

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. Start-Up Ranking of States 2021 ( July 6, 2022 )**

The results of the third edition of the Ranking of States on Supporting the Startup Ecosystem were released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been conducting the Startup Ranking of States since 2018.
- The Startup India initiative of the Government of India envisages building a strong startup ecosystem in the country to foster innovation and provide opportunities to budding entrepreneurs.
- This exercise plays a vital role in easing the business environment for startups in the country.
- **Classification:** States and Union Territories are classified into **5 categories** best exhibitor

1. top performers
2. Leader
3. aspiring leader
4. Emerging Startup Ecosystem.

#### **• About Ranking 2021**

- In terms of developing the 'Start-up Ecosystem for Entrepreneurs', Gujarat, Karnataka emerged as the best performers among the states.
- Meghalaya ranks first among union territories and north-eastern states.
- Gujarat has been recognized as the best performing state for the third consecutive year.
- The states of Kerala, Odisha, Maharashtra and Telangana were the top performers.
- Among the union territories and northeastern states, Jammu and Kashmir was ranked as the top performer.
- Assam, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh emerged as the winners in the "leaders category" among the states.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa emerged as the winners in the "leader's category" among union territories and northeastern states.
- This year's ranking was given on the basis of the period 1 October 2019 to 31 July 2021.

### **2. CBSE has launched the Pariksha Sangam portal ( July 6, 2022 )**

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has launched the Pariksha Sangam portal for the convenience of the students.

- Pariksha Sangam will provide at one place various examination related procedures to be conducted by the School Regional Offices and CBSE Headquarters.
- It has 3 parts – School (Ganga), Regional Office (Yamuna) and Head Office (Saraswati).
- Here complete information will be given from the registration of the student to the declaration of the board's examination results.
- Almost all the processes of CBSE are online which is going on through various portals. Now all these activities will be integrated in the Pariksha Sangam portal by CBSE.
- Students will be able to register their request for revaluation, photocopy of answer sheets through this portal.
- Apart from all this, this portal will also be used in the registration process of class 9th and 11th.

- **About Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is a national level board of education in India for public and private schools, controlled and managed by the Government of India.
- The first education board to be set up in India was the Uttar Pradesh Board of High School and Intermediate Education in 1921
- Formation- 2 July 1929
- Headquarters- New Delhi
- Chairperson- Nidhi Chibber

### **3. Australia is Killing Millions Of Bees To Save Its Honey Industry ( July 6, 2022 )**

Australian authorities have killed millions of bees over the past two weeks in an effort to stop a devastating parasitic plague called the Varroa mite.

- The parasite named Varroa mite has spread to the south-eastern part of the country.
- Now because of this, the honey industry worth crores of rupees is under threat.
- In view of this, an alert was issued for the beekeepers.
- The decision to kill bees could adversely affect the development of many crops including almonds, macadamia nuts and blueberries that depend on bees for pollination.
- Bees are the most important pollinators.

- **What is Varroa Mite?**

- It is a parasitic insect that infects and feeds on honeybees.

- It is often known as the varroa destructor.
- It is reddish-brown in color and is capable of destroying entire colonies of bees.
- This organism can spread five types of viruses in the hive which can destroy the entire colony of bees.
- After clinging to one bee, it reaches another and thus takes the entire hive under its control.

#### **4. Odisha tops first national food security ranking, Tripura best among smaller states ( July 6, 2022 )**

Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal released on 5 July the first State Ranking Index for implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

- **Odisha** has been placed at the top position in the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' among the general category states.
- In the ranking, **Uttar Pradesh** is second and **Andhra Pradesh** is at third position.
- **Tripura** ranks first among special category states/UTs followed by **Himachal Pradesh** and **Sikkim** respectively.
- In addition, among the 3 union territories where Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)-cash driven, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu are in top position.
- **Three key pillars for ranking**
- The index for ranking of states and union territories is built on three major pillars-

1. NFSA - Coverage, Targeting and Provisions of the Act
2. Delivery platform
3. nutritional initiatives

- These pillars cover end-to-end implementation of NFSA through TPDS.
- **State Ranking Index for NFSA**
- It attempts to document the status and progress of implementation of NFSA across the country and various reform initiatives in consultation with the states.
- It highlights the reforms undertaken by States and UTs and creates a cross-learning environment and scale-up reform measures by all States and UTs.
- The index largely focuses on NFSA distribution and will include future buyouts, PMGKAY distributions.
- **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**
- It was enacted on July 5, 2013.

