

Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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1. SC upholds the Winding up of Devas Multimedia (Jan. 18, 2022)

The Supreme Court on 17 January 2022 upheld the National Company Law Tribunal's May 2011 order to wind up Bengaluru-based Devas Multimedia, saying "it is a case of fraud of a huge magnitude which cannot be brushed under the carpet".

- It upheld the decision of the Bengaluru bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) which had in May 2021 ordered the winding up of Devas and had also appointed a provisional liquidator, saying the firm was incorporated with a fraudulent motive to collude and connive with the then officials of Antrix to get bandwidth from it.
- The NCLT's order was also upheld by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal in September 2021.

What is the Devas MultiMedia case

In 2005 Devas MultiMedia company signed an agreement with Antrix corporation of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under which, ISRO was to lease two S-Band satellite spectrum for 12 years at Rs 167 crore to Devas Multimedia.

- The start-up was to provide multimedia services to mobile platforms in India using the space band or S-band transponders on ISRO satellites.
- In 2011 the UPA government cancelled this deal as the S- Band spectrum was needed for national security and for other social needs
- After the cancellation of the deal, the foreign investors in Devas, including Deutsche Telekom, the three Mauritius-based investors, and Devas itself, had approached international tribunals seeking compensation.
- Deutsche Telekom was awarded \$101 million compensation by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in Geneva; the Mauritius investors were awarded \$111 million by the International Trade Law tribunal; and Devas awarded \$1.2 billion by an International Chamber of Commerce.
- Since then Devas multimedia and other shareholders have filed cases in US and Canada to seize identified Government of India properties to recover the dues.

Devas MultiMedia

- It is a Bangalore-based start-up, founded in 2004, is headed by Dr. M.G. Chandrasekhar, former Scientific Secretary at ISRO.
- In 2008, Deutsche Telekom picked up a 17 per cent stake in Devas for about \$75 million.
- It wanted to offer satellite broadband services across India on various platforms, including mobile.

Antrix Corporation

- It was set up in 1992 under the companies act 1956 and its headquarters is at Bengaluru.
- It is a wholly owned Government of India company under the administrative control of the Department of Space .
- Its main function is to promote and commercially market the products and technology developed by ISRO.
- It is a Miniratna category 1, Central Public Sector Enterprises.

2. Migrants from Honduras stopped at Guatemala (Jan. 17, 2022)

Several hundred migrants who had departed from the Honduran city of San Pedro Sula in hopes of reaching the United States entered Guatemalan territory where they were intercepted by the authorities who asked them to return to their homeland.

Highlights

- Some 300 migrants, mainly Hondurans and Nicaraguans, arrived in Corinto, Honduras on 15th January 2022 and crossed into the Guatemalan border province of Izabal, where they were met by hundreds of anti-riot agents from the national police and army.
- According to the Guatemalan Migration Institute, discussions on returning the migrants to their home countries have begun. "People are being returned, everything in order, humanely," the institute's general director Carlos Emilio Morales said.
- According to a Nicaraguan man, people were migrating in search of a better life for their families. Many had been the victims of natural disasters like floods and drought.

The administration of US President Joe Biden is considering a seven billion dollars aid package for Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, to create homegrown jobs.

3. Birju Maharaj, the legendary Kathak dancer, dies at 83 (Jan. 17, 2022)

Pandit Birju Maharaj, the torchbearer of Lucknow's Kalka-Bindadin Gharana of Kathak, passed away at the age of 83.

- He was a descendant of the Maharaj family of Kathak dancers, which includes his two uncles, Shambhu Maharaj and Lachhu Maharaj, and his father and guru, Acchan Maharaj, who served as court dancer in Raigarh princely state.
- He also practiced Hindustani classical music and was a vocalist
- In 1964, he received the honorary Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and in 1986 he received Padma Vibhushan, the country's second-highest civilian honor.
- He has choreographed for several films like Shatranj Ke Khiladi by Satyajit Ray till Gadar: Ek Prem Katha, Devdas, Bajirao Mastani, and many others.

Classical Dance form of India

According to the government of India there are Eight classical dance form in India

Dance Origin /State

Bharatnatyam: Tamil Nadu

Manipuri Dance : Manipur

Kathak: North India, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan Delhi, Madhya Pradesh.

Odissi : Odisha

Kathakali : Kerala

Mohiniattam : Kerala

Kuchipudi: Mainly Andhra Pradesh

Sattriya : Assam

4. First coal-to-methanol plant starts commercial production (Jan. 17, 2022)

India's first indigenously developed Coal to Methanol (CTM) Plant through gasification route has started functioning with more than 99 % of purity opening a new avenue to convert high ash coals to methanol.

- Union Minister for Heavy Industries Mahendra Nath Pandey dedicated the plant to the nation, as part of the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations.
- The 0.25 TPD (Tons per Day) capacity CTM pilot plant was designed, developed, and installed by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited(BHEL)
- The project was supported by the Department of Science and Technology under the Clean Energy Research Initiative.
- It is installed at BHEL's in-house plant located in Hyderabad.
- This technology will help the country move towards the adoption of clean technology and promote the use of methanol as a transportation fuel (blending with petrol), thus reducing crude oil imports.
- The broad process of converting coal into methanol consists of the conversion of coal to synthesis (syngas) gas, syngas cleaning and conditioning, syngas to methanol conversion, and methanol purification.
- Coal to methanol plants in most countries are operated with low ash coals. So, it was a challenge for India because of its high ash content.

