DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

15 NOVEMBER, 2023

S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	THE ECONOMY OF A WORLD WITHOUT WORK
2.	MODEL PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ACT, 2023
3.	PRELIMS POINTERS

THE ECONOMY OF A WORLD WITHOUT WORK
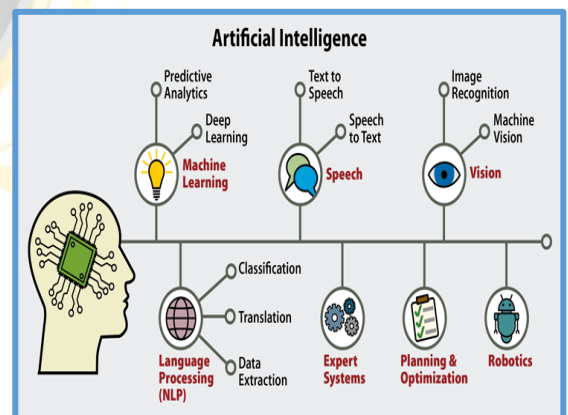
SOURCE: THE HINDU

WHY IN NEWS?

Recently, Elon Musk's **perspective on AI at the Bletchley Park summit**. Disruptive potential and Musk's **vision of AI replacing all human labor-** AI's capability to substitute **both physical and cognitive tasks**. Musk's vision: Individuals seeking work for **personal fulfillment rather than necessity**.

The Purpose of Work:

➤ **Keynesian Perspective:**
  - ✓ Work viewed as drudgery.
  - ✓ Keynes **advocated reducing work hours for increased welfare**.
  - ✓ **Technological change under capitalism** expected to reduce working hours.
  - ✓ Musk's vision aligns with Keynes, **aiming for a world where technology eliminates the need for work.**

➤ **Marxian Perspective:**
  - ✓ **Humanity's essence lies in material manipulation** of nature through work.
  - ✓ **Capitalism disconnects workers** from the fruits of their labour.
  - ✓ Work is the source of **meaning in human life for Marx.**
  - ✓ **Ideal state per Marx:** AI aids individuals in enjoying and elevating their work, not replacing it.

UNDERSTANDING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI):

➤ **Overview:**
  - ✓ AI refers to the capability of a computer or a robot, under computer control, to perform tasks typically associated with human intelligence and discernment.
  - ✓ While AI hasn't achieved the breadth of human capabilities, it excels in specific tasks.

➤ **Distinctive Features and Components:**
  - ✓ **Mimicking Human Tasks:**
    - • AI replicates tasks requiring human-like intelligence.
    - • Some AI systems match or surpass humans in specific tasks.

➤ **Key Characteristic: Rational Decision-Making:**
  - ✓ AI's notable trait is its ability to rationalize and make decisions to optimize goal achievement.
  - ✓ A specialized subset is Machine Learning (ML).

Economic Implications of AI:

➤ **Keynesian Perspective Critique:**
  - ✓ Disagreement on Keynes' idea that **reducing working hours always enhances welfare**.
  - ✓ **Recognition of the social networks** provided by the working world.
  - ✓ AI's impact on labor raises questions **about the universal applicability of Keynesian principles**.

➤ **Marxian Perspective Critique:**

- ✓ Criticism of Marx's **perspective on finding meaning solely through work**.
- ✓ Challenge to **conceptualize a future without work at the core**.
- ✓ Neglect of the economic system in **current AI discussions highlighted**.
- ➢ **AI and Capitalism:**
  - ✓ *Hypothetical scenario:* AI fully substitutes various forms of labour.
  - ✓ In capitalism, **access to resources (food, shelter) is tied to income derived from work**.
  - ✓ A world sans **work doesn't ensure freedom from drudgery**, especially for those without employment.
  - ✓ Musk's suggestion of **work availability for personal fulfilment is challenged** in a capitalist framework.
  - ✓ The **envisioned world by Musk contradicts the realities of modern-day capitalism**, posing limitations on its emergence.

