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An initiative of Madras Christian College

**Current Affairs
Compilation**

**AUGUST
2023**



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ETHICS

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Former Director- Tamil Nadu
Police Academy

Winner of the prestigious Queen's
Award

Founder of Friends of Police initiative
Author of Fillipism (a handbook on
Ethics Values)



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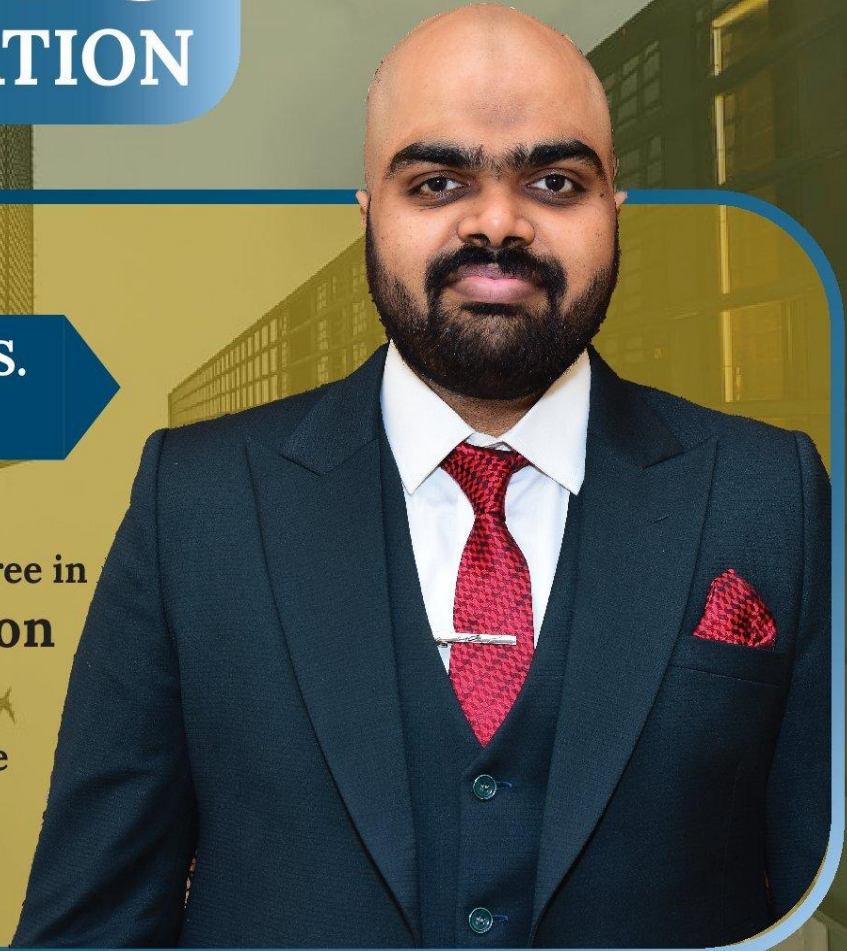
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PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Mr. EZRA JOHANAN S.
Faculty- Pub Ad

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Public Administration

UPSC- **9 years** experience
7 years in teaching field



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1. Lunar Codex

About: It is a digitized collection of artworks of 30000 artists from 157 countries that is stored in memory card or etched in Nanofiche and sent to the moon.

Work by: Samuel Peralta

Aim: A message to the future generation to remind them that war, pandemics and economic crisis did not stop people from creating works of art.

2. Sun Umbrella tied to Asteroid

About: A space based solar radiation management shield tied to a captured asteroid as a counter weight

Reason: The idea of a solar shield, in theory, can cool down the Earth by shading it from some of the sun's rays but the issue was the large amount of weight needed to make a shield massive enough to balance gravitational forces and prevent solar radiation pressure from blowing it away. Therefore, the US-based astronomer's idea involves a tethered counterweight instead of just a massive shield and the use of a captured asteroid to counter said weight to avoid launching such a big mass from Earth to hold the "sun umbrella"

3. Planet Nine

Concept: At present, the Solar system is considered to have only 8 planets. However, scientists have been intrigued about the idea of the existence of another planet in the solar system

Reason: Scientists have already observed the space objects beyond Pluto have an elliptical orbit around the Sun and that plane of their revolution around the Sun is in an incline with planes of revolution of other planets. Scientists think that this is happening because a mysterious planet is affecting these space object due to its gravity.

Problems in detection:

1. Distance: It is estimated that Planet Nine is twenty times as far from the Sun as Neptune is. (Neptune is 4.47 billion kilometres away)



2. When telescopes (or space telescopes) are used to find a planet, the observation relies on detection of light reflected from the surface of the planets. Another method is to detect a 'dip' in light of a star when a planet revolving around it comes between the telescope and the star.
3. Due to very large distance of Planet Nine from the Sun, scientists think that detecting reflected sunlight from the planet would be very- very difficult.

4. Ayush Visa

News: Ayush Visa included in the Visa Manual 2019

Reason: To facilitate foreign nationals travelling to India seeking Ayush therapy. It is a part of Heal in India initiative of the Government.

