

CURRENT AFFAIRS DECEMBER 2023

POLITY, LAW AND GOVERNANCE

1. Security Breach in Parliament

- ❖ Under the Sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, an anti-terror law, against accused persons.
- ❖ Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) related to criminal conspiracy, trespass, provoking a riot, and obstructing a public servant in the discharge of functions.

Rules for parliament visitors :

- Rule 386 - Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha governs the “admission, withdrawal, and removal” of visitors during the sittings of the House.
- Rule 387 – power of speaker to withdraw “strangers” from any part of the House if deemed fit.
- Rule 387A - **authorized by the Speaker**, empowers a Secretariat officer to remove /take into custody any stranger.

2. The CEC and Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023

- ❖ The Bill replaces the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991.
- ❖ It addresses the appointment (by president), salary, and removal {Article 324(5)} of the CEC and ECs.

3. AMRIT Technology

Recently, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has shed light on the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission and the **Arsenic** {blackfoot disease} and **Metal Removal by Indian Technology (AMRIT)**.

4. Truth and Reconciliation Commission

- ❖ Recently, **the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the abrogation of Article 370 by the Centre in 2019**, the court held the Constitutional order that revoked Article 370 as valid.
- ❖ Recommended **setting up a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to look into alleged violations of human rights** by both state and non-state actors in J&K.



5. **Doctrine of uberrima fides**

The relationship between the government and the law officer is purely professional and not that of a master and a servant.

6. **AI (Artificial intelligence) Legislation**

- ❖ The European Union (EU) has set the stage for the world's first comprehensive legislation aimed at regulating the use of Artificial intelligence (AI).
- ❖ Strong restrictions on facial recognition technology.

7. **Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955**

- ❖ Recently, a Constitution Bench led by the Chief Justice of India is hearing a series of petitions challenging the constitutionality of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- ❖ The Constitution Bench clarifies its focus is limited to examining the validity of Section 6A and not the Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC).

8. **All India Judicial Service**

- ❖ AIJS is a proposed centralized recruitment system for judges at the level of additional district judges and district judges across all states.
- ❖ Aims to centralize the recruitment of judges, similar to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) model, assigning successful candidates to states.
- ❖ Article 312 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of AIJS.
- ❖ However, Article 312 (2) states that the AIJS cannot include any post inferior to that of a district judge, as defined in Article 236.

9. **Fast Track Special Courts**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Fast Track Special Court (FTSCs) for three more years till 2026.
- ❖ Initially commenced in October 2019
- ❖ Primary aim - POCSO act

10. **Unemployment rate in urban areas**

- ❖ A decline from 7.2% (July– September 2022) to 6.6% (July–September 2023). ☑
- ❖ Male: Decreased from 6.6% to 6% in the given time period. ☑
- ❖ Female: Witnessed a more positive trend, marking a decrease from 9.4% to 8.6% in the given time period.

SOCIAL ISSUES, GLOBAL REPORTS

11. Human trafficking

Operation Storm Makers II, orchestrated by Interpol, has illuminated the expanding network of fraud schemes associated with human trafficking.

- ❖ **Article 23** prohibits human trafficking and begar (forced labour without payment).
- ❖ Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA)
- ❖ Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012

12. **Global Status Report on Road Safety 2023: WHO**

- ❖ India witnessed a 15% increase in fatalities, rising from 1.34 lakh in 2010 to 1.54 lakh in 2021.

For India

- ❖ Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019
- ❖ The Carriage by Road Act, 2007
- ❖ The Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2000
- ❖ National Highways Authority of India Act, 1998

ART & CULTURE

13. **Living ASI monuments**

- ❖ Taj Mahal
- ❖ Three mosques in Kannauj
- ❖ The Roman Catholic Church in Meerut
- ❖ The Nila Mosque in Delhi's Hauz Khas Village
- ❖ Several Buddhist monasteries in Ladakh.

14. **UNESCO Recognition to Gujarat's Garba Dance**

15th cultural item from India to make it to the UNESCO list

MISCELLANEOUS

15. NGT's Intervention in Haryana's Illegal Mining Issue

- ❖ Serial No. 23 of List II (State List) to the Constitution of India mandates the state government to own the minerals located within their boundaries. ☐
- ❖ The entry at serial No. 54 of List I (Central List) mandates the central government to own the minerals within the **exclusive economic zone of India (EEZ)**

16. **India Re-elected to International Maritime Organisation Council**

17. **Women reservation act 2023**

Reservation of 1/3rd seats of lok sabha and state legislative assemblies for women.

Key Features

- **Articles Inserted:**
 - ⌵ Article 330A - Reservation for Women in LS
 - ⌵ Article 332A - Reservation for Women in State LAs
 - ⌵ Article 239AA - Reservation for Women in NCT of Delhi
 - ⌵ Article 334A - Reservations to become effective after delimitation is undertaken and Census is conducted
- **Time Period:**
 - ⌵ Reservation to be provided for 15 years (can be extended)
- **Rotation of Seats Reserved:**
 - ⌵ After each delimitation