

Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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1. 1668 Journalists killed in the last 20 years: Reporters without Borders. (Dec. 31, 2022)

1668 Journalists killed in the last 20 years: Reporters without Borders

According to the yearend report of the **Reporters without Borders (RSF)** which was published on 31 December 2022, a total of **1,668 journalists** have been killed worldwide in connection with their work of journalism over the past two decades (2003-2022), due to murders, contract killings, ambushes, war zone deaths, and fatal injuries.

The report says that on an average every year 80 journalists lost their lives.

Due to the war in Syria over 144 journalists lost their lives in **2012** and 142 journalists died in 2013.

According to the RSF, in the last two decades, 80% of the deaths of journalists have happened in 15 countries. **Syria** and **Iraq** have the highest death rates, with a total of 578 journalists killed there over the past twenty years. This is about 1/3 of the world's death rate.

After these dangerous countries the most unsafe countries for journalists were Afghanistan, Yemen, and Palestine.

Reporters without Borders (RSF)

Reporters without Borders (RWB) is an international non-profit organisation.

- It was founded by four journalists in 1985 in Montpellier, France.
- RSF works to safeguard and promote the freedom of information.
- Headquarters: **Paris, France**
- It has 7 offices in London, Brussels, Tunis, Washington DC, Rio de Janeiro, Dakar, and Taipei.

2. Union Home Minister Amit Shah lays the foundation stone of the Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) at Devanahalli, Karnataka (Dec. 31, 2022)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah lays the foundation stone of the Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) at Devanahalli, Karnataka

Union Home and Cooperation Minister **Amit Shah** laid the foundation stone of the Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) at **Devanahalli, Karnataka** on 31 December 2022.

This will be the **6th CDTI** of the Bureau of Police Research & Development under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in the country.

The Devanahalli center of CDTI will serve the forensic needs of the neighbouring States of **Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa and the Union Territory of Daman-Diu.**

Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI)

There are five functioning Central Detective Training Institutes (CDTI) in the country under the Bureau of Police Research & Development. The first CDTI was set up in **Calcutta in 1958**. Others are at **Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Jaipur and Ghaziabad**. The objective of the CDIT is to provide training to the police personnel up to Deputy SSP rank.

The main objective of the in-service training is to improve the standard of crime investigation in this country by familiarizing Police Investigation Officers with the various developments in Forensic Science. They are trained to match the skill and resources of the modern criminal with the aids that the progress of science has placed at their disposal. They are taught to adopt scientific methods and new techniques and processes and enlist the aid of various branches of science.

Director General of Bureau of Police Research & Development: **Balaji Srivastatva**

3. Former Pope Benedict XVI dies aged 95 (Dec. 31, 2022)

Former Pope Benedict XVI dies aged 95

According to a statement released by the Vatican the former Pope **Benedict XVI** died on 31 December 2022 in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican. He was 95 years old.

The head of the Catholic Church, former Pope Benedict, was the first pope in 600 years to resign. He resigned in 2013 and was replaced by the **present pope Francis**.

Pope Benedict was the first German to become pope in 1000 years. He was the head of the Vatican City from 19 April 2005 until his resignation on 28 February 2013.

He was born as Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger on April 16, 1927, in the southern German village of Marktl, close to Austria.

Pope and Vatican City

Pope is a title which is given to the Bishop of Rome who is the head of the Roman Catholic Church. He is also the **head of the sovereign country of Vatican City**.

Roman Catholics are the largest of the three major branches of Christianity. The other branches of Christianity are Protestants and orthodox (Eastern).

Vatican City is the world's **smallest country** which is located within the Italian capital city of Rome.

It is also the **least populated country** in the world.

The **Holy See** is the name given to the government of the Roman Catholic Church, which is led by the pope as the bishop of Rome.

St. Peter, disciple of Jesus Christ, was the first Pope. Jesus Christ is the founder of Christianity.

4. RBI launches Utkarsh 2.0 for the period 2023-2025 (Dec. 31, 2022)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Shaktikanta Das** on 30 December 2022 launched the second phase of the central bank's medium term strategy for strengthening regulatory and supervisory mechanisms called **Utkarsh 2.0**.

