

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. PT Usha, Ilaiyaraaja, V Vijayendra Prasad, and Veerendra Heggade nominated to Rajya Sabha ( July 7, 2022 )**

Music maestro Ilaiyaraaja, sports icon PT Usha, screenwriter V Vijayendra Prasad and philanthropist and spiritual leader Virendra Hegde were nominated to the Rajya Sabha on 6 July.

- The nominations were made after the term of Rajya Sabha of Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi of BJP and RCP Singh of JD(U) ended.

#### **• Ilaiyaraja**

- Ilaiyaraja is from Tamil Nadu.
- In a career spanning nearly five decades, Ilaiyaraaja has composed songs in several Indian languages and won several awards.
- He has won national awards five times. In 2010, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan and in 2018 the Padma Vibhushan.

#### **• PT Usha**

- Usha, born in Kozhikode in Kerala, is India's best known track and field athlete.
- She also runs the Usha School of Athletics for training young athletes in the sport.
- He has won 11 medals at the Asian Games, including four golds at the 1986 Seoul Games.
- She has been awarded the Arjuna Award and Padma Shri in the past.

#### **• V Vijayendra Prasad**

- He is from Telangana.
- He is Telugu cinema's leading screenwriter.
- He has been associated with the creative world for many decades.
- His works showcase India's glorious culture and have made a mark globally.
- Sivaji Ganesan (1982-86), Vyjayantimala Bali (1993-99) and S Ramaswamy (1999-2005) are the other Tamil film personalities who have served as nominated members of the Rajya Sabha.

#### **• Veerendra Heggade**

- He is from Karnataka.
- He has been the 'Dharmadhikari' (custodian) of the Dharmasthala temple in Karnataka from the age of 20.
- He established the Institute of Rural Development and Self-Employment Training to provide awareness about self-employment opportunities and to train rural youth.

He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in the year 2015.

- **Nomination of Rajya Sabha members by the President**

- Of the 245 members of the Rajya Sabha, 12 are nominated by the President on the recommendation of the government.
- They are nominated under Article 80(3) of the Constitution.
- As per Article 80(3) they should have special knowledge or practical experience in matters like literature, science, art and social service.
- A nominated member is allowed to join a political party within the first six months of taking membership.

## **2. Smriti Irani gets additional charge of Minority Affairs and Jyotiraditya Scindia of Steel Ministry ( July 7, 2022 )**

Women and Child Development Minister **Smriti Irani** has been given the charge of **Minority Affairs Ministry** in addition to her existing portfolio.

Civil Aviation Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** has been given additional charge of the **Ministry of Steel**.

- After the resignation of Ram Chandra Prasad Singh and Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi from the Union Cabinet, both the ministers have been given this additional charge.
- Singh and Naqvi resigned from the cabinet a day before their term in the Rajya Sabha ended.
- The President of India has accepted the resignation of Naqvi and Singh from the Union Council of Ministers, with immediate effect, under clause (2) of Article 75 of the Constitution.
- Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi was Minority Affairs Minister and Ram Chandra Prasad Singh was Steel Minister in the Union Council of Ministers.
- Singh, who comes from an ally party in Bihar, JD(U), had sworn in as a minister in the Modi government a year ago in July 2021.
- There is no Muslim face in the Union Council of Ministers and 395 MPs of BJP.
- This is also the rare occasion when there is no Muslim member in the Union Council of Ministers.

## **3. PM launches Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Agradoot Newspaper Group ( July 6, 2022 )**

Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Agradoot Newspaper Group were launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through video conference on July 06, 2022.

• **Important facts**

- Agradoot is an Assamese language newspaper published in India.
- The Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Bishwa Sharma is the Chief Patron of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations Committee of the pioneer.
- Agradoot started as an Assamese fortnightly.
- It was founded by Kanak Sen Deka, a senior journalist from Assam.
- It started publication as a regular daily newspaper in the year 1995 and soon became the trusted and influential voice of Assam.
- The headquarters of Dainik Agradoot is at Dispur, Guwahati.

• **Newspapers in india**

- India's first newspaper was published by James Augustus Hickey in 1780 AD, whose name was 'The Bengal Gazette' or 'The Calcutta General Advertiser'.
- The 'India Gazette' was the second Indian newspaper published in November 1780.
- Udand Martand is India's first Hindi newspaper published in Hindi by Jugalkishore from Kanpur in 1826.
- Sulabh Samachar published by Keshavchandra Sen was an important Hindi daily paper in Bangla.
- Balakrishna Bhatt's 'Hindi Pradeep' was published from Allahabad in 1877.
- The credit for the establishment of the national press is given to Raja Rammohun Roy.
- Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar published the weekly newspaper Som Prakash.

**4. 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.

## **5. 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

## **6. 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.

## **7. 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.

## **8. 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**

## **9. 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

**10. 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