

Current Affairs search results for: "WEF"

1. New Zealand declares national emergency after Cyclone Gabrielle lashes North Island (Feb. 14, 2023)

New Zealand government

The **New Zealand government** has declared a **national emergency** after **Cyclone Gabrielle** hit the North Island.

An overview of the news

- Cyclone Gabrielle causes widespread **flooding, landslides and huge ocean swells** across the North Island.
- This is an **unprecedented weather event** that is having widespread impacts across much of the **North Island**.
- Gabriel appeared over some small islands about 100 km north-east of Auckland, but is now moving south-west.

National State of Emergency in New Zealand

- A national state of emergency has been declared in New Zealand on **two previous occasions** – the **first in 2011** after a magnitude 6.3 earthquake in Christchurch and the **second** in the early days of the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

2. Saudi Arabia to send its 1st female astronaut to space this year (Feb. 14, 2023)

Saudi Arabia's first female astronaut

Saudi Arabia's first female astronaut is set to go into space this year, in what is seen as a move to reform Saudi Arabia's **ultra-conservative image**.

An overview of the news

- Saudi female astronaut **Rayna Barnawi** will join **Saudi Ali Al-Qarni** on a 10-day mission to the **International Space Station (ISS)** this year.
- **Barnawi and al-Karni** will fly to the ISS aboard a **SpaceX Dragon spacecraft** as part of a mission by American privately funded space infrastructure developer private space company **Axiom Space** .
- The **Ax-2** will be launched by a **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** from Launch Complex 39A at **NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, America**.
- Another fellow **Emirati, Sultan Al-Neyadi** will also visit the space station at the end of February 2023.
- Axiom Space launched its **first private astronaut mission** to the ISS in April 2022, with four private astronauts spending 17 days in space orbit.

- In 2019, Saudi Arabia's neighbouring **United Arab Emirates became the first Arab country** to send a citizen into space. Astronaut Hazza al-Mansoori spent eight days on the ISS.
- **In 1985**, Saudi royal prince **Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz** participated in a US-organised space mission, becoming the first Arab Muslim to travel in space.

Saudi Arabia

- King - **Salman**
- Capital - **Riyadh**
- Currency - **Saudi Arabian riyal**
- Official Language - **Arabic**
- Official Religion - **Islam**

3. 'Khanan Prahari' Mobile app to Curb Illegal Mining launched (Feb. 14, 2023)

Khanan Prahari

The government on 13 February launched a mobile app namely '**Khanan Prahari**' and a web app **Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System (CMSMS)**.

An overview of the news

- It has been launched to report **unauthorised coal mining activities** so that monitoring and appropriate action can be taken by the concerned law and order enforcing authority.

CMSMS Application

- CMSMS has been developed to take transparent action to curb **illegal mining and use of space technology** as an e-governance initiative of Government of India.

Objective of CMSMS Application

- To ascertain the participation of citizens against illegal mining by receipt of complaints of citizens through Mobile App Khanan Prahari
- Monitoring and taking action on any illegal coal mining activity being carried out within the leasehold limits.

'Khanan Prahari' Mobile App

- It is a mobile app of the **Ministry of Coal** to report illegal coal mining.

- It is a tool for **geo-tagged photographs** of any illegal coal mining incident as well as information to any citizen from the location of the incident.'

4. Former England captain Eoin Morgan retires from all forms of cricket (Feb. 14, 2023)

England captain Eoin Morgan

Former **England captain Eoin Morgan** announced his retirement from **all forms of cricket** on 13 February.

An overview of the news

- Morgan had said goodbye to international cricket on **28 June 2022**. He announced his retirement from all three formats of cricket.
- Eoin Morgan captained the **ODI World Cup** played in England in the **year 2019** and won his team the **title**. He also became the **first captain to win the ODI World Cup for England**.
- Morgan has scored **2458 runs** playing a total of **115 T20 matches**. While playing **248 ODIs**, he scored **7701 runs**.
- Morgan captained England in **126 ODIs and 72 T20Is**, registering **118 wins** as captain in both formats.
- Apart from this, he scored **700 runs in 16 Test matches**.
- Born in **Dublin**, Morgan made his ODI debut for **England in 2009** at the age of 16 against Ireland.

