

Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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1. India will open its new consulate in Brisbane (May 26, 2023)

India-will-open-its-new-consulate-in-Brisbane

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** in his address at the community event in **Sydney** during his Australian visit informed that a **new consulate** will be constructed in **Brisbane**.

An Overview of the News:

- The main objective of setting up the **Consulate in Brisbane** is to fulfill the long standing demand of Indian expatriates in Australia.
- This was announced during Prime Minister Modi's address at the **Kudos Bank Arena** in Sydney, which was attended by over 21,000 people across Australia, along with Australian Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese**.
- Meanwhile, Prime Minister Albanese also declared **Harris Park** as "**Little India**" during the reception for Prime Minister Modi.
- Harris Park is a center in western **Sydney** where the Indian community celebrates Indian festivals and events including Diwali and Australia Day.

India-Australia business partnership:

- Australia was the **17th largest trading partner** of India in the year 2022 and India is the **9th largest trading partner of Australia**.
- Bilateral trade between the two countries stood at US\$ 27.5 billion in the year 2021, which is likely to reach around US\$ 50 billion in the next five years.
- In this context, both the countries are moving fast in the field of concluding a free trade agreement.

Australia:

- Capital: **Canberra**
- King: **King Charles III**
- Prime Minister: **Anthony Albanese**
- Currency: **Australian Dollar**

2. 76th World Health Assembly held in Geneva (May 26, 2023)

The **76th World Health Assembly** was inaugurated by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 21 May 2023 in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

An Overview of the News:

- This ten-day 76th World Health Assembly is being organized from 21 to 30 May 2023.
- In this, India is being represented by Union Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya**.
- It serves as a platform for representatives of all WHO member states to come together and address health issues affecting people around the world.
- Appreciating India's health priorities, **Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus**, Director-General of the World Health Organisation, praised India's progress in chairing the G20 as well as its efforts to advance digital health and traditional medicine.

- Theme of the 76th World Health Assembly: **WHO at 75: Saving Lives, Driving Health for All.**

World Health Assembly:

- The World Health Assembly serves as the decision-making body of the WHO.
- Its primary functions include key aspects of the organization's operations.
- These set policies that guide global health initiatives. Along with this, it also appoints the Director General.

World Health Organization (WHO):

- It is an inter-governmental organization and works in collaboration with the Ministries of Health of its member states.
- Establishment : **1948**
- Headquarters: **Geneva, Switzerland**
- Members: **194 countries**
- WHO started functioning from 7th April, 1948.
- World Health Day is celebrated every year on 7th April.
- WHO has offices in 150 countries as well as six regional offices.

3. INSV Tarini crew back home after 188 days (May 25, 2023)

INSV-Tarini-crew-back-home-after-188-days

The crew of **INSV Tarini**, who returned after an **inter-continental voyage**, were accorded a grand welcome at the **flag-in ceremony in Goa.**

An overview of the news

- The crew returned home on 23 May after an arduous voyage of **17,000 nautical miles.**
- Two women officers, **Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A**, were involved in the entire operation.
- Lt Cdr Dilna is a **Logistics Officer** in the Navy.
- Roopa, who hails from Puducherry, has graduated in **Aeronautical Engineering from Chennai.** He is a Naval Armament Inspection Officer.
- Both Dilna and Roopa are currently posted at **INS Mandovi in Goa.**
- The historic voyage from **Goa to Rio de Janeiro to Cape Town was completed by INSV Tarini in 188 days.**
- It reflects an exemplary display of gallantry, courage and tenacity by the crew and highlights the role of the Indian Navy as a pioneer in the country in ocean sailing.

4. Union AYUSH Minister inaugurates PCIM&H 'e-office' and online portal (May 25, 2023)

Union AYUSH Minister inaugurates PCIM&H 'e-office' and online portal
Union Minister for AYUSH **Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated "**PCIM&H e-Office Portal**"
and an online portal.

An Overview of the News

- The objective of the online portal is to facilitate easy access of **Pharmacopoeia Monographs** to the stakeholders across the globe.
- During his visit to the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine and Homeopathy (PCIM&H), the Minister inspected various laboratories: Pharmacognosy, Phytochemistry, Microbiology, Herbal Garden, and Raw Drug Repository of ASU&H drugs.
- PCIM&H, under the Ministry of AYUSH, is actively involved in standardisation and quality control of **Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathic (ASU&H) drugs**, and publishes standards in the form of Pharmacopoeia.
- In addition, the Minister released the monthly newsletter published by PCIM&H.

