

My Notes....

NATIONAL

CENTRE PASSES ORDINANCE TO NULLIFY SC DECISION

- The President Promulgated the **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023** on 19 May 2023.
- The Ordinance creates a **new statutory authority** – the **National Capital Civil Service Authority (NCCSA)** – which will be **headed by the elected Chief Minister of Delhi** in addition to the Chief Secretary and the Principal Secretary of the Home department.
- The NCCSA will make **“recommendations” to the LG** regarding “transfer posting, vigilance and other incidental matters.”

IMMUNITY UNDER THE PRESIDENT’S NAME

- The **Supreme Court** has held that the government, when **entering into a contract under the President’s name, cannot claim immunity from the legal provisions** of that contract under **Article 299 of the Constitution.**

TELANGANA- ANDHRA PRADESH (AP) WATER DISPUTE

- **Water-sharing disputes** regarding sharing of **Krishna basin water** between both states have been unresolved even **nine years** after the bifurcation of combined State in 2014.
- **In 1969, Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-I (KWDT)** was set up under **Inter-State River Water Dispute Act, 1956.**
- **KWDT-II**, instituted **in 2004**, made allocations of **Krishna water** at 65 percent dependability and for surplus flows as follows: 81 TMC for Maharashtra, 177 TMC for Karnataka, and 190 TMC for AP.

NATIONAL TIGER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FORMED CPSC

- The 11 member **Cheetah Project Steering Committee (CPSC)**, comprising national and international experts constituted to oversee the implementation of **Project Cheetah** will be in force for two years.
- **‘Project Cheetah’** is the **world’s first inter-continental** large wild carnivore translocation project.
- Since Cheetah is a **keystone species** the project was expected to restore open forest and grassland ecosystems, **conserve biodiversity**, etc.

FOUCAULT’S PENDULUM IN THE NEW PARLIAMENT

- Suspended from the ceiling of the Central Foyer of **India’s new Parliament building**, inaugurated on 29 May 2023, is a **Foucault pendulum** that all but **touches the floor** as it rotates on its axis.
- **Foucault pendulum** created by the **National Council of Science Museum (NCSM)** in Kolkata, **the pendulum** is being **dubbed as the largest such piece in India**, 22 metre in height, and weighing a staggering 36 kg.

INTERNATIONAL

INDIA’S ROLE IN G20’S DISASTER MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

- The **G20 under India’s Presidency** has endorsed a **new working group on disaster risk reduction.**

- This makes it to **prioritise disaster risk financing** to achieve the **targets set by Sendai framework for 2030**.

THE FIPIC SUMMIT 2023

- The PM visited in the capital city of **Port Moresby for his first visit to the Papua New Guinea**, the **first by any Indian prime minister**, for the **Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) summit, 2023**.
- The **Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)** was launched during PM Modi's **visit to Fiji** in November 2014.
- **FIPIC includes 14 island countries** – Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu – that are **located in the Pacific Ocean**, to the **northeast of Australia**.

IPEF AGREEMENT ON SUPPLY CHAIN COOPERATION

- The **14 partner countries** of the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)**, **including India**, have successfully concluded negotiations for an **international supply chain agreement**.
- The **IPEF**, launched by the **US and 12 other countries in May 2022**, is a grouping that comprises **more than 40 per cent of global GDP**.

ECONOMY

RBI'S 'CLEAN NOTE POLICY'

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to **withdraw the Rs 2,000 note** after only **seven years of circulation** under the 'Clean Note Policy'.
- The **goal of the RBI's Clean Note Policy** is to provide citizens with **high-quality currency notes and coins** while **removing worn-out notes from circulation**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NEW NAVIC SATELLITE LAUNCHED

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** launched the **first of the second-generation satellites** for its **navigation constellation** successfully on 29 May 2023.
- The **second-generation satellite** — christened **NVS-01**, the **first of ISRO's NVS series of payloads** — is heavier.
- **NavIC** provides coverage over the Indian landmass and up to a **radius of 1,500 km around it**.

