

# My Notes....

## NATIONAL

### SC ONBOARDED DATA ON NATIONAL JUDICIAL DATA GRID

- The **Supreme Court** onboarded its case data on the **National Judicial Data Grid**.
- The **NJDG portal** is a **national repository of data relating to cases instituted, pending and disposed of by the courts** across the country.
- The **NJDG** was built as **part of Phase II of the e-Courts project**, which is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.

### PM VISHWAKARMA SCHEME LAUNCHED

- On 17 September 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **PM Vishwakarma scheme** in New Delhi on the occasion of **Vishwakarma Jayanti**, for giving government support to workers engaged in **traditional crafts and skills**.
- The scheme is also being seen as a **means for the government** to reach out to the **economically marginalised** and **socially backward communities** – particularly the **Other Backward Classes (OBC) groups**.

### SANTINIKETAN INSCRIBED ON UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

- **Santiniketan**, the **famed place in West Bengal** where poet **Rabindranath Tagore** built **Visva-Bharati** over a century ago, has been inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List**.
- The decision to include **Santiniketan in the list** was taken during the **45th session of the World Heritage Committee** currently underway in Saudi Arabia.

### NARI SHAKTI VANDAN ADHINIYAM

- The **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam** — The **Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eight Amendment) Bill, 2023**, which **provides for 33% reservation** for women in **Lok Sabha** and **state Assemblies** — was passed by Parliament.
- The provisions of the new law shall come into effect “**after an exercise of delimitation**” undertaken “**after the relevant figures for the first Census**” carried out “after the commencement” of this law is “published”.

### HOYSALA TEMPLES ON UNESCO HERITAGE LIST

- **Three Hoysala-era temples** in Karnataka made it to **UNESCO’s World Heritage List**, under the collective entry of ‘**Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas**’.
- **Hoysala temples** are known for the **rare beauty and finesse of their wall sculptures**, and have been described as “**art which applies to stone the technique of the ivory worker or the goldsmith**”.
- The **three temples** include the **Chennakeshava temple in Belur**, the **Hoysaleswara Temple in Halebidu**, and the **Keshava Temple in Somanathapura**.

## INTERNATIONAL

### SEPARATISTS IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH SURRENDER

- Armenian separatist forces in the disputed **Nagorno-Karabakh region** of the **South Caucasus** surrendered and agreed to a ceasefire.
- For approximately **four decades**, **territorial disputes** and **ethnic conflict** between **Armenia and Azerbaijan** have severely impacted the **Nagorno-Karabakh region**.
- The two countries went to war **over Nagorno-Karabakh in 2020**, and months after the war, **Russia brokered a truce**.

## I2U2 ANNOUNCES JOINT SPACE VENTURE

- **India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States, or I2U2** have announced a **new joint space venture** on the **margins of the United Nations General Assembly** in New York to take forward their partnership.
- Primarily using **space-based observation data** and **capabilities of the four I2U2 partner countries**.

## THE FIVE EYES ALLIANCE FOR INTELLIGENCE-SHARING

- The **'Five Eyes' intelligence-sharing alliance** include **Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom** and the **United States**.
- **These partner countries** share a **broad range of intelligence** with one another in one of the **world's most unified multilateral arrangements**.

## AMAZON COUNTRIES FAIL TO AGREE ON PROTECTION GOALS

- Leaders from the **eight countries** across the **Amazon**, including **Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname** and **Venezuela**, failed to agree on the goal to **protect the rainforest at the ongoing Amazon Summit** organised by the **Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)**.
- **ACTO** is an international organisation **"aimed at the promotion of sustainable development of the Amazon Basin"**.

## CHINA-PHILIPPINES TUSSLE OVER SOUTH CHINA SEA

- The **Philippine coast guard** said it had removed a **floating barrier** placed by **China's coast guard** to prevent **Filipino fishing boats** from entering a disputed area in the **South China Sea**.
- The **South China Sea** is situated just **south of the Chinese mainland** and is **bordered by the countries of Brunei, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan** and **Vietnam**.
- The countries have **bickered over territorial control in the sea for centuries**, but in recent years tensions have soared to new heights.

## ECONOMY

### INDIA SLIPS IN ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX

- **India** has **fallen one notch to the 87th position** out of **165 countries** on the **economic freedom index**. The country was at the **86th spot** in previous year's rankings.
- The **'Economic Freedom of the World: 2021 Annual Report'** by **Canada's Fraser Institute** has been released in India in conjunction with New Delhi-based think tank **Centre For Civil Society**.
- **India has been ranked higher than China**, which stands at the 111th position. **Venezuela once again ranks last**.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### UNIQUE WAY TO DETECT AND KILL CANCER CELLS

- Scientists at the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** have made a significant breakthrough in **cancer research** by developing a **new method to detect and kill cancer cells**.
- The team has created **hybrid nanoparticles**, composed of **gold and copper sulphide**, which can **destroy cancer cells** through **heat generation** and enable **their detection using sound waves**.
- The **hybrid nanoparticles** exhibit **photothermal, oxidative stress, and photoacoustic properties**.

