

Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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1. Britain appoints Jane Marriott as first female envoy to Pakistan (June 16, 2023)

The United Kingdom appointed Jane Marriott as the next British High Commissioner to Pakistan, making her the **first female British envoy to Islamabad.**

An Overview of the News

- Jane Marriott previously served as the **High Commissioner to Kenya since September 2019.**
- She will **replace Dr Christian Turner**, who held the position of **British Ambassador to Pakistan since December 2019.**
- Prior to his diplomatic career, he held roles in the **Cabinet Office and the Home Office.**

About United Kingdom

- It is an island nation located in northwestern Europe. It consists of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Capital - **London**

Prime Minister - **Rishi Sunak**

Emperor - **Charles III**

About Pakistan

- Capital - **Islamabad**
- Chairman - **Arif Alvi**
- Prime Minister - **Shahbaz Sharif**
- President of the Senate - **Sadiq Sanjrani**

2. Renowned novelist Cormac McCarthy passed away (June 16, 2023)

Renowned Pulitzer Prize winning novelist **Cormac McCarthy** passed away at the age of 89.

An Overview of the News

- McCarthy, best known for such acclaimed novels as "**The Road**" and "**No Country for Old Men**," was born in Providence, **Rhode Island, in 1933.**
- He began his fiction writing journey in the early **1960s** and published his **first novel "The Orchard Keeper" in 1965.**

- Throughout his career, McCarthy wrote more than **20 novels**, including such **notable works as "Blood"**.
- In recognition of her literary achievements, McCarthy was awarded the **Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2007** for her **novel "The Road"**.
- Additionally, his novel **"No Country for Old Men"** was adapted into an **Academy Award-winning film in 2007**.

Pulitzer Prize

- It is an award administered by **Columbia University**.
- It was **established in 1917** by provisions of the **will of Joseph Pulitzer**.
- The award recognizes achievements in **newspaper, magazine, online journalism, literature, and musical composition** within the United States.
- The award covers various categories such as **newspaper reporting, investigative journalism, editorial writing, feature writing, commentary, criticism, photography, fiction, drama, history, biography, poetry and music**.

3. Mission Olympic Cell approves Mirabai Chanu, Bindyarani Devi's proposal to train in USA (June 15, 2023)

Mission-Olympic-Cell-approves-Mirabai-Chanu

The Mission Olympic Cell of the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** approved **Mirabai Chanu** and **Bindyarani Devi's** proposal for an overseas training camp.

An Overview of the News

- Target Olympic Podium Scheme athletes **Mirabai Chanu and Bindyarani Devi** will train under the guidance of **Dr. Aaron Horschig at Squat University in St. Louis, USA**.
- The aim of the training camp is to focus on rehabilitation and strength training for the upcoming Asian Games.
- Mirabai Chanu, Bindyarani Devi, Indian head coach **Vijay Sharma and physiotherapist Tesnim Zayed** will be part of the camp and it will run for 65 days.
- The government will bear various expenses including air travel, boarding and lodging, medical insurance, local transport, gym fees and doctor's consultation.

About Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS):

- Launch:** Tops was launched in September 2014 and got a facelift in April 2018.
- Objective:** The objective of the scheme is to provide support and assistance to athletes for Olympic Games/ Paralympic Games and other major international tournaments to win medals.

- **Support Services:** TOPS provides financial support, training support, coaching, scientific and technical support, sports equipment and access to facilities.
- **Collaboration:** TOPS promotes coordination between sports federations, NSDF, SAI and other organisations.
- **Goal:** TOPS aims to help athletes excel in international competitions and bring glory to the nation.

4. Rashmika Mandanna becomes the brand ambassador for Epson India (June 14, 2023)

brand-ambassador-for-Epson-India

Printer company **Epson India** has signed popular actress **Rashmika Mandanna** as its **brand ambassador**.

An overview of the news

- Mandanna will collaborate with the company in a multi-media campaign to promote its **'EcoTank' printers** this month.
- Epson India aims to leverage Rashmika Mandanna's popularity and diverse fan base across **Kannada, Telugu, Hindi, and Tamil** cinema to reach a wider audience, particularly the younger generation, through the campaign.
- The company believes her association will help spread awareness about their products and the benefits they offer.

