

My Notes....

NATIONAL

INDIA'S FIRST WATER BODY CENSUS

- ✓ The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** released a report of the **first-ever water body census** recently. It provides **detailed information on water bodies** in the country.
- ✓ It is a **database of water bodies**, which provides information about **ponds, tanks, lakes and reservoirs** in India.
- ✓ **Conducted in 2018-19**, the census is also the **first time that such an exercise** has been conducted in the country.

CIVIL UNION IN SPECIAL MARRIAGE ACT

- ✓ A "**civil union**" refers to the **legal status** that **allows same-sex couples specific rights and responsibilities** normally conferred upon married couples.
- ✓ Although a **civil union resembles a marriage** and brings with it employment, inheritance, property, and parental rights, there are some differences between the two.

NATIONAL PANCHAYATI RAJ DAY

- ✓ National Panchayati Raj Day is **celebrated on April 24 every year** in India to **commemorate the historic day** when the Panchayati Raj System was introduced in the country.
- ✓ It is a **decentralized system of governance** in India, where **local bodies or Gram Panchayats are given the power** to govern themselves and make decisions for the development of their respective areas.

SC MODIFIES JUDGEMENT ON ECO-SENSITIVE ZONES

- ✓ The **Supreme Court modified its judgment** to have **mandatory eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) of a minimum one kilometre** around protected forests, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries **across the country**.
- ✓ A **Bench led by Justice B.R. Gavai** reasoned that **ESZ cannot be uniform across the country** and has to be "**protected area-specific**".

WORLD'S FIRST LIQUID NANO DAP

- ✓ Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah on 26 April 2023 launched the **world's first liquid Nano DAP** - a **novel nano fertiliser** containing **nitrogen and phosphorus** - whose use will not only reduce **India's fertiliser import dependence** but also take the country towards **sustainable farming** and **increase the farmers' income** by bringing down input cost.
- ✓ **Nano DAP** is the **second such variant of fertiliser**. Nano Urea was the **first one in this series**, launched in February, 2021.

INTERNATIONAL

HAKKI PIKKIS CAUGHT IN SUDAN CONFLICT

- ✓ **Hakki Pikki tribal community from Karnataka** are **stuck in violence-hit Sudan**, even as the government is making efforts to bring them back.

- ✓ The **Hakki Pikki** is a tribe that lives in **several states in west and south India**, especially **near forest areas**.
- ✓ Hakki Pikkis (**Hakki in Kannada means 'bird'** and **Pikki means 'catchers'**) are a **semi-nomadic tribe**, traditionally of bird catchers and hunters.

INDIA LAUNCHES OPERATION KAVERI

- ✓ **Operation Kaveri** gets under way to bring back our **citizens stranded in Sudan**. About **500 Indians have reached Port Sudan**.

TENSIONS RISING IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH

- ✓ **Nagorno-Karabakh**, known as **Artsakh by Armenians**, is a **landlocked mountainous area** in the **South Caucasus**.
- ✓ It was **claimed by both Azerbaijan and Armenia** after the fall of the **Russian Empire in 1917** and has remained a point of tension ever since.

ECONOMY

INDIA IN WORLD BANK'S LOGISTIC PERFORMANCE INDEX

- ✓ **India** has **climbed six places** on the **World Bank's Logistic Performance Index (LPI) 2023**, now **ranking 38th in the 139 countries index**, as a result of significant investments in both **soft and hard infrastructure** as well as **technology**.
- ✓ India was ranked **44th on the index in 2018** and has now climbed to 38th in the 2023 listing. **India's performance has drastically improved** from 2014, when it was **ranked 54th on the LPI**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INDIA'S FIRST SATELLITE

- ✓ The **Aryabhata spacecraft** was India's first satellite, was completely **designed and fabricated in India** and launched by a **Soviet Kosmos-3M rocket** from Kapustin Yar on 19 April 1975.
- ✓ The satellite was named Aryabhata after the **famous Indian astronomer**.

NEW SPACE POLICY UNVEILED

- ✓ The **Indian Space Policy 2023**, unveiled by Isro on 20 April 2023 after it was cleared by the Union Cabinet recently, **allows non-government entities (NGEs) or private companies or startups** to **"establish and operate remote sensing satellite systems within and outside India** through self-owned or procured or leased satellites".
- ✓ Besides their **civil applications**, remote sensing satellites have normally been used in India **for surveillance purpose** and used as **'eyes in the sky'**.

