



11 December, 2023

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Context: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN on December 10, 1948, commemorates its 75th anniversary, shaped by the aftermath of the Second World War.

➤ Influence and Drafting Process:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) drew inspiration from **the Code Napoléon**, incorporating a structure with a preamble and general principles.
- The final structure emerged in the second draft, shaped by French jurist René Cassin, who refined the **initial draft prepared by Canadian legal scholar John Peters Humphrey**.

➤ Structure of the Declaration:

- Preamble:** Sets out historical and social reasons necessitating the drafting of the Declaration.
- Articles 1–2:** Establish fundamental concepts of dignity, liberty, and equality.
- Articles 3–5:** Establish additional individual rights, such as the right to life, and prohibit slavery and torture.
- Articles 6–11:** Refer to the fundamental legality of human rights, providing specific remedies for their defense when violated.
- Articles 12–17:** Outline the rights of the individual towards the community, including freedom of movement, right to property, and right to nationality.
- Articles 18–21:** Sanction "constitutional liberties" and spiritual, public, and political freedoms, covering freedom of thought, expression, religion, and peaceful association.
- Articles 22–27:** Sanction an individual's economic, social, and cultural rights, including healthcare and an expansive right to an adequate standard of living. Special mention is made of care for those in motherhood or childhood.
- Articles 28–30:** Establish the general means of exercising these rights, delineate areas where individual rights cannot be applied, outline the duty of the individual to society, and prohibit the use of rights contrary to the purposes of the United Nations Organization.

➤ Achievements and Incorporation:

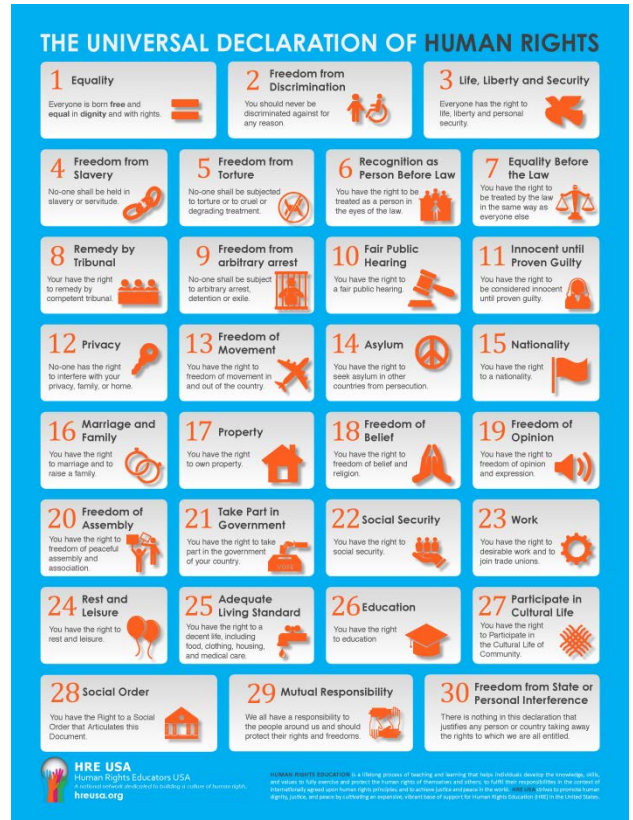
- While **not legally binding**, the principles of the UDHR have **influenced laws globally**, serving as the foundation for international human rights law.
- It **inspired over 70 human rights treaties globally and regionally**, contributing to movements against colonialism, apartheid, and for gender and LGBTQ+ rights.

➤ Human Right

- Human rights are **inherent to every person globally**, from the moment of birth to the end of life.
- They are applicable to individuals **irrespective of their origin, beliefs, or lifestyle choices**. While human rights are intrinsic and cannot be taken away, certain limitations may be imposed, such as in cases of legal infractions or national security interests.
- These rights are rooted in shared values like dignity, fairness, equality, respect, and independence, finding legal definition and protection.

➤ Current Challenges and Criticisms:

- The 75th anniversary **coincides with challenges** to human rights in conflicts such as the **Israel-Hamas war, Russia's war in Ukraine, and internal conflicts in Myanmar and Sudan**.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres acknowledges misuse and abuse of the declaration for political gain and its neglect by some governments.



Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge

Context: During the COP28 climate summit on December 2, a pledge to triple the global green energy capacity to 11,000 GW by 2030 was signed by 118 countries.

