

# My Notes....

## NATIONAL

### INDIA'S FIRST DOMESTIC REGULATED CARBON MARKET

- The **union government**, through a **gazette notification**, approved the formation of **India's first domestic regulated carbon market** (Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023).
- A **carbon credit** allows its owner to emit that certain amount of **carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases**. **One credit is equivalent to one ton of carbon dioxide** or the equivalent in other greenhouse gases.

### DATA PROTECTION BILL APPROVED

- The **Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022** approved by the Cabinet **Nearly six years** after the **Supreme Court held privacy to be a fundamental right**.
- It is a **crucial pillar** of the overarching framework of technology regulations the Centre is building, which also includes the **Digital India Bill** — the **proposed successor to the Information Technology Act, 2000**, the **draft Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022**, and a **policy for non-personal data governance**.

### PARTY SYMBOL IN CASE OF SPILT

- **Party symbols** come under the purview of the **Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968**, that aims "**to provide for specification, reservation, choice and allotment of symbols** at elections in Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies, for the recognition of **political parties** in relation thereto and for matters connected therewith".
- The ECI holds the authority **to recognise and allot party symbols**, even during a dispute.

### INDIA JOINS CHAMPIONS GROUP OF GCRG

- **India** has joined the champions group of the **Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG)** following an **invitation from UN Secretary-General** Antonio Guterres to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **The GCRG** was set up by the **UN Secretary-General (UNSG)** in March last year to address **urgent and critical global issues** such as **food and energy security challenges**.

## INTERNATIONAL

### NEWEST MEMBER OF THE SCO

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** welcomed **Iran as the newest member** of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** at the virtual summit of the grouping on 4 July 2023.
- The grouping **came into existence in Shanghai in 2001** with **six members, minus India and Pakistan** (became member in 2017).

### INDIA SIGNS THE US-LED ARTEMIS ACCORDS

- **India signed** the **three-year-old Artemis Accords**, a **US-led international partnership on planetary exploration and research**.
- The Accords have been signed by **26 countries till now**, including Japan, Australia, the UK, France, and Canada.
- A **set of 13 principles**, the Artemis Accords is closely linked to the **Artemis Program**, which aims **to return astronauts to the lunar surface**, build a space camp there, and carry out **deep space exploration**.

### US FORMALLY REJOIN UNESCO

- The **United States** on 11 July 2023 formally **rejoined** the **UN's scientific, educational and cultural organization** after a **five-year absence**.

- **UNESCO is a UN agency** tasked with **furthering international cooperation and peace** through the **promotion of educational, scientific and cultural causes**. The **United States was a founding member of UNESCO** in 1945.

## US GOVT OPEN TO STUDYING GEOENGINEERING

- **Solar radiation management (SRM)** — strategies that seek to **control how much sunlight reaches the Earth** — is part of a controversial concept called '**geoengineering**' that has caught the fancy of some sections as a **potential solution to global warming**.
- **Geoengineering** is broadly divided into **two categories** — **technologies for capturing carbon** (carbon dioxide removal) and **methods for managing how much of the Sun's heat reaches the Earth**.

## ECONOMY

### INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE RUPEE

- The **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) inter-departmental group (IDG)** said the rupee has the **potential to become an internationalised currency**.
- **Internationalisation** is a process that **involves increasing the use of the rupee in cross-border transactions**.
- It involves **promoting the rupee for import and export trade** and then **other current account transactions**, followed by its use in **capital account transactions**. These are all transactions **between residents in India and non-residents**.

### INDIA IS AT FOREFRONT OF GLOBAL TRADE FACILITATION EFFORTS

- **India is at the forefront of global trade facilitation efforts**; with an **impressive score of 93.55 per cent in 2023** vis a vis 90.32 per cent in 2021, as per the released **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP) Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation**.
- The 2023 survey covers **more than 140 economies** and **evaluates 60 trade facilitation measures**.

### UNIFORM 28% ON ONLINE GAMING

- The **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council**, in its **50th meeting**, decided to **levy a uniform 28 per cent tax on full face value for online gaming, casinos and horse-racing**.
- So far, **lottery, betting, and gambling** were classified as **actionable claims**. Now, **horse racing and online gaming will be added**.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### INDIA'S THIRD UNMANNED LUNAR MISSION

- India's third unmanned lunar mission, **Chandrayaan-3**, aimed at **exploring the south polar region of the moon**, soared into the sky successfully as planned from the second launch pad of the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) by LVM-3**.
- The precise goal is to make a **soft and safe landing on the lunar surface**, and if the mission is successful, **India will only be the fourth country** to have achieved the feat, joining the elite club of the US, Russia, and China.

### UNIVERSE HAS A BACKGROUND 'HUM'

- An **international group of scientists** has made a **groundbreaking discovery** that confirms the **existence of gravitational waves** first **envisioned by Albert Einstein**.
- The recent research heavily **relied on pulsars**, which are the **highly dense remnants of exploded stars** spinning at extraordinary speeds.
- **Einstein** initially proposed **the existence of gravitational waves**, or **ripples** in space-time, in **1916** as an extension of his revolutionary **theory of general relativity**.

