

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### 1. Seattle becomes first US city to ban caste discrimination ( Feb. 23, 2023 )

**Seattle City became the first US city to ban caste discrimination** on February 21, and the **first in the world** to pass such a law outside South Asia.

#### An overview of the news

- The **anti-discrimination law**, passed 6-1, states that caste-based discrimination transcends **national and religious boundaries** and without such a law, those who face caste discrimination would not be protected.
- A proposal was introduced by a **Hindu representative in Seattle's City Council (City Council)**, which sparked a debate among people of Indian origin.
- There has also been a division among the **South Asian community** regarding this.
- The people of this community are few in number, but they are seen as an influential group.
- This step is being considered important in the direction of bringing **social justice and equality**.
- On the other hand, some people are opposing it, alleging that the purpose of this proposal is to **target the people of South Asia**, especially Indian Americans.

### 2. MEA's annual flagship event Asia Economic Dialogue begins in Pune ( Feb. 23, 2023 )

**External Affairs Ministry's** annual flagship event on Geoeconomics, **Asia Economic Dialogue** began on 23 February in **Pune, Maharashtra**.

#### An overview of the news

- It is being hosted in association with the **Pune International Center** from February 23-25.
- The main theme of the dialogue is '**Asia and the Emerging World Order**'.
- The dialogue will also discuss topics such as **Global Growth Prospects, How the Global South Will Shape the G20 Agenda and the Metaverse**.
- The inaugural session began with talks between External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar**, **H.E. Leonpo Namgye Tshering**, Minister of Finance, Royal Government of Bhutan and **H.E. Ibrahim Ameer**, Minister of Finance of Maldives.
- More than 44 speakers from different countries including **Brazil, USA, UK, South Africa, Bhutan, Maldives, Switzerland, Singapore and Mexico** are participating in this dialogue.

#### Asia Economic Dialogue (AED)

- The **Asia Economic Dialogue (AED)** is the External Affairs ministry's annual event and is hosted in collaboration with the Pune International Centre.
- It is the flagship **geo-economics conference**.
- The dialogue focuses on the dynamics of trade and finance in Asia and its neighbouring countries.

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### **4. Namami Gange Executive Committee approves 9 projects worth over 1,200 crore rupees ( Feb. 23, 2023 )**

The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** held the **47th meeting of the Executive Committee** of NMCG on 22nd February under the chairmanship of **G. Ashok Kumar, Director General, NMCG**.

**An overview of the news**

- **Nine projects worth about Rs 1278 crore** were approved in the meeting.
- **7 of them** pertain to **abatement of pollution in the Ganges basin** and **2 pertain to development of ghats.**
- Project in **West Bengal** worth Rs 123 crore approved.
- In **Uttar Pradesh**, three projects worth Rs 422 crore were approved.
- In UP for **rejuvenation of River Kali East** by development of in-situ Constructed Wetland System at 8 locations in Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Hapur and Bulandshahar was approved costing **Rs 95.47 crore.**
- **In Bihar**, one project for the development of Atal Ghat Manjhi, Saran was approved at an estimated cost of Rs 10 crore.
- **In Madhya Pradesh** a major project costing Rs 511 crore was approved.
- For the monitoring of industrial pollution, a project titled '**Pollution Inventorization, Assessment and Surveillance on River Ganga Basin**' was approved at an estimated cost of Rs 114.42 crore.

**National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**

- It was registered on **12 August, 2011** as a society under the Societies Registration Act 1860.
- It serves as the implementing arm of the **National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)**, which was constituted under the provisions of the **Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986.**
- It was established to address pollution challenges in the **Ganga river.**
- The operational area of the project covers the Ganga basin and all the states through which the river flows, including Delhi.
- The objective is to reduce pollution and ensure rejuvenation of the Ganga river.

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### **6. Indian Council of Agricultural Research developed new variety of wheat named HD-3385 ( Feb. 23, 2023 )**

The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has developed a **new variety of wheat** which is '**HD-3385**'.

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

- It is capable of meeting the challenges arising due to **climate change and rising heat.**
- This new variety is suitable for **early sowing.** It can survive the wrath of heat and its crop can be harvested **before the end of March.**

- The Central Government had recently announced setting up of a committee to monitor the situation arising out of rise in temperature and its impact on the current wheat crop.
- ICAR has registered the news variety HD-3385 with the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA)**.
- ICAR has also granted a license to Bioseed owned by **DCM Shriram Limited** to conduct multi-location trials and seed multiplication.

### **About Indian Council of Agricultural Research**

- It is an **autonomous body** formerly known as the **Imperial Council of Agricultural Research**.
- Headquarters - **New Delhi**
- Established - **1929**
- The Union Minister of Agriculture serves as its president. Presently its president is **Narendra Singh Tomar**.
- ICAR is the largest network of agricultural research and education institutes in the world.

### **7. University of Auckland, Tata Memorial Hospital sign MoU for cancer care ( Feb. 22, 2023 )**

**Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), Mumbai and Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on 22 February to engage in long-term **cooperation in cancer care**.

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

- Tata Memorial Hospital is the **largest and the most renowned cancer care hospital** and research centre in India.
- The University's Deputy Vice Chancellor Research, Professor **Frank Bloomfield** met TMH representatives led by TMH Director **Dr Rajendra Badwe and Professor Dr Vanita Noronha**.
- The MoU aims to explore ways to enhance **cancer care using digital health**.
- The two countries have a long history of cooperation in healthcare and this partnership builds on an already strong relationship.
- The University of Auckland is strongly committed to finding solutions to some of the most pressing global health issues in partnership with leading institutions.

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### **9. Cabinet approves the extension of the term of the Twenty-second Law Commission of India ( Feb. 22, 2023 )**

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the extension of the tenure of the **22nd Law Commission of India** which has been **extended till August 31, 2024**.

#### **22nd Law Commission**

- The Union ministry of Law and Justice constituted the **22nd Law Commission** on 7 November 2022 and appointed former Karnataka High court chief justice **Rituraj Awasthi** as the **chairperson** of the Law Commission.
- The **five member** 22nd Law Commission will have a term of **three years**.
- Justice **BS Chauhan** was the chairman of the **21st Law Commission** whose term expired in August 2018.

#### **Other members**

- Former Kerala High Court judge Justice **KT Sankaran, Prof. Anand Paliwal, Prof. DP Verma, Prof.(Dr) Raka Arya and M Karunanithi** have been appointed members of the Law Commission.

#### **Law Commission of India**

- Law commission is a **non-statutory body** which is set up by the **Union Ministry of Law and Justice** for suggesting reform in laws in India.
- Its recommendations are **not binding on the government**.

- The provision for the Law commission was made in the **Charter act 1833** and the first Law commission was set up in **1834** under the chairmanship of **Lord Thomas Babington Macaulay**.
- The **Indian Penal Code 1860** is based on the recommendation of the **Macaulay commission**.
- The First Law commission in Independent India was **set up in 1955** and **M.C Setalvad** who was also the first Attorney General of India was the chairman of the Law Commission.

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