INDIA'S FIRST POLARIMETRY MISSION

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation** is collaborating with the **Raman Research Institute (RRI)**, to build the **X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat)**.
- **XPoSat will study various dynamics of bright astronomical X-ray sources** in extreme conditions.
- It has been billed as **India's first**, and **only the world's second polarimetry mission** that is meant to study various dynamics of **bright astronomical X-ray sources** in extreme conditions.

ASTR TO DETECT PHONE FRAUDS

- The Department of Telecommunications (**DoT**) has developed an **artificial-intelligence-based facial recognition tool**.

- The tool called **Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification (ASTR)** can **potentially bring down cyber frauds** by **detecting and blocking** possible fraudulent mobile connections.

INDIA'S SUPERCOMPUTING AMBITIONS

- **India** is today **home to 23 supercomputers** — **powerful computers** that are primarily used for **scientific and engineering work** that demands **ultra high-speed computations**.
- Although **indigenous development of supercomputers began in 1980** — with the involvement of organisations such as **BARC, C-DAC and C-DOT**, among others — it was the launch of the **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) in 2015** that accelerated efforts in a big way.

INDIAN NAVY ACHIEVES HISTORIC MILESTONE

- The **Indian Navy** test pilots on 25 May 2023, achieved **another historic milestone** when the **MiG-29K made its maiden night landing** on the **country's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant**.
- This is the most **complex warship ever built in India** which was built by **Cochin shipyard Limited** and was designed by the **Warship Design Bureau of the Indian Navy**.

'DISEASE X' CAUSE A 'DEADLIER PANDEMIC'

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** announced that **COVID-19 was no longer a global health emergency**, expert's fear that **"Disease X" can lead to an "even deadlier" pandemic**.
- According to the WHO, **"Disease X represents the knowledge that a serious international epidemic could be caused by a pathogen currently unknown to cause human disease**.
- The term, **which was coined in 2018**, is on WHO's shortlist of **'priority diseases'**.

MISCELLANEOUS

SIKKIM DAY CELEBRATED

- **Sikkim day** is annually celebrated on **16 May**, recalling the history of the **former kingdom's integration with India in 1975**.
- This year too, political leaders conveyed their messages, marking the day **India's the 22nd state joined the union**.

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS JALLIKATTU SPORT

- A **five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court** has upheld the amendments made by **Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka to The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960**, allowing **Jallikattu, Kambala, and bullock-cart races**.
- The court **overturned the verdict** of a two-judge Bench in **'Welfare Board of India v. A. Nagaraja' (2014)**, which had banned practices such as **Jallikattu**, the **traditional bull-taming sport of the Pongal harvest festival**.

FREEING OF 'DOTTED LANDS'

- The **Andhra Pradesh government** has started removing **"dotted lands"** in the state from the **prohibited list**, restoring **full rights of selling** or pledging these lands to the farmers who own them.
- **Dotted lands** are **disputed lands** for which **there are no clear ownership documents**.

WORKING OF NARCO TEST

- **Protesting wrestlers at Jantar Mantar** on 22 May 2023 said **they were willing to undergo a narco analysis test**, provided it **was monitored by the Supreme Court**.

- In a 'narco' or **narco analysis test**, a drug called **sodium pentothal** is injected into the body of the accused, which **transports them to a hypnotic or sedated state** in which **their imagination is neutralised**.

SENGOL A SYMBOLIC GESTURE

- **Sengol is the Tamil word for sceptre** which in **medieval and pre-medieval times** used to be **presented to the kings during their coronation** by the high priests.
- **In 1947**, during the **time of transfer of power from the British to India**, it was used as a **symbolic gesture** to show a **ceremonial transfer of power from the British to Indians**.

WORLD NO-TOBACCO DAY 2023

- **World No Tobacco Day** is observed on **31st May each year**. It is an annual awareness day organized by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** to highlight the **health risks associated with tobacco use** and **advocate for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption worldwide**.
- **World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) originated in 1987** when the **World Health Organization (WHO)** designated 31st May as a day to raise awareness about the **health risks associated with tobacco use**.