

Testwale Current Affairs PDF

Current Affairs search results for tag: national

1. Two-Day Meeting Of The BIMSTEC Expert Group On Cyber Security (July 16, 2022)

The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), Government of India, has hosted a two-day meeting of the Expert Group of BIMSTEC on Cyber Security on 14 and 15 July 2022 in New Delhi.

Important facts

- The meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cyber Security Cooperation is based on the agreement reached during the BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting held in Bangkok in March 2019.
- The meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cyber Security in person was chaired by the Indian National Cyber Security Coordinator Lt Gen Rajesh Pant.
- Representatives of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand are participating in this meeting. All these representatives are cyber security experts of their respective government organisations.
- India, as a leading country in the security sector in the BIMSTEC Forum, has taken the initiative to organise this meeting on cyber security cooperation and to develop an action plan on cyber security.

BIMSTEC action plan to tackle cyber security challenges

- **Main Objective-** The main objective of this meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group is to prepare an action plan.
- It will promote coordination and cooperation among BIMSTEC member states to strengthen cyber security in the use of information and communication technology (ICT).
- **Scope of Expansion** - This action plan will cover the mechanisms for the following-
 - cyber, exchange of information related to cyber crime,
 - protection of critical information infrastructure,
 - International developments related to cyber incident response and cyber standards.
- **Implementation** - The Action Plan is proposed to be implemented within a time frame of 5 years after which the Expert Group on Cyber Security will review the Action Plan.

About BIMSTEC countries

- BIMSTEC was established in 1997 to provide an exclusive link between South and South-East Asia with five countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka from South Asia and two countries in South-East Asia – Myanmar and Thailand.
- **Areas of Cooperation** -All these countries came together as a platform for cooperation in 14 major economic and social sectors of the economy.

- **Headquarters-** Kathmandu, Nepal.
- **General Secretary-** Tenzin Lekfell.
- **BIMSTEC 2022 Summit-** The 5th BIMSTEC summit was hosted in virtual form (in virtual mode) by the current BIMSTEC President Sri Lanka.

Theme of BIMSTEC 2022- The theme of the 5th BIMSTEC Summit is “Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, Healthy People” .

2. PM Modi inaugurates Bundelkhand Expressway in U.P. (July 16, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 16, 2022 inaugurated the 296-km-long Bundelkhand Expressway, which passes through seven districts of Uttar Pradesh and has been constructed at a cost of around ₹14,850 crore.

Important facts

- The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the construction of the expressway on February 29, 2020 and it was completed in about 28 months.
- The 296 km long, four-lane Bundelkhand Expressway passes through seven districts, Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya and Etawah.
- It extends from NH-35 at Gonda village near Bharatkup in Chitrakoot district to Kudrail village in Etawah district, where it meets with the Agra-Lucknow Expressway.
- The expressway will have four railway bridges, 18 major bridges and 286 minor bridges.
- Provision has also been made for rain water harvesting at every 500 meters on the expressway.

Significance

- Apart from improving connectivity in the region, the Bundelkhand Expressway will boost economic development and generate thousands of jobs for the local people.
- The project is also significant as most of it was completed during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It was one of the major sources of employment to the migrant laborers returning to the state.
- The work of making industrial corridors in Banda and Jalaun districts next to the expressway has started.

3. Ministry of Women and Child Development issues Detailed Guidelines for 'Mission Shakti' (July 16, 2022)

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has issued detailed guidelines for the 'Mission Shakti' scheme.

About Mission Shakti

- It was launched by the Ministry of Women Child Development during the 15th Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- It is an integrated women empowerment programme for the safety, security and empowerment of women.

Objective of the scheme

- Care and protection of all women and girls including disabled, socially and economically disadvantaged and vulnerable groups with short term and long term services for their overall development and empowerment.

Components of Mission Shakti**1. Sambal**

It is for Safety and Security of Women.

This includes schemes of One Stop Center (OSC), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) along with a new component of Nari Adalats.

1. Samarthya

It is for Empowerment of Women.

In this, the earlier Ujjwala schemes, Swadhar Greh and Working Women Hostel have been included with amendment.

