

# My Notes....

## NATIONAL

### MAHIR IN POWER SECTOR

- The **Ministry of Power** and the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** have jointly launched a **National Mission to quickly identify emerging technologies** in the power sector and develop them indigenously, at scale, for deployment within and outside India.
- The **National Mission**, titled “**Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research (MAHIR)**” aims to facilitate **indigenous research, development and demonstration** of the latest and emerging technologies in the power sector.

### KERALA FIBRE OPTICAL NETWORK (KFON)

- The **Kerala government** on 5 June 2023 officially launched the **Kerala Fibre Optical Network (KFON)**.
- **Through KFON**, Kerala, which was the **first state** to declare the **right to internet as a basic right**, aims to **reduce the digital divide** by ensuring **high speed broadband internet** access to all houses and government offices.

### NATIONAL INSTITUTE RANKING FRAMEWORK (NIRF) 2023

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras** retained the **top spot** in the **National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF), 2023** for the **fifth consecutive year**.
- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, Bengaluru has been ranked as the **best university**.

### WORLD'S LARGEST GRAIN STORAGE PLAN UNVEILED

- The **Union Cabinet** approved the constitution of an **Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC)** to facilitate the “**world’s largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector**”.
- At present, **India has a foodgrain storage capacity of 145 million metric tonnes (MMT)** against the **total food production of 311 MMT**—leaving a gap of 166 MMT.
- In the absence of **sufficient storage facilities**, foodgrains are sometimes stored in the open, which results in damage.

### VAIBHAV FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

- The Government has launched a **new fellowship programme to connect the Indian STEMM diaspora with Indian academic and R&D institutions for collaborative research** work leading to sharing of knowledge, wisdom, and best practices in the frontier areas of science & technology.
- The **Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) fellowships programme** to be implemented by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology**.

## INTERNATIONAL

### IRAN-TALIBAN WATER CONFLICT

- **Iran and Afghanistan** are locked in a **long-standing dispute** over the **sharing of water from the Helmand River**.
- The **Helmand is Afghanistan’s longest river**. It **originates near Kabul** in the western **Hindu Kush mountain range** and flows in a **southwesterly direction**.

## MEGA WARGAME

- The **navies of India, France and the United Arab Emirates** have carried out a **two-day mega wargame** in the **Gulf of Oman** reflecting their growing cooperation **to deal with challenges in the maritime sphere**.
- It was the **first edition** of the wargame involving navies of the three countries.

## CARBON TAX AT WTO FORMALLY NOTIFIED

- The **European Union (EU)** has **formally notified** the implementation of **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** at the **WTO members of the committee** on trade and environment.
- **CBAM or carbon tax** is seen as a **protectionist move** made by Europe and is **feared to impact \$8 billion worth of Indian exports**, especially steel and aluminum sector.

## US WANTS TO REJOIN UNESCO

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)** announced on 12 June 2023 that the **United States will rejoin it in July**, four years after it left the agency (along with Israel).
- **UNESCO is a UN agency** tasked with **furthering international cooperation and peace** through the **promotion of educational, scientific and cultural causes**.

## ECONOMY

### 'LIGHTWEIGHT' PAYMENTS SYSTEM

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has conceptualised a **lightweight payment and settlements system**, which it is calling a **"bunker"** equivalent of digital payments, which **can be operated from anywhere by a bare minimum staff in exigencies** such as natural calamities or war.
- The infrastructure for this system will be **independent of the technologies** that underlie the existing systems of payments such as **UPI, NEFT, and RTGS**.

### RBI GOVERNOR NAMED 'GOVERNOR OF THE YEAR'

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** Governor **Shaktikanta Das** was awarded the **"Governor of the Year"** at the **Central Banking Awards 2023** in London.
- **Central Banking** is a London-based **international economic research journal**.
- Das is the **second RBI governor** to receive the award **after Raghuram Rajan**, who was given the title **in 2015**.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### AGNI-1 MISSILE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED

- **India** conducted a **"successful launch"** of the **medium-range Agni-1 missile** from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast on 1 June 2023.
- The **"training launch"** of the **Agni-1**, which has a **strike range of 700km**, was conducted by the tri-service **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)**.