- NFSA provides a legal right to persons belonging to "eligible households" to receive food grains at subsidized prices under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
- It provides rice at Rs 3/kg, wheat at Rs 2/kg and coarse grain at Re 1/kg under the TPDS.
- Overall, the NFSA caters to 67% of the total population.
- It is responsible for the provision of subsidized food grains to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population of all states and union territories.
- The Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Public Distribution System (PDS), and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) are covered under this Act.

## **5. Finland, Sweden sign protocol to join NATO ( July 6, 2022 )**

30 NATO allies have signed the protocol to make Sweden, Finland members.

- It will allow them to join the nuclear-armed alliance once parliaments of all NATO countries ratify the decision.
- It is the most significant expansion of the alliance since 1990.
- The signing at NATO headquarters follows an agreement with Turkey at the NATO summit in Madrid last week.
- The protocol means that Helsinki and Stockholm can participate in NATO meetings and obtain intelligence, but will not be protected by a NATO defence clause.
- NATO defence clause means that an attack on one ally is an attack against all until ratification.
- It is likely to take up to a year to become part of the NATO defence clause.
- All 30 allies signed accession protocols for Sweden and Finland at a ceremony in Brussels on 5 July, making the countries formal invitees and allowing them access to almost all NATO meetings.
- **Russia warning**
  - Moscow has repeatedly warned both countries against joining NATO.
  - On 12 March, the Russian Foreign Ministry said there would be "serious military and political consequences".
- **Turkish warning**
  - Turkey is threatening to veto NATO membership for Sweden and Finland.
  - Turkey will not ratify membership of the NATO for these countries if they don't fulfill their promises to combat terrorism and extradite suspects under a memorandum of understanding reached at an alliance summit in Madrid last week.
- **About North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)**

- NATO is an intergovernmental military alliance consisting of 30 member states belonging to Europe and North America (28 European states, the US and Canada).
- NATO aims to guarantee the security of its members through political and military means.
- According to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, an armed attack against any NATO member in Europe or North America shall be deemed an attack against all NATO members.
- Article 5 has been invoked only once so far after the 9/11 terrorist attacks against the US.
- The last country to join NATO was North Macedonia in 2020.
- Headquarters- Brussels, Belgium

**Kindly also see 23 May 2022 post**

## **6. Ukrainian mathematician becomes second woman to win Fields Medal ( July 6, 2022 )**

On July 5, a jury of the International Mathematical Union awarded the prestigious Fields Medal to four mathematicians, including Ukraine's Marya Vyazovska.

- **Marya Vyazovska**
  - Wiazowska is the head of number theory at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne.
  - Wiazowska is the second woman to win the award in its 80-year history.
  - She is known to be an expert in solving spherical packing problems.
  - She was awarded the prize for solving a version of a centuries-old mathematical problem where she proved the densest packing of equal regions in eight dimensions.
  - Wiazowska was born in 1984 in Ukraine, which was part of the Soviet Union, and has been a professor at the cole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne in Switzerland since 2017.
  - **The other three winners are -**
1. **James Maynard** - number theorist at the University of Oxford, UK
  2. **June Huh** - specialist in combinatorics at Princeton University in New Jersey
  3. **Hugo Duminil Copin** - studies statistical physics at the Institute of Advanced Scientific Studies (IHES) near Paris.
- 35-year-old James Maynard was presented this award for his contribution to "**analytical number theory**".
  - June Huh, 39, was awarded the prize for "**changing**" the field of geometric combinatorics.

Duminil-Coppin was awarded for solving "**long-standing problems in the probabilistic theory of phase transitions**".

- **First women winner**

- The first woman to win the prize was Mariam Mirzakhani in 2014, an Iranian-born mathematician who died of cancer three years later in 2017.

- **Indian-origin winners**

- Two of the winners are of Indian origin.

- Akshay Venkatesh of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton – was awarded the award in 2018.

- Manjul Bhargava of the Department of Mathematics at Princeton University was honored in 2014.

- **About Fields Medal**

- Fields Medal is often described as the Nobel Prize in mathematics.

- This highest honours in mathematics is conventionally awarded to people aged under 40.

- The medal, along with \$15,000 Canadian dollars (\$11,600), is awarded every four years to between two to four candidates for “outstanding mathematical achievement”.

- Of the 60 mathematicians who won the Fields Medal earlier this year, 59 were men.

- The prizes are normally announced at the opening of the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM).

- This year’s congress was scheduled to begin on 6 July in St. Petersburg, Russia, but the plan was scrapped following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

- The award ceremony was held in Helsinki and the Congress concluded as a virtual event.

- **International Mathematical Union**

- It is an international non-governmental and non-profit scientific organization.