- 118 countries signed a pledge at COP28 to **triple the world's green energy capacity to 11,000 GW by 2030**.
- The pledge requires **countries to double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements from 2% to over 4% each year** until 2030.
- The aim is to **curb the rise in emissions and limit the global average temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius**, as outlined in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

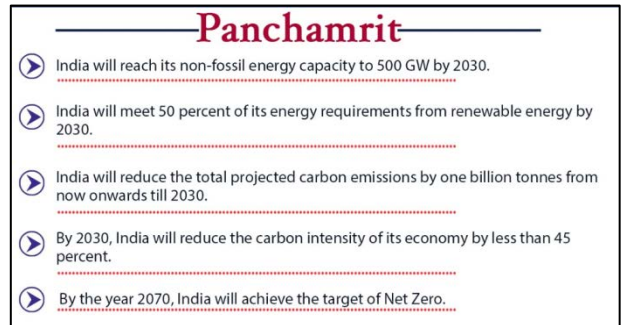
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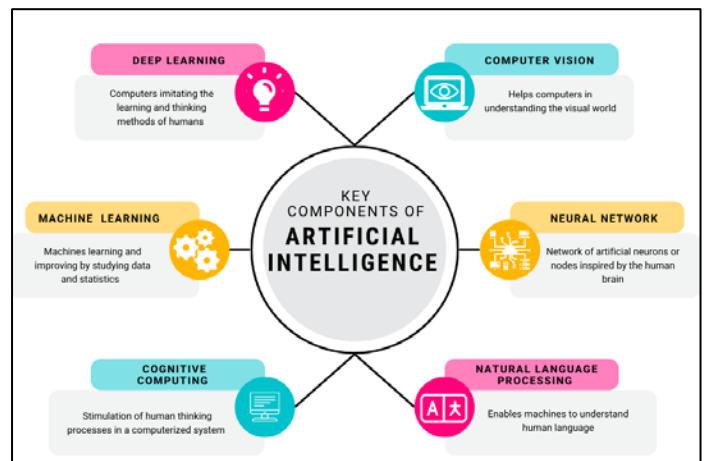
- **Pledge Details:**
 - The pledge is **not legally binding** and is **not officially part of the COP28 calendar**.
 - COP28 also addresses the issue of tripling renewable energy, with the outcome eagerly anticipated.
 - The pledge signals a **collective commitment among world leaders** to actively address global emissions.
- **Renewable Energy Growth:**
 - The **International Energy Agency (IEA)** predicts that between **2022 and 2027, renewables will contribute to over 90% of global electricity capacity expansion**.
 - Solar, wind, hydropower, and biofuels are identified as the future fuels, aiming to eliminate fossil fuels as energy sources by 2050.
 - Renewables are expected to grow significantly, with an **85% acceleration compared to the previous five years**, according to the IEA.
- **India's Renewable Energy Goals:**
 - India, as the **world's third-largest producer** of renewable energy, has set ambitious targets, aiming to **meet 50% of its electricity demands** from renewable sources by **2030**.
 - The country also aims to **achieve net-zero emissions by 2070**.
- **Challenges in Renewable Deployment:**
 - Globally, the deployment of renewables faces challenges such as rising costs, labour constraints, and supply chain issues.
 - These challenges have led to project delays and cancellations, resulting in significant financial losses for leading developers.
- **India's Position on the Pledge:**
 - The **EU, the US, and the UAE spearheaded** the pledge, with support from countries like Brazil, Nigeria, Australia, Japan, Canada, Chile, and Barbados.
 - **India and China did not join the initiative**, citing concerns about the call to phase down coal and cease investments in new coal-fired power plants.
 - However, in **September 2023, India**, as part of the G20, **committed to working towards tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030**. The outcome of discussions at COP28 is eagerly awaited.



European Union's law on AI

Context: Following a 37-hour negotiation, EU officials have provisionally agreed on the first comprehensive laws worldwide to regulate artificial intelligence.

- **EU's AI Legislation:**
 - EU officials reached a provisional deal on comprehensive AI regulations after a 37-hour negotiation.
 - The legislation sets **safeguards for AI use, empowering consumers** to file complaints against violations.
 - It includes **restrictions on facial recognition and AI manipulation** of human behaviour.
 - Penalties are established for companies breaking the rules, and real-time biometric surveillance is limited to serious threats.
- **Risk Classes in AI Applications:**
 - AI applications are categorized into **four risk classes**, with some applications banned, including mass-scale facial recognition.
 - **High-risk applications**, like AI tools for self-driving cars, are **allowed but subject to certification and transparency requirements**.
 - **Medium-risk applications**, such as generative AI chatbots, can be **deployed with detailed documentation and user awareness** of interacting with AI.
- **EU's Leadership on Regulation:**
 - Europe has taken a lead in tech regulation with laws on online privacy, curbing tech dominance, and protection from harmful online content.
 - The US has made attempts to lead in AI regulation with an executive order and a proposed **AI Bill of Rights**.
 - The EU's **GDPR serves as a template globally**, and additional legislations like the **Digital Services Act** and **Digital Markets Act** focus on individual rights and non-competitive practices.



