

Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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1. Tragedy at the Vaisno Devi as stampede kills many (Jan. 1, 2022)

- Twelve pilgrims have died and over a dozen injured in a stampede at Jammu and Kashmir's Mata Vaishno Devi shrine. The stampede was triggered by a "minor altercation among some young boys" amid a massive rush of devotees on New Year.
- The incident occurred outside the **sanctum sanctorum of the shrine on Trikuta hills.**
- Jammu and Kashmir **Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha** has ordered a high level inquiry into the stampede.
- An **ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh each** has been approved by the Prime Minister of India **from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for the next of kin of those who lost their lives** due to the stampede at Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan and the **injured would be given Rs. 50,000.**

2. NITI Aayog Organizes National Workshop on Bamboo Development Mission (Dec. 31, 2021)

- NITI Aayog organized a national-level workshop on bamboo development on 30th December 2021
- **The workshop was conducted both online and offline.**
- Through the workshop, participants were taught about all components of the bamboo value chain—**plantation, production, processing, standardization, and utilization**—in order to develop strategies and a roadmap for the development of a circular economy in the sector.
- The workshop also discussed national and international best practices
- **Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh characterized bamboo as 'green gold'**, recognizing its crucial role in uplifting the Indian economy in the post-Covid scenario.
- **Bamboo can be used for making bio-ethanol**, which would reduce dependence on imported fossil fuel.
- **Bamboo is also very beneficial for the construction sector.**
- Niti Aayog also talked about setting up BIS standards of bamboo and FSSAI certification of bamboo products, linking Kisan Rail to bamboo, GI tagging of bamboo products, and the development of a nationwide knowledge information system on bamboo.

3. "Israel", first country to give 4 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (Dec. 31, 2021)

- **Israel approved a fourth dose of Covid vaccine** for people with weakened immune systems.
- Israel's Pandemic Expert Committee has recommended a fourth dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for all people aged over 60, medics and those with compromised immunity, at least four months after their third jab.
- The move was welcomed by **Prime Minister Naftali Bennett**, who said it would help the country get through a potential wave of the Omicron variant.

4. Center approves Rs 3,063.21 crore of additional Central assistance to six States (Dec. 31, 2021)

The High Level Committee (HLC), under the Chairmanship of the Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, has approved **Rs 3,063.21 crore** of additional Central assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), to six States, which were affected by floods, landslides and cyclones during 2021.

Assistance to States:

- For Cyclone 'Tauke'- 2021, Rs.1,133.35 crore to Gujarat;
- For Cyclone 'Yaas'- 2021, Rs.586.59 crore to West Bengal;
- For floods/landslides during the South West Monsoon, 2021

Rs. 51.53 crore to Assam, Rs. 504.06 Crore to Karnataka, Rs. 600.50 crore to Madhya Pradesh and Rs. 187.18 crore to Uttarakhand.

5. Goa Government allows the Export of low Grade Iron Ore (Dec. 31, 2021)

The Pramod Samant led Government in Goa has allowed the mining companies to export low grade iron ores from Goa from dumps.

- There are about 10 to 20 million tonnes of low-grade iron ore lying at different locations outside the mining leases.
- Iron ores which are of low quality or waste were dumped by the mining companies on private or government lands are called dumps.
- Owner of the Dumps can now export these iron ores with the permission of the Indian Bureau of Mines.
- Supreme Court in 2018 halted iron ore mining operations in Goa which held the renewing of leasing mines without the process of auction was illegal

6. ARIIA 2021 Ranking Released (Dec. 30, 2021)

- The **Union Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell** released the **3rd Edition of Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2021** on December 29.
- It was **first launched in 2018** as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and AICTE.
- ARIIA systematically ranks all the major higher education institutions and universities in India **on indicators related to "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development" amongst students and faculties.**
- **It aims to inspire Indian institutions to reorient their mindset and build ecosystems to encourage high-quality research, innovation, and entrepreneurship.**
- **What is new in the 3rd Ranking 2021**
- This **Third Edition of ARIIA has a special framework for non-technical institutions.**
- There is a special sub-category in 2021 ranking- '**HEI exclusively for Women Education**'
- **Highlights from the 2021 Rankings-**

- **Institute of National Importance and Central University Category**

IIT Madras topped the list.

- **University and Deemed to be University Category (Govt. & Govt. Aided) (Technical)**

Panjab University, Chandigarh topped the list.