Supplementary concepts:

1. Heal In India initiative

5. Viwad Se Vishwas II Scheme

Aim: To provide a voluntary settlement option with standardized terms for disputes where arbitral awards are under challenge in courts.

Deadline: Contractors and concerned parties have until 31st October 2023 to submit their claims under the scheme.

Eligibility Criteria: The scheme is applicable to domestic contractual disputes involving the Government of India or organizations under its control.

6. Anusandhan National Research Foundation Bill 2023

Reason: National Education Policy recommended the establishment of an apex body for providing high level strategic direction for scientific research

The bill:

1. Establishes National Research Foundation. It has:
 - a. Governing council – Headed by PM
 - b. Executive council – Headed by Principal scientific adviser to Government of India



2. Department of Science and technology will be the administrative department for NRF
3. Science and engineering research board will be subsumed into NRF.
4. NRF will forge collaborations among the industry, academia, and government departments and research institutions, and create an interface mechanism for participation and contribution of industries and state governments in addition to the scientific and line ministries.
5. It will also focus on creating a policy framework and putting in place regulatory processes that can encourage collaboration and increased spending by the industry on research and development.

Total estimated cost: ₹50,000 crore; Central Government's share: ₹10000 crore

7. Digital Data Protection Bill 2023

Key Features	Provision	Issue
Information that's included	Those information, 1. Collected online 2. Collected offline and digitized Those processing that's, 1. Wholly automated 2. Partly automated	Does not cover offline personal data and non automated processing.
Informed consent	1. Data Processing only after consent of Individual 2. Consent can be withdrawn at any time 3. Notice should contain details about data to be collected and the purpose of processing Consent is not required for legitimate purpose like 1. Service by government 2. Medical emergency 3. Employment	Centre is empowered to notify certain data fiduciaries to be exempted from giving notice of consent. Without notice of consent data principal may not be able to give informed consent
International information transfer	Centre can restrict data transfer to certain countries via notification	No explicit restrictions in the bill for international transfer of data. In the absence of



		robust data protection in other countries, the data may be vulnerable to breaches
Institution	Establishes Data Protection board of India. Structure: Board members will be appointed for a period of 2 years and will be eligible for re appointment Function: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Monitoring compliance of data fiduciaries2. Grievance redressal. Appeals lie to TDSAT	Short term and eligibility for reappointment may affect the independent functioning of the board, which is also an adjudicating authority
Rights and Duties of Data Principal	Rights: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Obtain information about processing2. Seek Correction and erasure of data3. Grievance Redressal Duties: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Not register false complaint2. Not impersonate another person Violation draws a penalty up to ₹10000	No right to data portability and no right to be forgotten (Right of the individual to limit the disclosure in a limitless digital sphere)
Duties and Exemptions for Data Fiduciary	Duties: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Maintain accuracy2. Maintain security3. Inform breach to the Board and the Individual4. Erase data as soon as the purpose is met Failure will attract penalties. Exemptions: obligations will not apply during <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Investigation of offences2. Prevention of offences3. Enforcement of legal rights or claims	Exemptions may violate right to privacy beyond what is necessary.



Data of Child	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Child is defined as persons below 18 years.2. Consent by parents3. Processing of data should not have a detrimental effect on the child	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 18 years is too high from the perspective of full autonomous development of the child2. Requires verification of age of legal guardian, which may reduce their anonymity in digital sphere.3. "Detrimental effect" is not defined
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8. Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill 2023

Features:

1. A national database of registered births and deaths to be maintained by Registrar general of India
2. Linking of Aadhaar of parents and specified persons during registration of birth
3. For persons born after the commencement of this bill, birth certificates must be used to prove date and place of birth for certain purposes like, admission to educational institutions, preparation of voters list, appointment to government post, etc

Issues:

1. Making birth certificate as sole proof of place of birth and age may risk denial of rights like education and right to vote
2. Violate aadhaar judgement, that did not require linking of aadhaar for purpose other than obtaining government benefits and services
3. Violates right to privacy, especially for the specified persons



9. Inter services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill 2023

Reason: Inter service organizations will have personnel from different services placed under a single commander, who at present have control over their functions but does not have disciplinary and administrative control over them. Only the officers of that particular service to which the personnel belongs, can have disciplinary and administrative control. This lacunae may weaken the authority of command in the inter service organizations – like Andaman and Nicobar Command, Defence Space Agency and National Defence agency

Key feature: The bill vests the power of disciplinary and administrative control with the Commander in Chief or Officer in command of the Inter Service Organisations

10. Amendments to IT rules 2023:

Features:

1. Intermediaries must take down content that is identified as false by the fact checking unit of PIB
2. Defines online games as a game played in the internet in expectation of monetary gains
3. Prescribes duties to online gaming intermediaries:
 - a. Registering their games with a self regulatory body
 - b. Obtaining random number generation certificate and no bot certificate
 - c. Informing users of KYC procedures for registration
 - d. Verifying user identity as per RBI procedures for account based relationship
4. The self regulating body will be the first level of grievance resolution. If case is not resolved, it can be escalated to Grievance Appellate Committee established by the central government.