Advisor (Ayurveda), Ministry of AYUSH - **Dr. Kaustubh Upadhyay**

PCIM&H Director - **Dr. Raman Mohan Singh**

About Ministry of AYUSH

- It is a government ministry in India.
- It is responsible for the development, promotion and regulation of traditional systems of medicine.
- AYUSH is the abbreviation of **Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Society** and aims to promote education and research of the above.
- The ministry provides educational and training programs.

Establishment - **2014**

Responsible Ministers - **Sarbananda Sonowal, Cabinet Minister and Mahendra Munjapara, Minister of State**

Ministry Executive - **Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary**

Ministry of Motherhood - **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India**

5. Ministry of Civil Aviation launches UDAN 5.1 (May 25, 2023)

Ministry-of-Civil-Aviation-launches-UDAN-5.1

The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** in India has **launched UDAN 5.1** on 24 May, a special edition of the **UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme**, with a special focus on **helicopter routes**.

The main features of UDAN 5.1

- For the first time under Regional Connectivity Scheme RCS-UDAN, this round is designed specifically for helicopter routes.
- There will be an increase in the **scope of operations for the operators**, which will now also allow routes where one of the origin or destination points is in the priority zone.
- The **airfare ceiling has been reduced by 25%** to make flying in helicopters more affordable for passengers.
- The **Viability Gap Funding (VGF) cap** for single and twin-engine helicopter operators has been substantially increased to enhance the financial viability for operating the routes.
- So far **46 helicopter routes** have been **operationalized under the scheme**, benefitting many **hilly and North East states and UDAN 5.1** is targeting coverage of a much larger number of routes.

About UDAN Scheme

- **Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)** was **launched in 2016 as a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- Its objective is to make **affordable, economically viable and profitable air travel** on regional routes available to the common man even in small towns.
- It seeks to improve air connectivity to **tier-2 and tier-3 cities** through revival of unused and underused airports.
- The scheme will be jointly funded by the **central government and state governments**.
- The scheme will run for **10 years** and can be extended thereafter.

6. More than 90% of funds allocated under Smart Cities Mission utilised (May 25, 2023)

Smart Cities Mission

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** has announced that **more than 90%** of the funds allocated under the **Smart Cities Mission** are being **utilized and 73%** of the projects have already been completed.

An overview of the news

- The smart city project was to be completed within five years of the selection of the city.
- However, in 2021, the ministry changed the **deadline to June 2023** for all cities.

About Smart Cities Mission

- Smart Cities Mission is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs which was launched in 2015.

- It aims to transform urban areas into **sustainable, citizen-friendly and technologically advanced cities.**
- The mission's primary objective is to enhance the quality of life for citizens by providing them with improved infrastructure, better governance, and increased economic opportunities.
- Between **January 2016 and June 2018** (when the last city, Shillong, was selected), the ministry selected 100 cities for the mission in five rounds.

Selection Process

- The mission follows a competitive approach where cities submit proposals based on specific criteria, including the adoption of smart solutions, citizen engagement, and sustainable development.
- The selected cities undergo redevelopment in a phased manner.

Core components

- Infrastructure development:** Emphasis is placed on developing physical infrastructure such as transportation systems, water supply, sanitation, and affordable housing to meet the needs of the urban population.
- Technology integration:** The mission integrates technology to improve service delivery, including data analytics and smart grids devices for efficient resource management and real-time monitoring.
- Citizen engagement:** The mission focuses on citizen participation and engagement through mobile applications and feedback mechanisms, empowering them to contribute to decision-making processes and hold authorities accountable.
- Sustainable practices:** The mission promotes sustainable development by encouraging the use of renewable energy sources, green building practices, waste management systems, and efficient urban planning.

Funds Utilisation

- Till 1 May 2023, a total of **Rs 38,400 crore** was released for the Smart Cities Mission.
- Out of this amount, **₹35,261 crore** has already been utilized for various projects.

Project Completion

- The Smart Cities Mission includes around **7,800 projects worth Rs 1.8 lakh crore.**
- Of these projects, more than **5,700 projects worth Rs 1.1 lakh crore** have been completed.
- The remaining projects are expected to be completed by **June 30, 2024.**
- Currently, only **22 out of 100 designated cities** have **successfully completed all the projects** under the mission.

