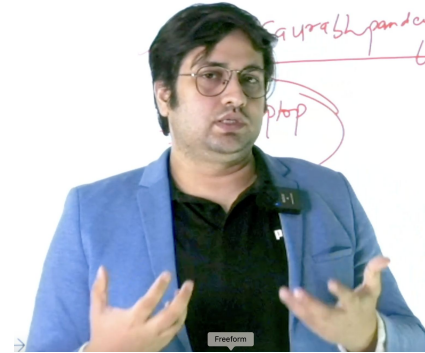


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- Apache Helicopter
- The Moon's Volcanic Activity
- Understanding Atmospheric Temperature Layers
- Coast of Batroun, Lebanon 
- National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and National Credit Framework (NCrF)
- Cross-Border Insolvency Laws and International Trade
- UNCITRAL
- Mains



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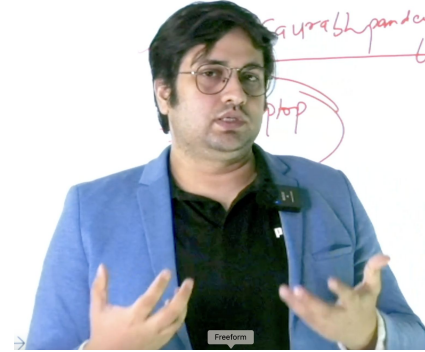


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- **IT Rules and the Bombay High Court Verdict**
- **Paper Retractions and Research Misconduct**
- **IR IN NEWS**
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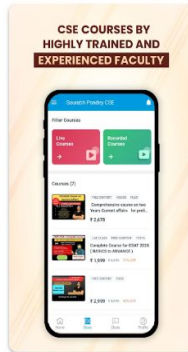
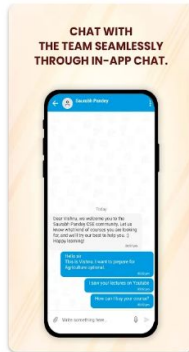
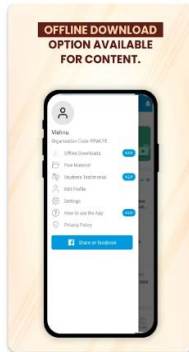
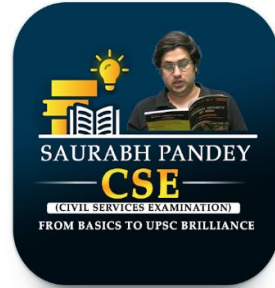
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Overview

Launch Date: October 1

Pilot Cities: 25 cities in India

Duration: 3 months (including a 1-month preparatory phase)

Approach: Test-Learn-Scale





Topic → Apache Helicopter Delivery and Deployment



Overview

AH-64E Apache 🦅

Attack helicopter
Manufactured by Boeing

Indigenous LCH 🚁

Light Combat Helicopter
Manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd

Key Points

Delivery Delays ⌚

- First batch delivery set for December 2023
- Original schedule: May and July 2023
- Supply chain issues cited_____
- Political push for prioritization with U.S.



Deployment

Apaches for desert operations

LCH for high-altitude areas like Ladakh

Operational limitations for Apaches in high altitudes

Training

Six pilots and 24 technicians trained by Boeing in the U.S.

Squadrons

451 Aviation Squadron raised at Jodhpur for Apache operations

First dedicated attack helicopter for the Indian Army

Cost and Contracts

Deal for six Apaches at \$800 million signed in February 2020



Topic → The Moon's Volcanic Activity



Overview



Volcanic activity on the moon reveals:

Surface formation 🌍

Atmospheric conditions ☁️

Tectonic activity 🌐



Remote-sensing data indicates volcanic activity dating back 800 million years 🕒

Focus on lunar glass beads formed by:

Volcanic activity 🌋

Impact events 💥

The ages of volcanic samples range from 116–135 million years old. Evidence suggests they have a volcanic origin, despite overlapping ages with impact beads.

Researchers focused on lunar glass beads — small glass pieces formed by volcanic activity or impact events like when rocks from space smash the moon's surface.

Key Points

Types of Beads:

Volcanic Beads: Uniform structure

Impact Beads: Display shock features like fractures





Temperature Variation with Height

Troposphere:

Temperature decreases from the ground up to 15-20 km.

Stratosphere:

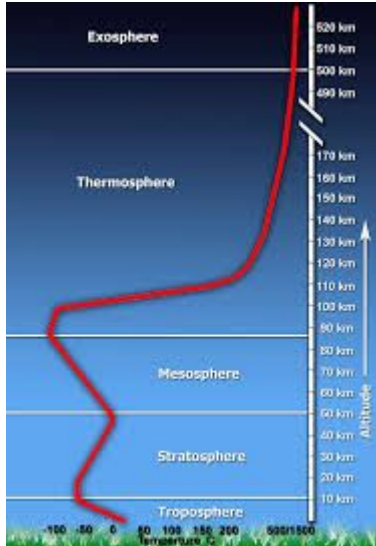
Temperature increases up to 50 km.