Issues:

1. The IT act does not explicitly delegate powers to regulate online gaming. Hence the rules have gone beyond the power delegated under the act.
2. Sports, betting and gambling are state list subjects. Regulating online gaming questions central government's legislative competence
3. Requiring KYC for gaming is excessive regulation
4. Removing content by intermediary upon declaration by the executive without any appellate systems may curtail dissent



11. Other recent bills:

Name	Key features
Advocates Amendment Bill 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Repeals Legal Practitioners act 18792. Amends Advocates act 19613. High Court and District Judges must prepare and publish a list of touts. They will not be allowed to enter the court premises, violating which will attract a penalty or a jail term
Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Repeals the Press and Regulation of Books act 18672. Registration of newspapers, periodicals and books with District Magistrate3. Press Registrar general at Central level, will maintain the register of newspapers4. The press registrar has the power to suspend or cancel the registration
Indian institutes of management amendment bill	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Makes president as the Visitor to all IIMs in India2. Visitor has the power to hold audit, order probes, and appoint or remove board members and director3. Management accountability will vest the President of India and academic accountability will remain with the IIMs4. National Institute of industrial engineering, Mumbai is recognized as 21st IIM of India
Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Amends Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act 20022. Provides Composite license for exploration and production for 3 years which can be extended by 2 years3. Production lease will be valid for 50 years4. Competitive bidding is mandatory for obtaining composite license or production lease5. Atomic minerals can be mined only by Government companies6. Size of block for offshore mining reduced7. Establishes Offshore Areas Mineral Trust. License holders will be required to pay an amount to it, which will be used for exploration, research and relief upon disaster
MMDR amendment bill 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Permits subsurface reconnaissance activities like pitting, trenching, drilling, etc2. Exploration license will be given via competitive bidding for some "erstwhile" atomic minerals, which are declassified as atomic minerals now – Lithium,



	Beryllium, Niobium, Titanium, Tantalum, Zirconium
Cinematograph Amendment Bill 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Additional Categories under UA category that endorses age. It will be enforceable only by the parent or the guardian2. "A" and "S" certified films will require separate certification for telecasting3. Certificates are perpetually valid4. Central government can no more examine films and make orders with respect to certification.5. Piracy will be punished with imprisonment up to 3 years and a fine
Coastal Aquaculture Authority Amendment Bill 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Scope of coastal aquaculture increased to include allied activities such as hatcheries and nucleus breeding centres2. The coastal aquaculture authority will fix standards and monitor inputs and discharge of effluents from aquaculture units3. Makes violations as a civil case and removes the imprisonment provision from the act.

12. Fifth Force in Nature

News: Scientists at Fermilab have found that muons are not behaving in accordance with our current understanding (standard model) of sub-atomic physics.

Concept: At present there are 4 Fundamental Forces – Gravity, Electromagnetism, Strong and Weak Force. All objects and particles interact with each other using these 4 fundamental forces.

Supplementary Concept:

1. Standard Model

13. Luna 25 Probe of Russia

Significance: The Luna-25 probe's launch is the first lunar mission of Moscow since 1976, i.e. the first lunar mission launched by Post Soviet Russia

Project: It will land in the South pole region of the moon. The spacecraft, which will stay on the Moon for a year and has been given the task of taking (samples) and analysing the soil as well as conducting long-term scientific research



	Luna 25	Chandrayaan 3
Flight duration	Shorter. Aug 10 to 21	Longer. July 14 to Aug 23
Landing area	In Boguslawsky Crater	Near Manzinus U Crater
Power source for lander and rover	Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator	Solar Powered

14. Grey Divorces

The term 'grey divorce' was popularised about a decade ago by Susan L. Brown, co-director of the National Center for Family & Marriage Research at Bowling Green State University. It refers to the divorce of people over the age of 50, sometimes after decades of marriage.

15. Tharosaurus Indicus

Fossil discovery: The fossil remains of 167-million-years-old long-necked, plant-eating dicraeosaurid dinosaur have been discovered in the western Indian city of Jaisalmer, located in the state of Rajasthan.

Discovered by: IIT, Roorkee and GSI

Nomenclature: The scientists have named the dinosaur fossil 'Tharosaurus indicus', referring to the Thar desert and the country of origin where the remains were found

Significance: Since the fossils were found in rocks dated to be around 167 million years old, it makes Indian sauropod not only the oldest known dicraeosaurid but also globally the oldest diplodocoid (broader group which includes dicraeosaurids and other closely related sauropods).

Previously, dicraeosaurid dinosaurs fossils have been discovered in North and South America, Africa and China but never in



India.



16. Hualongdong 6

News: A mysterious skull was discovered in Hualongdong, China recently. It belongs to a child that was alive around 300,000 years ago.

Significance: The skull doesn't resemble Neanderthals, Denisovans, or Homo Sapiens. Yet, it does have some matching features to different lineages. This means that the hominin or the human family tree may need another branch.

