

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. Grand cultural program 'Sur Sarita-Symphony of Ganga' organised in Varanasi ( Jan. 12, 2023 )**

On the eve of the launch of the world's longest river cruise '[MV Ganga Vilas Cruise](#)' on January 12, a grand cultural program '**Sur Sarita-Symphony of Ganga**' was organised in **Varanasi**.

#### **An overview of the news**

- Renowned singer **Shankar Mahadevan** led the grand concert being organised at the **Kashi Vishwanath Corridor**.
- The nearly one-hour show ended with Shankar Mahadevan's rendition of '**Kartavya Ganga**'.
- During the concert, tourists and other dignitaries travelling on Ganga Vilas Cruise enjoyed the **Sur Taranginis**.
- A grand cultural program 'Sur Sarita - Symphony of Ganga' was organized by the **Ministry of Culture**.
- The world's longest river cruise MV Ganga Vilas will be flagged off by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi on January 13, in Varanasi**.
- This luxury cruise over the coming 51 days will not only bring **India's cruise tourism potential** to the world but also showcase India's natural beauty, cultural heritage and spiritual splendour.
- Ganga Vilas Cruise will cross **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bangladesh and Assam** in a journey of 51 days.

### **2. Indian High Commission signs MoU to establish Hindi Chair at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka ( Jan. 12, 2023 )**

Indian High Commission signs MoU to establish Hindi Chair at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

After **World Hindi Day**, the **Indian High Commission** signed an MoU to establish a **Hindi Chair at Sabaragamuwa University in Sri Lanka**.

#### **An overview of the news**

- High Commissioner **Gopal Bagale** and Vice-Chancellor of Sabaragamuwa University **Prof. Uday Ratnayake** signed an MoU for establishment of Hindi Chair for cultural engagement through **Indian Council for Cultural Relations**.
- The Hindi Chair will help to acquaint the students with India, its **history and culture**.
- This will pave the way for popularising Hindi by appointing Indian faculties.

- The Indian High Commissioner emphasised on sustainable use of resources by adopting innovative strategies in the event.
- The Indian Mission will award a **gold medal** to the best-performing student of the Hindi Chair.

### **Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka**

- It is a public university in **Belihuloya, Balangoda, Sri Lanka**.
- It was established on **20 November 1991** and consists of nine faculties.

### **3. US to support restoration of Hyderabad's Paigah tombs ( Jan. 12, 2023 )**

Financial assistance of **\$250,000** (through the US Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation) will be provided by the **US** for the conservation and restoration of **6 Paigah tombs** built in the **18th-19th centuries in Hyderabad**.

#### **An overview of the news**

- The project will be implemented by the **Aga Khan Trust for Culture**.
- **Paigah Tombs Complex** is a protected complex of the Department of Archaeology, Government of Telangana.
- The Paigah Tomb (or Tomb Shams al-Umra) is a mausoleum belonging to the nobility of the **Paigah family**, who served the **Nizam of Hyderabad** (Asaf Jahi dynasty).
- The construction of this mausoleum was started by **Nawab Tegjung Bahadur in 1787** and later his son **Amir-e-Kabir I** helped in its construction.
- It is also known for its architectural design. It is believed that the architectural style of the **mausoleum** is unique in the whole world.
- The mausoleum is decorated with lime marble and shows a mixture of **Greek, Persian, Mughal, Rajasthani, Asif Jahi and Deccani architecture**.
- The Paigahs were among the most **influential and powerful families** of Hyderabad in the 18th century. They were wealthier than most rulers, as well as responsible for the security and defence of the region.
- The Paigahs claim to be descended from **Hazrat Umar bin al-Khattab**, the second Caliph of Islam.