Mesosphere:

Temperature decreases up to 80 km.

Ionosphere:

Temperature increases beyond 80 km.



Key Concepts:



Solar Radiation: Heats the Earth's surface more than the air.



Convective Expansion: Transport of heat into the atmosphere.

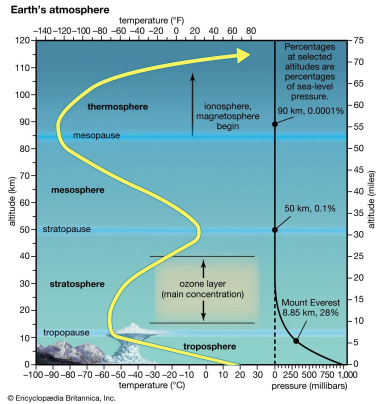
Hydrostatically Stable Atmosphere: Conditions under which temperature decreases with height.

Dynamic Atmosphere: Constant motion with non-adiabatic thermodynamic processes.

Factors Influencing Temperature:

Radiation: External radiation entering and heat radiated into space.

Adiabatic Conditions: Small departures from hydrostatic and adiabatic states.



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MAPPING → Coast of Batroun, Lebanon

Overview

- Batroun is a historic coastal city in Lebanon known for its stunning beaches and rich cultural heritage.
- It has become a popular destination for local and international tourism, especially during the summer months.



Topic → National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and National Credit Framework (NCrF)



Overview

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020: A transformative vision for education in India.

National Credit Framework (NCrF): Flexible template for credit accumulation across multidisciplinary education.

Key Concepts

Cognitive Inconsistency: Resistance to change in educational methods.

Axiomatic Irrationality: Opposition to NEP reforms based on outdated views.

Colonial Mindset: Moving away from traditional _____ educational structures.



National Education Policy 2020

Ministry of Human Resource Development

Government of India

Flexibility for Students

Earning Credits:

Classroom Teaching

Laboratory Work

Extracurricular Activities

Internships and Apprenticeships

Broad-based Opportunities: Encourages diverse learning experiences.



Challenges



Resistance to NEP:

Some educators are rooted in conventional methods. Inflexibility hinders adaptation to modern educational needs.

Dynamic Education Needs:

Need for HEIs to evolve with societal and technological changes.



Vocational and Skill Training

Balancing Roles:

Knowledge generation vs. skill training.

HEIs' Responsibilities:

Equipping students for emerging job roles and self-employment.

Continuous Adaptation



Reforming Higher Education:

- Importance of adapting curricula.
- Avoiding elitism in education.

Democratization of Education: Creating equitable opportunities for all students.

Multidisciplinary Education

MERU Concept: Focus on diverse educational approaches.

Skill Training:

- Emphasis on practical skills for better employability.

Future Vision

Integration of Flexibility:

- Redefining curricula to include skill-based courses.

Transforming India:

- Enabling students to become economic contributors.
-





Overview

Importance: Cross-border insolvency laws are crucial for international trade 🌐.

Legal Integration: Essential for legal certainty and improving trading entities' health.

Implementing the Model Law



UNCITRAL's Role: Development of the Model Law focusing on:

- Access
- Recognition
- Cooperation
- Coordination

Adoption: Only 60 countries have adopted it; variations in implementation exist.

India's Situation



Current Status: India hasn't adopted the Model Law despite recommendations.
Bilateral Agreements: Limited provisions allow ad hoc agreements for cross-border insolvencies.

Trade Agreements and Insolvency

FTAs/CECA/CEPA: India signed agreements with over 54 countries.

FTAs: Reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers.

CECAs/CEPAs: More integrated, covering broader areas.

Insolvency Provisions: Lack of detailed provisions despite their importance.

(Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA))



Need for Integration

FTAs and Insolvency: Existing agreements need to include insolvency dimensions for completeness.

Scholarly Perspectives: Proposals for tailor-made international treaties to address insolvency.

Conclusion

Strategic Importance: Sound insolvency laws are vital for the robustness of international trade.

Future Directions: Need for mechanisms addressing insolvency effects in trade agreements.



Topic → UNCITRAL



UNCITRAL: United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
Purpose: To promote the progressive harmonization and unification of international trade law.