Push for AI
NITI Aayog's strategy for adopting AI seeks to make India a leader in the area. Here is what it proposes:
- ► Set up research centres
- ► Institute scholarships
- ► Protect intellectual property related to AI
- ► Promote re-skilling of workforce
- ► Continuously assess changing nature of jobs

Source: BSE

GLOBALLY GOVERNANCE OF AI:

"Globally, the governance of AI varies among nations, with each **country adopting distinct approaches and policies to address the challenges and opportunities** posed by artificial intelligence." Given below:

Country	Approach to AI Governance	Key Policies and Documents	Principles and Focus Areas
India	✓ **NITI Aayog serves** as a guide for AI-related issues.	✓ **National Strategy for AI**. ✓ Responsible AI for All report.	✓ **Prioritizes social and economic inclusion**, innovation, and trustworthiness.
United Kingdom	✓ Favors a **hands-off strategy,** urging sector-specific regulators to apply existing rules to AI.	✓ **White paper outlining** AI principles.	✓ **Stresses safety, security**, and robustness. ✓ **Emphasizes transparency, fairness, accountability**, governance, and contestability.
United States	✓ Proposes a **Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights (AIBoR)** to address AI's economic and civil rights impacts.	✓ Focuses on sector-**specific governance with the AIBoR** Blueprint.	✓ Advocates sector-specific **interventions (health, labour, education).** ✓ Lays out **five principles to mitigate AI harms.**
China	✓ Implements **nationally binding regulations targeting specific AI algorithms.**	✓ **Enacts laws to regulate** recommendation algorithms.	✓ **Directs efforts towards regulating recommendation** algorithms and controlling information dissemination.

WAY FORWARD:

- ➢ **Policy Reforms:**
  - ✓ *Adaptive Legislation:* Formulate **agile policies that anticipate AI advancements**, ensuring they align with economic **needs, social inclusivity, and ethical considerations**.

53/1, Upper Ground Floor, Bada Bazar Road, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi -110060

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9560300770, 9560300554
enquiry@tathastuics.com

- ✓ *Public-Private Collaboration:* Foster partnerships **between government, industries**, and academia for dynamic policy development.
- ➢ **Workforce Transition:**
    - ✓ **Reskilling Initiatives:** Launch **extensive reskilling programs to equip the workforce** with skills **complementary to AI**, fostering a smooth transition.
    - ✓ **Education Emphasis:** Revamp education systems to **emphasize AI literacy, preparing the next generation for evolving job landscapes.**
- ➢ **Social and Economic Inclusion:**
    - ✓ **Equitable Resource Access: Address potential disparities by implementing measures** to ensure that basic resources are accessible to all, irrespective of employment status.
    - ✓ *Community Engagement:* Involve **communities in decision-making processes to understand** and **address their unique needs.**
- ➢ **Universal Basic Income (UBI):**
    - ✓ **Pilot Programs:** Conduct pilot **UBI programs to assess feasibility**, studying the impact on societal well-being and economic stability.
    - ✓ *Public Discourse:* Encourage public discussions on the **concept of UBI,** gauging societal **receptiveness and refining the approach.**
- ➢ **Innovation and Research:**
    - ✓ *Investment in R&D:* Allocate resources for AI research and d**evelopment, encouraging innovation that aligns with societal values and economic goals.**
    - ✓ *Ethical AI Standards:* Develop and enforce **ethical standards for AI**, ensuring responsible deployment and minimizing unintended consequences.
- ➢ **Global Collaboration:**
    - ✓ **International Cooperation:** Actively participate **in global dialogues on AI governance**, contributing to the development of international standards and norms.
    - ✓ *Knowledge Exchange:* Facilitate the exchange of **best practices and lessons learned with other nations facing similar challenges.**
- ➢ **Continuous Monitoring:**
    - ✓ *Impact Assessment*: Establish **mechanisms for continuous assessment of AI's impact** on the economy, allowing for **timely interventions and adjustments.**
    - ✓ *Public Awareness Campaigns:* Conduct campaigns to enhance **public understanding of AI's role**, dispelling myths and fostering informed opinions.
- ➢ **Entrepreneurial Ecosystem:**
    - ✓ *Support Startups:* Create a **supportive environment for AI startups**, encouraging **entrepreneurship and ensuring a diverse range of AI applications**.
    - ✓ *Inclusive Innovation:* Prioritize innovations that **address societal challenges**, promoting inclusivity and sustainability.

