

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan appointed as Vice-President of UAE ( March 30, 2023 )**

Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan appointed as Vice-President of UAE

The President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, has appointed **Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, his brother, as the **Vice President of the country**.

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

- The appointment is approved by the **UAE Federal Supreme Council**.
- The incumbent Vice president **Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum**, will also continue in the same role.
- Sheikh Mansour has been active in UAE politics since 2004, when he was appointed as **Minister of Presidential Affairs**.
- He has overseen the **Presidential Court** and the **Ministry of Presidential Affairs**, as well as presiding over several government institutions, including the **Ministerial Development Council and the Emirates Investment Authority**.
- He is also the chairman of the **Abu Dhabi Fund for Development** and a **member of the Abu Dhabi Supreme Petroleum Council**.
- He has served on the boards of several investment institutions, including the **National Archives, the Abu Dhabi Development Fund, the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority Board, and the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department**.

#### **About UAE**

- Official Language : **Arabic**
- Capital of UAE : **Abu Dhabi**
- Currency : **Emirati Dirham**
- President of UAE : **Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan**
- Prime Minister: **Sheikh Mohammed ibn Rashid Al Maktoum**

### **2. Japan to provide USD 1.24 billion line of credit to Bangladesh for road, railway and port projects ( March 30, 2023 )**

Japan to provide USD 1.24 billion line of credit to Bangladesh for road, railway and port projects

**Japan** will provide an **Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of USD 1.24 billion to Bangladesh** for **infrastructure and connectivity projects** and the second tranche of the 43rd Japanese Yen loan package was signed at the exchange of notes between the two countries.

### **An Overview of the News**

- The loan package includes three projects: **Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Highway Improvement Project, construction of a dual gauge rail line between Joydebpur-Eshwardi section, and Matarbari Port Development Project, Phase 2.**
- The first tranche of loan was almost the same amount, making the total package around **US\$ 2.48 billion.**
- Japan has been the largest bilateral donor to Bangladesh since 2012, assisting various mega-infrastructure projects.

### **About Official Development Assistance (ODA)**

- It is financial aid provided by developed countries to developing countries **to support economic growth and reduce poverty.**
- It can be given in the form of **grants or loans, and is provided by governments, international organisations and non-governmental organisations.**
- It can be used for a variety of purposes, including **building infrastructure, promoting economic development, and providing emergency relief.**
- The **Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** monitors and reports on ODA flows between its member countries.
- ODA is important for supporting economic growth and reducing poverty in developing countries.

### **About Japan**

Prime Minister- **Fumio Kishida**

Capital- **Tokyo**

Currency - **Yen**

Ambassador- **Iwama Kiminori**

### **About Bangladesh**

Prime Minister- **Sheikh Hasina**

Bangladesh currency - **Bangladeshi taka**

Capital- **Dhaka.**

### **3. Saudi Arabia's cabinet approves joining Shanghai Cooperation Organization as a dialogue partner ( March 30, 2023 )**

On March 29, 2023, **Saudi Arabia agreed to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as a dialogue partner**. The cabinet approved the decision in a meeting chaired by **King Salman bin Abdul Aziz**.

#### **An Overview of the News**

- As a dialogue partner, **Saudi Arabia** will participate in **SCO meetings and activities**, but **will not be a full member of the organisation**. This status allows increased cooperation between **Saudi Arabia and SCO members** on issues such as security, economic development and cultural exchange.
- The decision to join the SCO has been taken by Saudi Arabia to diversify its **economy and reduce dependence on oil exports**. The country has announced several initiatives aimed at boosting economic growth and attracting foreign investment, including its **Vision 2030 plan**.
- **King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud** has been a strong advocate of increasing Saudi Arabia's relations with other countries. During his reign, he has worked to strengthen ties with countries in Asia, Europe, and Africa, with a focus on promoting economic development and cultural exchange.

#### **About Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**

- It is a **regional intergovernmental organisation established in 2001**.
- The organisation consists of **eight member states, including China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, and Pakistan**.
- The **primary objective** of the SCO is to promote regional cooperation among its members in various fields such as security, economy, culture and education.
- The main objective of the SCO is to **enhance regional security through joint efforts to combat terrorism, separatism, extremism, drug trafficking and transnational organised crime**.
- The SCO holds annual summits and meetings of heads of state, as well as regular meetings of its various working groups and committees.

### **4. Dilma Rousseff appointed as new President of BRICS New Development Bank ( March 29, 2023 )**

Dilma Rousseff appointed as new President of BRICS New Development Bank

**Former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff** has been elected as the **new President of the New Development Bank (NDB)**, also known as the **BRICS Bank**.

#### **An Overview of the News**

- She replaced **Marcus Troyjo** as the President of NDB.

- Rousseff is an **economist** who served as the **President of Brazil for two consecutive terms from January 2011 to August 2016.**
- During her presidency, Rousseff prioritised social policies, including poverty reduction and increased access to education and healthcare.
- The NDB has so far **approved \$23 billion in loans** for projects including renewable energy and transportation infrastructure in its member countries.