The **first strategy framework (Utkarsh 2022)** covering the period 2019-2022 was launched in July 2019. It became a medium-term strategy document guiding the Bank's progress towards realization of the identified milestones.

Utkarsh 2.0 like the Utkarsh 2022 has six Vision statements as well as Core Purpose, Values, and Mission statements. Collectively, they create a strategic guiding path.

The Vision in Utkarsh 2.0 that will guide the Reserve Bank of India over the period 2023-25 are:

- Excellence in performance of its statutory and other functions,
- Strengthened trust of citizens and Institutions in the RBI;
- Enhanced relevance and significance in national and global roles; • Transparent, accountable and ethics-driven internal governance;
- Best-in-class and environment-friendly digital and physical infrastructure; and
- Innovative, dynamic and skilled human resources.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Reserve Bank of India was set up under the Reserve Bank of India act 1934. It started functioning from **1 April 1935**.

It was **nationalized in 1949** and now the government of India is the owner of RBI.

It has the power to regulate Banks under the **Banking Regulation Act 1949**.

It has the power to regulate the Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) under the **RBI act 1934**.

RBI is also the regulator of the digital payment system under the **Payment and settlement act 2007**.

Headquarters of RBI: **Mumbai**

Governor of RBI : **Shaktikanta Das**

5. MoU signed for commercial production of indigenously developed vaccine 'Lumpi-ProVac' (Dec. 31, 2022)

An MoU for the production of **Goat Pox Vaccine** and "**Lumpi-Provac**" vaccine was signed in **Nagpur** on December 29, 2022 in the presence of Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, **Parshottam Rupala** and Chief Minister of Maharashtra **Eknath Shinde**.

Important facts

- Rupala praised the commendable effort put forth by ICAR in developing indigenous vaccine **Lumpi-ProVac for LSD**.

- Lumpi-ProVaccine is used for the prophylactic immunization of animals against **Lumpy Skin Disease**.
- The vaccine technology will meet the standard of the market and significantly provide a defence mechanism to control the devastating lumpy skin disease.
- **Goat pox vaccine** is currently used to control lumpy Skin Disease in livestock and has been shown to be effective against lumpy.
- Union Minister Rupala further highlighted the relevance of the technology and requested the **IVBP, Pune** to start manufacturing the vaccine at a large scale without any delay.
- National Centre for Veterinary Type Culture, ICAR-National Research Centre on Equines (ICAR-NRCE), Hisar (Haryana), in collaboration with ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar (UP) developed a homologous live-attenuated LSD vaccine, named Lumpi-ProVaInd.
- **Agrinnovate India Limited (AgIn)**, the commercial arm of DARE, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, granted "Non-Exclusive Rights" for Commercial production of "Lumpi-ProVac", to Institute of Veterinary Biological Products (IVBP) , Pune.

Lumpy Skin Disease

- It is caused by infection of cattle or buffalo with the poxvirus Lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV).
- The virus is one of three closely related species of the genus Capripoxavirus.
- The other two species are Sheeppox virus and Goatpox virus.
- Due to its infectious nature and its impact on the economy, the World Organization for Animal Health (WOIE) has declared it a notable disease.

6. India's first underwater metro to become operation by December 2023 (Dec. 30, 2022)

India's first underwater metro to become operation by December 2023

According to the Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation, India's first underwater metro service, the **East-West Metro Corridor project** is expected to be completed by December 2023.

The metro line, which will connect **Salt Lake to Howrah** via Kolkata with a stretch below the Hooghly River, is currently operational between Sector V and Sealdah stations.

Of the total 16.55 km length of the project, 9.30 km length between Sector V and Sealdah is operational. The remaining 7.25 km length is likely to be operational by December 2023.

The twin tunnel down the Hooghly River will be around half a kilometer which will be covered in less than a minute by the metro train.

The **Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation** is a Government of India company which is implementing the East- West Metro Corridor project.

The first metro rail system in India was also started in Kolkata from Dum Dum to Tollygunge in 1984.