The existing schemes of National Creche Scheme for children of working mothers and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) under Integrated Child Development Services ICDS have now been included in Samarthya.

A new component of Gap Funding for Economic Empowerment has also been included in the Samarthya Scheme.

4. Union Minister Arjun Munda inaugurates 'Manthan' tribal welfare symposium at Palghar (July 16, 2022)

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda inaugurated a two-day symposium 'Manthan' on upliftment of tribal communities at Palghar in Maharashtra on 14 July.

About Manthan Symposium

- This Symposium is focussing on the various programmes to be undertaken on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by Eklavya Model Residential Schools, Fees Control Authority, Grants Department and Tribal Museums which organize 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' on birth anniversary of freedom fighter Bhagwan Birsa Munda.
- It also includes discussions on the ST component and the health and education of the tribal population.

- Apart from Maharashtra, representatives of tribal welfare departments like Jammu, Kashmir, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan etc. participated in the seminar.

Tribal communities in India

- According to the 2011 Census, the tribal population formed 8.61% of total population.
- 97% of tribal population live in rural areas and 10.03% in urban areas.
- The sex ratio for the overall population is 940 females per 1000 males.
- Scheduled Tribes have 990 females per thousand males.
- No tribe has been identified in Punjab and Haryana and Union Territories of Delhi, Chandigarh and Puducherry.
- Chhattisgarh has the largest proportion of Scheduled Tribes population of 30.62%, followed by Jharkhand 26.21%.
- Gujarat, Assam, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir region and Goa are the four major states in which more than 10% of the population belongs to the Scheduled Tribes.

5. Govt launches “Jagriti” mascot for empowering consumers (July 16, 2022)

The Department of Consumer Affairs has launched a mascot “Jagriti” on 15th July to empower consumers and create awareness about their rights.

About “Jagriti” mascot

- Jagriti will be projected as an empowered consumer who is spreading awareness about consumer rights and solving consumer problems.
- It will be used to create consumer awareness about various topics of the department.
- Its themes include the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act 2019, hallmarking, National Consumer Helpline Toll-free number 1915, provisions of the Weights and Measures Act, decisions of the Central Consumer Protection Authority and testimonials by consumers on grievance redressal.
- The Jagriti mascot will be featured in all its media campaigns with the tagline "Jago Grahak Jago".

Aims of ‘Jagriti’ Mascot

- Strengthening consumer awareness campaign presence in digital and multimedia
- Reinforce a strong young and informed consumer as the top consumer rights awareness recall brand

6. Centre dedicates 166 CNG stations across 14 states (July 16, 2022)

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on 15 July virtually dedicated 166 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations across 14 states of the country.

Important facts

- These CNG stations have been set up by Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and nine of its group City Gas Distribution (CGD) companies.
- This is an important step towards expanding the availability of eco-friendly CNG to the transport sector, households and industry in India.
- These CNG stations, commissioned at a cost of Rs 400 crore, will further strengthen the gas based infrastructure and availability of clean fuel in the country.
- This will stimulate the market for CNG vehicles and will have a huge impact on manufacturing, skill development and job creation.
- The number of CNG stations will be increased to eight thousand in the next two years.
- Presently the number of CNG stations has crossed 4500 as compared to 2014 when there were around 900 CNG stations across the country.

Ambitious target of expanding the share of Natural Gas

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set an ambitious target of increasing the share of natural gas in the primary energy mix to 15% to enter a gas-based economy.
- The development of the gas-based economy is expected to play an important role in achieving India's goal of net zero by 2070.

What is Hydrogen Compressed Natural Gas (HCNG)?

- Combination of hydrogen with CNG gives a compound gas known as HCNG.
- It is a mixture of compressed natural gas and 4-9 per cent hydrogen by energy.
- It can also be used as a fuel in internal combustion engines and for home appliances.
- Compared to conventional CNG, the use of H-CNG can reduce carbon monoxide (CO) emissions by up to 70%.
- It is capable of saving up to 5% in fuel.

7. Iran, Belarus to be newest SCO members (July 16, 2022)

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is all set to expand with Iran joining the group as its ninth member, while Belarus has applied for membership.

