

Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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1. Padma Shri Awardee Dr. Birubala Rabha Passes Away at the Age of 75 (May 16, 2024)

Dr. Birubala Rabha, recipient of the Padma Shri award, passed away at the age of 75 in the State Cancer Institute (SCI) at Guwahati Medical College Hospital (GMCH) in Assam.

An Overview of the News

- Birubala Rabha was born in 1954 in Thakurvilla village of Goalpara, Assam.
- Founded 'Mission Birubala' in 2012 to combat superstitions and raise awareness against witch-hunting.
- Through her efforts, 55 lives were saved in Majuli, Kokrajhar, Goalpara, and Tinsukia districts.
- Played a key role in the enactment of the Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention, and Protection) Act, 2015.
- This law imposed penalties of up to Rs 5 lakh and 7 years of imprisonment for accusing someone of being a witch.

Awards and Honours

- Padma Shri: Awarded in 2021 for her efforts in protecting lives in rural India
- Nobel Peace Prize Nomination: Nominated in 2005 by The Swiss Peace, Switzerland under the project '1000 Women'
- Honorary Doctorate: Awarded by Gauhati University in 2015

2. Appointment of Nemkumar H as Managing Director of IIFL Securities Limited (May 15, 2024)

Nemkumar H assumed the role of Managing Director (MD) of IIFL Securities Limited on 15th May, 2024.

An Overview of the News

- Nemkumar H was serving as a Whole-time Director on the Board of the Company prior to his appointment as MD.
- Nemkumar H succeeded R. Venkataraman, who served as Chairman and MD of IIFL Securities Limited.
- Venkataraman's tenure as MD of the company concluded on 14th May, 2024.
- Narendra Jain has been appointed as a Whole-Time Director for a term of 5 years.

Background of Nemkumar H:

- Professional Qualification: Nemkumar H is a Chartered Accountant (CA) by profession.
- Previous Experience: He spent nearly a decade at CLSA Limited, formerly known as Credit Lyonnais Securities Asia, where he held various roles including Equity Analyst, head of research, and country head.
- Early Career: Nemkumar H commenced his career at Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), where he worked for 8 years in the corporate treasury and pricing departments.
- Association with IIFL: Nemkumar H joined IIFL in 2007 and played a pivotal role as one of the founding members of IIFL's Institutional Equities Business.

3. Dilip Sanghani Appointed IFFCO Chairman (May 13, 2024)

Dilip Sanghani was re-elected as Chairman of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) for the second consecutive term.

An Overview of the News

- Balveer Singh has been elected Vice President of IFFCO for the second consecutive time.
- Sanghani, a former MP and cabinet minister during Narendra Modi's tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister, previously held ministerial posts in the Modi government in Gujarat and headed various departments.
- Singh, a senior member of the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, served as the state convenor of the BJP cooperative cell and district president of Shahjahanpur.

Highlights of the election process:

- According to an IFFCO statement, the elections saw significant participation from cooperatives representing more than 36,000 member societies across the country.
- IFFCO Managing Director U.S. Awasthi confirmed that the elections were conducted in a fair and transparent manner.

About IFFCO:

- It functions as a multi-state cooperative society.
- Its primary focus is on manufacturing and marketing of fertilizers.
- The company's headquarters is located in New Delhi, India.

Established - **3 November 1967**

Founder - Udaybhansinghji Natwarsinghji Jethwa

4. Kami Rita Sherpa Sets New Record with 29th Ascent of Mount Everest (May 13, 2024)

Kami Rita Sherpa, a renowned Nepalese climber and guide, achieved a historic feat by summiting Mount Everest for the 29th time.

An Overview of the News

- Often referred to as the 'Everest Man', Kami Rita surpassed his own previous record of 28 successful ascents, which he achieved in the spring season of the previous year.
- Kami Rita reached the summit of Mount Everest at 7:25 am (NST) on May 12.
- He accomplished this feat while leading an expedition organized by 'Seven Summit Treks', showcasing his leadership and expertise in mountaineering.

Expedition Details

- Kami Rita embarked on his expedition from Kathmandu at the end of May, leading a team of approximately 28 climbers.
- As an experienced guide, he provided valuable leadership and support to the team throughout the challenging journey.

