

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. DHARA - Annual Meeting of Members of the River Cities Alliance to be held In Pune ( Feb. 12, 2023 )**

A first of its kind two-day international conference, **DHARA 2023**, is being organised in **Pune** to discuss **strategies for managing urban rivers**.

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

- DHARA stands for -**Driving Holistic Action for Urban Rivers**.
- DHARA is the annual meeting of the members of the **River Cities Alliance (RCA)**.
- The meeting is being organised by the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** in association with **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** from **13 to 14 February** in Pune.
- Union Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** will deliver the keynote address on the inaugural day of the event, while **Kaushal Kishor**, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, will deliver the concluding speech on the second day.
- DHARA 2023 will provide a forum for commissioners, additional commissioners, chief engineers and senior planners of the **95 member river cities** in India to discuss management and solutions for local water bodies.
- The event has strong synergy with the **Urban 20 (U20) initiative** under India's G20 Presidency.

#### **River Cities Alliance (RCA)**

- It was **launched in 2021** as a dedicated platform for river cities of India for discussion and exchange of information for sustainable management of urban rivers.
- It was started with **30 cities in 2021** and currently has **95 cities as members** across India.
- It is formed by the successful partnership of the two Ministries - **Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.
- It focuses on three broad themes - **networking, capacity building and technical support**.
- It will enable cities to learn from each other's success and failure and connect people to rivers.

### **2. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2023 begins in Mumbai ( Feb. 12, 2023 )**

Maharashtra Governor **Bhagat Singh Koshiyari** on 11 February inaugurated the **Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav- 2023 (RSM)** at **Azad Maidan, Churchgate in Mumbai**.

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

- The festival has been organised by the **Ministry of Culture, Government of India** from **11 to 19 February** to promote national unity and integrity through cultural exchange.
- Minister of Cultural affairs, Forest and Fisheries, Govt of Maharashtra **Sudhir Mungantiwar** and Minister of Tourism, Skill Development, Employment, Entrepreneurship, Women and Child development, Govt of Maharashtra **Mangal Prabhat Lodha** were the guests of honour present for the inaugural function.
- The **Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav** conveys the message of '**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**', which signifies that despite the many diversities in language and cultural expressions, India is united and one.
- **Around 1000** artists will perform during the Mahotsav for the people of Mumbai.
- **About 350 folk and tribal artistes** from across India along with around **300 local folk artistes**, some transgender and differently-abled artistes, renowned classical artists as well as renowned star artists will enthral the audience with their enthralling performances.
- On April 14, a special tourist **Babasaheb Ambedkar Circuit train** will be inaugurated.

### **3. ADB approves \$130 million loan to promote horticulture in Himachal ( Feb. 11, 2023 )**

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **\$130 million (over Rs 1,072 crore) loan** to **enhance agricultural productivity and farmers' income in Himachal Pradesh and promote horticulture agribusiness**.

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

- ADB aims to benefit Himachal Pradesh, where more than half of its land area is mountainous and 90 percent of its population lives in rural areas dependent on agriculture.
- Through this, improving subtropical horticulture in the state will create a lot of economic opportunities for the farming families.
- Supporting horticulture value chains will also enhance the contribution of this sub-sector to the development and food security of the country.

### **Asian Development Bank (ADB):**

- It is a regional multilateral financial institution focused on countries in the Asia and Pacific region.
- It currently has 68 members – of which 49 are from the Asia and Pacific region and 19 from outside.
- **ADB President: Masatsugu Asakawa**
- **Headquarters: Mandaluyong City, Manila, Philippines**

#### **4. Rohit Sharma became the first Indian captain to score a century in all three formats of the game ( Feb. 10, 2023 )**

Indian captain **Rohit Sharma** has **become the first Indian captain to score a century in all three formats** of cricket.