Metro Rail system

- The first metro rail system in the world was started in **London** on 10 January 1863.
- **First metro** in India; Kolkata Metro which started its operation 24 October 1984 between Dum Dam to Tollygunge. It was started with the help of the Soviet Union.
- **Largest** metro rail in operation in India: Delhi Metro (390.14 km: Source DMRC as on 7 March 2022). It started operation on 24 December 2002.
- **Smallest Metro**: Ahmedabad metro ,6 km
- The metro rail systems in operation in India are in the cities of Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Gurugram, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kolkata, Kochi Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Noida, and Pune. (**total 15 cities**)

7. G Kamala Vardhan Rao appointed the chief executive officer of FSSAI (Dec. 30, 2022)

G Kamala Vardhan Rao appointed the chief executive officer of FSSAI

G Kamala Vardhana Rao was appointed the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on 29 December 2022.

G Kamala Vardhana Rao is a 1990 batch IAS officer from Kerala cadre. He was previously the managing director of the Indian Tourism Development Corporation.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been set up under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
- It was set up on 5 September 2008.
- It comes under the Union Ministry of **Health & Family Welfare**.
- FSSAI is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety.

Headquarters: New Delhi

8. All manufacturing activities of Marion Biotech's Noida unit stopped after inspection (Dec. 30, 2022)

All manufacturing activities of Marion Biotech's Noida unit stopped after inspection

All manufacturing activities at **Marion Biotech's Noida unit** have been halted by the Union health ministry as India launches a probe into [deaths linked to cough syrup in Uzbekistan](#).

Important facts

- Further investigations are underway into the deaths of **18 children in Uzbekistan** allegedly linked to cough syrup.
- Samples of the cough syrup have been taken from the manufacturing premises in Noida and sent to the **Regional Drugs Testing Laboratory (RDTL)** in Chandigarh for testing.
- The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)** is in regular touch with the national drug regulator of Uzbekistan regarding the matter which happened on 27 December.
- Marion Biotech does not sell **Dok-1 Max** in India and its only export has been to **Uzbekistan**.

About Marion Biotech

- Marion Biotech is a licensed manufacturer and holds the licence for manufacturing **Dok-1 Max syrup** and **tablets** for export purposes granted by the **Drugs Controller**.
- So far, 18 out of 21 children with **acute respiratory illness** have died after taking Dok-1 Max Syrup.
- **Ethylene glycol** was found in the tested series of Doc-1 Max syrup.
- Prior to the incident in Uzbekistan, the **death of 70 children in Gambia** earlier this year was linked to cough syrup manufactured by Haryana-based **Maiden Pharmaceuticals**.

9. NHA release beta version of lightweight, robust, and ABDM-compliant HMIS (Dec. 30, 2022)

NHA release beta version of lightweight, robust, and ABDM-compliant HMIS

The **National Health Authority (NHA)** released a **beta version** of the lightweight, robust, and **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission-compliant Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)** on 29th December.

Important facts

- It envisions to provide a digital platform for healthcare service providers, especially focusing on **private clinics and small healthcare facilities**.
- This beta version will allow doctors to create and receive Ayushman Bharat health accounts for patients as well as manage their calendar, appointments and patient details in a single window.
- It will also facilitate e-prescription services and view past health records and prescriptions for registered patients and offer video consultations.

It will digitise small clinics and improve the searchability of healthcare providers in India.

Features of the beta version of HMIS

1. **ABDM Compliance:** Allows doctors to create and obtain ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) for their patients.
2. **Facility Management:** Allows doctors to manage their calendars, appointments and patient details in a single window.
3. **Digital Services:** Allows doctors to view past health records and prescriptions of registered patients and conduct video consultations.
4. **e-Prescription Services:** Digitally standardised prescription sharing using multiple parameters with options to modify/customise prescription layout.

About National Health Authority (NHA)

- It is the **apex body** which is responsible for implementing **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**.
- It is entrusted with the role of strategy formulation, creation of technical infrastructure and implementation of "**National Digital Health Mission**" to create a national digital health ecosystem.

About Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- Launched - By PM Narendra modi on **27th September 2021**
- It will connect the digital health solutions of hospitals across the country.
- This will not only simplify the procedures of hospitals but will also enhance the ease of living.
- The digital ecosystem will also enable many other features such as digital consultation, patient consent for physicians to access their records, etc.
- With the implementation of this scheme old medical records cannot be destroyed as every record will be stored digitally.
- The project has been implemented in pilot phase in **six states and union territories**.

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