

# My Notes....

## NATIONAL

### ARTICLE 370 ABROGATION UPHELD

- The **Supreme Court** in a **5-0 unanimous ruling** upheld the **Centre's abrogation of Article 370** of the Constitution
- The **SC held** that **J&K did not retain any element of sovereignty** after its **accession to India** in 1947.
- The Supreme Court held that **Article 370** is a **temporary, transitional provision**.
- The **Supreme Court** upheld both the **presidential proclamations of August 2019**.

### NEW DELHI DECLARATION ON AI

- The **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)**, an **alliance of 29 members**, has unanimously adopted the **New Delhi declaration** underscoring the **need to mitigate risks arising from the development and deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) systems**, and **promoting equitable access to critical resources** for **AI innovation**, including **computing** and **high-quality diverse datasets**.
- The **New Delhi declaration** has attempted to find a **balance between innovation and the risks associated with AI systems**.

### INDIA IS BUILDING ITS OWN 'SOVEREIGN AI'

- **India** has **pitched itself as a country** that has **effectively used technology** to **develop and deliver governance solutions** at a mass scale.
- **With sovereign AI** and an **AI compute infrastructure** (the software and hardware needed to build **AI-powered systems**), the government is **not looking to just compete with the generative AI type of model**.
- It also wants to focus on **real-life use cases** in **healthcare, agriculture, governance, language translation**, etc, to **maximise economic development**.

### INDIA NOT PARTY TO GREEN PLEDGE

- **India didn't sign** the **Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge** that aims to **triple global renewable energy capacity** and **double the rate of energy efficiency by 2030**.
- The pledge is part of **efforts to undertake measures** that will help tackle **climate change** and accelerate the transition to a **low-carbon economy**.

### PRESIDENT MURMU ADVOCATES FOR ALL INDIA JUDICIAL SERVICE

- **President Droupadi Murmu** called for an **"all-India judicial service"** to **recruit judges**, saying this will help **make the judiciary diverse** by increasing representation from **marginalised social groups**.
- **Article 312** of the Constitution provides for the **establishment of an All-India Judicial Service (AIJS)**, along the **lines of the central civil services**.
- If the **Rajya Sabha declares through a resolution**, supported by **at least two-thirds of its present and voting members**, that it is necessary or expedient to create a service in **"national interest"**.

### REVISED CRIMINAL REFORM BILLS IN PARLIAMENT

- The Centre introduced **three revised criminal reform Bills** in Lok Sabha, **withdrawing the previous versions**, introduced in August this year.

- In August 2023, **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** had introduced **three Bills** in Lok Sabha to **replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860**; the **Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973** (originally enacted in **1898**); and the **Indian Evidence Act, 1872**.
- The new bills—**Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023**, to replace the IPC; **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023**, for CrPC; and **Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) Bill, 2023**, for the Indian Evidence Act—were subsequently referred to a standing committee the same day.

## 2001 PARLIAMENT ATTACK

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, on 13 December 2023, **paid tributes** to the **security personnel martyred** during the **Parliament attack, exactly 22 years ago** to this date.

## INTERNATIONAL

### ARTICLE 99 OF THE UN CHARTER

- **Amid Israel's ongoing military attacks** on the **Gaza Strip**, particularly in its **southern region**, **United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** has **invoked Article 99** of the **UN Charter** in a bid to **establish a ceasefire**.
- The **UN Charter** is the **founding document of the United Nations**. Based on the **powers conferred through it**, the **UN can take action** on a **wide variety of issues**.
- The **Charter** is considered an **international treaty**, meaning **UN Member States are "bound by it"**. However, in practice, there is little that **member countries can be forced to do**.

### GREEN CREDITS SCHEME

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **an initiative** focusing on **generating Green Credits** through **plantation on degraded wasteland at COP28**.
- The **Green Credits Programme**, launched by the **Environment Ministry** in October this year, is an effort to **create a market-based incentive** for different kinds of **environment-positive actions**, not just for **carbon emission reductions**.
- **Unlike the carbon markets**, which are more focused at industry and corporations, **green credit programme** can benefit individuals and communities as well.

### GLOBAL COOLING PLEDGE AT COP28

- **Sixty-three countries**, including **the US, Canada, and Kenya**, signed up to the **world's first-ever pledge** to drastically **cut cooling emissions** at the **ongoing COP28 climate summit**.
- The **Global Cooling Pledge** commits the countries to **reduce their cooling emissions** by at least **68% by 2050** and **outlines several strategies to tackle them**.
- **Cooling emissions** are essentially **emissions generated from refrigerants**, used in **appliances like ACs and refrigerators**, and the **energy used for cooling**.

