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Advocates Amendment Bill, 2023



- Recently, the Advocates Amendment Bill, 2023, was passed in the Lok Sabha.
- Introduced in the Rajya Sabha's Monsoon Session on August 1, the Bill was passed by the House two days later.

❖ Key Highlights

- It is aimed at weeding out 'touts' from the legal system.
- The Bill repeals the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879, and amends the Advocates Act, 1961, to reduce "the number of superfluous enactments in the statute book" and repeal all "obsolete laws".
- It prescribes six months of imprisonment for persons illegally practising in courts and before other authorities.
- Section 45A states that the Bill enables every HC and district judge to frame and publish lists of touts.

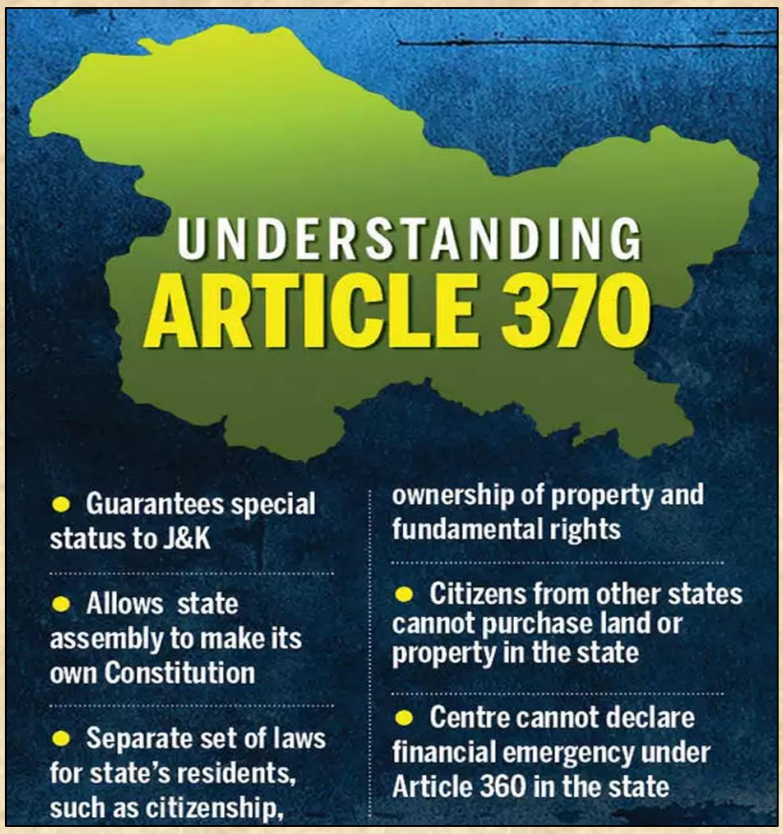
❖ The Legal Practitioners Act 1879

- It came into force in 1880, "to consolidate and amend the law relating to Legal Practitioners in certain provinces."
- The Act initially extended to areas in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Orissa, and Delhi.
- Any state government could, by notification in the Official Gazette, extend it to their states.
- Section 2 of the 1879 Act defined the term "legal practitioner" to include advocates, vakils, or attorneys of any High Court. It also introduced a new definition of the term "tout".
- **Tout**- A tout is someone who procures clients for a legal practitioner in exchange for payment.
  - The definition also included people who frequented civil or criminal courts, revenue offices, railway stations, etc. for such procurement purposes.

❖ The Advocates Act of 1961

- It was passed in independent India to create a single Act to regulate the legal profession.
- This Act repealed a majority of the 1879 Act but left behind provisions relating to its extent, definitions, and powers to frame and publish lists of touts.
- It provides for the constitution of Bar Councils and an All-India Bar.
- Before this, legal practitioners were governed by three Acts – the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879, the Bombay Pleaders Act, 1920, and the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926.

Article 370



- The Supreme Court will pronounce its verdict on December 11 on a batch of petitions, which challenged the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in 2019.