### **About New Development Bank (NDB)**

- It is a **multilateral development bank established in 2014** by the **BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.**
- It was created with the aim of **mobilising resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects** in emerging economies.
- It is **headquartered in Shanghai, China** and has regional offices in **Johannesburg, South Africa and São Paulo, Brazil.**
- Its authorised **capital is \$100 billion**, with each founding member contributing **\$10 billion.**
- Its main focus is on **financing infrastructure projects** including **energy, transport and water supply.**
- It operates on the principle of "**co-ownership, governance and shared benefit**", which means that member states have equal representation and decision-making power.
- It is seen as an alternative to established financial institutions such as the **World Bank and the International Monetary Fund**, which are dominated by Western countries.

### **5. Tanzania announces outbreak of deadly Marburg virus disease ( March 28, 2023 )**

outbreak of the highly contagious and deadly virus Marburg virus, which causes viral hemorrhagic fever.

**Tanzania** recently declared an **outbreak of the highly contagious and deadly virus Marburg virus**, which causes **viral hemorrhagic fever.**

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

- According to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, through contact tracing in the country, around 161 people have been identified as at risk of infection.
- The government has deployed an emergency response team to the area as well as neighboring countries have increased surveillance.

**What is Marburg Virus Disease?**

- According to the World Health Organization, Marburg is a **highly contagious viral disease** that leads to **hemorrhagic fever, with a mortality rate of up to 88%**.
- Marburg is as deadly as **Ebola** and **no suitable drug or vaccine has yet been discovered to treat and prevent the disease**.
- Outbreaks of this disease have been reported in many African countries in the past, including **Kenya, Congo, Angola, South Africa, and Uganda**.
- These outbreaks have also resulted in a large number of deaths, most of which have occurred in **southern and eastern Africa**.

**Symptoms of Disease**

- High fever, severe headache, muscle pain, abdominal pain, and cramping.
- Nausea and vomiting may also begin on the third day after infection.

**Transmission**

- Human infection initially results from **prolonged exposure to mines or caves inhabited by Rousettus bat colonies**.
- Once a human has been infected with Marburg virus, it can be spread to others through **direct contact with their blood, secretions or other bodily fluids**.
- Another route of transmission may be through **sexual contact**.
- This virus is secreted in our body fluids such as **saliva, sweat, nasal secretions and semen**.

**Diagnosis and Treatment**

- Antibody enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA),
- Antigen detection tests,
- Serum neutralization tests,
- Reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay,
- Virus isolation by cell culture.
- There is no specific treatment for Marburg virus disease yet.

**6. India participates in the 2nd Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) negotiating ( March 25, 2023 )**

In May 2022, the United States launched IPEF.

An **inter-ministerial delegation from India** led by the **Department of Commerce** participated in the **2nd Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Negotiations Round** from March 13-19, 2023 in **Bali, Indonesia**.

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

- Negotiators from 13 other countries, including, the United States, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam also participated in the Bali negotiating round.
- During the **Bali Round**, **discussions covered all the four pillars of the IPEF**.
- India participated in the discussions related to **Pillars II to IV**.
- **The first IPEF** round was held in **Brisbane, Australia** on December 10-15, 2022 and the Special Negotiations round in New Delhi on February 8-11, 2023.

### **About Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)**

- In **May 2022**, the **United States** launched IPEF.
- It has **14 member states** - **Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, USA and Vietnam**.
- The 14 IPEF partners represent **40 percent of global GDP and 28 percent of global goods and services trade**.
- **It has four pillars** - Trade (Pillar I), Supply Chains (Pillar II), Clean Economy (Pillar III), and Fair Economy (Taxation & Anticorruption) - (Pillar IV).

### **Aims**

- To bring together its allies in the Indo-Pacific region to enhance economic cooperation.

## **7. WHO calls for intensified actions to eradicate Tuberculosis in South East Asia region ( March 25, 2023 )**

On **World Tuberculosis Day (24 March)** the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has called for **intensified actions to eradicate the disease in the South East Asian region which bears the world's highest TB burden**.

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

- WHO highlighted the urgent need to advance **innovations, better address social and economic determinants, and improve multi-sectoral collaboration**.

### **TB burden in Southeast Asia**

- **In 2021**, the region is expected to account for more than **45 percent of global TB incidence** and **more than half of global TB deaths**.
- According to WHO, the COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated key social and economic determinants of TB such as **poverty and malnutrition, pushing millions of people in the region into extreme poverty**.
- An estimated **7 million additional TB cases and 1.5 million additional TB deaths** could occur between **2022 and 2026** across the region.
- **In 2022**, the budget allocation for **TB programs in the region is set to reach approximately US\$1.4 billion**.

### **World Health Organisation (WHO)**

- The **World Health Organisation** is a specialised agency of the **United Nations which was founded on 7 April, 1948**.
- Headquarters of WHO : **Geneva, Switzerland**
- Members : **194 countries**
- Director General of WHO: **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia**.