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- **Global Approaches to AI Regulation:**
 - Policymakers globally are scrutinizing generative AI tools for privacy, system bias, and intellectual property concerns.
 - The EU takes a stringent, use-case-specific approach, the **UK adopts a 'light-touch' strategy** to foster innovation, and the US falls in between.
 - **China has released its own measures to regulate AI.**
- **India's AI Approach:**
 - India emphasizes its successful use of technology in governance solutions through **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**.
 - New Delhi aims to adopt a sovereign AI approach, focusing on real-life applications in healthcare, agriculture, governance, and language translation.
 - India intends to develop its AI ecosystem for economic development, seeking to balance global and domestic influences.

India- South Korea Relations

Context: India is celebrating 50 years of diplomatic relations with South Korea after formal establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries occurred in 1973..

- **Historical Ties between India and South Korea:**
 - **Buddhism from India** reached the Korean peninsula in the **3rd century during the three kingdoms period**.
 - India played a **crucial role in Korean affairs post-Korea's independence in 1945**.
 - **Mr. K P S Menon of India chaired the UN Commission in 1947 for elections in Korea.**
 - During the **Korean War (1950-53)**, India sponsored a resolution leading to a ceasefire in 1953.
 - General K.S. Thimayya of India chaired the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission post-armistice.
- **Establishment of Bilateral Relations:**
 - **Bilateral consular ties established in 1962**, elevated to **ambassadorial status in 1973**.
 - Various trade agreements reached, including those in trade promotion, science & technology, and double taxation avoidance.
- **Key Agreements and Developments:**
 - President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's state visit in **2006** led to the formation of a Joint Task Force for a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**.
 - Bilateral ties elevated to **Strategic Partnership during President Lee's visit in 2010**.
 - Agreements signed in **2011 for Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation**, and in **2012 for Nuclear Security Summit and Visa simplification**.
 - **2018 marked an upgrade to a special-strategic partnership between the two nations.**
- **Trade and Economic Relations:**
 - Trade between India and South Korea reached an all-time high of **USD 27.8 bn in 2022, targeting USD 50 bn by 2030**.
 - CEPA implementation in 2010 **resulted in a 70% growth in bilateral trade by 2011**.
 - **Major exports** from India include **mineral fuels, cereals, iron, and steel**; **Korean exports** include **automobile parts, telecommunications equipment, and more**.
 - **'Korea Plus' initiative launched in 2016** to promote Korean investments in India.
 - **Samsung, Hyundai Motors, and LG** have made significant investments in India.
- **Recent Developments and Agreements:**
 - In 2022, the **fifth Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue took place** between India and South Korea in Seoul.
 - Both countries aim to deepen cooperation in trade, investment, science & technology, cultural exchanges, security, defense, and emerging technologies.
 - Collaboration on building resilient global supply chains amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Strategic Relationship:**
 - India and South Korea are **significant partners in the Indo-Pacific region**.
 - **South Korea's Indo-Pacific vision document and New Southern Policy (NSP) align with India's Act East Policy (AEP)**.
 - South Korea seeks enhanced cooperation with India in the Quad framework and emphasizes collaboration on COVID-19, climate change, and emerging technologies.
 - **South Korea's inclusion in the Quad's working groups is of interest** to both countries.
 - The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and South Korea's role in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) contribute to economic security and regional collaboration.

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NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

The Tomb of Ikram Khan



Recently, it has been found that the tomb of Ikram Khan located in Greater Noida's Kasna Park stands in dire need of attention and restoration.

The Tomb of Ikram Khan:

- Ikram Khan was one of the **officers entrusted with the building of the fort at Delhi** (Red Fort) by Shah Jahan.
- According to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) documents dating back to **1969**, "The tomb of Ikram Khan was constructed of **red sandstone**, still exists in a fair state of preservation."
- It is linked to the construction of **Delhi's Red Fort during Shah Jahan's reign**.
- Constructed from red sandstone, akin to the material used in the iconic Red Fort, reflecting the architectural style of the **Mughal era**.
- Adjacent to the tomb, the **Nihalde Sati Temple** is historically linked to the Rajasthani tale of **Nihalde** and **Narsultan**.

