

My Notes....

NATIONAL

ARMY'S PROJECT UDBHAV STARTED

- The **Indian Army** has started an initiative, named **Project Udbhav**, to rediscover the “**profound Indic heritage of statecraft and strategic thoughts**” derived from ancient Indian texts of “**statecraft, warcraft, diplomacy and grand strategy**” in collaboration with the **United Service Institution of India**, a defence think-tank.
- The project endeavours to **explore India's rich historical narratives** in the realms of **statecraft and strategic thoughts**.

INDIA IN GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX-2023

- **India ranked 111th** out of 125 countries in the **Global Hunger Index-2023**, which was **rejected by the government** as erroneous and having malafide intent.
- The index, released, also stated that **India has the highest child wasting rate** in the world at **18.7 per cent**, reflecting **acute undernutrition**.
- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool for comprehensively **measuring and tracking hunger** at global, regional, and national levels.

'DYNAMIC INJUNCTION' AGAINST ILLEGAL BROADCAST

- The **Delhi High Court** restrained **nine websites** from **illegally broadcasting the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023** matches.
- The court passed a “**dynamic injunction**” in favour of the cup's broadcaster, **Star India Private Limited**, before the Cup's commencement.
- A **dynamic injunction is passed to protect copyrighted works** even **before they are publicly released, distributed, or created**.

ARUNACHAL YAK CHURPI GETS GI TAG

- **Slightly sour and salty churpi**, a naturally fermented cheese prepared from milk of **Arunachali yak**, reared in the **high altitude areas** in Arunachal Pradesh has received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** which boosts the **hairy bovine species' conservation**.

TRAI CAN'T REGULATE OTT PLATFORMS

- **Over the top (OTT) platforms** like Hotstar are **not in the jurisdiction** of the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** and are **governed** by the **Information Technology Rules, 2021**, notified by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, India's telecom appellate panel has held.

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

- **India** is embarking on a **major programme** to launch its **maiden national-level framework** towards providing **climate services and information**.
- Spearheaded by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, the **National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS)** envisions to bring a seamless **working platform for users of climate information and services**, and help decide and mitigate climate risks for key sectors — **agriculture, energy, disaster management, health and water**.

MERA YUVA BHARAT LAUNCHED

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet approved the establishment of **an autonomous body** called **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)** for “**youth-led development** and to provide equitable access to the youth”.

- The **primary objective of MY Bharat** is to become an **overarching platform** for **youth development**.
- The **MY Bharat portal** will be unveiled on 31 October to mark the **birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.

TWO GREEN INITIATIVES NOTIFIED AHEAD OF COP28

- The Union government has notified **two initiatives**—a **green credit programme** focusing on **afforestation and water conservation** and an **ecomark scheme** to promote **“eco-friendly” products**.
- These initiatives will take ahead Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s **Lifestyle for Environment, or LiFE**, movement announced in 2021, the ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC) said.
- These initiatives, the **Green Credit Program (GCP)** and the **Ecomark Scheme**, seek to encourage **environmentally friendly practices** rooted in **tradition and conservation**; reflecting the ideas of LiFE concept.

INTERNATIONAL

INDIA LAUNCHED OPERATION AJAY

- The Indian government has launched **‘Operation Ajay’** to **repatriate Indians from Israel and Palestine**.
- The government will **bring back its citizens** through **special chartered flights**. The **Navy will also be pressed into action** if the need arises,

RUSSIA MAY PULL OUT OF CTBT

- **Russia might revoke its ratification** of the **Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)**.
- The **CTBT is a multilateral treaty** that **bans all nuclear explosions**, whether for **military or peaceful purposes**.
- It was adopted by the **United Nations General Assembly in 1996**, it’s still in the ratification stage — **18 countries are yet to ratify**. While **Russia ratified the agreement in 2000**, the **US is still to do so**.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

- **Thousands of rockets** were **fired at Israel from Gaza** on 7 October 2023.
- **Israeli-Palestinian conflict**, with the **highest number of fatalities in West Bank**, which has been **occupied by Israel since the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict**, in years.
- The **Palestinian group Hamas** claimed responsibility for the rocket assault on Israel, saying its militants had launched more than 5,000 rockets.

WHAT IS HAMAS?

- **Hamas is the largest Palestinian militant Islamist group** and **one of the two major political parties** in the region.
- Currently, **it governs more than two million Palestinians** in the Gaza Strip. The organisation, however, is also known for its **armed resistance against Israel**.

ECONOMY

RBI’S OPEN MARKET OPERATION PLAN

- The **Reserve Bank of India’s** announcement to consider the **Open Market Operation (OMO)** sale of government securities **to manage liquidity in the system** took the bond market.

