

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. Anurag Thakur launches the themes of the Y20 summit, logo, and website ( Jan. 6, 2023 )**

Anurag Thakur launches the themes of the Y20 summit, logo, and website

Youth Affairs and Sports Minister **Anurag Singh Thakur** launches the **themes of the Youth 20 summit, logo, and website** in New Delhi on 6 January in the **curtain raiser event** of Y20 Summit India.

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

- India is hosting the **Y20 summit for the first time.**
- In the Youth 20 Engagement Group, India's main focus is to bring together young leaders from around the world to discuss ideas for a better tomorrow and create an agenda for action.
- Activities to be undertaken by **Y20 during India's presidency** will focus on global youth leadership and partnerships.

#### **About Youth 20 (Y20)**

- Youth 20 (Y20) is the **official youth engagement group** of the G20.
- It provides a platform for youth to express their vision and views on **G20 priorities.**
- It is a process that brings together young leaders from around the world to discuss and debate global challenges.
- The list of policy recommendations is known as a communiqué, which is publicly announced at the Y20 summit and presented to world leaders as part of the official G20 summit.

### **2. India deploys a platoon of women peacekeepers to the UN Mission in Sudan ( Jan. 6, 2023 )**

India deployed a platoon of **women peacekeepers** in the **Abyei region of Sudan** on 6 January as part of the Indian battalion in the **United Nations Interim Security Force (UNISFA).**

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

- It is India's largest single contingent of **women peacekeepers** in a UN mission since it deployed its first all-women contingent to **Liberia in 2007.**
- In 2007, **India became the first country** to deploy an entirely women contingent for a **[UN peacekeeping mission.](#)**

- Police units formed in Liberia provided 24-hour guard duty, night patrols in the capital Monrovia, and helped increase the capacity of the Liberian Police.
- The Indian contingent, comprising **two officers and 25 other ranks**, will form part of an engagement platoon and specialise in community outreach; they will also undertake extensive security work.

### **United Nations Interim Security Force (UNISFA)**

- The United Nations Security Council responded immediately to the deteriorating situation in the **Abyei region of Sudan** by establishing UNISFA by its resolution 1990 of 27 June 2011.
- The UN Security Council was deeply concerned by the violence, rising tensions and population displacement.
- UNISFA was established after the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) reached an agreement in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

### **About UN Peacekeeping**

- UN peacekeeping began in **1948** when the UN Security Council authorised the deployment of UN military observers in the Middle East.
- It helps to bring countries from conflict to a difficult path of peace.
- It deploys soldiers and police from all over the world for peacekeeping.
- India is one of the largest military and police contributors to UN peacekeeping operations.
- There are currently more than **5,700 Indian peacekeepers** deployed in **nine of the 12 UN peacekeeping missions**.

### **3. Government declares The Resistance Front, TRF as a terrorist organisation ( Jan. 6, 2023 )**

Government declares The Resistance Front, TRF as a terrorist organisation

The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has declared **The Resistance Front (TRF)** as a **terrorist organisation** under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)**, 1967.

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

- The Home Ministry's notification states that "**the activities of the TRF are prejudicial to the national security and sovereignty of India.**"
- As per the Home Ministry notification, The Resistance Front (TRF) is recruiting youth through online medium for furthering terrorist activities, recruiting terrorists, infiltrating terrorists and smuggling arms and narcotics **from Pakistan into J&K**.

- The ministry also designated **Sheikh Sajjad Gul**, a commander of the TRF, **as a terrorist** under the Fourth Schedule of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967.
- The government also designated **Mohammad Amin alias Abu Khubaib**, who hails from Jammu and Kashmir but currently lives in Pakistan as a terrorist.
- For some years TRF was behind most of the attacks on civilians including Kashmiri Pandits and migrant workers as well as security forces in Kashmir.

### **The Resistance Front (TRF)**

- TRF came into existence in the **year 2019** as a **proxy organisation of Lashkar-e-Taiba**.
- It is a banned terrorist organisation listed at serial number 5 of the first schedule under UAPA.
- The TRF, an offshoot of the **Lashkar led by Hafiz Saeed**, was formed with the support of the Pakistan Army and the ISI.
- It was formed in response to the abrogation of **Article 370** from Jammu and Kashmir by India.
- It is headed by TRF Commander **Sheikh Sajjad Gul**.
- A large number of cases have been registered against members/associates of TRF related to planning to kill security force personnel and innocent civilians of J&K.

### **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, (UAPA) 1967**

- It is a **preventive detention Act** aimed at preventing activities directed against the integrity and sovereignty of India.
- It was enacted by the Parliament in 1967.
- Unlawful activity refers to any action taken by a person or association with the aim of disrupting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of India.

## **4. India's '2023 Science Vision' ( Jan. 6, 2023 )**

India's '2023 Science Vision'

Briefing the media about the '**2023 Science Vision**', Union Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh** said, "The future belongs to those who have innovative ideas and out-of-the-box goals, and the conviction and courage to achieve them." He said this on the occasion of the **[Indian Science Congress](#)**.

