

# My Notes....

## NATIONAL

### PM MODI FLAGS OFF RRTS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **first leg** of the **Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)**, **India's first mass rapid system** dedicated to **regional connectivity**.
- The **RRTS** is an **integrated, mass transit network** which aims to ensure **"balanced and sustainable urban development"** through **better connectivity** and **access across the NCR**.

### SUPREME COURT'S VERDICT ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

- A **five-judge Constitution Bench** unanimously declined to **recognise same-sex marriages**.
- All five judges also unanimously agreed that **it is not possible to tweak the Special Marriage Act, 1954** by using **gender neutral language** to allow **same-sex marriage**.
- **It disallows same-sex or unmarried couples** from jointly adopting a child.

### 'CASH FOR QUERY' ROW

- The **Lok Sabha Ethics Committee** pertaining to 'cash for query' allegations against Trinamool Congress **MP Mahua Moitra**.
- The **procedure for raising questions** is governed by **Rules 32 to 54** of the **"Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha"** and **Directions 10 to 18** of the **"Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha"**.
- There are **four different types of questions: starred, unstarred, short-notice questions** and **questions addressed to private Members**.

### 'ONE NATION, ONE STUDENT ID' INITIATIVE

- **Several state governments** requested schools to **seek parental consent** for the **creation of a new student identity card** known as the **Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR)**.
- This is part of the **'One nation, One Student ID'** initiative of the Union government, stemming from the **new National Education Policy of 2020**.
- **APAAR** is envisioned as a **special ID system** for all students in India, **starting from childhood**.
- Under the initiative, **each student would get a lifelong APAAR ID**, making it easy for the learners, schools, and governments to **track academic progress** from **pre-primary education to higher education**.

## INTERNATIONAL

### CRIMES LAWS APPLY TO THE ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

- The war between **Israel and Palestinian** falls under a **complex international system of justice** that has emerged since **World War Two**.
- **Internationally accepted rules of armed conflict** emerged out of the **1949 Geneva Conventions**, which have been **ratified by all UN member states** and supplemented by rulings at **international war crimes tribunals**.
- A **series of treaties** governs the treatment of civilians, soldiers and prisoners of war in a system collectively known as the **"Law of Armed Conflict"** or **"International Humanitarian Law"**.
- It applies to **government forces** and **organised armed groups**, including **Hamis militants**.

## FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND HUMAN SHIELDS

- **United States President Joe Biden** accused **Palestinian militant group Hamas** of using innocent Palestinians as **human shields**.
- The term '**human shields**' is used in **International Humanitarian Law (IHL)** with respect to **civilians** or **other protected persons**, whose presence or movement is aimed, or used to **render military targets** immune from military operations.
- Under the **Statute of the International Criminal Court**, "ordering the displacement of the **civilian population** for reasons **related to the conflict**, unless the security of the civilians involved or **imperative military reasons so demand**," constitutes forcible displacement.

## THE BEDOUIN ARABS IN THE ISRAELI ARMY

- The **Bedouins** are a **nomadic Muslim Arab people** who live mainly in the **Negev desert of southern Israel**.
- They have **traditionally been pastoralists** with no powerful or exclusive **national affiliation**, who would, until about a century and a half ago, wander the area between **Saudi Arabia** and **the Sinai with their livestock**.
- In the 1950s, **Israel recognised a large number of Bedouin as its citizens**, and subsequently helped build settlements for them in the **Negev**.

## VISA SHOPPING

- The **practice of 'visa shopping'** has been **gaining popularity in several Indian states**.
- **Visa shopping** refers to **obtaining visas for countries** that **individuals may or may not visit during the granted visa period**.
- This is because **such visas can provide a gateway for people** to enter their preferred countries, particularly in Europe, **even if they have obtained a visa for another European nation**.

## ECONOMY

### JAGANNATH TEMPLE'S TREASURE ROOM

- The demand to open the **Ratna Bhandar (treasure room)** of the **Puri Jagannath Temple** is growing louder again.
- It is located **within the temple** and has **two chambers—Bhitar Bhandar (inner chamber)** and **Bahara Bhandar (outer chamber)**.
- The **outer chamber is opened regularly to fetch ornaments for the deities** during the **Suna Besha (golden attire)**. The **inner chamber** has not opened in the **past 38 years**.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### ISRAEL USING WHITE PHOSPHORUS IN GAZA

- **White phosphorus** is a **pyrophoric** that **ignites when exposed to oxygen**, producing **thick, light smoke** as well as **intense 815-degree Celsius heat**.
- **Pyrophoric substances** are those which **ignite spontaneously** or **very quickly** (under five minutes) when in **contact with air**.

## FIRST TEST ON GAGANYAAN JOURNEY

- ISRO carried out the **first of a series of tests of systems** and procedures with the aim to ultimately launch an **Indian astronaut into space**, perhaps in 2025.
- The **Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission-1 (TV-D1)** demonstrated the performance of the Crew Escape System of the **Gaganyaan project**.
- The flight will be the **first of two abort missions** to test the safety mechanisms that will allow the **Gaganyaan crew** to leave the spacecraft in an emergency.

