

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### 1. Qatar lifts ban on frozen seafood from India ( Feb. 18, 2023 )

**Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA)** has said that **Qatar** partially lifted a ban imposed last year on the import of **frozen seafood** from India on 18 February.

#### An overview of the news

- The ban will continue on exports of **chilled seafood**, which accounts for about a third of the West Asian country's total seafood exports in 2021-22 with the worth of **Rs 143 crore**.
- Frozen seafood is stored at **minus 20 degrees**, while chilled seafood is stored at **3-4 degrees Celsius**.
- In the current financial year, India's seafood exports to the West Asian country stood at around **Rs 90 crore**, with prawns taking the number one spot.
- **China** has also lifted the suspension of shipments from 99 Indian seafood processing and export units.
- Now seafood exports are expected to cross **USD 8 billion** in the current fiscal.

#### Why was the ban imposed?

- This ban was imposed in **November 2022**.
- *Vibrio cholerae*, the bacteria that causes cholera infection, was reportedly detected in consignments exported from India to Qatar ahead of the FIFA World Cup. After this these food products were banned.

### 2. AICTE and BPRD Jointly Launch KAVACH-2023 ( Feb. 17, 2023 )

A national level **hackathon KAVACH-2023** was launched on 16 February to identify innovative ideas and technological solutions to address India's 21st century **cyber security and cybercrime challenges**.

#### An overview of the news

- KAVACH-2023 is a one-of-a-kind national hackathon jointly developed by **AICTE, Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) and Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre**.
- It identifies innovative ideas and technological solutions to address **21st century cyber security and cybercrime challenges** faced by law enforcement agencies and common citizens.

KAVACH-2023 will be organised in two phases.

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- In the first phase, topics related to Fake News/Social Media, Dark Web, Women Safety, Phishing Detection, Video Analytics/CCTV, Obscene Content Detection, Spam Alerts, and Malware Analysis/Digital Forensics will be covered.

### **3. Cabinet approves signing of the MoU between the India and South Africa for cooperation in Disability Sector ( Feb. 16, 2023 )**

memorandum of understanding (MoU)

The Union Cabinet on 15 February approved the signing of the **memorandum of understanding (MoU) between India and South Africa** for cooperation in the 'disability sector'.

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

- It aims to encourage cooperation between the **Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and South Africa** through joint initiatives in the disability sector.
- It will strengthen **bilateral relations** between India and South Africa.
- This MoU will benefit a large number of **Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)** in both the countries, especially those who are in need of modern, scientific, durable, low cost aids and assistive devices.

#### **South Africa**

- President: **Cyril Ramaphosa**
- Capitals: **Cape Town (Legislative), Pretoria (Executive), Bloemfontein (Judicial)**
- Currency : **Rand**

### **4. India and Fiji sign MoU on visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and official passports ( Feb. 16, 2023 )**

memorandum of understanding (MoU)

**India and Fiji** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** on **visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders** on 16 February in presence of External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** and Fiji Prime Minister **Sitiveni Rabuka**.

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

- Under this agreement, holders of diplomatic and official passports will be able to **enter, transit and stay** in each other's territory without a visa for a **period of 90 days**.

- India and Fiji share close and long-standing relations and the two countries also reviewed bilateral relations.
- India and Fiji have inaugurated the **solarisation of the State House in Suva** and this is the first of a series that India is supporting in the **Pacific Islands**.
- It shows India's commitment towards **climate action**.
- The **Visa Waiver Agreement** will be helpful in encouraging greater travel between the two countries.

## **Republic of Fiji**

- It is an archipelago consisting of around **300 islands** in the South Pacific Ocean.
- Capital: Suva
- Currency: **Fijian Dollar**
- President : **Wiliame Katonivere**
- Prime Minister: **Sitiveni Rabuka**

## **5. WPL 2023: Smriti Mandhana created history, became the most expensive player ( Feb. 15, 2023 )**

Smriti Mandhana

India's star opener **Smriti Mandhana** has become the **costliest player** in the ongoing player auction for the **Women's Premier League (WPL)**.