❖ Background

- On August 5, 2019, the Central government decided to revoke Article 370 of the Indian Constitution.
- President Ram Nath Kovind issued Constitutional Order (CO) 272, which made certain changes to Article 367, affecting how Article 370 would be read.
- This allowed for changes to be made to Article 370.
- The President issued Constitutional Order 273 to confirm the abrogation of Article 370.
- Parliament passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, which bifurcated the state into two Union Territories – Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- Petitioners have challenged the validity of CO 272 and CO 273, and the President's power to make the provision inoperable.

❖ About Article 370

- Article 370 accorded a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir within the Indian Union.
- It was included in the Constitution on October 17, 1949. Article 370 exempts J&K from the Indian Constitution (except Article 1 and Article 370 itself) and permits the state to draft its own Constitution.

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- It restricts Parliament's legislative powers in respect of J&K.
- For extending a central law on subjects included in the Instrument of Accession (IoA), mere "consultation" with the state government is needed.
- But for extending it to other matters, "concurrence" of the state government is mandatory.
- The IoA came into play when the Indian Independence Act, 1947 divided British India into India and Pakistan.

Sovereign Green Bond

- Recently, Sovereign Green Bonds of Rs. 16,000 crores were raised by the government in 2022-23 for financing renewable energy projects.



❖ Sovereign Green Bonds

- These are bonds issued by any sovereign entity, inter-governmental groups or alliances and corporations.
- The **proceeds generated from the issuance of such bonds** will be **deployed in public sector projects** which help in reducing the carbon intensity of the economy.
- Proceeds will be **deposited with the Consolidated Fund of India.**
- **Green Finance Working Committee** constituted to validate key decisions on issuance of SGB.



❖ Significance

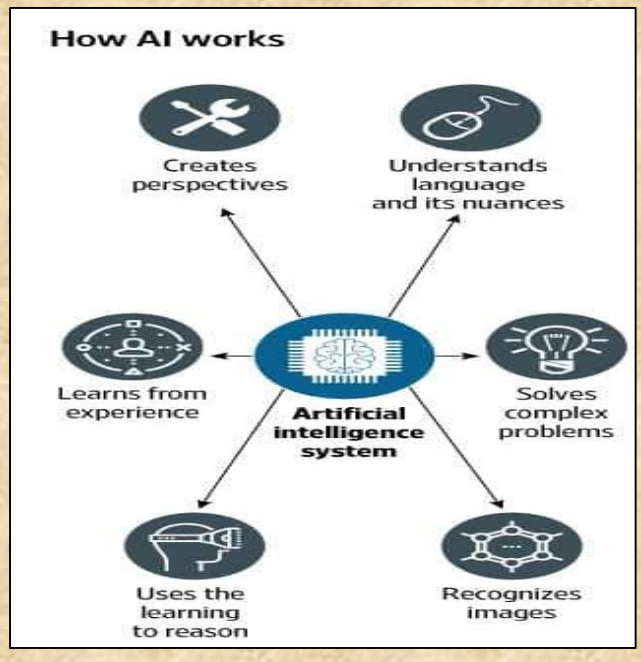
- Sovereign green bonds framework will **fund environmentally sustainable projects.**
- It will **strengthen India's commitment towards its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) targets**, adopted under the Paris Agreement.
- It will help in **attracting global and domestic investments** in eligible green projects.

❖ Green Bonds

- Green bonds are **financial instruments that generate funds** for investment in **environmentally sustainable and climate-suitable projects.**
- Also, green bonds command a **relatively lower cost of capital compared to regular bonds.**
- India's First Green Bond was issued by **Yes Bank Ltd in 2015.**

Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)

- India will host the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit from December 12 to December 14.