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

- **Rohit achieved this feat by playing an innings of 120 runs** on the second day of the first test of the **series being played in Nagpur against Australia.**
- At the international level, **three captains have achieved this feat before Rohit**, including former Sri Lankan captain Tillakaratne Dilshan, former South African captain Faf du Plessis and Pakistan captain Babar Azam.
- This is Rohit Sharma's 9th century in Test cricket.
- Rohit has scored three centuries as captain in ODIs and two in T20s. While Rohit has scored a total of 30 centuries in ODI cricket and 4 centuries in T20.

##### **Records of Rohit Sharma:**

- The player who scored the most runs (264) in a match in One Day International cricket is
- He is the only batsman to have scored three double hundreds in ODI history.
- Rohit is the player with the most centuries (5) in a single World Cup (2019).
- Rohit is the player to hit most sixes (16) in a match.

#### **5. PM flag off two Vande Bharat trains in Mumbai ( Feb. 10, 2023 )**

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** flagged off **two new Vande Bharat trains** from **Mumbai** on 10 February.

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

- PM Modi first flagged off the **Mumbai-Solapur Vande Bharat Express** from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT).

- Later, he flagged off the second Vande Bharat Express train connecting **Mumbai to the temple town of Sainagar Shirdi** in Ahmednagar.
- With the commissioning of the two trains, the number of Vande Bharat Express trains running from Mumbai has increased to three, taking the **number to 10 in the country**.
- The first Vande Bharat train in Maharashtra connects **Mumbai to Gandhinagar in Gujarat**.
- Prime Minister Modi also dedicated the **Santacruz-Chembur Link Road section** and the **Kurar underpass** to the public.
- He also inaugurated the new campus of **Aljamia-tus-Saifiyah in Marol**, a western suburb of Mumbai.
- Aljamia-tus-Saifiya is an educational institution of the **Dawoodi Bohra Muslim community**.

### **About Vande Bharat Express Train**

- The first Vande Bharat Express was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **15 February 2019**.
- These trains have a self-propelled engine that can save diesel and **reduce electricity usage by up to 30%**.
- The first Vande Bharat Express was manufactured by the **Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai**.
- It was manufactured under the '**Make in India**' program at a cost of around **Rs 100 crore**.
- These trains can attain a maximum speed of **160 kmph**.
- In the Union Budget for 2022-2023, the government has proposed to develop and manufacture **400 new Vande Bharat trains** over the next three years.

Governor of Maharashtra: **Bhagat Singh Koshiyari**

Chief Minister of Maharashtra; **Eknath Shinde**

### **6. UP Government launches 'Family ID' portal ( Feb. 9, 2023 )**

The **UP government** has launched an online portal, "**Family ID - One Family One Identity**" to make access to government schemes easier for the families of the state.

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

- Its objective is to provide **free or subsidised ration** to those families who do not have ration cards and are not eligible for the **National Food Security Scheme**.

- Through the portal, families can create their **ID and can avail the benefits of the schemes.**
- For those who already have an ID, the family ID will be the same as the ration card ID.
- For others, ID will be generated through the portal and all the families will get a **unique identity.**
- It will create a **comprehensive database of households in Uttar Pradesh.**
- This ID will also be useful for other purposes. For example, a family member can use the ID to determine **caste** and apply for the same for a **birth certificate.**
- The National Food Security Scheme, which provides free or subsidised ration to people living in Uttar Pradesh, can also be availed through the portal.

## **7. Kala Ghoda Art Festival 2023 ( Feb. 7, 2023 )**

**Kala Ghoda Arts Festival 2023 is being organised in Mumbai** (Maharashtra) from 4 -12 February.

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

- In the Kala Ghoda Festival, dance, art and music, architecture, food, handicrafts, graphics, and many other types of art exhibitions are seen.
- Kala Ghoda Kala Mahotsav is an arts festival organised in Mumbai, which was **started in 1999 by Kala Ghoda Foundation.**
- It is named Kala Ghoda because it is held at a place in the South Mumbai area where there is a statue of a black horse.
- This festival is organised every year starting from the first Saturday of February till the second Sunday.

### **Other Festivals of Maharashtra:**

#### **Gudi Padwa**

- This festival is generally celebrated by Maharashtrians as Hindu New Year celebrations.