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

- She joined **Royal Challengers Bangalore for Rs 3.4 crore** after winning the highest bid in the ongoing **Women's Premier League 2023** auction in Mumbai.
- A total of **448 players** were included in the auction, out of which **87 players** were bought by the franchises. **30 foreign players** were also involved in this.
- **Ashley Gardner (Australia)** was at **number two** in the list of expensive players. He was bought by Gujarat Giants for **Rs 3.20 crore**.
- **Natalie Sciver** is at number three. She was bought by Mumbai Indians for 3.20 crores.
- India's all-rounder **Deepti Sharma** is at **number four**. Deepti is included in UP Warriors for **2.60 crores**.
- **Jemima Rodrigues** was at **number five**. He was included in their team by **Delhi Capitals for 2.20 crores**.

### **About Smriti Mandhana**

- Smriti Mandhana is a young and talented **left-handed Indian batsman** and former captain of the Indian women's cricket team.

- Mandhana is known for her attacking batting style and has been a consistent performer in the T20I format.
- Mandhana made her T20I debut in **April 2013 against Bangladesh.**
- In the T20 International format, he has played **65 matches and scored 1743 runs at an average of 27.61.**
- His highest score in T20 International format is 83 and he has 9 fifties to his name.
- In June 2018, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) awarded her as the **Best Female International Cricketer.**
- In December 2018, the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** awarded her the **Rachael Hayhoe-Flint Award** for the best female cricketer of the year.

## **6. Saudi Arabia to send its 1st female astronaut to space this year ( Feb. 14, 2023 )**

### **Saudi Arabia's first female astronaut**

**Saudi Arabia's first female astronaut** is set to go into space this year, in what is seen as a move to reform Saudi Arabia's **ultra-conservative image.**

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

- Saudi female astronaut **Rayna Barnawi** will join **Saudi Ali Al-Qarni** on a 10-day mission to the **International Space Station (ISS)** this year.
- **Barnawi and al-Karni** will fly to the ISS aboard a **SpaceX Dragon spacecraft** as part of a mission by American privately funded space infrastructure developer private space company **Axiom Space** .
- The **Ax-2** will be launched by a **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** from Launch Complex 39A at **NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, America.**
- Another fellow **Emirati, Sultan Al-Neyadi** will also visit the space station at the end of February 2023.
- Axiom Space launched its **first private astronaut mission** to the ISS in April 2022, with four private astronauts spending 17 days in space orbit.
- In 2019, Saudi Arabia's neighbouring **United Arab Emirates became the first Arab country** to send a citizen into space. Astronaut Hazza al-Mansoori spent eight days on the ISS.
- **In 1985**, Saudi royal prince **Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz** participated in a US-organised space mission, becoming the first Arab Muslim to travel in space.

### **Saudi Arabia**

- King - **Salman**
- Capital - **Riyadh**

- Currency - **Saudi Arabian riyal**
- Official Language - **Arabic**
- Official Religion - **Islam**

## **7. Moldov's PM Natalia Gavrilita resigns ( Feb. 11, 2023 )**

Moldovan Prime Minister **Natalia Gavrilita** announced her resignation on 10 February.

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

- She resigned, citing lack of support in the former Soviet republic. She was in power only for **18 months**.
- Moldova's President **Maia Sandu** has accepted Gavrilita's resignation and said she will speak to parliamentary groups about a possible replacement.
- Ms. Gavrilita's party won a majority in the elections held in **August 2021**.
- The next prime minister of Moldova could be **Dorin Risen**, a European security adviser who is a supporter of Sandu.
- Rieken is expected to be approved as the country's prime minister without interference.
- Moldova, a **former Soviet republic** with a **population of 2.5 million people**, is already facing a host of issues such as rising inflation, a massive influx of refugees from Ukraine and a severe energy crisis in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war.
- Moscow significantly reduced its **electricity supply to Moldova**.
- Last year alone, the country saw protests against a dramatic increase in prices, particularly for **Russian gas**.

### **About Moldova**

- Moldova is located between **Ukraine and Romania**.
- Capital: **Chişinău**
- President: **Maia Sandu**
- Official Language : **Romanian**
- Currency : **Moldovan leu**

## **8. PM Modi flags off Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express train ( Jan. 15, 2023 )**

Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express train

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, on the occasion of Pongal on 15 January, virtually flagged off the **Vande Bharata Express train** connecting **Secunderabad with Vishakhapatnam**.