### **4. Centre named new Integrated Food Security Scheme as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana ( Jan. 12, 2023 )**

The new integrated food security scheme has been named as **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana ((PMGKAY)** to provide free food grains to **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Primary Household (PHH) beneficiaries.**

### **An overview of the news**

- Keeping in view the welfare of the beneficiaries and to maintain uniformity across states, all PHH and AAY beneficiaries will be provided free food grains under **PMGKAY for 2023.**
- This integrated scheme will strengthen the provisions of **NFSA, 2013** in terms of access, affordability and availability of food grains to the poor.
- The implementation of this new scheme has started from **January 1, 2023**, which is benefiting more than **80 crore poor people.**
- The central government will spend over **Rs 2 lakh crore** in 2023 as food subsidy under NFSA and other welfare schemes to ease the financial burden of the poor.

### **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana ((PMGKAY)**

- It is a part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) to help the poor fight the battle against **Covid-19.**
- Its nodal Ministry is the **Ministry of Finance.**
- Under this scheme, the government provides additional free of cost **5 kg per person per month food-grains (rice/wheat)** to around 80 crore beneficiaries of National Food Security Act (NFSA) including the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) beneficiaries.
- The PMGKAY has now been linked with **One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)** plan where migrant workers can get the benefit of the scheme through any ration shops in India.

## **5. 13th India-US Trade Policy Forum ( Jan. 12, 2023 )**

**Piyush Goyal** was on an official visit to **New York and Washington DC** from January 9-11 to participate in the **India-US Trade Policy Forum.**

### **An overview of the news**

- The **13th Trade Policy Forum (TPF)** meeting was hosted by **US Trade Representative Catherine Tai** in **Washington** on 11 January.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal at the forum urged the US to expedite the **issuance of business visas** so that people can make short trips to pursue their trade and business interests.
- After participating in the forum, he said that the issuance of business visas in India is taking a long time and needs to be expedited so that investments are not affected.

- His visit included delegation-level talks and a meeting with **US Trade Representative Ambassador Catherine Tai**.
- There is an increasing movement of professionals, students, skilled workers, investors and business travellers between the two countries.
- According to the commerce ministry, in **2021-22**, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at **USD 119.42 billion** as against **USD 80.51 billion in 2020-21**.

### **About the India-US Trade Policy Forum**

- It is a platform for continued engagement between the two countries in the field of **trade** and to further enhance bilateral trade and **investment ties**.
- The **12th TPF** Ministerial Conference was held in **New Delhi** on 23 November 2021 after a gap of four years.

### **6. Punjabi will be taught in Australian schools ( Jan. 11, 2023 )**

**Punjabi** is all set to be the newest language to be taught in public schools of **Western Australia**. The Australian government has decided to include **Punjabi language in schools**.

#### **An overview of the news**

- The number of Punjabi speakers in Australia is continuously increasing. Punjabi language has become the **fastest growing language** in this country.
- According to the 2021 census, **Punjabi** is the fastest growing language in Australia, with more than **239,000 people** using the language at home.
- In comparison to the year 2016, there has been an **increase of 80 percent** in the number of Punjabi speakers in Australia in the year 2021.
- This year the syllabus from **pre-primary to 12th** will be prepared. After including Tamil, Hindi and Korean languages in the curriculum in 2021, it has been decided to teach Punjabi in schools.
- With over **190 languages** spoken in Australia, linguistic diversity is a great strength that provides social, cultural and economic benefits.

#### **About Australia**

- Head of State: **British Monarch, King Charles III**
- Prime Minister: **Anthony Albanese**
- Currency: **Australian Dollar**
- Capital: **Canberra**

## **7. Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates 'Jai Hind- The New Light and Sound Program' at Red Fort ( Jan. 11, 2023 )**

On January 10, 2023, Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the '**Jai Hind-Naya Prakash Aur Dhvani Program / Light and Sound Show**' at the Red Fort in Delhi.

### **An overview of the news**

- The program will be presented in **Hindi and English languages**.
- The light and sound show has started after a gap of five years at the **Red Fort**.
- This program is a new form of light and sound program already being organised, in which theatrical presentation of the history and bravery of India from the **17th century** till now.
- They will depict major events in Indian history related to the freedom struggle including the rise of the Marathas, the War of **Independence of 1857**, the rise of the Indian National Army and its trials.
- It will have projection mapping, live action films, light and sound, actors, actresses, dancers and puppet shows.
- As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Archaeological Survey of India has already opened **4 museums**, these are -

1. Yaad-e-Jallian Museum,
2. Museum on 1857 - India's First War of Independence,
3. lovers of freedom
4. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Museum in Red Fort.