Nomenclature: Scientists are yet to classify this purportedly new lineage of hominin. For now, they've now labelled it HLD 6 — here HLD represents Hualongdong where the skull was found.

17. New Changes to UPI

1. **Conversational payments:** Users will be able to ask an AI-powered system to make payments for them. The feature will be available on both smartphones and feature phones-based UPI channels
2. **UPI lite limit raised:** From current ₹200 to ₹500 per transaction. However, the UPI Lite balance ceiling has been left unchanged at Rs 2,000 to contain the risks associated with the relaxation of two-factor authentication.



3. **Offline UPI payments using NFC:** Users will only have to tap their smartphone on the point-of-sale (PoS) machine.

18. Direct to Mobile Technology

Technology objective: To enable users to watch live TV channels on their smart phones without an internet connection.

Research by: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and IIT Kanpur

Technology functioning: The science behind D2M is similar to that of an FM radio, where a receiver within the device can tap into different radio frequencies. This new-age technology is a combination of broadband and broadcast that uses mobile phones to capture territorial digital TV signals. Using D2M, multimedia content, including live TV matches, can be streamed to phones directly without using the internet.

Significance: It's an indigenous 'Made in India' technology, and it is the first of its kind in the world

Applications: D2M can ensure-

1. Emergency Alerts are delivered directly, reliably and without dependence on internet/cellular networks.
2. Disaster Management audio content is delivered directly and authentically in a targeted manner.
3. A terrestrial fallback is available for broadcast of public content of strategic or national importance in the event of catastrophic satellite failures.
4. Valuable spectrum, land, manpower and other public resources are conserved by converging Radio services to a common shared broadcast infrastructure where both audio and video broadcasts can be received through a single interface on smartphones or smart devices.

19. Havana Syndrome

News: The Indian government in a submission in a state court said last week that it will investigate the possibility of 'Havana Syndrome' in India.



What is the Havana Syndrome?

The enigmatic ailment known as the "Havana Syndrome" gained public attention in 2016 when a number of diplomats at the American embassy in Havana began reporting an unusual illness.

Their symptoms included migraines, nausea, memory lapses, dizziness, hearing phantom sounds, and vertigo. Certain officials claimed that these symptoms persisted for months.

Responses:

In 2021, the US enacted the HAVANA Act (Helping American Victims Afflicted by Neurological Attacks Act) to authorise compensation for injuries incurred by intelligence personnel and diplomats due to the syndrome, among other purposes.

20. Governments at Centre that lost No Confidence Motion

VP Singh (1990)

Janata Dal politician Vishvanath Pratap Singh, better known as VP Singh, held the prime minister's post from 1989 to 1990. He headed a coalition government called the National Front, which was supported by the BJP. He managed to rule for just 11 months before the BJP withdrew support over the Ram temple issue, causing the government to lose a no-confidence motion on 10 November 1990.

The former prime minister lost the confidence motion by a vote of 142 to 346 in the Lok Sabha, with eight abstentions. His government needed 261 votes to survive.

Deve Gowda (1997)

The Janata Dal leader became the PM in 1996, with a coalition as the United Front with the support of Congress. However, his fall came almost as abruptly 10 months later, when the Sitaram Kesri-led Congress withdrew its support.

In a no-confidence motion taken up on 11 April 1997, Gowda's 13-party coalition succeeded in garnering only 158 votes of the 545 seats in the Lok Sabha.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1999)

The BJP veteran faced two no-confidence motions through his tenure as prime minister, the first of which his government lost by a single vote on 17 April 1999, after the Jayalalithaa-led



AIADMK withdrew support. But Vajpayee wasn't done yet and he manoeuvred the BJP back to power a few months later.

When the Opposition brought up another no-confidence motion against his government in 2003, it won by an overwhelming majority of 312 to 186 votes.

21. Ketagulen Forum 2023

News: Former Defense Chiefs of India's three services attended Taiwan's Ketagulen Forum recently

Significance: The move places India as directly backing Taiwan against China. Earlier India revised its stance on South China Sea dispute favouring Philippines. India has also gifted a Corvette to Vietnam recently.

22. Indian Navy Dornier Aircraft given to Sri Lanka Air Force

Reason: India's Policy of "Security and Growth for All in the Region" (SAGAR), aims to enhance defense capabilities of Sri Lanka

Aircraft: Dornier is a reconnaissance aircraft used for search and rescue operations. It also plays a crucial role in tackling shared security challenges within the region. These challenges encompass issues such as drug trafficking, human trafficking and smuggling.





23. One year masters programme in USA for Indians

Developer: The programme has been developed by Akhilesh Lakhtakia, a Jefferson Science Fellow at the State Department's South and Central Asia (SCA) bureau. Lakhtakia was roped in from Penn State University where he was serving as a professor of engineering science and mechanics to study India's NEP. The State Department wanted him to come up with a programme that is beneficial to the students, governments as well universities of the two countries.