## VIKRAM LANDER GENERATED 'EJECTA HALO'

- When **Vikram lander of Chandrayaan-3** touched down on the **Moon's surface** on 23 August 2023, it resulted in a **lunar phenomenon** called 'ejecta halo.'
- Scientists have "estimated that about **2.06 tonnes of lunar epi regolith were ejected and displaced** over an area of **108.4 m<sup>2</sup> around the landing site**".
- **Epi regolith** is nothing but the **top layer of the lunar surface**, which is made out of **lunar rocks and soil**, commonly known as **moon dust**.

## WORLD'S LARGEST 'GHOST PARTICLE' DETECTOR

- **China** is building an **enormous telescope** in the **western Pacific Ocean**. Its job will be to detect "ghost particles", also known as **neutrinos**.
- **Neutrinos' weak charge** and **almost nonexistent mass** have made them notoriously difficult for scientists to observe. They can only be "seen" when they interact with other particles.
- The **rarity of interactions** with other particles makes them almost impossible to track. That's why they're called **ghost particles** — the vast majority skirt around undetected.

## BLUETOOTH LOW ENERGY

- **Bluetooth Low Energy** is a **version of Bluetooth technology** that uses **less power** and is **designed for connecting Internet-enabled devices and appliances**.
- **Bluetooth Low Energy** works by using a **wireless technique** called **frequency hopping**, which allows devices to communicate in the **2.4 GHz radio band** without **interfering with each other**.

## JIO SPACEFIBER

- **Jio** is now set to offer India its first satellite-based giga fiber service called **Jio SpaceFiber**.
- **Jio SpaceFiber** is a **satellite broadband service** that uses **medium earth orbit (MEO) satellite technology** to **provide high-speed internet access to remote and underserved areas**.
- **MEO satellites orbit the Earth** closer than **traditional geostationary satellites**, which results in **lower latency and faster speeds**.

## SPACE IS GETTING CROWDED

- The US government issued the **first ever space junk fine**. The Federal Communications Commission handed a **\$150,000 penalty to the DISH Network**, a publicly traded company providing **satellite TV services**.
- **Three types of orbit**, plus **junk Humans** have been launching satellites into space since 1957 and in the **past 66 years have become rather good at it**. There are currently **more than 8,700 active satellites in various orbits around Earth**.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### INDIAN MOBILE CONGRESS 2023

- The **7th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2023** witnessed the **future of digital transformation**.
- **India Mobile Congress 2023** also featured **two new initiatives** to foster entrepreneurship and skill development among young innovators and engineers.
- **Aspire** was a **start-up program** that highlighted the **potential of emerging technologies in the telecom and digital domains**.
- **Robo Blitz** was a **robo wars event** that challenged participants to **showcase their talents in robotics**.

### NCERT PANEL SUGGESTS REPLACING 'INDIA' WITH 'BHARAT'

- The **2022 Social Science committee** of the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** has suggested that **'India' should be called as 'Bharat' in all Social Science textbooks up to Class 12**.
- The roots of **"Bharat", "Bharata", or "Bharatvarsha"** are traced back to **Puranic literature**, and to the epic Mahabharata.
- The **Puranas describe Bharata** as the **land between the "sea in the south and the abode of snow in the north"**.
- **Bharata** is also the name of the **ancient king of legend** who was the **ancestor of the Rig Vedic tribe of the Bharatas**, and by extension, the progenitor of all peoples of the subcontinent.

### NUCLEAR BRIEFCASE

- During **Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent visit to China**, he was seen with officers carrying what is known as the **"nuclear briefcase"**.
- Also known as the **'Cheget'**, named after a **mountain in Russia**, the briefcase is part of a **larger system in place for authorising the launch of nuclear strikes**.
- The **communication among the forces** is done via the **'Kazbek' electronic command-and-control network**. **Kazbek** supports another system, known as **'Kavkaz'**.

### THE DEATH OF AGNIVEER

- **Operator Akshay Laxman Gawte** who belonged to **Buldhana in Maharashtra**, died after **complaining of uneasiness**.
- The **Agnipath scheme** was introduced **last year** to take **in recruits** for the **Army, Navy, and Indian Air Force (IAF)** on **four-year contracts**, including **six months of training**.
- At the **end of four years, up to 25% of recruits can apply to join the services** on a **regular basis**, subject to **merit and organisational requirements**.

### SPONGE BOMBS

- The **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** used **'sponge bombs'** as Israel begins its fight through a **network of Hamas tunnels under Gaza**.
- **'Sponge bombs'** contain **two liquids in a large plastic bag** separated by a **metal pole**.
- The **pole is extracted before the 'bomb' is thrown into its target** causing the **compounds to mix**. The **liquid turns into foam** which expands and hardens to **seal gaps**.
- The **'sponge bomb'** would **prevent soldiers being ambushed** as they move further into the network, **sealing off gaps** through which **Hamas could attack**.