- Now the new light and sound show will further strengthen the **patriotic pride** among the audience.

## **8. India, Panama sign agreement on cooperation in training diplomats ( Jan. 10, 2023 )**

India, Panama sign agreement on cooperation in training diplomats

External Affairs Minister **Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** signed an MoU to enhance cooperation in the training of diplomats during his bilateral meeting with Panamanian Foreign Minister **Janaina Tevane Mencomo in Indore**.

### **An overview of the news**

- The agreement was signed during the visit of the Foreign Minister of Panama to participate in the **17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** Conference.
- The visit of the Panamanian Foreign Minister to India comes more than a month after the two sides held the **2nd Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Panama City** on November 23, 2022.
- During the consultations, both sides comprehensively reviewed their bilateral relations covering issues such as trade and investment, pharmaceuticals, capacity building, space cooperation and consular.
- Both countries also discussed cooperation in **multilateral fora**.
- Both countries agreed to hold the next round of consultations at a mutually convenient date in **New Delhi**.

### **About Panama**

- Panama is the southernmost nation in **Central America**.
- The country is known for the Panama Canal, a man-made waterway that opened in 1914. This canal passes through the country, connecting the **Caribbean Sea (Atlantic) with the Pacific Ocean**.
- Capital - **Panama City**
- Currency - **Balboa**
- President - **Laurentino Cortizo**

### **9. First meeting of Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion Working Group of G20 kicks off in Kolkata ( Jan. 10, 2023 )**

First meeting of Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion Working Group of G20 kicks off in Kolkata

The first '**Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion**' meeting of the G20 began in **Kolkata** on 9 January in the presence of **guests and dignitaries** from across the world.

### **An overview of the news**

- The **three-day meet** will focus on principles of **digital financial inclusion, remittance costs and SME finance availability**.
- It began with a symposium followed by a session on the role of digital public infrastructure for enhancing digital financial services.
- **State Bank of India, GTX, UIDAI and NABARD** among others participated in the symposium highlighting India's digital innovations to further financial inclusion.

- The **G-20 delegates** visited the stalls at the symposium and discussed digital innovations and initiatives showcasing innovations for digital inclusion of the masses.
- UIDAI Chief Executive Officer (CEO) **Saurabh Garg** said, through this workshop, digital innovations can help in financial inclusion thereby helping in productivity gains.
- **Aadhaar, UPI, Trade Receivables, e-Sign or DigiLocker** showcased in the workshop to G20 countries.
- Its purpose is to exchange information so that people of different countries can be benefited.
- During the first month of the G20 presidency, meetings were held in **Udaipur, Mumbai and Bengaluru**.

## **10. World's first vaccine for honeybees approved for use by United States ( Jan. 10, 2023 )**

The **US Department of Agriculture (USDA)** has approved the **world's first insect vaccine**, which has been developed to protect bees from a devastating bacterial disease.

### **An overview of the news**

- US researchers have developed a vaccine to target a disease called **American foulbrood**.
- The disease is caused by **Paenibacillus larval bacteria** and once it reaches a bee population, it has the potential to completely destroy the colony.
- **Dalil Freitak** of the **University of Helsinki** and his colleagues discovered an important **egg yolk protein** called **vitellogenin**.
- This fundamental discovery laid the groundwork for a new type of insect vaccine, and the team's first target was honey bees.

### **Effectiveness of vaccine**

- The vaccine works by binding to the **vitellogenin protein** in **inactivated bacterial cells** so that when consumed by the **queen bee** it can be transferred directly to her **larvae**.
- This vaccine is given to the queen bees in the form of **royal jelly**. She swallows it, and fragments of the vaccine get deposited in her **ovaries**.
- After exposure to the vaccine, **immunity develops** in the developing larvae.
- A successful clinical trial demonstrated that the vaccine is both **safe and effective**.
- **Progeny** from a vaccinated queen bee are much less likely to contract bacterial disease.