Courses: The courses are currently confined to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines and will start beginning the fall semester of 2024. Specialised courses on wireless technology, artificial intelligence (AI) applications, quantum engineering, 5G and 7G communication systems, semiconductor processing, nano-technology, and photonics among others are currently being offered.

Universities taking part: Over 20 American and 25 Indian universities are in discussion to take advantage of the initiative.

Benefits: Once the course is completed, students will be eligible to stay in the US for up to three years, as per current visa rules. The move is intended to allow them to gain work experience in industry and repay student loans.

24. SC identifies words promoting stereotypes against women

News: Recently the Supreme Court launched The Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes

Aim: To assist judges and the legal community in identifying, understanding and combating stereotypes about women

Content: It contains a glossary of gender-unjust terms and suggests alternative words or phrases which may be used while drafting pleadings as well as orders and judgments

Exemptions: Survivor or victim? The handbook noted that an individual who has been affected by sexual violence may identify themselves as either a "survivor" or "victim".



25. Apache helicopter

Make: Boeing, USA

Model: AH 64E. The AH-64E is the contemporary version of the Apache AH-64A, which was delivered to India in 1984.

Order: 22 helicopters for IAF and 6 for INA

Other countries that uses Apache: Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Greece and the UK.

26. Vishwakarma Yojana

Outlay: ₹13000 crore to ₹15000 crore

Launch: September 17, 2023 – Vishwakarma Jayanti day

Aim: Improving the grade, ranking and reach of products and services of artisans and craftspeople and incorporating them with the domestic and global value chain.

27. PM e-Bus Seva

Outlay: \$7 Billion

Objective: 10000 new electric buses across the country for cities with population of 3 lakh and above

Operation: Public Private Partnership.

Period: This scheme will support bus operations for 10 years.

28. India-UAE trade in Rupees

News: The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) completed the first-ever crude oil transaction under the newly implemented Local Currency Settlement (LCS) system.

LCS system: The LCS mechanism was established as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) exchanged during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to UAE last month on July 15.



- This agreement is expected to significantly reduce transaction costs and time, while also promoting the use of national currencies for cross-border transactions.
- The LCS mechanism provides traders with the flexibility to choose the payment currency based on mutual agreement.
- Additionally, the surplus balance in local currencies resulting from transactions can be invested in various local currency assets such as corporate bonds, government securities, and equity markets.

29. Vindhyagiri Frigate

News: The Indian President Droupadi Murmu, is inaugurated the unveiling of Project 17A Frigate Y-3024 'Vindhyagiri'

Name: 'Vindhyagiri', named after the revered Vindhya Mountain. 'Vindhyagiri' carries with it a deep tribute to its predecessor, the esteemed INS Vindhyagiri, a Leander Class ASW Frigate. The former INS Vindhyagiri valiantly served for nearly 31 years, participating in challenging operations and multinational exercises between July 8, 1981, and June 11, 2012.

Project 17A: Making Advanced Frigates in India. Currently, four ships are being constructed by MDL (Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited) and three by GRSE (Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited). 75% of equipment and system orders for the Project 17A ships are sourced from indigenous companies, including Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).





30. Flesh eating bacteria

Bacteria: Vibrio Vulnificus bacteria. It can cause deadly infection and one in five infected people dies

News: Three people have died after getting infected by a 'flesh-eating' bacteria in New York, USA

Infection: The infection can be acquired by eating oysters or swimming in the ocean

31. Mutual Recognition Arrangement of Authorised Economic Operators between India and Australia

Aim: providing reciprocal benefits to accredited and trusted exporters of both the signatories in the clearance of goods by the Customs authorities of the importing country.

Significance: Mutual recognition of Authorized Economic Operators is a key element of the World Customs Organisation's SAFE Framework of Standards to secure and facilitate global trade to strengthen end-to-end security of supply chains while providing higher facilitation to trade at the global level. This arrangement shall benefit our exporters to Australia and thereby promote a trade relationship between the two countries.

32. First Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, Gandhinagar

Main Outcome: The Gujarat Declaration. It will focus on integration of traditional medicines in national health systems, and help unlock the power of traditional medicine through science

33. Government exams in 15 languages

The Centre has recently decided to hold government job recruitment test, conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), in 15 languages so that the youth of the country do not miss any opportunity.

The 15 languages are: Hindi, English, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Kashmiri and Konkani



34. A-HELP Programme

Name: Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production

Ministry: Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of fisheries and animal husbandry, Govt. of India

Aim: The 'A-HELP' programme aims to empower women by engaging them as trained agents who contribute significantly to disease control, artificial insemination under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), animal tagging, and livestock insurance.

35. National Space Innovation Challenge 2023

Launched by: Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Navars Edutech

Aim: NSIC 2023 is a National-level campaign designed to ignite next generation space enthusiast to understand and contribute towards growing Indian space economy and future space workforce. It's a National platform to get inspired by industry leaders, seek opportunities for exploration and showcase ones innovation to the world.