#### **Pola Festival**

- It is a harvest festival and is celebrated all over the state of Maharashtra, especially in the rural areas.

#### **Elephanta Festival**

- Elephanta festival is held every year in February. Elephanta is a small island near Mumbai.

#### **Kalidas Mahotsav**

- The Kalidas Samaroh is held annually in the month of November in Nagpur's Ramtek area, in honour of the famous Sanskrit poet and dramatist Kalidas.

## **8. Gujarat government signs deal with OECD to hold PISA test for govt school students ( Feb. 6, 2023 )**

Gujarat government signs deal with OECD to hold PISA test for govt school students

The **Gujarat government** 4 February signed an agreement with the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** to conduct the **Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) test** for students of government schools.

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

- The agreement was signed in the presence of Gujarat Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** and OECD Paris Director **Andreas Schleicher**.
- This is a significant step towards the objective of achieving grade-appropriate learning outcomes in government schools.
- Gujarat is the **first state** in the country to sign such an agreement.
- PISA measures the ability of **15-year-olds** to read and apply **math and science skills** to meet real-life challenges.
- It will improve thinking, problem solving and effective communication skills of the students.
- This will help in achieving the objective of ensuring quality learning outcomes in government schools.

### **About Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)**

- It is an **international assessment** that measures the **maths and science literacy** of 15-year-old students every 3 years.
- It was first organized in **2000**.
- This worldwide study is conducted by the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** in member and non-member nations.
- It aims to provide countries with comparative data to improve their education policies and outcomes.

## **9. 36th Inter-University North Zone Youth Festival at Jammu University ( Feb. 5, 2023 )**

Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports **Anurag Thakur** attends valedictory function as Chief Guest of **36th Inter-University North Zone Youth Festival (Antarnaad) at Jammu University.**

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

- The festival was organized under the aegis of **Association of Indian Universities (AIU) at Zorawar Singh Auditorium, Jammu University.**
- He said India is now the hub of **'Start-up'** ecosystem in the world, ranking third with **90,000 'Start-Ups', 107 unicorn companies** worth 30 billion dollars.
- **1000 participants** from **18 universities** across the country participated in the festival.

### **Competing teams in the festival**

- University of Jammu,
- Dev Sanskriti Vishavidhyala Haridwar Uttarakhand,
- GADVASU-Ludhiana,
- Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- Doon University Uttarakhand,
- University of Kashmir,
- Cluster University of Jammu,
- Punjabi University Patiala,
- CT University Ludhiana,
- IK Gujral Punjab Technical University Kapurthala,
- Himachal Pradesh University Shimla, GNDU Amritsar,
- Lovely Professional University, Chandigarh University, Punjab Agricultural University Ludhiana,
- Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University Bathinda
- DAV Jalandhar.

## **10. LG Manoj Sinha inaugurates SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2023 in Jammu ( Feb. 4, 2023 )**

LG Manoj Sinha inaugurates SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2023 in Jammu

Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** on 4 February inaugurated the **SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2023** at **Aquaplex Crown at Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu.**

**An overview of the news**

- **Women self-help groups** from around 25 states and union territories across the country are participating in the fair.
- The **11-day fair** is the first of its kind in the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- This mega event will provide a platform to rural **SHG women** to sell and promote their self-made products and build marketing tie-ups with various sales platforms.
- **75 stalls and 10 food courts** have been set up at the exhibition venue to display crafts, handicrafts, handlooms and delicacies.
- Self Help Groups will display handicrafts, handlooms and natural food items from different rural areas across the country.
- It is a national level fair which showcases unique and famous indigenous products from different states and union territories.

**SARAS Aajeevika Mela**

- It is an initiative of the **Deen Dayal Dayal Upadhyaya Yojana** of the **Union Ministry of Rural Development**.
- It aims to provide an opportunity to rural women self-help groups to showcase their skills, sell products and make direct contact with bulk buyers.
- This fair serves as an integrated approach for **women empowerment**. This has been linked with the **Atmanirbhar Bharat approach**.