### **108th Indian Science Congress**

- The 108th Indian Science Congress is being held on **January 3-7, 2023** at **Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj (RTM) Nagpur University** in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated the Indian Science Congress on January 3.
- He talked about the achievements India has acquired in Science and Tech.
- The theme of this year's Indian Science Congress is "**Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment.**"

## **2023 Science Vision**

- The development of science, technology and innovation is the only way for **sustainable development.**
- The Prime Minister said in ISC 2023, in 2015 India was ranked **81st in the Global Innovation Index** of 130 countries, but has reached **40th position** in 2022.
- Most of the major S&T companies around the world are being headed by people from India.
- India has been a staunch supporter of promoting scientific temper in daily life. "Science, technology and innovation will define **India@100 in 2047.**"

## **5. Ghaziabad-Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay section becomes the longest fully automatic block signalling section of Indian Railways ( Jan. 5, 2023 )**

Ghaziabad-Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay section becomes the longest fully automatic block signalling section of Indian Railways

**Ghaziabad-Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay section (762 KM)** becomes the longest **fully automatic block signalling section** of Indian Railways.

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

- After commissioning of automatic signalling system in **Satanraini-Rasulabad-Faizullapur** section of Prayagraj division, 762 kilometre long **Ghaziabad-Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay** section has become fully automated.
- With this it has also become the **longest Automatic Block Signalling section of Indian Railways.**
- Indian Railways is introducing Automatic Block Signalling on a mission mode.
- ABS has been commissioned on **268 RKM during 2022-23.**
- ABS has been provided on **3706 route kms** of Indian Railways till 31st December 2022.

- With the implementation of automatic signalling, there will be an increase in capacity resulting in the introduction of more train services.
- Electronic interlocking is being adopted on a large scale to take advantage of digital technologies in train operations and to enhance safety.

### **What is Automatic Block Signalling (ABS)?**

- It is automatic and works in conjunction with track circuiting or other means to detect the presence of a train in a block section.
- To increase line capacity to run more trains on existing high density routes of Indian Railways, Automatic Block Signalling (ABS) is a **cost effective solution**.
- Electronic interlocking systems have been introduced at **347 stations** during 2022-23.
- Electronic interlocking has been provided to **2888 stations** covering 45.5% IR by 31st December 2022.

## **6. India & France hold 36th Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi ( Jan. 5, 2023 )**

**India and France** held the **36th Strategic Dialogue** in New Delhi on 5 January. The two sides discussed a wide range of bilateral and global issues.

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

- National Security Advisor **Ajit Doval** led the Indian delegation while the French delegation was led by **Emmanuel Bonne**, Diplomatic Advisor to the French President.
- The last edition of the Strategic Dialogue was to be held in **Paris in November 2021**.

### **India, France bilateral relations**

- France is the first country with which India started a strategic dialogue after its **1998 nuclear tests**.
- Bilateral trade with France has reached **US\$ 10.75 billion** in the last decade and is showing a steady increase.
- Both sides recognized the importance of discussing the **India-EU Trade and Investment Agreement**.
- There are around **1,000 French companies** present in India while over a hundred Indian businesses have established a presence in France.
- **In 2005**, an agreement was signed to build **six Scorpene submarines** in India with the help of France.
- There has been an agreement between the Government of France and India for **36 Rafale aircraft**.

## **About France**

- President: **Emmanuel Macron**
- Prime minister: **Élisabeth Borne**
- Capital: **Paris**
- Currency : **euro**

## **7. Dharmendra Pradhan chairs the 3rd meeting of the steering committee of National Skill Development Mission ( Jan. 5, 2023 )**

Dharmendra Pradhan chairs the 3rd meeting of the steering committee of National Skill Development Mission

**Dharmendra Pradhan**, Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, chaired the third meeting of the **Steering Committee of the National Skill Development Mission** in New Delhi on 4 January.

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

- The progress made in the skill development efforts and the **road map ahead** were discussed in the meeting.
- The minister also discussed **various issues** such as convergence of skill development schemes, skill gap analysis and skill mapping, connecting Indian youth to global opportunities, developing a curriculum to reflect emerging trends, etc.
- He also called for greater convergence between skill development schemes of all ministries and spending on skill development by all stakeholders.

### **National Skill Development Mission**

- It was **launched in 2015** to provide a strong institutional framework to implement skill development efforts across the country and **provide training to one crore youth** every year.
- It has been developed to create convergence across regions and states in terms of skill training activities.
- **Objective** - To provide a strong institutional framework at the Center and in all States for the implementation of skilling activities in the country.
- **Ministry** : Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

## **8. Health Minister chairs a high level meeting to eliminate Kala-azar from the country by 2023 ( Jan. 5, 2023 )**

Health and Family Welfare Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** on 4 January **chaired a high-level meeting** with four states of **Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal governments** to review the elimination of **Kala-Azar** from the country by the year 2023.