Eligibility: Open for all the school students across the country. Students of Classes 5 to 12 are given an open platform where they can innovate and enable themselves to solve modern-day space technology problems

36. NAMASTE Scheme

Scheme: National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem

Launched by: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Implementation: In 4800+ Urban Local Bodies

Duration: Up to 2025-26

Funding: ₹349 Crore

Aim: To eliminate hazardous cleaning, stop deaths of sewer and septic tank workers and ensure their safety and dignity



Interventions:

1. Pre transition: Profiling of septic tank workers, assistance for personal protective equipment and providing insurance cover under Ayushman Bharat
2. Transition: Livelihood assistance under Swachatta Udyami Yojana to procure sanitation related equipments and vehicles and Skill development for 2 years with a stipend of ₹3000 p.m.

37. Invoice Incentive Scheme

Aim: To encourage customers to ask for invoices/bills for all purchases

Pilot phase: Only for bills issued by GST registered suppliers in Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Puducherry, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu. All Indians are eligible irrespective of the state.

Type: Lucky draw.

38. Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Programme)

Aim: Program aims to create ecosystem of competitive safety enhancements leading to increased awareness among consumers. Consumers can take an informed decision by making a comparative assessment on vehicle performance under crash test conditions.

Applicability: The Program is applicable to type approved motor vehicles of M1 category less than 3.5T GVW. This is a voluntary program in which the base variants of a given model shall be tested.

39. Definition for Green Hydrogen

After discussions with multiple stakeholders, the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has decided to define Green Hydrogen as having a well-to-gate emission (i.e., including water treatment, electrolysis, gas purification, drying and compression of hydrogen) of not more than **2 kg CO₂ equivalent / kg H₂**.

Green Hydrogen Standard notification:

1. It specifies that a detailed methodology for measurement, reporting, monitoring, on-site verification, and certification of green hydrogen and its derivatives shall be specified by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy.



2. It specifies that the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power shall be the Nodal Authority for accreditation of agencies for the monitoring, verification and certification for Green Hydrogen production projects.

40. Wedding Tourism Campaign

Aim: The campaign seeks to expand India's wedding industry, by enticing couples from around the world to embark on a remarkable journey to celebrate their special day in India.

Campaign: The campaign begins with profiling about 25 key destinations across the country, exploring how India fits into their wedding aspirations in more than one way. From breathtaking landscapes to sacred traditions, from tantalising culinary delights to cutting-edge infrastructure, this campaign captures the essence of India's grandeur, inviting couples to say "I do" against a backdrop that transcends imagination.

The aim is also to redefine India's perception beyond the realm of royal, extravagant weddings. Its thematic focus encompasses wedding themes such as Beach Wedding, Nature Wedding, Royal Wedding, Himalayan Wedding, and beyond, allowing couples to craft their dream celebration in the embrace of India's charm.

360 degree approach: The campaign will leverage the power of digital marketing, social media campaigns, strategic partnerships with wedding planners, collaborations with domestic and international influencers, and a host of offline and online activations.

41. Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM)

Agency: JAXA

Objective:

1. To demonstrate accurate lunar landing techniques, which will help make challenging landing areas more accessible.
2. Acceleration of the study of the moon and other planets using the lighter exploration system

Launch: Postponed. Earlier planned to be launched on August 27, 2023.

Significance: If Japan's moon mission is able to achieve its objectives, it can help humans make a quantitative shift towards being able to land where we want and not just where it is easy to land. By achieving this, it will become possible to land on planets even more resource-scarce than the moon.



42. Fujiwara Effect

News: Two storms whirling off the southeastern coast of the US have raised concerns among observers. On one hand, Hurricane Idalia is crawling towards Florida's Gulf Coast; on the other, Hurricane Franklin is spinning around Bermuda.

Concept: When two hurricanes (or cyclones, depending on your location) rotate in the same direction and come close to each other, they engage in an intense 'rotational dance' around a shared centre. This phenomenon, where two cyclones interact, is known as the Fujiwhara effect. For the Fujiwhara effect to take place, the eyes or centres of both storms should be at a distance of less than 1400 km from each other.

Discovery: Sakuhei Fujiwhara, a Japanese meteorologist, identified this phenomenon, which was first described in a paper published in 1921. Many years later, the occurrence was observed in the western Pacific Ocean when typhoons Marie and Kathy merged in 1964.

Five Possibilities under Fujiwhara Effect

First possibility: If one hurricane is stronger than the other, the smaller one will orbit around the larger one and eventually collide with its centre, leading to absorption.

Second possibility: If two storms of almost equal strength pass near each other, they might be drawn towards a shared centre, potentially merging or simply swirling around each other temporarily before following separate paths.

Third possibility: In rare cases, if the two cyclones are sufficiently powerful, they can combine, resulting in the formation of a supercyclone capable of causing significant destruction along coastlines.

Fourth possibility: Partial straining out happens, in which a part of the smaller storm is lost to the atmosphere.

Fifth possibility: Complete straining out takes place, in which the smaller storm is completely lost to the atmosphere. The straining out does not happen for storms of equal strength.