- **University & Deemed to be University (Private/Self Financed) (Technical)**

Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Khordha (Odisha) topped the list

- **Colleges/Institutes (Govt. & Govt. Aided) (Technical)**

College of Engineering Pune topped the list

- **Colleges/Institutes (Private / Self Financed) (Technical)**

G H Rasoni College of Engineering Nagpur topped the list

- Institute of National Importance, Central University, CFI (Non-Technical)
- **Centrally Funded Institute (CFI) (Non-Technical) and General (Non-Technical)**

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) New Delhi topped the list

- General (Non-Technical)

Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad , Gujarat.

7. NITI Aayog releases North Eastern Region District SDG Index and Dashboard 2021-22 (Dec. 30, 2021)

- It is **released by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDONER) in collaboration with NITI Aayog**
- **The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has provided technical support** for this index.
- The index measures the performance of the District of the eight NE States (**Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim**)
- **The Index will be prepared and published annually.**
- The top 5 districts of the SDG NER Index are
 - Rank 1 - **East Sikkim, Sikkim with a score of 75.87,**
 - Rank 2 - Gomati, Tripura & North Tripura, Tripura with a score of 75.73,
 - Rank 4 - West Tripura, Tripura with a score of 75.67

Rank 5 - Serchhip, Mizoram with a score of 74.87

The Index offers insights into the social, economic, and environmental status of the region and the districts in their march towards achieving the Social Development Goals(SDG) 2030.

8. India welcomes Egypt as 4th new member of BRICS New Development Bank (Dec. 30, 2021)

- India on 29th December 2021 welcomed **Egypt's entry as the fourth new member of the New Development Bank (NDB)** that was established by the BRICS countries six years ago.
- The NDB admitted **Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Uruguay** as its new members in September 2021.

BRICS New Development Bank

The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the **BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)**.

- Formed in: **July 2014**
- Headquarters: **Shanghai, China**
- President: **Marcos Prado Troyjo**
- Members: **Egypt, Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay**

9. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh releases science magazine Dream 2047 in Hindi, Urdu and English (Dec. 30, 2021)

- In order to promote the use of vernacular language in science , Vigyan Prasar and autonomous institution under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India has launched an Urdu edition of its popular science magazine Dream 2047 as **Tajassus (Curiosity)**.
- **The Urdu edition was launched by Vigyan Prasar in association with the Central University of Kashmir.**
- The monthly Magazine was earlier published only in English and Hindi.
- The Urdu edition was launched by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh.
- He also said that Vigyan Prasar will launch the Kashmiri, Dogri and other Indian language versions of the magazine soon .
- **Vigyan Prasar has started IndiaScience TV, India's only OTT (Over the Top) science channel in Hindi and English.**

10. PM Modi inaugurates and lays the foundation stone of 23 projects worth over 17,500 crore rupees in Uttarakhand. (Dec. 30, 2021)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited **Haldwani in Uttarakhand** to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of 23 projects worth over 17 thousand 500 crore rupees.

- **Among the 23 projects, foundation stone will be laid for 17 projects worth over 14 thousand 100 crore rupees.**

Main Highlight of the Visit:

- He inaugurated 5 MegaWatt capacity **Suringad-II** run of the river hydroelectric project **built by Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam (UJVN) Limited.**
 - It is built on **river Munsiyari in Pithoragarh district** at a cost of about Rs 50 crore.
- Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of the **Lakhwar Multipurpose Project**
 - It will be built on **Yamuna River** at the cost of about Rs 5750 crore.
 - This **project of national importance**, will **enable irrigation of about 34,000 hectare** additional land, **produce 300 MW hydro power** and **supply drinking water to the six states** of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- He laid the foundation in line with the Prime Minister's vision to create new avenues for tapping the inherent potential of a region, the foundation stone of a **41 acre Aroma Park at Kashipur** and a **40 acre Plastic Industrial Park at Sitarganj.**
 - The two projects **will be developed by State Infrastructure & Industrial Development Corporation Uttarakhand Limited (SIIDCUL)** at a cumulative cost of about 100 crore.
- The Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of **AIIMS Rishikesh satellite centre in Udham Singh Nagar district and Jagjivan Ram Government Medical College at Pithoragarh.**
 - These two hospitals are being built at a cost of about Rs 500 crores and Rs 450 crore respectively

He also inaugurated host of projects in the road sectors:

- 99 kms of road widening work on Nagina to Kashipur NH-74

Road widening Chyurani to Ancholi NH-125, All weather roads project - 32km.