

# My Notes....

## NATIONAL

### PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL 2023 CLEARED

- The Parliament passed the **Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023**, a **first-ever legislation dedicated for digital privacy**.
- The government will appoint a **data protection board**, an independent body that will examine personal data breaches and impose penalties.

### DRAFT NATIONAL DEEP TECH STARTUP POLICY

- The **office of the Principal Scientific Adviser** to the Government put out a **draft National Deep Tech Startup Policy (NDTSP)**.
- The policy seeks to “**ensure India’s position in the global deep tech value chain**,” in areas such as **semiconductors, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and space tech**.

### OFFSHORE MINING AND MINERAL AUCTIONS

- The Council of States passed the **Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill (OAMDR), 2023**.
- The Bill represents a **transformative change** for the **offshore mining sector**, which has **remained largely inactive** since the enactment of the **OAMDR Act in 2002**.
- The amendment enables **the granting of production leases** to the private sector solely through **competitive bidding auctions**.

### ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME

- **Haryana's Nuh district** has achieved the **second position in Niti Aayog's 'Delta ranking'** under the **aspirational districts programme**.
- The programme aims at **uplifting and developing the most socio-economically challenged districts** in India, and this progress in **Nuh is certainly a step in the right direction**.
- **Health and nutrition**, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development and basic infrastructure are the **thrust areas of the programme**.

### HIGH RAINFALL TERMED AS A ‘CLOUDBURST’

- Following **heavy rains in Himachal Pradesh** on 14 August 2023, **landslides have occurred in the state** with at least 22 people dead.
- A **cloudburst is a localised but intense rainfall activity**. While it can also occur in **plains**, the phenomenon is **most common in hilly regions**.

## INTERNATIONAL

### MALABAR NAVAL EXERCISE HELD

- **India, Japan, the United States and Australia** hold the **Malabar navy exercise** off the coast of Sydney on 11 August 2023, the **first time the war games** previously held in the **Indian Ocean** have taken place in Australia.

## ‘SPONGE CITIES’ NOT STOPPED THE FLOODS

- **China** has been hit by **devastating floods, inundating cities** and **causing deaths** and **infrastructural damage**, as well as raising questions about the effectiveness of its 2015 “**sponge city**” initiative aimed at **reducing urban flood risks**.
- The “**sponge city**” initiative was designed to make greater use of lower-impact “**nature-based solutions**” to better **distribute water** and **improve drainage and storage**.

## ECONOMY

### India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX)

- The government of Telangana, in collaboration with the **World Economic Forum** and the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** launched **India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX)** in Hyderabad on 11th August 2023.
- Developed as a **digital public infrastructure (DPI)** for the agriculture sector, **ADeX** is an **open-source, open-standard, and inter-operable public good**.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### INDIA'S FIRST 5G WIRELESS WI-FI

- **Bharti Airtel** announced the launch of **Airtel Xstream AirFiber, India's first 5G wireless Wi-Fi services** designed to **provide internet** to areas **without fibre-based internet connections**.
- This new offering will provide **fixed wireless access (FWA)** to homes lacking **fixed line internet**.

### RUSSIA'S LUNA-25 MISSION

- **Russia** was launched its **first moon-landing spacecraft** in **47 years** on 11 August 2023.
- **The Luna-25 mission** is scheduled to land on the Moon on 23 August 2023, the same day as Chandrayaan-3's planned landing.

### ISRO'S SPACE PROBE TO STUDY THE SUN

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro)** on 14 August 2023 released **images of the Aditya-L1 mission** — the space agency's **first attempt to study the Sun**.
- The **Aditya-L1** will **observe the Sun** from a **close distance**, and try to obtain information **about its atmosphere and magnetic field**.
- **L1** refers to **Lagrangian/Lagrange Point 1**, one of **five points** in the orbital plane of the Earth-Sun system.
- **Lagrange Points** are positions in space where the **gravitational forces of a two-body system** (like the Sun and the Earth) produce enhanced regions of **attraction and repulsion**.