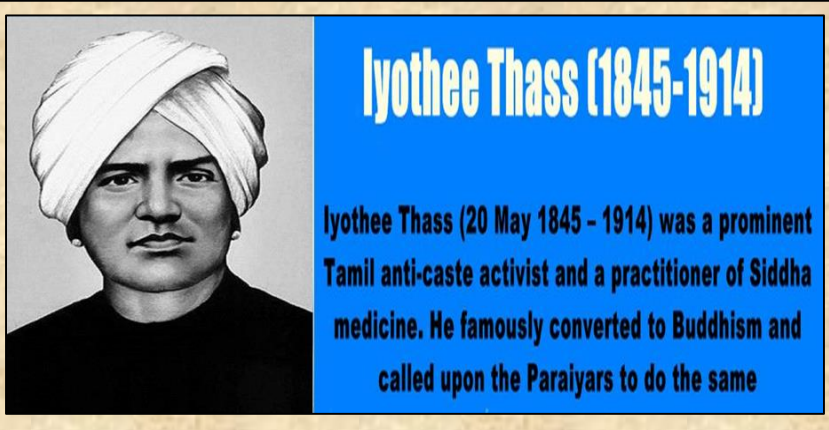


❖ About GPAI

- The GPAI is a forum of 28 nations and the European Union.
- It was launched in June 2020.
- GPAI seeks to bridge the gap between theory and practice by supporting research and applied activities in areas that are directly relevant to policymakers in the realm of AI.
- It brings together experts from industry, civil society, governments, and academia to collaborate on the challenges and opportunities presented by artificial intelligence
- It is working together to understand the challenges and opportunities of artificial intelligence, or AI, and to promote its responsible evolution.
- India became the Chair of the GPAI in November 2022 after France. China is not a member of the GPAI.
- **Structure**
  - GPAI has a Council and a Steering Committee, supported by a Secretariat hosted by the OECD.
  - It has two Centres of Expertise: One in Montreal and another in Paris.
  - These Centres of Expertise will facilitate GPAI's four working groups and their research and practical projects, across various sectors and disciplines.

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Iyothee Thass Pandithar



- Recently, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister unveiled a statue of late anti-caste activist Iyothee Thass Pandithar installed at the Gandhi Mandapam campus at Guindy in Chennai.

About Iyothee Thass Pandithar

- Iyothee Thass (20 May 1845 – 1914) was an Indian anti-caste activist and a practitioner of Siddha medicine.
- He famously converted to Buddhism and called upon the Paraiyars to do the same, arguing that this was their original religion.
- After organising the tribal people in the Nilgris in the 1870s, he established the Advaidananda Sabha in 1876.
- He launched a magazine called Dravida Pandian along with Rev.John Rathinam in 1885.
- He issued a statement in 1886 announcing that the so-called untouchables are not Hindus.
- He also founded the Panchamar Mahajana Sabha in 1891 along with Rettamalai Srinivasan. Panchamas are the ones who are outcastes.
- Iyothee Thass met Colonel H. S. Olcott, who was an American military officer and who founded the Theosophical Society, with his followers and expressed a sincere desire to convert to Buddhism.
- He became an expert on Tamil literature, philosophy and indigenous medicine and could speak Tamil, English, Sanskrit and Pali.
- Iyothee Thass Pandithar is also known as the 'Father of Social Reforms in South India'.

Hatti community

- An organisation of the Hatti community in Himachal Pradesh will organise a protest march on December 16 to press their demand for the implementation of a law giving the Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the community.

About Hatti Community

- The Hatti community is **largely concentrated in the Trans-Giri area of the Sirmaur district.**
- Members of the community have **settled in and around Shimla as well as the Solan district over time.**
- The community, which has over **three lakh people,** is named after their age-**old professional practice of selling their home grown crops** at small markets called 'Haat' in nearby cities.
- Till date, the **members of this community haven't been mainstreamed** and most are dependent on animal rearing and agriculture.
- **They even still follow the Khumbli — the traditional council** despite the establishment of the panchayat system.
- It is reported that the Hatti community of the Trans-Giri region of Himachal Pradesh share **social as well as cultural similarities with the Jaunsar community** of the Jaunsar-Bawar area of Uttarakhand.
  - This is because the Trans-Giri area and Jaunsar Bawar area, were part of the erstwhile Sirmaur princely state.
  - Incidentally, those who crossed over to the Jaunsar Bawar area, which is now in Uttarakhand, enjoy tribal status since 1967.





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