

Testwale Current Affairs PDF

Current Affairs search results for tag: national-news

1. Union Minister Arjun Munda inaugurates 'Manthan' tribal welfare symposium at Palghar (July 16, 2022)

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda inaugurated a two-day symposium 'Manthan' on upliftment of tribal communities at Palghar in Maharashtra on 14 July.

About Manthan Symposium

- This Symposium is focussing on the various programmes to be undertaken on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by Eklavya Model Residential Schools, Fees Control Authority, Grants Department and Tribal Museums which organize 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' on birth anniversary of freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda.
- It also includes discussions on the ST component and the health and education of the tribal population.
- Apart from Maharashtra, representatives of tribal welfare departments like Jammu, Kashmir, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan etc. participated in the seminar.

Tribal communities in India

- According to the 2011 Census, the tribal population formed 8.61% of total population.
- 97% of tribal population live in rural areas and 10.03% in urban areas.
- The sex ratio for the overall population is 940 females per 1000 males.
- Scheduled Tribes have 990 females per thousand males.
- No tribe has been identified in Punjab and Haryana and Union Territories of Delhi, Chandigarh and Puducherry.
- Chhattisgarh has the largest proportion of Scheduled Tribes population of 30.62%, followed by Jharkhand 26.21%.
- Gujarat, Assam, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir region and Goa are the four major states in which more than 10% of the population belongs to the Scheduled Tribes.

2. Govt launches "Jagruti" mascot for empowering consumers (July 16, 2022)

The Department of Consumer Affairs has launched a mascot "Jagruti" on 15th July to empower consumers and create awareness about their rights.

About "Jagruti" mascot

- Jagruti will be projected as an empowered consumer who is spreading awareness about consumer rights and solving consumer problems.
- It will be used to create consumer awareness about various topics of the department.

- Its themes include the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act 2019, hallmarking,
- National Consumer Helpline Toll-free number 1915, provisions of the Weights and Measures Act, decisions of the Central Consumer Protection Authority and testimonials by consumers on grievance redressal.
 - The Jagriti mascot will be featured in all its media campaigns with the tagline "Jago Grahak Jago".

Aims of 'Jagriti' Mascot

- Strengthening consumer awareness campaign presence in digital and multimedia
- Reinforce a strong young and informed consumer as the top consumer rights awareness recall brand

3. Centre dedicates 166 CNG stations across 14 states (July 16, 2022)

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on 15 July virtually dedicated 166 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations across 14 states of the country.

Important facts

- These CNG stations have been set up by Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and nine of its group City Gas Distribution (CGD) companies.
- This is an important step towards expanding the availability of eco-friendly CNG to the transport sector, households and industry in India.
- These CNG stations, commissioned at a cost of Rs 400 crore, will further strengthen the gas based infrastructure and availability of clean fuel in the country.
- This will stimulate the market for CNG vehicles and will have a huge impact on manufacturing, skill development and job creation.
- The number of CNG stations will be increased to eight thousand in the next two years.
- Presently the number of CNG stations has crossed 4500 as compared to 2014 when there were around 900 CNG stations across the country.

Ambitious target of expanding the share of Natural Gas

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set an ambitious target of increasing the share of natural gas in the primary energy mix to 15% to enter a gas-based economy.
- The development of the gas-based economy is expected to play an important role in achieving India's goal of net zero by 2070.

What is Hydrogen Compressed Natural Gas (HCNG)?

- Combination of hydrogen with CNG gives a compound gas known as HCNG.
- It is a mixture of compressed natural gas and 4-9 per cent hydrogen by energy.

- It can also be used as a fuel in internal combustion engines and for home appliances.
- Compared to conventional CNG, the use of H-CNG can reduce carbon monoxide (CO) emissions by up to 70%.
- It is capable of saving up to 5% in fuel.

4. Iran, Belarus to be newest SCO members (July 16, 2022)

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is all set to expand with Iran joining the group as its ninth member, while Belarus has applied for membership.

Important facts

- The decision to include Iran was made at last year's Dushanbe summit and Belarus has applied for its membership.
- This is the first expansion of the SCO after India and Pakistan joined the grouping in 2017.
- The significance of this expansion is that it reflects the growing international influence of the SCO and also shows that the principles of the SCO Charter are being widely accepted.
- India will host the SCO summit next year, and Varanasi has been selected as the SCO region's first "Tourism and Cultural Capital".

