

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launches SVANidhi Mahotsav ( July 9, 2022 )**

The Svanidhi Mahotsav, which runs from July 9 to 31, is being organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

#### • **Important facts**

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the Svanidhi Festival.
- Svanidhi Mahotsav is a cultural festival being celebrated to commemorate the success of PM Svanidhi Yojana.
- It is being conducted in 75 cities across 33 states and union territories.
- Digital transaction training, loan fair and cultural activities will be organised during the festival.
- Street plays will also be organised to share the benefits, features and experiences of street vendors during this time.

#### • **About PM Svanidhi Yojana**

- PM Svanidhi Yojana was launched on June 1, 2020.
- This scheme was started with the aim of providing financial support to small shopkeepers and hawkers.
- Under the PM Svanidhi Yojana, people who sell goods on the street tracks or do other small jobs can take a loan of up to ₹ 10,000 from the bank.
- After repaying the loan taken in the first instance, the beneficiary can get a loan of up to ₹ 20,000 in the second time and up to ₹ 50,000 in the third time.
- The tenure of the Svanidhi scheme was earlier till March 2022, but the government has extended the deadline of the Svanidhi scheme till December 2024.
- So far 53.7 lakh applications have been received under this scheme, out of which 36.6 lakh applications have been approved and 33.2 lakh loans have been disbursed.
- An amount of Rs 3,592 crore has been disbursed under the scheme so far.

### **2. Gita Gopinath becomes first woman to feature on IMF's 'wall of former chief economists' ( July 9, 2022 )**

inscribed on the wall of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) former chief economists.

#### • **Important facts**

- The first Indian to receive this honour was Raghuram Rajan, who was the IMF's Chief Economist and Director of Research between 2003 and 2006.

- Gita Gopinath was appointed Chief Economist of the IMF in October 2018 and was later promoted as the first Deputy Managing Director of the IMF in December 2021.
- Gita Gopinath served as the first female chief economist of the Washington-based Monetary Fund for three years.
- Gita Gopinath is one of the foremost economists. She is also known for her research on international finance and macroeconomics.
- Geeta is the third woman to become a tenured professor (permanent professor) of Harvard's Department of Economics and the second Indian after Nobel laureate Amartya Sen.
- In 2019, Geeta was awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman by the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, which is the highest honour for Indians living outside the country.

- **About International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF), a United Nations (UN) specialised agency, was established in 1944 at the Bretton Woods Conference to secure international monetary policies.
- The International Monetary Fund is an organisation with 189 member countries.
- First Deputy Managing Director- Geeta Gopinath
- Headquarters- Washington, D.C., U.S.
- Managing Director- Kristalina Georgieva
- Chief Economist - Pierre Olivier Gourinchas

### **3. Mangarh Hill to be declared monument of national importance ( July 9, 2022 )**

A report by the National Monuments Authority (NMA) has announced to name the top of Mangarh hill in Rajasthan as a national monument in honour of 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters.

- **Mangarh Hill**

- The hill, located on the Gujarat-Rajasthan border, is the site of a tribal revolt where more than 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters were killed in the year 1913.
- This place is also known as Adivasi Jallianwala and there has been a demand to build a memorial here.
- On November 17, 1913, the British army opened fire on tribals gathering in protest, led by a leader of the Govind Guru community, killing more than 1,500 people.

- **Bhil tribe**

- The Bhils are commonly known as the Dhanushdharis of Rajasthan. It is the largest tribal community in India.

- It is the largest tribe of South Asia.
- Generally these are classified into two forms:
  - middle or pure bhil
  - Eastern or Rajput Bhil
- Central Bhils are found in the mountainous regions of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan in India and are also found in the north-western regions of Tripura.
- They are considered a Scheduled Tribe in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tripura.
- The Bhils are members of the pre-Aryan caste.
- The name Bhil is also mentioned in the ancient epics of Mahabharata and Ramayana.
- **About National Monuments Authority (NMA)**
  - The National Monuments Authority was enacted in March 2010 in accordance with the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Recognition) Act, under the Ministry of Culture.
  - The NMA has been entrusted with a number of functions related to the conservation of monuments and sites through the management of restricted and regulated areas around centrally protected monuments.
  - National ancient monuments are defined under the Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

#### **4. Health and Panchayati Raj Ministry sign MoU to eliminate TB in India ( July 9, 2022 )**

The Union Ministry of Health and Ministry of Panchayati Raj has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with an aim to eliminate TB in India.