PYQs

Prelims

Q. With the present state of development, Artificial Intelligence can effectively do which of the following? (2020)

1. Bring down electricity consumption in industrial units
2. Create meaningful short stories and songs
3. Disease diagnosis
4. Text-to-Speech Conversion
5. Wireless transmission of electrical energy
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
(b) 1, 3 and 4 only
(c) 2, 4 and 5 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans: (b)

Mains

Q. Introduce the concept of Artificial Intelligence (AI). How does AI help clinical diagnosis? Do you perceive any threat to privacy of the individual in the use of AI in healthcare?

MODEL PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ACT, 2023

SOURCE: TH

WHY IN NEWS?

A copy of the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023 was for the first time published on the Union Home Ministry's website.

ABOUT THE ACT:

- The Ministry of Home Affairs, in collaboration with stakeholders, introduced the 'Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023' on May 10, 2023.
- It addresses various aspects of prison management, emphasizing reformation, rehabilitation, and prisoner integration into society.
- Includes provisions for **'Welfare Programs for Prisoners' and 'After-Care and Rehabilitation Services.'**

KEY FEATURES:

- Allows electronic tracking devices for prisoners on leave, with violations leading to leave cancellation.
- Mandates advanced security infrastructure for high-risk prisoner wards, along with independent court facilities.
- Requires the integration of technology like biometrics, CCTV, RFID, and digitization for effective prison management.
- Recommends the use of cellular jamming in jails and imposes a three-year imprisonment penalty for unauthorized cell phone use by inmates.
- Calls for a classification and security assessment committee to segregate prisoners based on various criteria.
- Advocates separate cells for different categories of prisoners, including considerations for age, gender, health, and criminal history.

Status in India:
- ❖ **Prisons:** India has 1,319 prisons, comprising 564 Sub Jails, 424 District Jails, 148 Central Jails, 88 Open Jails, 41 Special Jails, 32 Women Jails, 19 Borstal Schools, and 3 Other than the above Jails.
- ❖ **Prisoners:** According to the NCRB, as of December 31, 2021, a total of 554,034 prisoners were held across the country. The distribution includes 122,852 Convicts, 427,165 Undertrial inmates, and 3,470 Detenues, constituting 22.2%, 77.1%, and 0.6% respectively.

OBJECTIVE AND NEED:

- Replaces outdated colonial legislation (Prisons Act 1894 and Prisoners Act 1900).
- Reflects a global shift in perspective, viewing prisons as reformative and correctional institutions rather than places of deterrence.
- Addresses the lack of provisions for reform and rehabilitation in existing Acts.
- Aims to modernize and reform prison management to align with evolving perspectives on criminal justice.

FUTURE OUTLOOK:

- **Recognizes "Prisons"/ "Persons detained therein" as a "State List" subject.**
- Encourages State Governments to use the guidance from the Model Act to enact suitable legislation in their jurisdictions for improved prison management and administration.

ISSUES WITH PRISONS IN INDIA:

- **Overcrowding:**
  - Latest data (till 2021) shows a 130% occupancy rate in prisons.
  - Capacity increased from ~3.3 lakhs in 2011 to ~4.25 lakhs in 2021.
  - Number of prisoners expanded from ~3.72 lakhs in 2011 to ~5.54 lakhs in 2021.
  - Overcrowding challenges segregation of serious and minor offenders, impacting rehabilitation.

➢ **Rising Undertrials:**
- Undertrial population reached 77% in 2021, rising from 64% in 2011.
- Prolonged incarceration without trial violates basic rights.
- Disproportionate representation of disadvantaged sections, influenced by laws like the Habitual Offenders Act and Beggary Laws.

➢ **Mistreatment and Torture:**
- Forced hard labour without adequate compensation.
- Instances of torture and increasing deaths in custody.
- Women inmates face harassment.

➢ **Shortage of Staff:**
- Approximately 33% of the total required jail authorities remain unfilled.
- Staff-to-prisoner ratio is 1:7, leading to violence and illegal activities.
- Comparison with the UK, where there are 2 prison officers for every 3 prisoners.