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

- This is the **8th Vande Bharata Express** which will cover a distance of about eight hours between Secunderabad in Telangana and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- The intermediate stops envisaged for the train include **Warangal, Khammam, Vijayawada and Rajahmundry**.
- This will lead to ease of living, boost tourism and benefit the economy.
- In the last few years, seven Vande Bharat trains have covered a distance of **23 lakh kms**, carrying 40 lakh passengers to their destinations.
- The state-of-the-art Vande Bharat Express can accelerate to **100 kmph in just 52 seconds**.

### **Name of all 8 Vande Bharat Express train**

1. Varanasi-New Delhi,
2. Katra-New Delhi,
3. Mumbai Central-Gandhinagar,
4. Amb Andaura - New Delhi
5. Chennai - Mysuru
6. Nagpur - Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)
7. Howraha-New Jalpaiguri
8. Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam

### **About Vande Bharat Express Train**

- The first Vande Bharat Express was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **15 February 2019**.
- These trains have a self-propelled engine which can save diesel and reduce electricity usage by up to **30%**.
- The first Vande Bharat Express was manufactured by **Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai**.
- It was manufactured under the '**Make in India**' programme, at a cost of about Rs 100 crore.
- These trains can achieve a maximum speed of **160 kmph**.

- In the Union Budget for 2022-2023 the government has proposed the development and manufacture of **400 new Vande Bharat trains** in the next three years.

### **9. Rajasthan Government to provide LPG cylinder at Rs 500 per cylinder; Ashok Gehlot ( Dec. 20, 2022 )**

Rajasthan Government to provide LPG cylinder at Rs 500 per cylinder

The Rajasthan Government will provide **12 LPG cylinders** per year to the poor families at **Rs 500 per cylinder** from 1 April 2023. This was announced by the Rajasthan Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot** at the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Alwar on 19 December 2022.

He said the decision was taken to provide relief to the people suffering from unprecedented inflation and unemployment.

### **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**

'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' (PMUY) was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 May 2016 in **Ballia, Uttar Pradesh**.

Under the scheme a poor household headed by a woman is provided with a free LPG gas stove and free first LPG Cylinder.

However under the scheme the beneficiaries have to buy the subsidized LPG cylinder.

The target of the PMUY was to release **8 crore LPG connections** by March 2020 which was achieved on 7 September 2019.

### **PMUY 2.0**

It was launched virtually by PM Modi on 10 August 2021 at **Mahoba, Madhya Pradesh**.

It aims to provide additional 1.6 crore LPG connections with special focus on migrant households.

Connection is provided to an adult woman belonging to a poor household.

The beneficiaries should belong to any of the following categories:

- Eligible as per Socio Economic Caste Census 2011 list,
- Belongs to SC/ST households, be a beneficiary of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Forest dwellers, Most Backward Classes (MBC), Tea and Ex-Tea Garden Tribes, People residing in river Islands.

### **10. India's largest and fourth business jet terminal commissioned at Cochin International Airport ( Dec. 10, 2022 )**

India's largest and fourth business jet terminal commissioned at Cochin International Airport

Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated the country's first and biggest charter gateway - the Business Jet Terminal -- at the Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) on 10

December 2022. Cochin airport has become the 4th airport in India after Delhi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad with dedicated private Jet terminals.

According to the CIAL Managing Director, S Suhas “The Business Jet Terminal is going to be India's first Charter Gateway, which will serve as a platform to integrate business jet service, tourism and business conferences,

The business jet terminal inaugurated today was built at a cost of 40 crore rupees by renovating the old domestic terminal. It covers an area of 40,000 sq feet with comfortable lounges, customs and immigration counters, a business centre and other modern facilities.

**Cochin International Airport was the first airport in the world to run on solar power. It is the largest airport in Kerala and the seventh largest in India.**

### **International Airports in Kerala**

Kerala has the highest number of operational international airports in India. It has 4 international airports. They are:

- Trivandrum International Airport ,
- Cochin International airport ,
- Calicut International Airport and
- Kannur International Airport.