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

- Health ministers of **Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand** and senior officials of West Bengal were present during the meeting.
- India is committed to eliminate Kala-azar from the country **by 2023.**
- **632 endemic blocks** have already achieved elimination status with less than one case of Kala-azar **per ten thousand population.**
- Only one block (**Littipara**) in **Pakur district of Jharkhand** is in the endemic category with 1.23 cases per 10,000 population.
- The Central Government is working holistically with the State Government and other stakeholders for the eradication of Kala-azar in Jharkhand.
- **Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal** have achieved the Kala-azar elimination targets at the block level.

### **Global status of Kala-Azar**

- About **90 percent of global cases** of kala-azar in the year 2021 were found in eight countries – **Brazil, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.**
- India accounts for **11.5 per cent** of the total cases reported globally.
- **Bihar and Jharkhand** currently account for more than **90 percent** of Kala-azar cases.

### **What is Kala-azar?**

- It is also known as **Visceral leishmaniasis (VL)**, black fever and Dumdum fever.
- The disease is the **second largest parasite killer** in the world after Malaria.
- It is a **Neglected Tropical Disease** affecting about 100 countries including India.

### **Symptoms**

- Fever, weight loss, fatigue, anaemia, and swelling of the liver and spleen.
- **Transmission**
- It is caused by protozoan parasites of the Leishmania genus.

- It migrates to the internal organs such as the liver, spleen and bone marrow.
- The study warns that kala-azar patients can infect others even after treatment.

### **National Kala-azar Eradication Program**

- India's **National Health Policy, 2002**, set a target of eliminating Kala-azar by 2010, which was revised in 2015.
- Under Kala-azar eradication in India, a target of 1 case per 10,000 population was set at the sub-district level.
- All the activities related to this program are being implemented through the National Vector Borne Disease Control Program.
- India signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Bangladesh and Nepal** to eliminate Kala-azar from the South-East Asia region.

### **9. Government approves Rs 28.11 crore to provide relief to tobacco farmers of Andhra affected by Cyclone Mandus ( Jan. 5, 2023 )**

Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles Minister **Piyush Goyal** has approved **Rs 28.11 crore** for giving a special interest-free loan of **Rs 10,000** to each member of **Tobacco Board's Grower Welfare Schemes** under southern regions.

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

- This will directly benefit over **28,000 tobacco farmers** affected by **Cyclone Mandus** in Andhra Pradesh.
- The **interest-free loan to eligible** FCV tobacco farmers will be administered by the **Tobacco Board**, a statutory body under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- This measure will help FCV tobacco farmers to recover from the damage caused by **Mandus cyclonic rains** and will greatly help the growers to take immediate damage reduction measures.

#### **About FCV Tobacco**

- **FCV (Flu Cured Virginia) tobacco** is a major commercial crop grown in **10 districts of Andhra Pradesh** with an annual production of 121 million kg (2021-22) in an area of 66,000 hectares.
- It is a major **exportable tobacco** variety of the total unmanufactured tobacco exports from India.
- Of the total unmanufactured tobacco exports (excluding tobacco waste) during FY 2021-22, FCV tobacco exports constituted **53.62% in volume** terms and **68.47% in value** terms.



- Tobacco farmers sell their produce through an e-auction platform developed and operated by the **Tobacco Board** through a transparent process that ensures fair and remunerative prices.

### **Cyclone Mandous**

- Mandus is a **slow moving cyclone**.
- It often absorbs a lot of **moisture, rains** heavily and is powerful with wind speed.
- The name of Mandous has been suggested by the **United Arab Emirates**.
- This cyclone affected a large number of tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh in early December 2022.

### **10. PM to chair second National Conference of Chief Secretaries in Delhi ( Jan. 5, 2023 )**

PM to chair second National Conference of Chief Secretaries in Delhi

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will chair the **2nd National Conference of Chief Secretaries** on January 6 and 7, 2023 in **Delhi**.

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

- This will be an important step towards further enhancing the partnership between the Central and State Governments.
- The **first conference** of Chief Secretaries was to be held in **Dharamshala in June 2022**.
- The conference will focus on achieving rapid and sustained economic growth in partnership with the states.
- It will see participation from representatives of the Central Government, Chief Secretaries and senior officers from all States/UTs and more than **200 domain experts**.
- The conference will lay the groundwork for achieving a developed India with emphasis on growth and employment generation and inclusive human development.
- The best practices of the States/UTs under each theme will also be presented in the conference so that the States can learn from each other.

### **Six identified themes of the conference**

- Thrust on MSMEs
- Infrastructure and Investments
- Minimising Compliances
- Women's Empowerment

- Health and Nutrition
- Skill Development

**Three special sessions**

- Viksit Bharat: Reaching the Last Mile
- Five Years of Goods and Services Tax (GST) - Learnings and Experiences
- Global Geopolitical Challenges and India's Response
- Besides, focused deliberations would be held on four topics, viz Vocal for Local, International Year of Millets, G20: Role of States and Emerging Technologies.