➢ **Poor Hygiene:**
- Most prisons lack hygiene, adequate medical facilities, and extreme weather accommodations.
- Women inmates face additional challenges due to poor conditions.

➢ **Social Issues:**
- Prisoners lack regular interaction with families, leading to mental health issues.
- Prolonged separation contributes to psychological challenges.

➢ **Psychological Issues:**
- Prolonged incarceration without trial leads to depression in undertrials.
- Overcrowded cells cause stress, anxiety, and claustrophobia.
- Prisons may worsen mental health, hindering the reformative purpose.

INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS RELATED TO PRISONS/PRISONERS:

Covenant/Declaration	Key Points
Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)	▪ Principles of administration of justice ▪ No one should be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment ▪ No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile ▪ Right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a public trial with all necessary guarantees for defence
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)	➢ Core international treaty on the protection of prisoners' rights ➢ Ratified by India in 1979; provisions must be incorporated into domestic law and state practice
International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESR)	▪ Prisoners have a right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health ▪ Sets civil, economic, social, and human rights for prisoners
Declaration on Protection from Torture (1975)	Acts in tandem with human rights principles to protect individuals from torture, inhuman, and cruel behaviour
General UN Directives	▪ Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (1988) ▪ Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners (1990)

WAY FORWARD & VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PRISON REFORMS:

1. **Justice Mulla Committee (1983):**
   a) All India cadre for prison staff and placing prisons under the concurrent list.
   b) Government formation of a National Policy on Prisons.
   c) Advocacy for alternatives to imprisonment, such as community service.
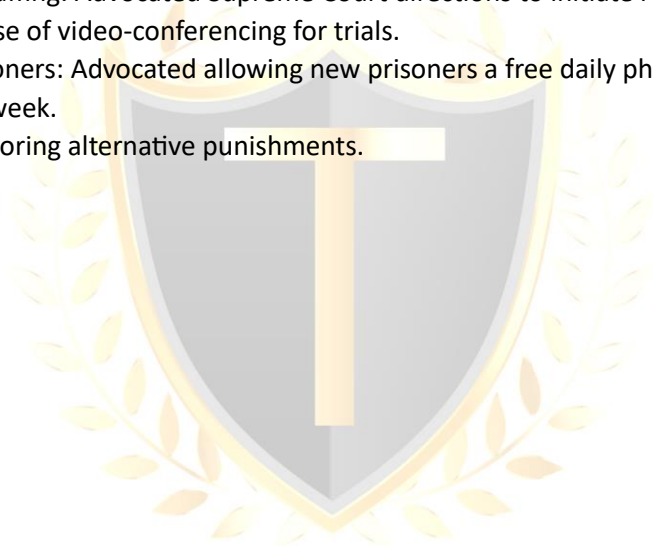
2. **Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer Committee (1987):**
   a) Suggested separate institutions with women employees for women offenders.
   b) Emphasized provisions to uphold the dignity of women, even if convicted.

3. **Committee under the Chairmanship of Director General, Bureau of Police Research and Development (2005):**
   a) Utilized recommendations from the Justice Mulla and Justice Krishna Iyer Committees.
   b) Proposed additional recommendations and drafted the National Policy on Prison Reforms and Correctional Administration, 2007.

4. **Justice Amitava Roy Panel on Prison Reforms (2018-2020):**
   a) Addressed Overcrowding: Proposed special fast-track courts for petty crimes.
   b) Recommended maintaining a Lawyers-Prisoners Ratio, with at least one lawyer for every 30 prisoners.
   c) Tackled Understaffing: Advocated Supreme Court directions to initiate recruitment against vacancies.
   d) Suggested the use of video-conferencing for trials.
   e) Focused on Prisoners: Advocated allowing new prisoners a free daily phone call to family members during the first week.
   f) Encouraged exploring alternative punishments.

PRELIMS POINTERS:

Topic	Overview

ZAGLOSSUS ATTENBOROUGHI	**WHY IN NEWS?** elusive echidna named 'Zaglossus attenboroughi', <u>feared extinct after disappearing for six decades, has been rediscovered in a remote part of Indonesia.</u>
	
	➢ **Identity and Naming:**
	   • Known as Attenborough's long-beaked echidna or Sir David's Long-beaked Echidna.
	   • Belongs to monotremes, a group of egg-laying mammals, including the platypus.
	   • Named in honour of naturalist Sir David Attenborough.
	