### **8. India, UK hold joint maritime exercise 'Konkan' in Arabian Sea ( March 24, 2023 )**

India, UK hold joint maritime exercise 'Konkan' in Arabian Sea

The **annual bilateral maritime exercise 'Konkan'** between the **Indian Navy and UK's Royal Navy** was held off the **Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea** from March 20-22.

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

- The joint exercise by both the navies demonstrated operational **readiness, enhanced interoperability and improved capability to conduct joint operations**.
- **INS Trishul**, a Guided Missile Frigate, and **HMS Lancaster**, a Type 23 Guided Missile Frigate, participated in 'Konkan 2023' and conducted several maritime exercises to enhance interoperability and imbibe best practices.
- The exercise covered all domains of maritime operations, **air, surface and subsurface**.
- India and the UK agreed on new cooperation on maritime domain awareness, including new agreements on maritime information sharing,
- The UK has been invited to join **India's Information Fusion Center in Gurugram**.

#### **About 'Konkan' exercise**

- It is a **bilateral naval exercise** conducted between **India and the United Kingdom**.
- The Konkan series of exercises was **started in 2004**.
- Since then, the exercise is conducted by both the navies in rotation.
- The exercise provided excellent training to the personnel of both the navies.

### **Other Exercises between India and UK**

- Exercise '**Indradhanush**' (Air Force Exercise)
- '**Ajeya Warrior**' (Joint Military Exercise)

## **9. Interpol withdraws Red Notice against Mehul Choksi ( March 23, 2023 )**

Interpol has withdrawn the Red Corner Notice (RCN)

**Interpol** has **withdrawn the Red Corner Notice (RCN)** issued against **Mehul Choksi**, the main accused in the **Rs 13,500 crore PNB loan scam** case.

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

- **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** has sought the restoration of the notice.

### **Case against Mehul Choksi**

- Mehul Choksi is the **owner of Gitanjali Group**, a jewelery firm with **4,000 stores in India**.
- He along with his nephew **Nirav Modi** is a culprit in the **Rs 13,500 crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam**.
- Choksi and Modi are accused of issuing **fake Letters of Undertaking (LoU) and foreign letters of credit** to companies owned by them in connivance with bank officials.
- In this case, PNB did not keep any security before issuing the LoU.
- The matter came to light in **January 2018**, when PNB submitted a fraud report to the Reserve Bank of India.
- The CBI registered an FIR in the matter a week later. By this time Choksi had fled the country.
- Choksi is wanted in India on charges of **criminal conspiracy, criminal conspiracy, cheating and financial embezzlement**.



## What is an Interpol Red Notice?

- **Criminals or suspects often flee to other countries to escape justice.**
- A Red Corner Notice, or Red Notice (RN), alerts police forces around the world to **fugitives who are wanted internationally.**
- A Red Notice is a request to law enforcement around the world to locate and temporarily arrest a person wanted for **extradition, surrender or legal action.**
- A Red Notice is **not an international arrest warrant.**

## About Interpol

- The full name of INTERPOL is the **International Criminal Police Organisation** and is an intergovernmental organisation.
- It was **set up in 1923.**
- Member countries - **195**
- **India became** its member on **15 October 1949.**
- It helps police in all of them to work together to make the world a safer place.
- Headquarter - **Lyon, France.**
- Different Notices of Interpol - **Red Notice, Green Notice, Yellow Notice, Orange Notice, Blue Notice, Purple Notice, Black Notice, and an INTERPOL-UN Security Council Special Notice.**
- Its work focuses on public safety and combating **terrorism, crimes against humanity, genocide, war crimes, environmental crimes, etc.**

## 10. 26th edition of 'Elevate' held in Dubai ( March 22, 2023 )

The **sixth pitching session of the second season of Elevate** concluded in Dubai 22 March.

### An overview of the news

- The event saw the **participation of six startups from India** and the registration of **180 investors.**
- The six startups that participated in the Elevate session were **winners of the National Startup Awards 2022.**
- **Season II to Session VI** hosted a special guest, **Padmaja Ruparel**, Co-Founder, Indian Angel Network (IAN).
- She is a member of the **Government's NEAC, the National Expert Advisory Committee on Innovation**, Incubation and Technology Entrepreneurship.

- She shared her insights and thoughts on the **opportunities in the growing startup ecosystem in India.**
- India's Commercial Representative in Dubai Kalimuthu welcomed the guests and set the tone for the programme.

**Six startups from India who participated**

- Film board Movie Technologies inc,
- Trascender Services Pvt Ltd,
- Cogos Technologies Pvt Ltd,
- Changejar Technologies Pvt Ltd,
- Makerinme Technologies Pvt Ltd,
- Revamp Moto Pvt Ltd

**About Elevate**

- Elevate is a **pitching series organized by the Consulate General of India in Dubai**, providing a platform for startups to connect with investors and global counterparts.
- The **first season of Elevate started at the India Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai** and consisted of **twenty sessions.**
- The **second season** debuts in **May 2022**, and this episode marks the **sixth installment of the season.**