Historical Significance

- With a climbing legacy spanning 71 years, Kami Rita now holds the esteemed record for the highest number of ascents on Mount Everest.
- His achievement surpasses the previous record held by Pasang Dawa Sherpa, another renowned climber from Solukhumbu, who climbed Sagarmatha for the 27th time last year.

5. N. Chandrasekaran appointed Chairman of Tata Electronics (May 13, 2024)

N. Chandrasekaran, the current chairman of Tata Sons, will also serve as the chairman of Tata Electronics.

An Overview of the News

- Chandrasekaran will replace Banmali Agarwal in this role, pending regulatory approval.
- Chandrasekaran's appointment reflects the Tata Group's commitment to the semiconductor business.

Key appointments at Tata Electronics:

- Chandrasekaran was instrumental in recruiting former Intel Foundry Services veteran Randhir Thakur as CEO and MD of Tata Electronics.
- Srinivas Satya, previously at Applied Materials, joins as chief supply chain officer and president of the components business.

International Talent Acquisition:

- Tata Electronics has recruited 50-60 top-level expatriates, leveraging their expertise in semiconductor technology, strategic planning, and design.

Tata Electronics expansion and facility acquisition:

- The company, established in 2020, is Apple's sole Indian vendor to assemble iPhone enclosures.
- Tata Electronics is expanding its existing facility in Hosur, Tamil Nadu, and has acquired a facility in Karnataka from Taiwan's Wistron.
- Plans are underway to acquire Pegatron facility in Tamil Nadu to further expand production capacity.

6. McGill Awards Honorary Doctorate to Dr. Soumya Swaminathan (May 13, 2024)

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, former WHO Chief Scientist, is set to receive an honorary doctorate from McGill University during the Spring 2024 Convocation ceremonies.

An Overview of the News

- McGill University, renowned for its academic excellence, bestows honorary degrees upon individuals with exceptional contributions to scholarly, scientific, or artistic fields, or significant societal impact through professional or philanthropic endeavors.
- McGill University will confer upon Dr. Swaminathan the Doctor of Science, honoris causa (D Sc) in Health Sciences on May 28.

Soumya Swaminathan's distinguished career:

- Dr. Swaminathan, aged 65, has a distinguished career spanning over 40 years in public health and infectious diseases.
- Notably, she served as WHO's Deputy Director-General (Programmes) until the end of 2022 and thereafter as its first Chief Scientist during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Swaminathan's leadership during the pandemic:

- Dr. Swaminathan played a key role in coordinating global responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Her leadership facilitated research coordination, dissemination of critical information, and guidance to policymakers on effective strategies to combat the virus.

McGill University's highest honor:

- The honorary doctorate represents McGill's highest honor, symbolizing the transformative impact of individual achievement.

- McGill President Deep Saini emphasizes that the award reflects shared values and aspirations within the university community.

7. Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla assumes role of Chief of Personnel in the Indian Navy (May 11, 2024)

Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, AVSM, NM, took over as the Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy on May 10, 2024.

An Overview of the News

Leadership Roles of Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla:

- As Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF), he led important events such as the Presidential Fleet Review and the sea phase of MILAN-22.
- Held key staff positions at Naval Headquarters and contributed to officer training at the Naval Academy.
- Held diplomatic assignments abroad and served as Chief of Staff of the Western Naval Command.

Background of Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla

- Vice Admiral Bhalla, who joined the Indian Navy on 1 January 1989, has served for 35 years in various roles.
- Specialized in communications and electronic warfare and served on several front line warships.
- Commanded several notable ships including INS Nishank, INS Taragiri and INS Beas.

About Indian Navy:

- It is under the command of the President of India and headed by the Chief of the Naval Staff.
- It serves as a blue-water navy, active in areas such as the Persian Gulf, the Horn of Africa and the Strait of Malacca.
- The navy conducts anti-piracy operations and cooperates with regional navies.
- Regular deployments last two to three months and cover the South and East China Sea as well as the western Mediterranean.

Founded - 26 January 1950

Headquarters - Ministry of Defence, New Delhi

Motto(s)- Sham No Varunah (ISO)

transl. 'May the Lord of Water be auspicious unto us'

8. R. Shankar Raman Promoted to President Position at L&T (May 10, 2024)

R Shankar Raman has been promoted to the position of President at Larsen and Toubro (L&T), the engineering and construction conglomerate.