## ECONOMY

### LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND APPROVED

- On the **COP28 climate conference** in **Dubai**, a **loss and damage fund** to **help vulnerable countries** cope with the **impact of climate change** has been **officially launched**.
- The **loss and damage fund** is a **global financial package** to ensure **the rescue and rehabilitation** of countries facing the **cascading effects of climate change**.

### CLIMATE FINANCE

- The **United Arab Emirates**, which is **hosting the ongoing COP28 climate summit**, announced on 1 December 2023 that **it would contribute \$30 billion** to a **new fund** aiming to **divert private sector capital** towards **climate investments** and improve financing for the **Global South**.
- **Climate finance** refers to **large-scale investments** required for **actions** aiming to **mitigate or adapt** to the **consequences of climate change**.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### CENTER NOTIFIES GUIDELINES AGAINST 'DARK PATTERNS'

- The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)**, the **country's top consumer watchdog**, has notified guidelines for the "**prevention and regulation**" of **dark patterns**.
- **Dark patterns** are **tactics** used by **online platforms** to **mislead customers** and **prevent them from making right choices**.
- The **Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023**, issued under **section 18** of the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**, have been notified by the CCPA in the Official Gazette on 30 November 2023.

### CHANDRAYAAN-3'S PROPULSION MODULE BACK

- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has successfully **brought the propulsion module (PM)** from the **Chandrayaan-3 mission back to Earth's orbit**.
- The **main function of PM** is to **carry the LM** (lander module) **from launch vehicle injection till final lunar 100 km circular polar orbit** and separate the **LM from PM**.

### CARBON CAPTURE

- **Lots of industrial facilities** like **coal-fired power plants** and **ethanol plants** produce **carbon dioxide**.
- To stop those **planet-warming emissions** from reaching the atmosphere, businesses can install equipment to **separate that gas from all the other gases** coming out of the **smokestack**, and **transport it to where it can be permanently stored underground**.
- And even for industries trying to **reduce emissions**, some are likely to always produce **some carbon**, like **cement manufacturers** that use a **chemical process** that **releases CO2**.

### GOOGLE GEMINI

- **Google Gemini**, a **new multimodal general AI model** that the **tech giant** calls its **most powerful yet**, is now **available to users across the world through Bard**, some developer platforms and even the **new Google Pixel 8 Pro devices**.

## WORLD'S FIRST LAW ON REGULATING AI

- The **EU** reached a provisional deal on the **world's first set of comprehensive laws** to regulate the **use of artificial intelligence (AI)** between the **European Parliament** and the **EU member states**.
- **The legislation** includes **safeguards on the use of AI within the EU**, including clear guardrails on its adoption by **law enforcement agencies**, and consumers have been empowered **to launch complaints against any perceived violations**.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### NCRB 2022 REPORT

- The **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** released its **annual report on crime in India for the year 2022** on 3 December 2023.
- The report is a **compilation of data on reported crime from across the country**, and provides the **big picture of broad trends in crime registration**.
- **In 2022**, a "total of **58,24,946 cognizable crimes** comprising **35,61,379 Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes** and **22,63,567 Special & Local Laws (SLL) crimes** were registered".

### 'CASH FOR KIDNEY' RACKET

- **Apollo Hospitals chain** is allegedly involved in an **international 'cash for kidney' racket**, in which **impoverished people from Myanmar** are **lured to sell their kidneys for profit**, an investigation carried out by the **UK's Telegraph newspaper** has revealed.

### MINING FOR CRITICAL MINERALS

- **Twenty blocks of critical minerals** are **currently on auction** for **commercial mining** by the **private sector**.
- The mineral blocks contain **lithium ore**, which has use in **batteries and electric vehicles**, and **another 10 of the 30 minerals** that the government declared as "**critical**" in July.

### INDIA'S FIRST POMPE DISEASE PATIENT PASSES AWAY

- **Nidhi Shirol, India's first Pompe disease patient**, passed away at the **age of 24 years** after **battling the disease**. She spent the **last six years** in a **semi-comatose state**.
- Pompe disease is also known as **Glycogen Storage Disease Type II**, **Pompe disease** is a **rare genetic disorder** caused by a **deficiency of the enzyme acid alpha-glucosidase (GAA)**.
- This enzyme is crucial for **breaking down glycogen into glucose** within the **lysosomes of cells**.

### UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- **Seventy-five years ago** on 10 December, the **UN General Assembly** approved the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** at a meeting in **Paris** – laying one of the **foundation stones of the international order** that emerged following the **horrors of World War II**.
- A relatively **compact document**, the declaration consists of a **preamble and 30 articles** setting out **fundamental rights and freedoms**.