PSLV WRITE POEMS IN ORBIT

- ✓ **ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** on 22 April 2023 successfully placed **two Singapore satellites** into their **intended orbits**.

- ✓ As part of **PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM), PS4**, instead of being discarded, is now utilised as a “**stabilised platform**” to perform experiments.

NATIONAL QUANTUM MISSION APPROVED

- ✓ **NQM period is from 2023 – 2031; it is worth Rs. 6,003.65 crore** and will **mainly work towards strengthening** India’s research and development in the quantum arena.
- ✓ **India will be the sixth country** to have a **dedicated quantum mission** after the **US, Austria, Finland, France and China**.
- ✓ It will provide a huge boost to National priorities like **Digital India, Make in India, Skill India** and **Stand-up India, Start-up India, Self-reliant India** and **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**.

AMBITIOUS GENOME PROJECT

- ✓ Scientists on 27 April 2023 **unveiled the results of a project comparing the genomes of 240 mammal species** – from **aardvarks and aye-ayes to zebras and zebras**, as well as people – to **trace evolutionary changes** spanning 100 million years, pinpointing **genetic traits** widely shared and those more uniquely human.
- ✓ The findings in the ambitious **Zoonomia Project** identified parts of the genome functionally important in people and other mammals and showed **how certain mutations can cause disease**.

ENDO-ATMOSPHERIC INTERCEPTOR MISSILE TESTED

- ✓ The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Indian Navy** on 21 April 2023 successfully conducted the **maiden flight trial of sea-based endo-atmospheric interceptor missile** off Odisha in the Bay of Bengal.
- ✓ The **purpose of the trial was to engage and neutralise a hostile ballistic missile** threat thereby elevating India into the elite club of nations having **naval ballistic missile defence (BMD)** capability.

FREE, OPEN-SOURCE GPT

- ✓ **Auto-GPT** is a **free, open-source Python application** which uses OpenAI’s GPT-4 technology. **GPT-4 is a multimodal large language model** created by OpenAI as part of its GPT series.
- ✓ **Auto-GPT also runs autonomously**: which means it is capable of generating its **own ideas** and **suggestions based on human input through prompts**.

MISCELLANEOUS

UN POPULATION REPORT 2023

- ✓ India is **now the most populous country in the world**, having overtaken China in population, the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** said in its **State of World Population (SOWP) report**, ‘8 Billion Lives, Infinite Possibilities’,.

WORLD HAEMOPHILIA DAY 2023

- ✓ **World Haemophilia Day is observed on 17 April** to raise **awareness about the rare blood disorder** and help those suffering from it lead a better life.
- ✓ The **theme for this year is** “Access for All: Prevention of Bleeds as the Global Standard of Care”.

- ✓ It is a **genetic disorder that affects the body's ability** to form blood clots. **People with hemophilia have deficiencies** or abnormalities in certain clotting factors, which are **proteins that help the blood clot**.

PITTAS FIND NEW HAVEN IN ODISHA DISTRICTS

- ✓ In a first-ever **census of mangrove pitta birds** carried out in **two coastal districts of Odisha, 179 such birds** were sighted.
- ✓ **Mangrove pitta birds** are a nearly **threatened species** found in few pockets of eastern India, including **Odisha's Bhitarkanika and West Bengal's Sundarbans**.
- ✓ Pitta species have fragmented distribution and considered 'Near Threatened' by IUCN.

KOCHI WATER METRO INAUGURATED

- ✓ Prime Minister on 25 April 2023 inaugurated the first phase of the **Kochi Water Metro** — a **first of its kind public boat service in India** integrated with a **metro rail network**.
- ✓ The **Kochi Water Metro** is a project being implemented by **Kochi Metro Rail Corporation Limited (KMRL)** with the assistance of a German funding agency, **Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau**.

WORLD MALARIA DAY 2023

- ✓ **World Malaria Day on 25th April, WHO guiding theme** this year is **“Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement”**.
- ✓ It is **caused by parasites** (plasmodium vivax, plasmodium falciparum, and plasmodium malariae and plasmodium ovale) **that are transmitted through the bite of infected female** Anopheles mosquitoes.

QUESTIONS IN LAST YEAR (2022) PT FROM MY NOTES
SCAN QR CODE