7. Ministry of Education and PARAKH organise the 1st National level workshop (May 24, 2023)

1st-National-level-workshop

Recently, the **Ministry of Education** organized a **workshop in New Delhi to discuss the integration of 60 school examination boards** operating in **different states and union territories**.

An overview of the news

- The key component of the scheme is **PARAKH**, a National Assessment Center set up under the **National Council of Educational Research and Training**.
- The central government is planning for uniformity of boards to facilitate seamless transition for students in different boards or regions.
- It aims to align curriculum standards, grading system and evaluation methods so as to enhance the credibility and recognition of certificates and grades obtained across all boards.
- The workshop highlighted the **need to re-evaluate the rote-examination culture prevalent** in the education system.

What is PARAKH?

- PARAKH full name is -**Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development**.
- It will act as a constituent unit of the **NCERT**.
- It will also be tasked with conducting **periodic learning outcome tests like National Achievement Survey (NAS) and State Achievement Survey**.
- This framework will seek to curb the emphasis on rote learning as envisaged by the **National Policy on Education (NEP) 2020**.
- It will be the proposed implementing agency and also will be part of the **NEP proposal**.
- Its team will consist of leading assessment experts with a deep understanding of the education system in India and internationally.

8. Ireland to become the first country in the world to introduce health warnings on alcohol (May 24, 2023)

Ireland-to-become-the-first-country

Ireland's health minister, Stephen Donnelly, signed new regulations on May 22 that will carry **warnings about the health risks of drinking alcohol**, as well as the **product's calorie count**.

An overview of the news

- This innovative step aims **to raise awareness about the potential health risks associated with alcohol consumption.**
- The introduction of **health warnings on alcohol bottles and cans** will serve as a powerful tool for public health promotion and education.
- The warnings will provide concise information about the health hazards linked to excessive alcohol consumption, encouraging individuals to make informed decisions.
- Health warnings include **liver disease, heart problems, increased risk of cancer, mental health problems and other associated risks.**
- By emphasizing the risks and potential harms associated with alcohol consumption on alcohol packaging, youth can be deterred from drinking at an early age.

Republic of Ireland

- The Republic of Ireland is a **western European country** which **shares a boundary with Great Britain.**
- The Parliament of Ireland is called the **Oireachtas**. The lower house of the parliament is called **Dail** and the upper house is called **Seanad Éireann (Senate).**
- President of Ireland: **Michael D. Higgins**
- Currency: **Euro**
- Capital: **Dublin**

9. India hands over 20 broad gauge locomotives to Bangladesh (May 24, 2023)

20-broad-gauge-locomotives-to-Bangladesh

Taking a significant step towards enhancing **bilateral cooperation in the railway sector**, India and Bangladesh handed over **20 broad gauge locomotives to Bangladesh** on May 23.

An overview of the news

- The initiative is aimed at meeting the growing demand for **passenger and freight traffic between the two neighboring countries.**
- The handover ceremony was conducted virtually, which was attended by Indian Railway Minister **Ashwini Vaishnav** and Bangladesh Railway Minister **Nurul Islam Sujan.**
- During the meeting held in **June 2022**, fruitful discussions were held on various aspects of **railway operations between the two countries.**
- Minister Nurul Islam Sujan highlighted the importance of strengthening rail connectivity between India and Bangladesh **to promote trade and travel.**

- The newly acquired locomotives will help in meeting the **growing demands of passenger and freight traffic** on both sides of the border.
- Currently, there are **nine interchanges between India and Bangladesh**, of which five are already operational and two are under construction.

People's Republic of Bangladesh

- Capital: **Dhaka**
- Prime Minister: **Sheikh Hasina Wazed**
- President: **Mohammad Shahabuddin**
- Currency: **Taka**

10. India and Australia sign agreements in the field of migration, mobility partnership and green hydrogen (May 24, 2023)

mobility-partnership-and-green-hydrogen

The **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was exchanged after a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his Australian counterpart **Anthony Albanese in Sydney**.

An Overview of the News

- Prime Minister Modi invited Prime Minister Albanese and Australian cricket fans to India for the Cricket World Cup.
- Prime Minister Albanese announced the establishment of a new **Australian Consulate General** in Bengaluru to link Australian businesses to India's digital and innovation ecosystem.

About Australia

It is a sovereign country located in the **Southern Hemisphere** and is geographically isolated from the rest of the world.

Capital - **Canberra**

Government - **Federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy**

Emperor - **Charles III**

Governor-General - **David Hurley**

Prime Minister - **Anthony Albanese**