Important facts

- The decision to include Iran was made at last year's Dushanbe summit and Belarus has applied for its membership.

- This is the first expansion of the SCO after India and Pakistan joined the grouping in 2017.
- The significance of this expansion is that it reflects the growing international influence of the SCO and also shows that the principles of the SCO Charter are being widely accepted.
- India will host the SCO summit next year, and Varanasi has been selected as the SCO region's first "Tourism and Cultural Capital".

What is Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?

- It is a permanent intergovernmental international organization.
- It was founded in 2001.
- The SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and came into force in 2003.
- It is a Eurasian political, economic and military organization.
- Its aim is to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- China, Russia and four Central Asian states – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan – were founding members of the SCO.
- Official Languages - Russian and Chinese
- Chairmanship - On the basis of rotation for a year by Member States

8. IIT Madras tops ministry of education's India Rankings 2022 (July 15, 2022)

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has secured the first position in the 2022 India Ranking of the best higher education institutions in the country released by the Ministry of Education.

Important facts

- Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and IIT, Bombay have secured the second and third positions respectively.
- This ranking is prepared by the Ministry of Education by dividing the educational institutions across the country into different categories.
- Under this overall university, college, engineering, management, pharmacy, law, medicine, architecture, dentistry and research category come.
- **Best University** - Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- It is followed by JNU and Jamia Millia Islamia at the second and third positions respectively.
- **Best Management Institute** - IIM Ahmedabad
- IIM Bangalore and IIM Calcutta have secured the second and third positions respectively.
- **Best Engineering College** - IIT Madras

IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay have secured the second and third positions respectively.

- **Best College** - Miranda House, Delhi
- The Hindu College of Delhi is second and the Presidency College of Chennai is at the third position.
- **Best Medical College** - All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
- **Best Dental College** - Savita Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai
- **Best Pharmacy Institute** - Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi
- **Best Architectural Institute** - Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
- **Best Law Institute** - National Law School of India University, Bangalore

Overall Top 5 Institutes

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras
- Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
- Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

9. "Cost of Living Crisis in Developing Countries" report (July 15, 2022)

On July 14, 2022, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) published its "Cost of Living Crisis in Developing Countries" report.

About the report

- Title - Addressing the crisis of cost of living in developing countries: Poverty and vulnerability estimates and policy responses.

Objectives of the report

- It estimates the potential impacts of food and energy inflation on global poverty and vulnerability.
- According to this report, the global livelihood crisis is pushing another 71 million people into extreme poverty in the world's poorest countries.
- An analysis of more than 159 developing countries showed that rising prices of key commodities in 2022 are already troubling parts of sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Balkans.
- The report warns that the cost of living crisis is pushing millions of people into poverty and hunger at an alarming pace.

UNDP recommendation

- According to the UNDP, targeted cash transfers by governments will prove to be more "equitable and cost-effective" than broad subsidies on energy and food prices.
- UNDP has called for corresponding action. It has asked to provide direct cash transfer to vulnerable people. It also asked wealthy nations to further expand the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), which they set out to help poor countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

About United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

- UNDP is a United Nations body, which helps countries to eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development.
- It is headquartered in New York City, and has offices in 170 countries.
- UNDP is the largest development aid agency of the United Nations.

10. The website of the Ministry of Home Affairs tops the service portals of the Union Ministry (July 15, 2022)

The website of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been ranked first under the Portal of Central Ministries in the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment.

Important facts

- The Digital Police Portal of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Central Mantralaya Services Portal has been ranked second in the assessment.
- This evaluation was done by evaluating service portals with the portal of their parent Ministry/Department.
- The government portals that were assessed were divided into two main categories - State/Union Territory/Central Ministry Portal and State/Union Territory/Central Ministry Service Portal.

Four parameters of assessment

1. Accessibility
2. Content availability
3. Ease of Use and Information Security
4. Privacy for Central Ministry Portals

National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment

- The National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment was conducted in 2021 by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in association with knowledge partners NASSCOM and KPMG.
- It is a periodic assessment aimed at improving the effectiveness of the States/UTs and the Central Government in the delivery of their online services to the citizens.