Impact:

1. The occurrence of the Fujiwhara Effect induces greater unpredictability in cyclones due to their rapid intensification, increased rainfall, and novel patterns of movement over warming oceans



- The lack of research and historical data about the Fujiwhara Effect makes things difficult for weather agencies and observers. Thus, evaluating Fujiwhara Effect instances over extended time frames still remains challenging.

43. Twin Cyclone vs Fujiwhara Effect

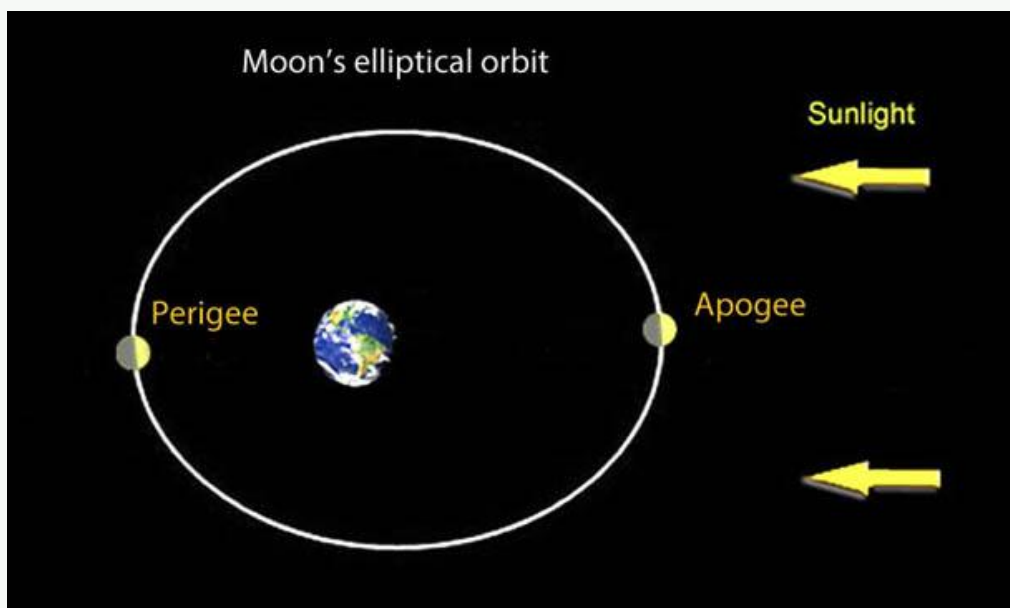
	Twin Cyclone	Fujiwhara
Place	The two cyclones form in two different hemispheres	Both cyclones form in same hemispheres
Path	Form in close proximity but their paths diverge over time	Forms at a distance and moves closer to each other
Effect	No merger. Hence has the effect of normal cyclone	May merge or may not. Has 5 possibilities (Refer above)
Example	Cyclones Asani and Karim in Indian Ocean in 2022	Cyclones Seroja and Odette in Indian Ocean in 2021

44. Super Blue Moon

News: A super blue moon event occurred on August 30, 2023

Concept:

- Super Moon: When the Full moon night occurs when the moon is at the Perigee of its orbit. The moon will appear larger than during this event.





- Blue Moon: The second Full moon in a single month. Such event occur once in 2.5 to 3 years
- Super Blue Moon: The second full moon night in a single month where the moon is closest to the Earth.

45. Paper Cups are not Clean and Green

Paper by itself is not water resistant. So paper that is used in food packaging material needs to be treated with a surface coating.

The plastic film is often made of polylactide, PLA, a type of bioplastic. Bioplastics are produced from renewable resources, typically from corn or sugarcane rather than fossil fuels.

While bioplastics are deemed biodegradable, research shows that they can still be toxic.

Bioplastics do not break down effectively when they end up in the environment, in water. There may be a risk that the plastic remains in nature and resulting microplastics can be ingested by animals and humans, just as other plastics do. Bioplastics contain at least as many chemicals as conventional plastic

46. Lok Sabha revokes suspension of Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury after Privileges Committee Evaluation

News: The suspension of Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, MP from the service of the House which was effected on 10.8.2023 till the submission of the Report by the Committee of Privileges, has been revoked with effect from 30.8.2023

Procedure for suspension: By passing a resolution in the House. The resolution for the suspension of Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who is a Congress leader in Lok Sabha, was moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi

Supplementary Concept:

- Privileges Committee

47. Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship Across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT) program

Scheme: It will provide financial aid of up to Rs 50 lakh (\$60,000) to technical textiles startups and other individuals engaged in the industry. Companies must not be older than five years to qualify for the grant. To incentivise the incubators, the ministry will additionally provide 10 per cent of total grant-in-aid to incubators. To strengthen authenticity and commitment towards the project, a minimum investment of 10 per cent of the funding from the incubatee in two equal instalments is mandated

Aim: The GREAT guidelines give momentum to the development of high-performance fibres and composites, sustainable and recyclable textile materials, and smart textiles using artificial intelligence, the internet of things, 3D/4D printing, and rapid prototyping. The application areas for technical textiles include agrotech, building textiles, geotextiles, homes, medical textiles, mobile textiles, packaging textiles, protective textiles, and sports textiles.