Epson India's perspective

- **Tushad Talati**, the Director of Brand and Communication at Epson India, expressed the company's enthusiasm for having **Rashmika Mandanna as their brand ambassador**.
- Through the campaign, they aim to reach a wider audience and raise awareness about the printers and their advantages.

Mandanna's other endorsements and industry trends

- Rashmika Mandanna is also associated with brands such as PlayerzPot, 7Up, TTK Healthcare's Eva, and others.

5. Uttam Lal appointed as Director (Personnel) of NHPC (June 14, 2023)

Uttam-Lal-appointed-as-Director-(Personnel)-of-NHPC

Uttam Lal has been appointed as **Director (Personnel) in National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Ltd.**

An Overview of the News

- NHPC Limited is **India's leading hydropower company**.

- Uttam Lal earlier served as **Chief General Manager (HR-CSR/R&R/LA)** in NTPC Limited.
- Uttam Lal is known for his **expertise and experience in the power sector.**
- Uttam Lal did his PG Diploma in Personnel Management and Industrial Relations from Xavier Institute of Social Sciences (Ranchi) and also obtained LLB degree from Ranchi University.

NHPC Limited:

- It is a Government of **India Hydropower Board** and operated under the ownership of the **Ministry of Power, Government of India.**
- It was **incorporated in 1975** with an authorised **capital of ₹2,000 million.**
- Its objective is to **plan, promote and organise** the integrated and efficient development of hydroelectric power.
- It is currently classified as a **Mini Ratna Category-I Enterprise** of the Government of India.
- NHPC is one of the top ten companies in India in terms of investment.
- The first project commissioned by NHPC was **Baira Suil Power Station in Salooni Tehsil of Chamba District.**

6. Amit Agarwal appointed CEO of UIDAI, Subodh Kumar Singh named DG NTA (June 12, 2023)

Amit Agarwal and Subodh Kumar Singh, both senior IAS officers, have been appointed to key positions in the Government of India.

An Overview of the News

- **Amit Agarwal**, a 1993 batch IAS officer, has been appointed as the **CEO of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).**
- Agarwal is currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- **Subodh Kumar Singh**, a 1997 batch IAS officer, has been named the **Director General of the National Testing Agency (NTA).**
- Subodh Kumar Singh is at present Additional Secretary in the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- Both Amit Agarwal and Subodh Kumar Singh belong to the Chhattisgarh cadre of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

Important Appointments:

1. Richa Sharma was transferred from the Ministry of Environment to the Department of Food and Public Distribution.
 2. Rashmi Chowdhary was appointed as the Secretary in the Central Information Commission.
 3. Shyam Jagannathan will be the Director General (Shipping) in the Ministry of Ports.
 4. Sanjeev Kumar Chadha has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
 5. Wumlunmang Wulnam was appointed as Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs.
 6. Ramesh Krishnamurthy was appointed as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Labor and Employment.
 7. L S Changsan will be Additional Secretary in the Department of Health and Family Welfare.
 8. R Anand was appointed as Additional Secretary in the Department of Land Resources.
 9. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
 - Maninder Kaur Dwivedi also holds the additional charge of Managing Director, Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium.
1. Vipin Kumar has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the Department of School Education and Literacy.
 2. Sunil Kumar Barnwal has been made Additional Secretary in the Higher Education Department.
 3. Sanjay Sethi and Krishna Kumar Dwivedi were temporarily promoted to the additional secretary level in their respective ministries.

7. Peter Albers Appointed As Chairman-Elect Of Board Of Governors Of IATA (June 12, 2023)

IndiGo CEO, Peter Albers has been appointed as the **Chairman-elect of the Board of Governors of the International Air Transport Association (IATA)**.

An Overview of the News

- Peter Albers will replace **Yvonne Manzi Makolo**, CEO of Rwandair, the current president from June 2024.

- IndiGo is committed to affordable fares, on-time delivery and courteous and hassle-free services.