	➢ **Habitat and Record:**
	   • Exclusive to the Cyclops Mountains in Indonesia's Papua region.
	   • Never recorded outside this extremely remote area.
	
	➢ **Physical Characteristics:**
	   • Smallest long-beaked echidna, weighing 5-10 kilograms.
	   • Five claws on each foot, males have non-venomous ankle spurs.
	   • Distinctive short, fine, dense, raw umber brown fur.
	   • Short fur covers spines on the middle back.
	   • Adults lack teeth but have a tongue with tooth-like spikes.
	
	➢ **Conservation Status:**
	   • Critically Endangered according to the IUCN Red List.
	
	➢ **About Echidnas:**
	   • Unique, quilled creatures with small eyes and a long nose.
	   • Resemble hedgehogs, spiny, and nocturnal.
	   • Roll into a ball as a defence mechanism.
	   • Shy, living in burrows, and only socialize once a year during mating season.

BEN GURION CANAL PROJECT	**WHY IN NEWS?** The Ben Gurion Canal Project is an alternative to the Egyptian-controlled Suez Canal
	
	➢ **Ben Gurion Canal Project:**
	   ▪ Proposed canal in Israel named after David Ben-Gurion.
	   ▪ Envisions a canal through the Negev Desert, from the Gulf of Aqaba to the Eastern Mediterranean.
	   ▪ First envisioned in the 1960s.
	   ▪ Completion could alter global maritime dynamics, breaking Egypt's route monopoly between Europe and Asia.
	
	➢ **Suez Canal:**
	   ▪ Opened in 1869, connecting the Mediterranean and Red Seas.

	▪ Despite widening and deepening, it faces perpetual congestion.
	▪ Traffic jams at both ends hold up an estimated $9.6 billion of goods daily.
	▪ Focal point in 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli wars, shut from 1967-75.
DNIEPER RIVER	❖ **Dnieper River Overview:** • <u>Fourth-longest European river, after Volga, Danube, and Ural.</u> • Known as Dnepr in Russian, Dnipro in Ukrainian, and Dnyapro in Belarusian. • Located in Eastern Europe, draining Belarus and Ukraine with numerous tributaries. • Historically, a significant barrier dividing Ukraine into right and left banks. ❖ **Course and Length:** • Originates in the low Valday Hills west of Moscow, Russia. • Flows 1,368 miles through western Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine. • Empties into the Black Sea. • Waterway spans approximately 300 miles in Russia, 430 miles in Belarus, and 680 miles in Ukraine. ❖ **Passes Through Urban Centers:** • Passes through Russian cities like Smolensk and Dorogobuzh, Mogilev in Belarus, and Ukrainian cities Kiev, Cherkasy, Dnipro, and Zaporizhia. ❖ **Tributaries:** • Boasts around 32,000 tributaries, including the Sozh, Desna, Trubizh, Bilozerka, Drut, Berezina, and Prypiat Rivers.
ARROW-3 MISSILE DEFENCE SYSTEM	➢ **Arrow-3 Missile Defence System Overview:** ▪ An exo-atmospheric anti-ballistic missile defence system designed for long-range threat engagement. ▪ Jointly developed by Israel Aerospace Industries and the US Missile Defence Agency. ▪ Deployed in 2017, serving as the top layer of Israel's advanced air-defence network. ▪ Targets ballistic missiles outside the atmosphere. ➢ **Features:** ▪ Utilizes two-stage solid-fuelled interceptors for engaging short- and medium-range ballistic missiles.

- Comprises a launcher, radar, and battle management system.
- Offers a range of 2,400 km and intercepts threats at an altitude of 100 km.
- Equipped with early warning and fire control radar, providing extended-range acquisition and multi-target tracking capabilities.

➢ **Functionality:**

- Operates on hit-to-kill technology, destroying incoming missiles.
- Launched vertically, with a change in direction toward the estimated interception point.
- High-resolution electro-optical sensor acquires the target for the kill vehicle, hitting and destroying the warhead.