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park



Recently, one of the two Siberian tigers has been brought from Pafos Zoo in Cyprus to Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park.

About Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park:

- The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZP) is located in **Darjeeling**, West Bengal.
- It was named after Padmaja Naidu, **the daughter of Sarojini Naidu** and a former governor of West Bengal.
- It was established on **14th August, 1958** in Darjeeling (West Bengal) as a joint venture of Govt. of India (**Department of Science and Technology**) and Govt. of West Bengal (**Department of Education**).
- It is **India's largest high-altitude zoo**, with an average elevation of 7,000 feet.
- It started work on captive breeding project of this rare species in the year **1983**.
- The **first ex-situ conservation** breeding program started in **1986** as a Snow Leopard conservation breeding project.
- The **Red Panda project** was started in the year **1990**.
- The zoo was awarded the "**Royal Bank of Scotland Earth Hero Award**" as recognition for its efforts towards in-situ and ex-situ conservation, in **2014**.

Human Rights Day



Recently, the Vice-President of India delivered the keynote address at the Human Rights Day celebrations organised by National Human Rights Commission at Bharat Mandapam.

About the Human Rights Day:

- Human Rights Day is celebrated on **December 10th** every year.
- It commemorates the day in **1948** when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- The theme for Human Rights Day 2023 is "**Freedom, Equality and Justice for All**".
- It marks the **75th anniversary** of the UDHR in 2023.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the UDHR in **1948**.
- This Day was formally established in **1950** when the Assembly adopted resolution **423(V)**.

Electric Eel



Recently, a research group from Nagoya University in Japan found electric eels can release enough electricity to genetically modify small fish larvae.

About the Electric Eel:

- The electric eel (**Electrophorus electricus**) is a **freshwater fish** that can generate electric shocks of up to **860 volts**.
- It lives in the **Amazon** and **Orinoco** basins of South America.
- It is an **obligate air-breather**.

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	➤ The eel also emits a weak electric signal to navigate, find mates and find prey. ➤ It is part of a trio of elongated South American knifefishes. ➤ It possesses a long, scale-free, cylindrical body. ➤ This creature can grow to weigh up to six pounds. ➤ According to the IUCN, it is categorized as "Least Concern".
Pinna nobilis 	Marine biologists have recently found a remarkable revival of the endangered noble Pinna Nobilis clam in Croatia's waters, signaling a strong comeback from near-extinction. About Pinna nobilis: ➤ Pinna nobilis is a large marine bivalve mollusk that is native to the Mediterranean Sea. ➤ In Pula's Adriatic aquarium, they are kept in filtered water, clear of the parasites that can attack them. ➤ It is also known as the noble pen shell or fan mussel. ➤ The shell of this species can grow to be 1.2 meters long and is made up of two hinged parts. ➤ It lives in seagrass meadows and sandy or rocky areas at depths of up to 60 meters. ➤ The species is important ecologically because it filters and retains large amounts of organic matter from suspended detritus, which helps keep the water clear. ➤ It has been listed as an endangered and protected species since 1992. ➤ It is threatened by human activities and is facing widespread mass extinctions in various parts of the Mediterranean Sea.
Place in News Iran	Recently, Iran has reinforced its air defence capabilities by adding combat drones equipped with air-to-air missiles to its arsenal. Iran (Capital: Tehran) Location: Iran, also known as Persia and officially the Islamic Republic of Iran, is a country located in South-West Asia. Boundaries: Iran shares its borders with Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the Caspian Sea (North), Turkmenistan (Northwest), Turkey and Iraq (West), the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman (South) and Afghanistan and Pakistan (East). Physical Features: ➤ Mount Damavand is the highest volcanic peak in the Elburz Mountains, Iran. ➤ The Karun River is Iran's longest and most water-rich river. ➤ Lake Urmia is the largest lake in the Middle East and the second largest saltwater lake in the world is situated in Iran. 

POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ Which is the largest star in the whole universe? - **UY Scuti**
- ❖ Which state or union territory is Tiriyani Block from, securing the top position in the initial delta rankings of the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)? - **Telangana**
- ❖ (Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment) ADRDE is a defense research laboratory affiliated with which institution? - **DRDO**
- ❖ India has declared a \$250 million line of credit to support the modernization of which country's agricultural sector? - **Kenya**
- ❖ For whom was the iGOT Karmayogi Platform, an online learning portal, specifically launched? - **Government Officials**

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