1- June- 2023

- The **SFC**, which was set up to handle the country's nuclear arsenal in 2003, currently has the **Prithvi-II (350km range)**, **Agni-1 (700-km)**, **Agni-2 (2,000-km)**, **Agni-3 (3,000-km)** and **Agni-4 (4,000-km)** ballistic missiles.

## INDIA'S OVERHAUL OF INTERNET LAWS

- The most important law is the Draft of **Digital India Bill**, which will be the successor to the **decades-old Information Technology Act, 2000**, the **country's core Internet law**.

## KAVACH

- **KAVACH** is a **state-of-the-art electronic system** which was designed to help the Indian Railways achieve **Zero Accidents**.
- It is an **Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system** which has been indigenously developed by the **Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO)** in collaboration with the Indian industry.
- It **activates the train braking system automatically** if the driver fails to control the train as per the speed restrictions.

## NEW-GENERATION AGNI-PRIME MISSILE TESTED

- '**Agni Prime**', the **new-generation ballistic missile**, was successfully flight-tested from an **island off the Odisha coast** on 7 June 2023 night.
- **Agni-P** is a **two-stage canisterised solid propellant ballistic missile** with dual redundant navigation and guidance system.
- It has a **range 1000 to 2000 km** and was tested for the **first time in June 2021**. It is lighter than all the earlier Agni series of missiles.

## FIRST MISSION TO CATCHES THE SOLAR WIND

- **Data** from the **Parker Solar Probe** has **uncovered the source of solar wind**, a stream of **energized particles** that **flow from the corona**, or the **sun's hot outer atmosphere**, toward Earth.
- **Solar wind** is a **continuous outflow of plasma**, which contains **charged particles** like **protons and electrons**.

## LEPTOSPIROSIS SURGES IN THE MONSOON

- **Leptospirosis** has emerged as an **important infectious disease** in the world today. It is a potentially **fatal zoonotic bacterial disease** that tends to have large outbreaks after heavy rainfall or flooding.
- The disease is caused by a bacterium called **Leptospira interrogans, or leptospira**. It is a **contagious disease in animals** but is **occasionally transmitted to humans in certain environmental conditions**.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2023

- The **World Environment Day (5 June 2023)** hosted under the **United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)**, marks a day to **raise awareness and action** about the **environmental catastrophes of the modern world**.
- In **1972**, a conference held by the **United Nations in Stockholm** was the **first UN conference** which had the environment as its major agenda. It also recognised the **right to live in a healthy environment** as the **basic right of any human being**.

## **CYCLONE BIPARJOY**

- **Developed in the Arabian Sea, cyclone Biparjoy is heading towards the northern Gujarat coast, with landfall on 15 June 2023.**
- **A cyclone is a large-scale system of air that rotates around the centre of a low-pressure area. It is usually accompanied by violent storms and bad weather.**

## **INDIA TOPS DIGITAL PAYMENTS RANKINGS GLOBALLY**

- **India has topped the global rankings in digital payments for the year 2022, data from govt's citizen engagement platform MyGovIndia showed on 10 June 2023.**
- **Brazil took the second place, with the country clocking 29.2 million digital transactions. China followed at third spot with 17.6 million transactions.**

## **GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX**

- **According to the Global Slavery Index 2023, on any given day in 2021, as many as 50 million people were living in “modern slavery”.**
- **Among these 50 million, 28 million suffer from forced labour and 22 million from forced marriages. Of these 50 million, 12 million are children.**
- **“Modern slavery” refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, or abuses of power.**

## **90% OF PEOPLE HAVE GENDER BIASES: UN**

- **The latest Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) report has revealed that while about 90% of men and women hold gender biases, the proportion holding a bias is least on the subject of women's education, just 28%.**