- **Important facts**
  - The MoU was signed by Dr. Bijay Kumar Behera, Economic Adviser on behalf of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Dr. P. Ashok Babu, Joint Secretary on behalf of the Ministry of Health.
  - This MoU will create inter-ministerial cooperation and strategic partnership with the aim of achieving the Prime Minister's ambitious goal of eliminating TB in India by 2025.
  - The MoU is expected to pave the way for coordinated efforts at the grassroots level to create public awareness in rural areas to end the stigma and discrimination associated with tuberculosis.
  - This MoU will prove to be a milestone in achieving the objective and goal of TB Free India Campaign.
- **What is Tuberculosis (TB)?**

It is caused by a bacterium called Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

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- The bacteria generally attack the lungs, but TB bacteria can attack any part of the body, such as the kidneys, spine, and brain.
- Tuberculosis infections began increasing in 1985 because of the emergence of HIV.
- HIV weakens a person's immune system, so it can't fight the TB germs.

#### • **Transmission**

- Its bacteria spread from person to person through the air.
- When people with pulmonary (Lung) TB cough, sneeze or spit, they spread TB germs into the air.

#### • **Symptoms of TB**

- cough for three or more weeks
- coughing up bloody sputum
- Chest pain, pain with breathing and coughing
- weight loss, Fatigue, Fever and Night sweats etc.

#### • **Government Initiatives to Combat TB**

- National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Tuberculosis (TB) Elimination (2017-2025)
- Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY- financial support)
- TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign
- Universal Immunisation Programme
- The government of India aims to have a TB-free India by 2025.
- Revised National TB Control Program under National Health Mission
- Ending the TB epidemic by 2030 under United Nations SDG target 3.3.
- Every year World TB Day is celebrated on 24 March.

#### • **TB Burden**

- Every year one crore people fall ill with TB and 1.5 million people die from TB every year.
- About half of all people with TB are found in eight countries – Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and South Africa.
- It is one of the top 10 leading causes of death worldwide.
- India accounts for 30 percent of the world's TB cases, the highest in the world, followed by Indonesia and China.

## **5. State mourning across the country on July 9 over the death of Shinzo Abe ( July 9, 2022 )**

The government has decided to observe a one-day state mourning across the country on **July 9** in honour of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. He passed away on 8 July.

### **• Important facts**

- Prime Minister Modi expressed deep grief over the incident and declared a day of national mourning on 9 July in the country as a mark of deep respect for him.
- On the day of mourning, on all buildings where the National Flag is flown regularly, the National Flag will remain at half-mast.

### **• Awarded Padma Vibhushan in 2021**

- In January 2021, the Indian government honoured Shinzo Abe with the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award.
- Abe is considered to have played an important role in better relations between India and Japan.

### **• Visited India most times while being the PM of Japan**

- Shinzo Abe visited India three times during his tenure as Prime Minister.
- He was on official visits to India in January 2014, December 2015 and September 2017.
- No other Prime Minister of Japan has made so many visits to India.
- He was the first Japanese prime minister to be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade in 2014.

### **• India-Japan relations under Shinzo Abe**

- The foundation for the "**Global Partnership between Japan and India**" was laid in 2001, and the annual bilateral summit was agreed in 2005, with Abe accelerating the pace of relations with India since 2012.
- In August 2007, during his first visit to India as Prime Minister, he delivered the famous "**confluence of two seas**" speech which laid the foundation for the **concept of Indo-Pacific**.
- In September 2014, Modi and Abe agreed to upgrade bilateral ties to a "**Special Strategic and Global Partnership**".
- During Abe's tenure, the two countries decided to hold a meeting of foreign and defence ministers (**2+2**).
- In November 2019, the first 2+2 meeting was held in **New Delhi**.
- An agreement for transfer of defence equipment and technology was also signed in 2015.
- During his tenure, India and Japan came closer in the **Indo-Pacific**.