- The RBI uses **Open market operations (OMOs)** in order to adjust the **rupee liquidity conditions** in the market on a durable basis.

WORLD'S FIRST GREEN BOND STANDARDS TO AVOID GREENWASHING

- **European Union lawmakers** approved new standards for companies issuing "**green**" bonds to help investors pick sustainable companies and **avoid greenwashing** or **misleading climate-friendly claims**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INDIA'S FIRST CELL THERAPY FOR CANCER TREATMENT

- The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)** has issued market authorisation to **CAR-T (Chimeric Antigen Receptor-T) cell therapy**.
- It is a breakthrough treatment for treating **relapsed/refractory (r/r) B-cell lymphomas** and **leukaemia**, paving the way for its commercial launch of **indigenous NexCAR19** in the country.
- **ImmunoACT** – an IIT Bombay incubated company – developed the treatment.

PSYCHE METAL ASTEROID MISSION

- **NASA launched a spacecraft** from **Florida** on its way to **Psyche**, the **largest of the several metal-rich asteroids** known in **our solar system** and a body thought to be the **remnant core of an ancient protoplanet**.

UN AUTHORISES SECOND MALARIA VACCINE

- The **R21/Matrix-M™ malaria vaccine** developed by the **University of Oxford** and the **Serum Institute of India**, leveraging **Novavax's adjuvant technology**, has been recommended for use by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** after meeting required safety, quality and effectiveness standards.

NEW HORIZONS MISSION EXPLORES KUIPER BELT

- **NASA's New Horizons mission** was an **interplanetary probe** launched in **2006**.
- The mission was **originally scheduled to end in 2024** but now, the American space agency is deciding to **extend the mission's life span till it exits the Kuiper**, which could happen in 2028 or 2029.

FIRST INTERNET SATELLITE UNDER PROJECT KUIPER

- **Amazon** launched **two satellites** on 6 October 2023 as **part of its plan to deliver the internet from space** and compete with **Elon Musk's Starlink service**.
- The company founded by **Jeff Bezos** says **its Project Kuiper** will provide "**fast, affordable broadband to unserved and underserved communities** around the world," with a **constellation of more than 3,200 satellites in low Earth orbit (LEO)**.

BIGGEST EVER OZONE HOLE RECORDED

- **Large-scale scans** show that the **ozone hole over Antarctica is growing larger every day**.
- This was observed through the **Copernicus Sentinel 5P Satellite**, revealing that **this year's ozone hole over Antarctica** is one of the biggest on record, as **massive as three times the size of Brazil**.
- A hole, known as an "**ozone-depleting area**," reached a size of **26 million square kilometres**.

MISCELLANEOUS

NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE 2023

- The **2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** has gone to scientists **Katalin Kariko** and **Drew Weissman**, whose work enabled the **development of mRNA vaccines** against **Covid-19**.
- Through their **groundbreaking findings**, which have fundamentally changed our understanding of **mRNA interacts with our immune system**.

NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS FOR 2023

- The **Nobel Prize in Physics for 2023** has gone to **three scientists** whose work made it **easier to observe electrons**, and which has **potential applications in the field of diagnosing diseases** and **developing electronic gadgets**.
- They have **demonstrated a way to create extremely short pulses of light** that can be used **to measure the rapid processes** in which **electrons move or change energy**.

NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY FOR 2023

- The **Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 2023** has gone to **Moungi Bawendi, Louis Brus** and **Alexei Ekimov** for **“the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots”**.
- **These smallest components of nanotechnology** now spread **their light from televisions and LED lamps**, and can also **guide surgeons** when **they remove tumour tissue**, among many other things

NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE FOR 2023

- Norwegian novelist and dramatist **Jon Fosse** has been awarded the **Nobel Prize in Literature for the year 2023**, the Swedish Academy announced on 5 October 2023.
- **Fosse** has been awarded the Nobel Prize **“for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable”**. The **64-year-old author** writes the least common of the two official versions of Norwegian.

NOBEL PRIZE IN PEACE FOR 2023

- **Narges Mohammadi**, jailed Iranian women’s **rights advocate**, won the **2023 Nobel Peace Prize** on 6 October 2023.
- The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the **2023 Nobel Peace Prize to Narges Mohammadi** for her fight against the **oppression of women in Iran** and **her fight to promote human rights** and freedom for all.

ECONOMICS NOBEL 2023

- The **Nobel Prize in Economics for 2023** was awarded on 9 October 2023 to **Claudia Goldin**, a Harvard University professor, for **“having advanced our understanding of women’s labour market outcomes”**.
- **Goldin’s pathbreaking work** has shed light on the **participation of women in the labour market** over the past 200 years, and **why the pay gap between men and women refuses to close** even as many women are likely to be better educated than men in high income countries.