

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. ICG ship 'Kamla Devi', last vessel of FPV series, commissioned ( Jan. 13, 2023 )**

Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) ICG ship '**Kamala Devi**' was commissioned on 12 January in **Kolkata**, the capital of West Bengal.

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

- This **Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV)** designed, built and delivered by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd** to the Indian Coast Guard.
- A passenger-cum-cargo ocean going ferry '**MV Ma Lisha**' built by the shipyard for the **Republic of Guyana** was also flagged off.
- This is the first such ship built by a Defense Public Sector Shipyard for export to a Latin American country.

#### **About ICG Kamla Devi**

- ICG Kamla Devi is **48.9 meters long and 7.5 meters wide** with a **displacement of 308 tonnes**.
- It is capable of a top speed of **34 knots** and an endurance of over **1,500 nautical miles**, with three engines and water jets.
- She also has an integrated bridge system and is fitted with a **40/60 gun** as the main armament.
- The ship has advanced livable facilities with fully air-conditioned accommodation for 35 personnel.
- ICGS Kamla Devi will patrol the seas and undertake **anti-smuggling, anti-poaching and search and rescue operations** when required.

#### **About MV Ma Lisha**

- It has been designed and built by **GRSE** and will be housed at **Chennai**, a semi-submersible vessel **MV Sun Rise** for the long voyage to **Guyana**.
- The ship was launched on **June 15, 2022** and within six months, GRSE secured the 'technical acceptance' of the ship on December 16.
- The **70 metre long** vessel with a displacement of **1,700 tonnes** is propelled by two diesel engines and can attain a maximum speed of **15 knots**.
- The ship can accommodate **294 passengers** including **14 crew members** along with **14 cars**, two trucks and 14 containers and cargo.

## **2. Centre approved ₹2,600 crore as incentive for banks to promote digital payments ( Jan. 12, 2023 )**

Centre approved ₹2,600 crore as incentive for banks to promote digital payments

The **Union Cabinet** on 11 January approved a **₹2,600 crore scheme** for promoting **RuPay debit cards** and low-value **BHIM-UPI transactions**.

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

- Under the scheme, banks will be given financial incentives in the current financial year 2022-23 to promote '**Point of Sale (PoS) i.e. payment machines** and e-commerce transactions using **RuPay and UPI**.
- The Cabinet has approved this incentive scheme to promote small amount transactions between individuals and merchants through RuPay Debit Cards and BHIM-UPI.
- This will further strengthen **India's progress in digital payments**. Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** had said in the last budget, will continue to provide financial help to increase digital payments.
- India has remained a cash-dependent economy since independence. **India's Cash to GDP ratio is 13%** while the global average is at most **8%**.

### **Significance of the Incentive Scheme**

- The government had approved an incentive scheme in pursuance of the budget announcement for FY 2022 to promote digital transactions.
- As a result, total digital payment transactions registered a year-on-year growth of **59 percent**.
- This increased from **₹5,554 crore in FY21 to ₹8,840 crore in FY22**.
- **BHIM-UPI transactions** registered a year-on-year growth of **106 per cent**, from **Rs 2,233 crore in FY21 to Rs 4,597 crore in FY22**.
- This incentive scheme will promote as a digital payment solution and enable further deepening of digital payments in the country.

## **3. 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.

#### **4. 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.

## **5. 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.

## **6. 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.

### **7. 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.

## **8. 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**

## **9. 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.

### **10. 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**