- Abe had given the concept of **Quad in 2007** and it was formed.
- The Quad is a diplomatic network of four countries committed to supporting a free and open Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and resilient.
- During Abe's visit in 2015, India decided to introduce a **bullet train**.
- Under Abe's leadership, India and Japan formed the **Act East Forum** and it is important for development in **Northeast India**.
- **Kindly also see 8 July 2022 post**

## **6. NMA recommends two sites connected to Ambedkar to be declared as monuments of national importance ( July 9, 2022 )**

The National Monuments Authority (NMA) on July 9 has recommended the declaration of two sites associated with BR Ambedkar in Gujarat and Maharashtra as monuments of national importance.

- These recommendations have been placed before Minister of State for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal by the National Monuments Authority.
- **Name the two sites**

### **1. Sankalp Bhumi banyan tree campus**

It is located in Vadodara, Gujrat where Dr. Ambedkar had taken a resolve to eradicate untouchability on 23th September, 1917.

The site is more than a hundred years old and witnesses the beginning of the social respect revolution initiated by Ambedkar, who is regarded as the architect of the Constitution of India.

### **2. PratapRao Bhosale High School, Satara, Maharashtra**

Dr Ambedkar received his primary education in PratapRao Bhosale High School.

This school is under Satara Zilla Parishad and presently the condition of the school is dilapidated.

The school's register still shows the signature of a student, Bhim Rao, in Marathi.

- **National Monuments Authority (NMA)**
- Established - in 2010
- Ministry - Union Ministry of Culture
- Established under The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010
- Composition - a Chairperson and up to 5 Whole Time and 5 Part Time Members and a Member Secretary

- The Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is its ex-officio member.
- Headquarters - New Delhi

## **7. Former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant named new G20 Sherpa ( July 8, 2022 )**

Former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has been appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20 organisation.

### **• Important facts**

- Till now Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was India's Sherpa for G20.
- The main reason for the appointment of a full-time G-20 Sherpa is India's presidency of the G20 later this year.
- In a way, Sherpa does the main job of coordinating this event between all the agencies within the country and foreign agencies.
- The G-20 meeting is the biggest event to be held in India in recent decades, in which the heads of state of the world's 20 richest countries with their foreign ministers, finance ministers, and other officials will be held at different times.
- The G-20 meeting for the year 2022 is scheduled to be held in Bali (Indonesia) in November 2022.
- The chairmanship of the organisation will be handed over to India from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.

### **• Who is Sherpa?**

- The personal representative of a country attending international summits like G-20 and G-8 is called Sherpa.
- Sherpas discuss economic, political and global agendas with representatives of member states.
- Sherpa is derived from the popular word Sherpa in Nepal. Sherpas act as guides for mountaineers in Nepal. Similarly, Sherpas act as guides in international conferences.
- They are appointed by the government of the country concerned. Officers or senior leaders with diplomatic, political or administrative experience can be appointed to this post.
- Suresh Prabhu, Arvind Panagariya, Shaktikanta Das, Montek Singh Ahluwalia have also been Sherpas from India's side.

## **8. OPEC chief Mohammad Barkindo dies in Nigeria at 63 ( July 8, 2022 )**

Mohamed Barkindo, Secretary General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), has died in Nigeria at the age of 63.

**• Important facts**

- Barkindo was on a visit to his home country of Nigeria to attend the Energy Conference where he passed away.
- Born in April 1959 in Adamawa State in northeastern Nigeria, Barkindo assumed the position of Secretary General of OPEC in 2016.
- His term was to end in July.

**• About OPEC**

- It is a permanent, intergovernmental organisation that was established in 1960 at the Baghdad Conference by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- The purpose of this organisation is to coordinate and integrate the petroleum policies of its member countries and to ensure the stabilisation of oil markets to ensure efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to the consumer.
- Headquarters - Vienna (Austria)
- OPEC has 14 member states (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Libya, Nigeria, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of the Congo, Angola, Ecuador and Venezuela).