- Its purpose is to promote international cooperation in mathematics.

- It is a member of the International Science Council (ISC).

- founded - in 1920 and has existed in its current form since 1951

- Location - Berlin, Germany

- President - Carlos E. Kenig

## **7. Airports Authority of India inks pact with UP government to operate 5 airports ( July 5, 2022 )**

The Airports Authority of India has signed an operation and management agreement to operate five airports owned by the UP government for a period of 30 years.

- These five airports are Aligarh, Azamgarh, Chitrakoot, Mirpur and Shravasti.
- The airport will be developed by the state government and will be operated and managed by the Airports Authority of India as a service provider.
- In the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a letter of agreement (MoU) was exchanged between Additional Chief Secretary of Civil Aviation Department SP Goyal and AAI President AK Pathak.
- The communication navigation monitoring services will also be provided by the Airports Authority of India, for which the state government will enter into a separate agreement.
- After the MoU, now the process of licensing of these airports will be done and soon all the five airports will start air service.

- **About Airports Authority of India**

- Airports Authority of India is an organisation/authority functioning under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.
- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) manages a total of 125 airports which include 11 international airports, 8 customs airports, 81 domestic airports and 25 civil enclaves in defence airfields.
- Established- 1st April, 1995
- President- Sanjeev Kumar
- Headquarters - New Delhi

## **8. UK Parliament honours Tanuja Nesari with Ayurveda Ratna award ( July 5, 2022 )**

All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) Director Tanuja Nesri has been conferred with the Ayurveda Ratna Award by the UK Parliament.

- The UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Science (ITSappg) presented the award in recognition of his contribution to promoting the development of Ayurveda in India and abroad.
- The award was presented on the occasion of International Day of Yoga (June 21).
- The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Science was formed in 2014 with the aim of spreading the knowledge of Ayurveda, Yoga, Astrology, Vastu, Unani and Sangeet to the United Kingdom and abroad.

- **About All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**

- Establishment - 2017
- Headquarters - New Delhi

**9. IRDAI and NHA to set up National Health Claims Exchange to settle claims ( July 5, 2022 )**

The National Health Authority (NHA) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) have decided to develop a National Health Claims Exchange.

- National Health Claims Exchange will be developed as a digital platform for settlement of health claims.
- IRDAI President Debashish Panda has proposed to form a working group with industry representation.
- This working group will decide how to attract as many people as possible to buy health insurance.
- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**
  - IRDAI is a regulatory body, established under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance.
  - It helps regulate and licence the insurance and reinsurance industries across the country.
  - It was constituted as per the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.
  - IRDAI is headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana. It was shifted from Delhi to Telangana in 2001.
  - IRDAI is a 10-member body. It consists of the Chairman, 5 full time and 4 part time members. All the members are appointed by the Government of India.
- **National Health Authority (NHA)**
  - National Health Authority implements India's public health insurance scheme named "Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)".
  - NHA was set up to implement PM-JAY at the national level.
  - In states, state health agencies have been set up as a society or trust.
  - SHA has been given full operational autonomy for the implementation of this scheme.

**10. Operation "Narcos" ( July 5, 2022 )**

Railway Protection Force recently recovered narcotics worth more than Rs 7.40 crore under Operation "Narcos".

- **Operation Narcos**
  - With a special focus on the menace of Narcotic Substances and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS), a month long all India campaign against drug trafficking through rail with the code "Operation Narcos" was launched in June-2022.

- RPF has intensified its investigation in trains and identified black spots across the country in coordination with the Narcotics Control Bureau and other law enforcement agencies to target drug smugglers involved in this illegal trade.

- **Other Initiatives of RPF**

- **Operation AAHT**

- Special teams will be deployed on all long distance trains/routes to rescue the victims, especially women and children, from the clutches of traffickers.

- **Meri saheli pehal**

- This initiative will focus on the safety of women passengers. It was launched in September 2020 as a pilot project in South-Eastern Railway. Since then it has been extended to all the zones.

- **Operation Passenger Safety**

- Under "Operation Yatri Suraksha", the RPF supports the state police in the fight against passenger crime.

- **Operation Little Angels**

- It rescued 1,045 children who were found alone or abandoned at railway stations.

- **Railway Protection Force**

- The RPF contingent is an armed force of the Union of India. It is a security force owned by the Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways.
- The history of RPF dates back to 1882 when various railway companies appointed their own guards to guard the railway property.
- The force was declared a statutory force in 1957 by an Act of Parliament, later declared as an armed force of the Union of India in 1985.
- RPF has been entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding railway property.