5. Saanya Bhandari Jain is the brand ambassador of the '2041 Climate Force' expedition (Jan. 17, 2022)

A 22-year-old Delhi girl and travel blogger, Saanya Bhandari Jain is one of the youngest women who would represent India on a global platform as she has been chosen for the '2041 ClimateForce' expedition to Antarctica as a global ambassador.

- 80 people from every continent will participate in this expedition with the common mission to benefit our home planet.
- The expedition will be led by polar explorer and sustainability champion Robert Swan, the first person to trek to both of Earth's poles.
- The 'carbon-negative' expedition aims to inspire, develop, and train the next generation of leaders to promote a more sustainable future and spread awareness on climate change.

Point to Note-

- Larsen B is an ice shelf in Antarctica that has collapsed due to climate change.

6. Department of Post launches postage stamp on Covaxin (Jan. 17, 2022)

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya virtually launched a postage stamp on the indigenously developed vaccine Covaxin to mark one year of the inoculation drive. Mr.

Mandaviya said the stamp signifies the remarkable work done by the country's frontline, healthcare workers, and the scientific community in protecting people against the pandemic.

- The stamp consists of the ICMR's logo and a picture of a woman getting jabbed by a healthcare worker. It also has a vial of the Covaxin, where its scientific name has been written. (BBV152)
- The drive was rolled out on January 16, 2021, with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase.
- Covaxin is an inactivated vaccine developed indigenously jointly by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech.

What are Commemorative Stamps

Commemorative stamps are issued to commemorate important events, prominent personalities in various fields, aspects of nature, beautiful or rare flora and fauna, environmental issues, agricultural activities, national/international issues, games etc.

- These stamps are only available at Philatelic Bureau and counters or under the Philatelic Deposit Account Scheme.
- They are printed in limited quantities.

7. E-Governance award for Nagaland's Mon district (Jan. 17, 2022)

Nagaland's Mon District Administration has been conferred with the prestigious National Award for e-governance 2020-21 (Silver) at the recently concluded **24th National Conference on e-Governance at Hyderabad on 7th - 8th January 2022.**

The theme for this year's conference is "India's Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World"

- The award was presented by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) by Union Minister of State (MoS) Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- The district's project titled "Technology in Aid to Administration" won silver in the category of "Use of information and communication technology in the management of COVID19"
- The project was initiated to mitigate the hardships caused to the public while enforcing COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour (CAB), and thereby curb the escalating spread of COVID-19 infections.
- The project has been reducing the hardship of people, increasing the effectiveness of administration, and keeping people safe from Covid.

8. Purple Revolution is Jammu & Kashmir's contribution to Start up India say Union Minister Dr Jitendra Prasad (Jan. 16, 2022)

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh said today that "Purple Revolution" is Jammu & Kashmir's contribution to "Start-ups India", an initiative that was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2016.

- **Purple revolution refers to the increase in cultivation of Lavender plants which are purple in colour.**
- In 2016, the central government launched the 'Aroma Mission' to boost cultivation of plants like lavender that have aromatic medicinal properties.
- Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), through its Jammu based laboratory, Indian Institute of Integrative Medicines (IIIM) introduced high value oil bearing lavender crops in the districts of Doda, Kishtwar etc.
- The aim of the mission was to make India self-sufficient in aromatic oils.
- Lavender water, which separates from lavender oil, is used to make incense sticks. Hydrosol, which is formed after distillation from the flowers, is used to make soaps and room fresheners.

9. Tsunami alert in US coast as Volcano erupts in Tonga (Jan. 16, 2022)

Tsunami warnings were issued on 15 January 2022 for the entire US West Coast after a massive volcanic eruption across the Pacific Ocean in Tonga, with tsunami waves triggering low-level flooding in Hawaii island.

- The latest eruption of Tonga's **Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano** lasted at least eight minutes and sent plumes of gas, ash and smoke several kilometres into the air.
- The US National Weather Service issued tsunami advisories from the bottom of California to the tip of Alaska's Aleutian islands, predicting waves of up to 60cm, strong rip currents and coastal flooding.
- Similar warnings were issued by nations throughout the Pacific, including New Zealand, Fiji, Vanuatu and Australia as well as for coastal Chile.

Tsunami is a Japanese word which means giant waves . It is created due to earthquakes or volcanic eruptions under seas.

10. India marks 1st anniversary of nationwide vaccination drive against Covid-19 (Jan. 16, 2022)

India marks the first anniversary of the nationwide vaccination drive against Covid-19.

- The world's largest vaccination drive began on January 16, 2021, with health workers.
- Then it was opened for the frontline workers on 2nd February 2021 followed by the 60-plus age group and those above 45-years and comorbid from 1st March and for all above 18 years from 1st May in 2021.
- India administered 100 crore vaccine doses in October 2021.
- The drive for administering the precautionary doses to the healthcare workers, frontline workers and sixty-plus individuals commenced on 10th January 2022.
- Vaccination of children in the age group of 15-18 years was started from 3rd January 2022.
- Meanwhile, India's Covid vaccination coverage has crossed 156 crore 63 lakh mark.