**• OPEC plus**

- It is a coalition of OPEC members and the world's 10 major non-OPEC oil exporting countries.
- Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.

**9. India elected to UNESCO panel on Intangible Cultural Heritage ( July 8, 2022 )**

India has been selected in the 'Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Agreement for the Protection Standards of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)' for the period 2022-2026.

**• Important facts**

- India has previously been a member of the ICH committee twice, from 2006 to 2010 and from 2014 to 2018.
- India is included in two prestigious committees of UNESCO. Among these are the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2022-2026) and World Heritage (2021-2025) committees.
- This will be another opportunity for India to re-establish the values of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'."
- According to the Union Ministry of Culture, four seats were vacant in the Asia-Pacific grouping and six countries - India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand - had submitted their candidatures.



- According to the statement, India got 110 votes out of 155 countries.
- The Intergovernmental Committee on the 2003 Agreement has 24 members.
- **India's 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' recognized by UNESCO**
- (1) Tradition of Vedic chanting (3) Ramlila, traditional performance of Ramayana (3) Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre (4) Ramman, religious festivals and rituals of the Garhwal Himalayas, India (5) Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala (6) Kalbelia Folk Songs and Dances of Rajasthan (7) Chhau Dance (8) Buddhist Chanting of Ladakh: Recitation of Sacred Buddhist Scriptures in the Ladakh Region of the Himalayas, Jammu and Kashmir, India (9) Sankirtana, Traditional Singing, Nagade of Manipur and dance (10) Brass and copper utensils made by Thathers of Punjab (11) Yoga (12) Navroz, (13) Kumbh Mela (14) Durga Puja, Kolkata.
- UNESCO was established in the year 1945 to develop the "intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind" in the form of lasting peacekeeping.
- UNESCO officially recognizes sites of cultural and natural importance as World Heritage.
- India has a total of 40 Tangible Heritage Sites (31 Cultural, 8 Natural and 1 Mixed) and 14 Intangible Cultural Heritages recognized by UNESCO.
- **Abstract culture**
- Intangible culture is the wealth of a community, nation, etc., which continues to prosper over the centuries, overwhelming the subconscious of that community or nation.
- Intangible culture is available in the form of heritage to the present generation by assimilating the characteristics of its contemporary generations over time.

## **10. Hariyali Mahotsav - 2022 ( July 8, 2022 )**

“Hariyali Mahotsav 2022” was organised by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on July 8, 2022 at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi in the spirit of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav”.

- **Important facts**
- It was organised with the aim of raising awareness on the importance of trees in sustaining the lives of the present generations as well as in securing the lives of the generations to come.
- This festival was celebrated as an effective tool to generate enthusiasm among the public towards forest conservation and plantation.
- **Hariyali Mahotsav**
- Hariyali Mahotsav is an effective means of generating enthusiasm among the public for the conservation of forests and plantation.
- Hariyali Mahotsav 2020 was organised by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in Delhi in collaboration with the State Government, Police and Schools to carry out a tree plantation drive on the occasion.

- To mark the event, tree plantation drives were organised across India. In the tree plantation drive, 75 police stations across India, 75 city forests, 75 schools in Delhi/NCR and 75 plantation sites across India joined in honouring 75 years of Indian Independence.
- The event complements the government-led initiatives and policies for environmental protection.

**• Major Fairs/Festivals of 2022**

<b>Festival</b>	<b>Venue</b>
<b>40th Hunar Haat Festival</b>	Mumbai
Sarhul Mahotsav 2022	Jharkhand
<b>35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela</b>	Haryana (Partner Nation - Uzbekistan)
<b>National Youth Parliament Festival 2022</b>	New Delhi
<b>Vigyan Sarvatra Pujate</b>	New Delhi
<b>Medaram Jatara Festival 2022</b>	Telangana
<b>Hearth Mahotsav 2022</b>	Jammu and Kashmir
<b>Maru Mahotsav 2022</b>	Jaisalmer (Rajasthan)
<b>Kanchoth Mahotsav 2022</b>	Jammu and Kashmir
<b>18th Kachai Lemon Festival</b>	Kanchi, Manipur