What is Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?

- It is a permanent intergovernmental international organization.
- It was founded in 2001.
- The SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and came into force in 2003.
- It is a Eurasian political, economic and military organization.
- Its aim is to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- China, Russia and four Central Asian states – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan – were founding members of the SCO.
- Official Languages - Russian and Chinese
- Chairmanship - On the basis of rotation for a year by Member States

5. IIT Madras tops ministry of education's India Rankings 2022 (July 15, 2022)

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has secured the first position in the 2022 India Ranking of the best higher education institutions in the country released by the Ministry of Education.

Important facts

- Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and IIT, Bombay have secured the second and third positions respectively.
- This ranking is prepared by the Ministry of Education by dividing the educational institutions across the country into different categories.
- Under this overall university, college, engineering, management, pharmacy, law, medicine, architecture, dentistry and research category come.
- **Best University** - Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- It is followed by JNU and Jamia Millia Islamia at the second and third positions respectively.
- **Best Management Institute** - IIM Ahmedabad
- IIM Bangalore and IIM Calcutta have secured the second and third positions respectively.
- **Best Engineering College** - IIT Madras
- IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay have secured the second and third positions respectively.
- **Best College** - Miranda House, Delhi
- The Hindu College of Delhi is second and the Presidency College of Chennai is at the third position.
- **Best Medical College** - All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
- **Best Dental College** - Savita Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai
- **Best Pharmacy Institute** - Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi
- **Best Architectural Institute** - Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
- **Best Law Institute** - National Law School of India University, Bangalore

Overall Top 5 Institutes

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras
- Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
- Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

6. "Cost of Living Crisis in Developing Countries" report (July 15, 2022)

On July 14, 2022, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) published its "Cost of Living Crisis in Developing Countries" report.

About the report

- Title - Addressing the crisis of cost of living in developing countries: Poverty and vulnerability estimates and policy responses.

Objectives of the report

- It estimates the potential impacts of food and energy inflation on global poverty and vulnerability.
- According to this report, the global livelihood crisis is pushing another 71 million people into extreme poverty in the world's poorest countries.
- An analysis of more than 159 developing countries showed that rising prices of key commodities in 2022 are already troubling parts of sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Balkans.
- The report warns that the cost of living crisis is pushing millions of people into poverty and hunger at an alarming pace.

UNDP recommendation

- According to the UNDP, targeted cash transfers by governments will prove to be more "equitable and cost-effective" than broad subsidies on energy and food prices.
- UNDP has called for corresponding action. It has asked to provide direct cash transfer to vulnerable people. It also asked wealthy nations to further expand the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), which they set out to help poor countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

About United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

- UNDP is a United Nations body, which helps countries to eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development.
- It is headquartered in New York City, and has offices in 170 countries.
- UNDP is the largest development aid agency of the United Nations.

7. The website of the Ministry of Home Affairs tops the service portals of the Union Ministry (July 15, 2022)

The website of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been ranked first under the Portal of Central Ministries in the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment.

Important facts

- The Digital Police Portal of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Central Mantralaya Services Portal has been ranked second in the assessment.
- This evaluation was done by evaluating service portals with the portal of their parent Ministry/Department.

- The government portals that were assessed were divided into two main categories -
- State/Union Territory/Central Ministry Portal and State/Union Territory/Central Ministry Service Portal.

Four parameters of assessment

1. Accessibility
2. Content availability
3. Ease of Use and Information Security
4. Privacy for Central Ministry Portals

National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment

- The National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment was conducted in 2021 by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in association with knowledge partners NASSCOM and KPMG.
- It is a periodic assessment aimed at improving the effectiveness of the States/UTs and the Central Government in the delivery of their online services to the citizens.

8. BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting (July 15, 2022)

Union Labor and Employment Minister Bhupendra Yadav participated in the BRICS Labor and Employment Ministers meeting held under the Chinese presidency on 14 July.

Important facts

- With regard to the priority issues discussed in the meeting, the Minister highlighted the initiatives taken by India.
- The Minister informed that a Sector Council for Green Jobs in India has been set up to develop strategies and implement programs for skill development in the green sector.
- The minister explained the steps taken by India to provide relief to the workers during the pandemic.
- India has taken several initiatives to increase the number of days of assured employment under MGNREGA and to provide free ration.
- The government has provided loans to street vendors to help them restart their business under the PM Svanidhi Yojana during the pandemic.
- The meeting was attended by ministers from member countries Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Declaration of the meeting

- The need for promoting green jobs was recognized in the Declaration of the meeting.