## INTERNET APOCALYPSE

- **People on Earth can be left without the internet for several months** as a new possibility of **internet apocalypse** has emerged **due to a solar storm**.
- **For the first time**, NASA's **Parker Solar Probe (PSP)** completed a **groundbreaking mission to travel through the solar winds in space**.
- **Solar storms** are simply the **atmospheric impacts felt on earth due to the winds that generate near the sun**.

## GUIDELINES FOR 'DARK PATTERNS'

- The government has set up a **17-member task force** to prepare guidelines on protecting consumers against **"dark patterns"**.
- **Dark patterns**, also known as **deceptive patterns**, is the term used **to describe the ways in which websites or apps make their users do things** that the users do not intend to do.

## CENTRE IDENTIFIES 30 CRITICAL MINERALS

- In a **strategic move**, the Centre has **identified 30 critical minerals**, including **lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, tin and copper**, which are **essential for the country's economic development and national security**.
- The **identification of these minerals** was done on the basis of a report on **critical minerals prepared by an expert team** constituted by the **Ministry of Mines**.

## CARBON MOLECULES DETECTED IN SPACE MATTERS

- The **CH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> molecule**, which is also known as **methyl cation**, has been **detected in space for the first time** by the **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)**.
- **CH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> is a very simple organic molecule** just **one carbon atom and 3 hydrogen** atoms. But **it reacts with other molecules** to form more complex ones. Its presence in space tells us that **basic building blocks for life** are out there.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLY CREMATION

- UK's largest cremation provider Co-operative **Funeralcare** has come out with a plan to offer its customers **water cremation** or **resomation**.
- **Water cremation** is a **process of cremation** in which the body of the deceased is put in a **biodegradable pouch**, which is put in a container with **pressurized water and potassium hydroxide**.
- The **tissues and cells of the body** are **converted into a watery solution**. The **bones, dental implants, prosthetics**, and other hard things are left in **sterile water**.

### THE TWO 'MOSAIC' VIRUSES HIT TOMATO CROP

- **Tomato growers in Maharashtra and Karnataka** have blamed **two different viruses** for the **loss of yields** earlier this year.
- Farmers in Maharashtra have said their tomato crop was impacted by attacks of the **cucumber mosaic virus (CMV)**, while **growers in Karnataka and other South Indian states** have blamed the **tomato mosaic virus (ToMV)** for crop losses.

### INDIA'S FIRST VEDIC-THEMED PARK UNVEILED

- **India's first Vedic-themed park** has been opened to the public in **Noida's Sector 78**, inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath.
- Known as the **Ved Van Park**, the place is home to **over 50,000 plants**, such as **banyan, kalpavriksha, and coconut**, which have been mentioned in **Vedic literature**.

## INDIA'S REMARKABLE REDUCTION IN POVERTY: UN

- According to the **United Nations**, India has witnessed a **remarkable achievement in poverty reduction**, with a **staggering 415 million individuals transitioning** out of poverty within a **relatively short span of 15 years**, from 2005/2006 to 2019/2021.
- The **global MPI monitors poverty reduction and informs policy**, showing how people **experience poverty in different aspects** of their daily lives - from **access to education and health** to living standards such as **housing, drinking water, sanitation, and electricity**.

## CAUSED FOR RECENT HEAVY RAINFALL

- The **weather department** has attributed the **heavy rainfall over Chandigarh** and its adjoining areas to a **Western Disturbance (WD)**, which hit the **northern parts of India**.
- A **WD is a storm originating from the Mediterranean region**, completely **different from the monsoon**.

## FRANCE'S HIGHEST DECORATION FOR PM

- French President **Emmanuel Macron** conferred his **country's highest honour**, the **Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour**, upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The **National Order of the Legion of Honour**, or simply **The Legion of Honour** is the **highest French decoration**, both **civil and military**, and is one of the most famous national honours in the world.

## STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR GUILLAIN-BARRÉ SYNDROME

- The **Peruvian government** has declared a **state of national emergency** for up to **three months**, due to a spike in the number of cases of a **rare neurological disorder** called **Guillain-Barré Syndrome**.
- **Guillain-Barré Syndrome** is a **rare neurological disorder** where the **body's immune system** — which normally protects it from infections and other foreign bodies — **mistakenly attacks its own peripheral nerve cells**.

## IMO ADOPTS INTERIM GUIDANCE ON BIOFUELS' USE

- The **International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** has adopted **interim guidance** on the **use of biofuels and biofuel blends**, a resolution vehemently pushed by India at a **maritime environment protection conference**.
- The **London-based IMO** is a **specialised agency of the United Nations** which is responsible for measures **to improve the safety and security of international shipping** and **to prevent pollution from ships**.

## IN-SPACE ISSUES EOI FOR SSLV TECH TRANSFER

- The **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)** issued an **expression of interest (EOI)** for **transfer of technology (ToT)** of the **small satellite launch vehicle (SSLV)** to Indian private players.
- This **first-of-its-kind ToT** is a significant milestone for the Indian Space sector.