Key Areas of Focus

Investment Dispute Resolution:

Advisory Centre on International Investment Disputes

Recent briefings and developments

Importance of ISDS reform

Cross-Border Insolvency:

Navigating insolvency issues globally

Comparative analysis among countries (Singapore, UK, US, Australia)

Negotiable Cargo Documents:

Recent projects on electronic records

Enhancing trade flexibility

Facilitating trade finance



Recent Developments



ISDS Advisory Centre Draft Statute:

Publication of draft

Implications for investment treaties

Documentary Film's Role in ISDS Reform:

Exploring innovative approaches to reform discussions

Modernization of Arbitration Laws:

Draft Bill for Germany's arbitration law modernization



Challenges and Considerations

Enforcement of Arbitral Awards:

Legal complexities and court rulings

Importance of consistency and predictability

State Efforts in Treaty Management:

Evaluating the effectiveness of current investment treaties

Challenges faced by states

Topic→IT Rules and the Bombay High Court Verdict



Overview of the Situation

🚫 Unconstitutional

High Court ruled amended IT Rules, 2021 as "unconstitutional" and "vague"

📜 Law Under Challenge

2023 Amendment to IT Rules by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MEiTY)

Empowered the government to classify information as “fake, false, or misleading”



Key Provisions of the 2023 Rules



Fact-Checking Authority

Allowed government to establish a fact-checking body

Required social media intermediaries to monitor flagged content



Content Removal Timeline

Content flagged by FCU to be removed within 36 hours

Retention of "safe harbour" protection contingent on compliance

Road to verdict

The fact check unit of Ministry of Electronics and IT has faced criticism since it was established on April 6, 2023. The case against the Centre's amendment has concluded after over a year. **Highlights:**

April 10, 2023: Satirist Kunal Kamra files a petition in Bombay HC against the amendments to the Act, calling them "arbitrary, violating fundamental rights of speech and expression and vague"; Editors Guild of India and the Internet Freedom Foundation join the plea later

April 24: IT Rules Amendment does not seem to offer protection to

parody and satire, observes Bombay HC

Jan. 31, 2024: Court delivers a split verdict with Justice Patel favouring the petitioners and Justice Gokhale upholding the amendment

Feb. 8: The case is placed before Justice Chandurkar

March 21: SC stays setting up of FCU to monitor social media content about the government

Justice Chandurkar



-
- The amended Rule 3(1)(b)(v) specifically required social media intermediaries to make “reasonable efforts” to prevent users from uploading or transmitting any content □ flagged by the Centre’s FCU as misinformation.
 - Such □ flagged content would have to be taken down within 36 hours if the intermediaries wanted to retain their “safe harbour” protection – a form of legal immunity against any third-party content hosted by them



Split Verdict Analysis



🗣️ Justice Patel's View

Rules promote censorship

Lack of procedural safeguards

Government acts as "judge in its own cause"

🔍 Justice Gokhale's Perspective

Government's role in providing accurate information

Combatting misinformation without hindering legitimate criticism

Reactions and Implications

🗣️ Public Reaction

Kunal Kamra and others challenged the rules

Ruling seen as a victory for free speech advocates

🔗 Legal Implications

Raises questions on the balance between misinformation control and freedom of expression

Potential impact on future regulations regarding digital content



Topic → Paper Retractions and Research Misconduct

Overview of Paper Retractions

Definition: Retractions occur when a scientific paper is removed from literature due to significant errors or misconduct.

Honest Errors vs. Misconduct:

Honest errors are often forgiven.

Deliberate manipulation results in severe repercussions.

Notable Cases:

John Darsee had over 80 retractions for inaccuracies.

Nobel laureates are not exempt from scrutiny.



Recent Increases:

Retractions have surged; 10,000 papers were retracted in 2023 alone.

Significant growth in retractions noted during the pandemic due to expedited processes.

Retraction Index:

Defined as the number of retractions multiplied by 1,000 and divided by total published articles.

Higher retraction rates seen in high-impact journals.



IR IN NEWS

- The Thai king has signed same-sex marriage into law, making Thailand the first country in Southeast Asia to recognise marriage equality.
- The Sarco capsule, □ First unveiled in 2019, is a portable, human-sized pod which replaces the oxygen inside it with nitrogen, causing death by hypoxia.



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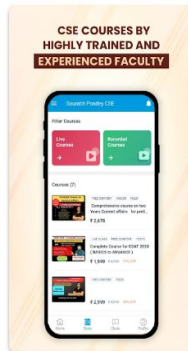
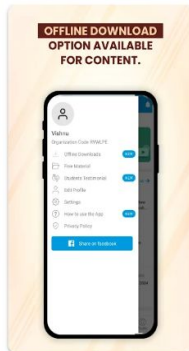
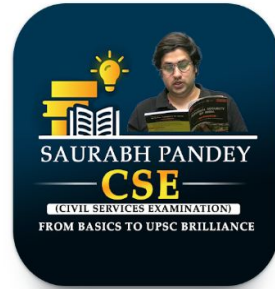


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