- The Declaration recognized the need to promote green jobs for sustainable development, strengthen cooperation in skill development and protect workers' rights in new forms of employment.

- **Discussions on three priority issues**

1. Promoting green jobs for sustainable development,
2. Developing skills for resilient recovery,
3. Protecting Workers Right in New Forms of Employment.

About BRICS

- It is an acronym for the group of major emerging economies of the world – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- In 2001, British economist Jim O'Neill coined the term BRIC.
- South Africa was invited to join BRIC in December 2010.

9. India's first monkeypox case confirmed in Kerala (July 15, 2022)

A man from Kollam, Kerala, who returned from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has been confirmed as the first case of monkeypox in India on July 14.

Important facts

- The person has been isolated for treatment at the Thiruvananthapuram Government Medical College Hospital (MCH).
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), this is the first time that cases of monkeypox are being reported in five WHO regions.

What Is Monkeypox?

- It is a viral zoonotic disease that is transmitted from animals to humans.
- Monkeypox virus is an orthopoxvirus similar to smallpox.
- It has been identified as a smallpox-like disease in monkeys, hence it is called monkeypox.
- It was first observed in 1958, in monkeys in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and in humans in 1970.
- The disease outbreak in Nigeria in 2017 was the largest ever.
- The monkeypox virus mutates at a high rate but is treatable once symptoms appear.

Symptom of disease

- Fever, intense headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, swollen lymph nodes and a skin rash or lesions.
- Infected people develop a rash resembling smallpox.
- In the early stages of the disease, monkeypox and smallpox can be differentiated because the monkeypox lymph gland enlarges.

Transmission of disease

- It spreads through close face to face, skin to skin and direct contact.
- The disease can be spread through contact with bodily fluids, sores on the skin or internal mucous surfaces, such as the mouth or throat, respiratory droplets and contaminated objects.

Treatment and Vaccine

- There is no specific treatment or vaccine available for monkeypox infection.
- The anti-smallpox vaccine has been shown to be 85% effective in preventing monkeypox.
- A newer vaccine MVA-BN, developed for Smallpox was approved in 2019 for use in preventing Monkeypox but is not yet widely available.

10. I2U2 Summit : UAE to develop integrated food parks across India (July 15, 2022)

The United Arab Emirates on July 14 announced an investment of USD 2 billion to develop a series of integrated food parks across India.

Outcome of the Summit

- The decision was announced after the first virtual summit of I2U2 group leaders - Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid and UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- The Summit was focussed on the food security crisis and clean energy.
- Private sectors from the US and Israel will be invited to lend their expertise and provide innovative solutions that contribute to the overall sustainability of the project.
- The Summit discussed innovative ways to ensure sustainable, more diverse food production and food delivery systems that can better manage the global food crisis.
- The I2U2 group will take forward a 300 MW hybrid renewable energy project in Gujarat with wind and solar capacity.
- This was the first summit of this group.

Significance

- Integrated food parks will incorporate cutting-edge climate-smart technologies to conserve waste, fresh water and employ renewable energy sources in food.
- India will provide suitable land for the project and facilitate integration of farmers into food parks.
- These investments will help in maximizing crop yields and combating food insecurity in South Asia and the Middle East.

What is the 'I2U2' group?

- The I2U2 is a group comprising India, Israel, the U.S., and the UAE, has been called the 'West Asian Quad'.
- The group is known as 'I2U2' with "I" standing for India and Israel and "U" for the US and the UAE.
- This view was expressed by U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan with U.S. President Joe Biden.
- The I2U2 grouping was conceptualized during the meeting of foreign ministers of four countries held on 18 October 2021.

Aims of I2U2 Group

- I2U2 aims to harness the vibrancy and entrepreneurial spirit of society to address some of the biggest challenges facing the world.
- It aims to encourage joint investment in six mutually recognized sectors such as water, energy, transport, space, health and food security.
- Appropriate use of private sector capital and expertise to help drive infrastructure modernization, low-carbon development pathways for industries, improve public health, and the development of critical emerging and green technologies.