International Air Transport Association (IATA)

- **Founded:** 19 April 1945, Havana, Cuba
- It is a trade association of the world's airlines and has 300 member airlines, which account for 83% of total air traffic.
- It is headquartered in Montreal, Canada and works to promote the safe and sustainable development of the air transportation industry.
- It launched the "**Fly Net Zero**" initiative to achieve net zero carbon emissions from aviation by 2050.
- It is a non-profit organisation funded by its members and governed by a Board of Directors and a General Assembly.

8. Anantharaman appointed new chairman of TransUnion CIBIL (June 10, 2023)

Anantharaman-appointed-new-chairman-of-TransUnion-CIBIL

Veteran banker **V Anantharaman** has been appointed **non-executive chairman of credit bureau TransUnion CIBIL.**

An Overview of the News

- Anantharaman has extensive experience in the banking industry and has held leadership positions in corporate and investment banking teams at renowned international firms such as Standard Chartered Bank, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank and Bank of America.
- Anantharaman has also served as a senior advisor to the UK's development finance institution British International Investment (formerly CDC).
- In addition to his new role at TransUnion CIBIL, Anantharaman also serves on the boards of The Indian Hotels Company Limited, Axis Asset Management Company, IIFL Home Finance Limited and Ecom Express Limited.
- He also provides advisory services to Lighthouse Funds, a mid-market private equity firm focused on the consumer and healthcare sectors.
- Anantharaman takes over from Shri M V Nair, who steps down after more than eleven years as the Chairman.

TransUnion CIBIL Limited

- It is an **Indian credit information company.**
- It operates within India and is **one of the four credit bureaus in the country.**
- The company maintains credit files on approximately **600 million individuals and 32 million businesses.**

- TransUnion CIBIL is a **subsidiary of TransUnion**, an American multinational conglomerate.
- The company provides loan related information to lenders, financial institutions and individuals seeking loan assistance.

Establishment - **2000**

Headquarters - **Mumbai, Maharashtra, India**

Managing Director - **Rajesh Kumar**

9. Havildar Alby D'Cruz, the first Keralite to receive the Ashoka Chakra, passed away (June 10, 2023)

, Havaldar Alby D'Cruz

On 6 June 2023, **Havaldar Alby D'Cruz**, the first Keralite to receive the **Ashoka Chakra**, passed away at the age of 87.

An Overview of the News

- **In 1962, he received the Ashoka Chakra (3rd Class)** from President **Rajendra Prasad**. Later the name of this award was changed to Shaurya Chakra.
- D'Cruz served in the Indian Army as a **Lance Naik in the Assam Rifles**.
- His battalion was assigned the task of countering the Naga rebels.

About Ashoka Chakra

- Its third grade was established on **4 January 1952**, by the President of India from 15 August 1947.
- On **27 January 1967**, the statutes were revised and the decoration was renamed the **Shaurya Chakra**.
- The Shaurya Chakra is awarded to individuals for acts of valour and valour in the face of the enemy.

About Kerala

Capital - **Thiruvananthapuram**

Official Bird - **Great Hornbill**

Governor - **Arif Mohammad Khan**

Chief Minister - **Pinarayi Vijayan**

Origin of rivers in Kerala

- Periyar River

- Bharathapuzha River
- Pamba River
- Chaliyar River
- Chalakudy River

India's longest lake - **Vembanad, Kerala**

10. Doordarshan anchor Gitanjali Aiyar passed away (June 9, 2023)

Doordarshan-anchor-Gitanjali-Aiyar-passed-away

Four times **Best Anchor Award** winner DD anchor **Gitanjali Aiyar passed away.**

An Overview of the News

- She was **India's first English woman news presenter on Doordarshan.**
- She was suffering from Parkinson's disease.
- She joined Doordarshan in **1971** and won the **Best Anchor award four times.**
- In 1989, she received the **Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award** for Outstanding Women.
- Iyer was also known for his appearance in print advertisements and his role in the TV drama "**Khandaan**" directed by Shridhar Kshirsagar.

About Doordarshan

- It is an **Indian public service broadcaster** and was established by the Government of India.
- It is owned by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.**
- Doordarshan is one of the two divisions of **Prasar Bharati.**
- It aims to provide informative, educational and entertaining content.
- Doordarshan has been operating **since 1959.**