### NEW IPCC ASSESSMENT CYCLE BEGINS

- The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** on 28 July 2023 concluded its elections, marking the beginning of the **seventh assessment cycle**.
- It was **established in 1988** by the **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)** and the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)**

## ISRO ROCKET DEBRIS ON AUSTRALIAN SHORE

- A **large object** found on the **shores of Western Australia** has been confirmed to be the **debris of an Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) rocket**.
- **ISRO has agreed with the assessment**, saying the **debris could be from one of its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rockets**.

## CERT-IN FLAGGED AKIRA RANSOMWARE

- The central government's **Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** issued an **advisory flagging** the emergence of a **new ransomware** called **Akira**.
- **Ransomware** is essentially a **kind of malware** — **software used to gain unauthorised access** to systems to steal data. This data can then be used by **cyber criminals** to demand a ransom.

## ROOM TEMPERATURE SUPERCONDUCTIVITY

- **Two South Korean researchers** claiming that a **lead-based compound** they had developed had shown **superconducting properties at room temperature**, under **normal pressure conditions**.
- **Superconductivity** refers to a **state in which a material offers zero, or near-zero, resistance to electric current**.

## SATELLITE BUS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO PRIVATE FIRM

- **ISRO** on 5 August 2023 said it has **transferred the IMS-1 Satellite Bus Technology** to **Alpha Design Technologies Pvt. Ltd** in a step towards enhancing private industry participation in the country's space sector.
- **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, the commercial arm of ISRO, **facilitated the technology transfer** through **an agreement signed**.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### AIR POLLUTION DRIVING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

- **Tiny, invisible particles**, smaller than **30 times the breadth of human hair**, wreak damage to **more than 7.5 billion people's health globally** called **PM2.5**, were to drive the **next global public health threat** — **antibiotic resistance**, when **disease-causing bacteria** become **uniquely immune to drugs**.

### WHO REPORT ON TOBACCO CONTROL MEASURES

- **Bengaluru** finds special mention in a **World Health Organisation (WHO) report on tobacco control measures**.
- Fifteen years ago, WHO had developed the **MPOWER measures** – **monitor tobacco use and prevention policies; protect people from tobacco smoke; offer help to quit tobacco; warn about dangers of tobacco; enforce bans on tobacco advertising; and raise taxes on tobacco products**.
- The report assesses the **implementation of these measures**.

## QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT DAY 2023

- The **Quit India Movement**, also known as the **August Movement** or **Bharat Chodo Andolan**, was a **significant civil disobedience movement** launched by **Mahatma Gandhi** and the Indian National Congress on 8 August 1942.
- The movement aimed to **demand an end to British colonial rule in India** and **achieve full independence**.
- On this day, 8<sup>th</sup> August, in 1942, Gandhi gave the famous "**Do or Die**" **speech**, urging the Indian people to act decisively and **nonviolently against British rule**.

## MANIPUR POLICE HAVE FILED AN FIR AGAINST AR

- **Police in Manipur** have **registered an FIR** accusing the **Assam Rifles (AR)** of **preventing police** from **doing their duty**.
- The **AR** is **one of the six central armed police forces (CAPFs)** under the **administrative control** of the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- The other **five forces** are the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, **Border Security Force (BSF)**, **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**, **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** and **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**.

## KATCHATHEEVU ISLAND A POLITICAL ISSUE

- **Katchatheevu** is a **285-acre uninhabited speck in the Palk Strait**, between India and Sri Lanka.
- It is **no more than 1.6 km in length** and **slightly over 300 m wide** at its broadest point.
- It lies **northeast of Rameswaram**, about 33 km from the Indian coast. It is about **62 km southwest of Jaffna**, at the **northern tip of Sri Lanka**, and 24 km away from the **inhabited Delft Island**, belonging to Sri Lanka.