Supplementary concept:

- Technical textiles

<p>TECHNICAL TEXTILES FUNCTIONALITIES</p>		<p>Agrotech Horticulture + landscape gardening, agriculture + forestry, animal keeping</p>		<p>Meditech Hygiene, medicine</p>
		<p>Buildtech Membrane, lightweight + massive construction, engineering + industrial building.</p>		<p>Mobiltech Cars, ships, aircraft, trains, space travel</p>
		<p>Clothtech Garments, shoes https://textiledetails.com/</p>		<p>Oekotech Environmental protection, recycling, waste disposal</p>
		<p>Geotech Road infrastructure, Railways, Irrigation and Hydraulic structures, Waste Landfills, Dams etc.</p>		<p>Packtech Packaging, protective-cover systems, sacks, big bags, container systems</p>
		<p>Homotech Furniture, upholstery + interior furnishing, rugs, floor coverings</p>		<p>Protech Person and property protection</p>
		<p>Indutech Filtration, cleaning, mechanical engineering, chemical industry</p>		<p>Sporttech Sport and leisure, active wear, outdoor, sport articles.</p>



48. Cultural initiatives for Indian Diaspora:

Hindu Heritage Month

News: The state of Georgia in the United States has officially designated October as 'Hindu Heritage Month' to recognise and celebrate the contributions of the 'vibrant' Hindu-American community within the state. The proclamation said that the celebration will focus on Hindu heritage's culture and spiritual traditions rooted in India. The resolution acknowledged the Hindu community's contributions like Yoga, Ayurveda, meditation, food, music, and arts, and how they helped enrich American society's cultural fabric and the lives of millions.

Other initiatives for Indian Diaspora: Earlier this year, the Georgia Assembly had passed a resolution condemning Hinduphobia. The resolution made Georgia the first American state to take legislative action against anti-Hindu bigotry.

49. Sabka Mandir, Taiwan

News: In a significant development that deepens the cultural ties with India, a Hindu temple named "Sabka Mandir" has opened in Taiwan. It marks a significant milestone in the people-to-people connection between the two sides.

Other initiative to deepen ties with India: Taiwan recently revealed plans to establish the Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in Mumbai, a hub for fostering exchanges and collaborations.

50. India's First AI School

Location: Santhigiri Vidyabhavan, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

Founders: The AI School, a collaboration between Vedhik eSchool and iLearning Engines (ILE) USA

Work: Initially catering to students in classes 8 to 12, the AI School offers a plethora of learning avenues. From multi-teacher revision support to aptitude tests and career mapping, students can access an array of resources to enhance their academic journey.

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LIVE
your
IAS DREAM



**COST
AFFORDABLE**



**EXPERT
FACULTY**



**PERSONAL
MENTORING**



**HOSTEL
FACILITIES**

MISSION

To encourage the development of diligent, honest and discerning officials unwavering in their commitment to service, efficient in their administration and speaking truth to power

EARLY
BIRD
PROGRAM



Your Bridge Course
to UPSC preparation

Fee: Rs. 10,000
(50% of market rate)

MARATHON
PROGRAM



Full Course

Fee: Rs. 70,000
(50% of market rate)

CATCH
THEM
YOUNG



Program for College
students

Fee: Rs. 25,000

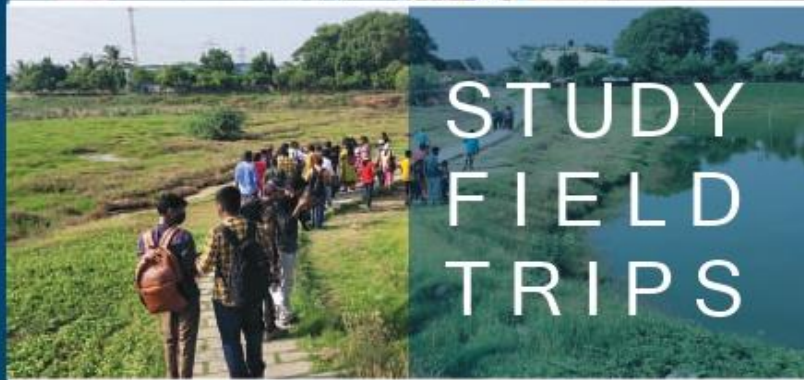
EYE
OPENER
PROGRAM



Program for
Final Year Graduates

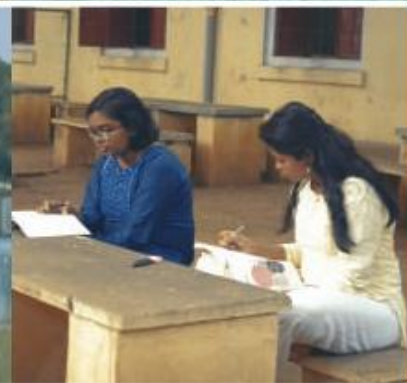
Fee: Rs. 10,000
(50% of market rate)

IAS
PREP
TALKS



STUDY
FIELD
TRIPS

AMBIENT
STUDY
SPACES



PERSONAL
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