An Overview of the News

- Alongside his new role, Raman will retain his positions as whole-time Director and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the company.
- Subramanian Sarma, the Senior Executive Vice President (EVP) of Energy at L&T, has also been promoted to the role of whole-time Director and President of Energy.
- Sarma's responsibilities now extend to overseeing hydrocarbon, power, and green manufacturing and development businesses within the company.
- Raman originally joined the L&T Group in November 1994 to establish L&T Finance Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary, and later transitioned into the CFO role before joining the board in October 2011.
- Larsen & Toubro is a prominent Indian multinational enterprise with a revenue of USD 27 billion, engaged in Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) projects, hi-tech manufacturing, and services across various regions.

Larsen & Toubro (L&T):

- It is a leading Indian multinational enterprise valued at USD 27 billion.
- L&T focuses on Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) projects, advanced manufacturing, and diversified services.
- The company operates across various global regions, contributing to its diverse portfolio of businesses.
- Recent leadership appointments highlight L&T's commitment to bolstering its management team.
- These appointments aim to position L&T for ongoing growth and success in the engineering and construction industry.

9. John Swinney Elected 7th First Minister of Scotland by Scottish Parliament (May 9, 2024)

On May 7, 2024, John Ramsay Swinney, leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP), was elected as the 7th First Minister of Scotland by the Scottish Parliament.

An Overview of the News

- John Swinney replaces Hamza Haroon Yusuf, who officially resigned from the position on May 7, 2024.
- Swinney's formal appointment will be granted through a Royal Warrant from His Majesty King Charles III of the United Kingdom (UK).

- John Swinney's nomination for First Minister was the result of a vote within the Scottish Parliament.
- Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) voted 64 to 57 in favor of selecting John Swinney as First Minister out of a total of 4 nominees, with seven abstentions.

About John Swinney

Background:

- John Swinney, aged 60, was born on April 13, 1964, in Edinburgh, Scotland. He joined the Scottish National Party (SNP) in 1979.

Political Career:

- In 1997, Swinney was elected as the Westminster Member of Parliament (MP) for North Tayside.
- Transitioning to Scottish politics, he became the Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) for Tayside North in 1999.
- Swinney held the position of deputy leader of the SNP from 1998 to 2000, and subsequently served as party leader from 2000 to 2004.

Government Positions:

- From 2011 to 2014, Swinney served as the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment, and Sustainable Growth.
- He assumed the role of Deputy First Minister from 2014 to 2023, achieving the distinction of being the longest-serving Deputy First Minister in the history of UK devolution.
- In addition to his deputy leadership, Swinney held various cabinet positions:
 - Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution, and Economy from 2014 to 2016.
 - Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills from 2016 to 2021.
 - Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery from 2021 to 2023.

About Scotland

- First Minister- John Ramsay Swinney
- Capital - Edinburgh
- Currency - Pound sterling
- Official languages - Scots, Scottish Gaelic, English, British Sign Language
- National animal - Unicorn
- National flower - Thistle

10. Keki Mistry Approved as Chairman of HDFC Life by IRDAI (May 9, 2024)

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has approved Keki Mistry's appointment as chairman of HDFC Life on May 7, 2024.

An Overview of the News

- Mistry succeeds Deepak S. Parekh, who stepped down from the chairman and non-executive director roles.
- HDFC Life's board unanimously endorsed Mistry's appointment on April 18, awaiting IRDAI's approval.
- Formerly vice chairman and CEO of HDFC Limited, Mistry now serves as a non-executive director on HDFC Bank Limited's board post-merger.

About Keki Mistry

- With directorships in multiple companies, Mistry is a chartered accountant and fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.
- He contributes as a member of the Primary Market Advisory committee (PMAC) and has previous experience on SEBI's Corporate Governance Committee.
- Mistry chaired the CII Corporate Governance Committee for two consecutive terms (2016-17 and 2017-18).
- Currently, he leads Working Group 1 within an SEBI expert committee dedicated to enhancing business practices and aligning regulations.

HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited:

- It is a provider of long-term life insurance services.
- The company provides both individual and group insurance services.
- Establishment - 14 August 2000.
- Headquarters - Mumbai