) partners to promote resilient, sustainable, and inclusive infrastructure development in SIDS. UN programs such as Barbados programme of Action, Mauritius Strategy, SAMOA Pathway. Support from inter-governmental organisations: Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).

### SC QUESTIONS GOVERNMENT ON METHOD TO PICK CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER(CEC)

1. SC also asked centre for reasons of not coming up with any law to regulate the appointment of CEC and ECs yet. Under Article 324(2) of the Constitution, the President is empowered to appoint the CEC and ECs.
2. President, who acts on the aid and advise of the Prime Minister and the council of ministers, will make the appointments "subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament". Issues with the appointment of CEC Executive influence on appointment: Appointment is done solely by executive. Thus, it gives unfettered discretion to ruling party to choose someone whose loyalty to it is ensured.
3. Qualification not prescribed: Constitution has not prescribed qualifications (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) of members of ECI. Earlier, law commission has recommended that a panel of Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India and Leader of Opposition (LoP) should appoint the CEC as is done for appointing the CBI director or Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC). However, many experts observed that Prime Minister and LoP should not be part of that panel as they are the stakeholders.

financing on Friday, noting that “state support” is one of the financial sources of terror groups. In an indirect reference to Pakistan and China, the PM said certain countries offer political, ideological and financial support to terror groups and sometimes, there are indirect arguments made in support of terrorism to block action against terrorists. Pakistan is not participating in the conference; China did not send a delegation.

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea to direct the Law Commission of India to prepare a report on population “explosion” and the feasibility of having a population control law. A Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said the subject lay solely within the domain of the government and noted “there is a declining population”.

To cover prison inmates across the country, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has agreed to accept the Prisoner Induction Document as a valid document for Aadhaar enrolment or update. Though the campaign to extend Aadhaar to prisoners was launched in 2017, the process did not proceed on expected lines, since the enrolment required valid documents prescribed by the UIDAI.

Ahead of India’s presidency of the UN Security Council in December, India and Russia agreed to “deepen cooperation” on counter-terrorism issues and “enhance bilateral coordination” at the United Nations, statements issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

North Korea fired an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile that landed near Japanese waters on Friday in its second major weapons test this month that showed a potential ability to launch nuclear strikes on all of the U.S. mainland.

### SMUGGLERS TRAFFICKING RHINO HORNS WITH IMPUNITY

1. Findings are part of an analysis of Rhino Horn Trafficking presented at a meeting of Conference of Parties organised by Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Other major findings Six countries (South Africa, Mozambique, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Vietnam, and China) have dominated horn trafficking routes.
2. Online trade, social media platforms, and instant messaging apps have become the most important channel for illegal trade.
3. Parties should ensure the timely reporting of seizures and submission of DNA samples to range States, and continuously review trends associated with the illegal killing of rhinoceroses.
4. About Rhinos-There are 5 species of rhinos in the world: White rhino, Black rhino, Sumatran rhino, Greater one horned rhino and Javan rhino. Sumatran, Javan and Black rhinos are listed as critically endangered. White rhino is ‘near threatened’ and the greater one-horned rhino is vulnerable.
5. **Rhino horn is made up of keratin - protein which forms the basis of our hair and nails. Habitat: Tropical and subtropical grasslands, savannas and shrublands, tropical moist forests, deserts and shrublands.**

### MADHYA PRADESH NOTIFIES PESA RULES ON THE OCCASION OF JANJATIYA GAURAV DIVAS

1. Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA Act) gives special power to gram sabhas in scheduled areas. Parliament, in terms of Article 243M(4)(b) of the Constitution, has enacted PESA Act, 1996 to extend Part IX of the Constitution, relating to Panchayats, to the Fifth Schedule areas.
2. All the states with scheduled areas within their geographical boundaries were mandated to amend their existing Panchayati Raj acts incorporating provisions of PESA within a year. Presently, 10 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana, have Fifth Schedule Areas in their respective States.
3. **Out of the ten PESA States, only eight States (except Jharkhand and Odisha) have framed and notified their State PESA Rules under their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts.**
4. Significance of PESA rules Safeguard tribal culture and rights Building trust towards integration with mainstream Reducing grievance of tribal people Empowering gram sabhas in approving development plans Protect Ecosystem The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is the nodal Ministry for implementation of the provisions of PESA in the States

### BALIYATRA: CELEBRATING ODISHA’S ANCIENT LINKS WITH INDONESIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

1. During the G20 Summit, PM mentioned Baliyatra, one of the country’s largest open-air fairs. Baliyatra is organised every year to commemorate maritime and cultural links between ancient Kalinga (today’s Odisha) and Bali (Indonesia) and other South and Southeast Asian regions like Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Burma (Myanmar) and Ceylon (Sri Lanka).
2. It is celebrated on the banks of river Mahanadi and begins on Kartik Purnima (full moon day in October-November). The festival is similar to the ‘Masakapan Ke Tukad’ festival of Bali.
3. **About maritime history of Kalinga Empire-Kalidasa in Raghuvamsa referred to the King of Kalinga as ‘The Lord of the Sea’ (Mahodadhipati) highlighting their dominance over sea routes.** Due to its geographical location, Kalinga saw growth of ports as early as 4th and 5th century BC.
4. Some famous ports: Tamralipti, Manikpatna, Chelitalo, Palur, Pithunda, Dantapura, Kalinga Nagar etc. Kalingas constructed large boats called ‘Boitas’. Apart from South and Southeast Asia, trade links with East African and certain Arab countries were also present. Trade declined during Mughal and British rule.



*“You cannot save time.  
You can use it only ONCE!!!.”*

**DR. Khan**  
(KSG)