## PLANETARY BOUNDARIES FRAMEWORK

- **Six out of nine planetary boundaries**, which can be imagined as **blood pressure**, that make **Earth healthy and habitable** have been **transgressed** because of **human-induced pollution** and **destruction of the natural world**.
- The study, '**Earth beyond six of nine planetary boundaries**', has been carried out by a **team of 29 scientists** from eight different countries and published in the journal Science Advances.
- The **planetary boundaries framework** applies the **newest scientific understanding** of the **functioning of the Earth system** to identify a '**safe operating space**' for humanity.

## NASA'S FIRST ASTEROID SAMPLES LAND ON EARTH

- **NASA's first asteroid samples** fetched from deep space **parachuted into the Utah desert** to **cap a seven-year journey**.
- In a **flyby of Earth**, the **Osiris-Rex spacecraft** released the sample capsule from **63,000 miles** (100,000 kilometers) out.
- **Osiris-Rex**, the **mothership**, **rocketed away** on the **\$1 billion mission in 2016**. It reached **Bennu two years later** and, **using a long stick vacuum**, grabbed rubble from the small roundish **space rock in 2020**.
- **Japan**, the **only other country to bring back asteroid samples**, gathered about a **teaspoon** in a **pair of asteroid missions**.

## IIT GUWAHATI DEVELOPS FABRIC TO TACKLE OIL SPILLS

- Researchers at **IIT-Guwahati** on 26 September 2023 said they have developed a **fabric** that can **separate oil from water**, which will help in **tackling marine pollution** caused by **oil spills**.
- The **silica nanoparticles-coated cotton fabric** has been developed using **rice husk**, an agricultural waste, as the **primary source material**.
- The aim is **to convert an agricultural waste into a sustainable value-added product** to **mitigate marine oil pollution**.

## CALIPSO MISSION STOPS BLASTING LASERS ON EARTH

- The **CALIPSO mission** that **analysed climate, weather, and air quality** ended, **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** announced.
- The **CALIPSO (Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observation) mission** recorded **more than 10 billion LIDAR measurements** and helped create **thousands of scientific reports** over its 17 years of operation.

## INDIA RETAINS ITS 40TH POSITION IN GII 2023

- **India retained its 40th position** on the **annual Global Innovation Index (GII) 2023** with a **score of 38.1**, due to its **vibrant start-up ecosystem, knowledge capital** and the work done by **public and private research organisations**.
- The index by the **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)** was released on 28 September 2023 and **ranked 132 economies on the Innovation Index**.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### FOURTH STATE TO INTRODUCE E-CABINET SYSTEM

- Tripura launched an **e-cabinet system** at **Agartala** to promote **digital infrastructure development** and **digitisation of government services** and **information**.
- **Tripura has thus become the fourth state—and second in the Northeast—after Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh**, to have introduced an **e-cabinet system**.

## HOUSE PANEL REPORT ON ASI PROTECTED MONUMENTS

- Claiming that many of the **3,691 centrally protected monuments (CMP)** in India are “**minor monuments**”, a parliamentary committee has recommended that the list should be “**rationalised and categorised**” on the basis of their **national significance**, unique architectural and heritage value.
- The recommendations are part of the ‘**359th Report on the Functioning of Archaeological Survey of India**’ by the **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture**, which was presented to Parliament recently.

## COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT SUIT TO HOB

- The **Delhi High Court** has issued **summons to an Instagram account** called **People of India (POI)**, in a **copyright infringement suit** filed by the storytelling platform **Humans of Bombay (HOB)**.
- “**Copyright**” refers to the **right given by the law to creators of literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic works and producers of cinematograph films and sound recordings**.
- The **Copyright Act, 1957** aims to **safeguard creative works**, which are considered to be the **creator’s intellectual property**.

## INDIA AGEING REPORT 2023

- **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) India**, in collaboration with the **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)**, has unveiled the much-anticipated “**India Ageing Report 2023**.”
- This **comprehensive report** delves into the **challenges, opportunities, and institutional responses** surrounding **elderly care in India** as the nation undergoes a **significant demographic shift towards an ageing population**.

## GENDER INEQUALITY IN CANCER CARE

- **Around 63% of premature deaths** due to **cancers in Indian women could have been prevented** by **reducing risk factors, screening, and diagnosis**, while **37% could have been averted** with timely and optimal treatment, a new **Lancet Commission report on gender inequity in cancer care** said.
- Titled ‘**Women, Power and Cancer**’, the report said **around 6.9 million cancer deaths among women in India** were **preventable** and **4.03 million were treatable**.

## IATA ASSIGNED ‘DXN’ TO JEWAR AIRPORT

- The upcoming **Noida International Airport (NIA) in Jewar** was awarded its own unique international three-letter code, ‘**DXN**’, by the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**.
- The **D in DXN signifies Delhi**, which is the national capital, and **N stands for Noida**, which shows our presence in the Western UP area. **X, signifies connectivity within India and the world**.
- **Airport codes are unique identifiers assigned to each airport**. While most people are familiar only with the **codes assigned by IATA**, a **Montreal-based international aviation trade association**.

## OZONE DAY 2023

- 16 September this year is celebrated as **Ozone Day** under the theme “**Montreal Protocol: Fixing the ozone layer and reducing climate change**.”
- **Ozone** is a molecule that is made up of **three oxygen atoms**. A layer of this gas sits in our **planet’s stratosphere** between **15 and 30 kilometres above the surface**.
- The **Montreal Protocol** brought together world governments in a rampantly successful effort to **protect the ozone layer** by phasing out **many ozone-depleting substances**.