5. Moldov's PM Natalia Gavrilita resigns (Feb. 11, 2023)

Moldovan Prime Minister **Natalia Gavrilita** announced her resignation on 10 February.

An overview of the news

- She resigned, citing lack of support in the former Soviet republic. She was in power only for **18 months**.
- Moldova's President **Maia Sandu** has accepted Gavrilita's resignation and said she will speak to parliamentary groups about a possible replacement.
- Ms. Gavrilita's party won a majority in the elections held in **August 2021**.
- The next prime minister of Moldova could be **Dorin Risen**, a European security adviser who is a supporter of Sandu.
- Rieken is expected to be approved as the country's prime minister without interference.

- Moldova, a **former Soviet republic** with a **population of 2.5 million people**, is already facing a host of issues such as rising inflation, a massive influx of refugees from Ukraine and a severe energy crisis in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war.
- Moscow significantly reduced its **electricity supply to Moldova**.
- Last year alone, the country saw protests against a dramatic increase in prices, particularly for **Russian gas**.

About Moldova

- Moldova is located between **Ukraine and Romania**.
- Capital: **Chişinău**
- President: **Maia Sandu**
- Official Language : **Romanian**
- Currency : **Moldovan leu**

6. Hyderabad selected to host WEF Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Jan. 19, 2023)

The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has chosen **Hyderabad** to set up its **Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution** focused on **healthcare and life sciences**.

An overview of the news

- The announcement was made after the Telangana government and the World Economic Forum signed a cooperation agreement during the Forum's annual meeting in **Davos** recently.
- The collaboration agreement was signed by **Jeremy Jurgens**, Managing Director, WEF and **Sakthi Nagappan**, Chief Executive Officer, Telangana Life Sciences Foundation.
- Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) Telangana will be an autonomous, non-profit organisation that will focus on **healthcare and life sciences**.
- C4IR is the **18th centre** to join the 4th Industrial Revolution Network of Telangana Forum, which is spread across four continents.

What is the fourth industrial revolution?

- The Fourth Industrial Revolution represents a **fundamental change in the way we live, work and connect with each other**.
- It is a **new chapter in human development**, enabled by an extraordinary technological advance commensurate with the First, Second and Third Industrial Revolutions.
- The key technologies involved are cloud computing, big data, cyber security, simulation, additive manufacturing and Internet of Things (IoT).

Other industrial revolution

- **First Industrial Revolution (in the 1800s)**: Water and steam power were used to mechanize production. An example of this is the steam engine.
- **Second Industrial Revolution (early 1900s)**: It used electricity for mass production. Electricity is an example of this.
- **Third Industrial Revolution (late 1900s)**: Electronics and information technology were used to automate production. Computers and the Internet are examples of this.

7. Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum begins at Davos in Switzerland (Jan. 16, 2023)

Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum begins at Davos in Switzerland

The five-day annual meeting of the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** begins on 16 January 2023 in **Davos, Switzerland**. It is the **53rd edition** of the World Economic Forum which will be organised till 20 January 2023.

An Overview of the news

- The theme of the meeting of the 53rd edition of the World Economic Forum is '**Cooperation in a Fragmented World**'.
- The main topics of discussion in the meeting are likely to be discussed like the **Ukraine crisis, global inflation, climate change etc.**

Prominent global leaders participating in the meeting

- Global leaders attending the meeting include European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen**, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola, South African President Cyril M. Ramaphosa, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yol, Swiss President Alain Berset and Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin etc. are the main ones.

Representation of India in the meeting

- Many Indian leaders are participating in the World Economic Forum meeting. Apart from Chief Union Ministers **Ashwini Vaishnav, Mansukh Mandaviya, Smriti Irani and RK Singh**, Maharashtra Chief Minister **Eknath Shinde** is also participating in these.
- Prominent business tycoons like **Gautam Adani, Sanjiv Bajaj, Kumar Mangalam Birla**, N Chandrasekaran, Nadir Godrej, Sajjan Jindal, Sunil Mittal, Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Nandan Nilekani, Adar Poonawalla, Rishad Premji attended the meeting.

World Economic Forum (WEF)

- WEF is a Swiss non-profit organisation.
- Establishment: **1971**

- Headquarters: **Cologny (Switzerland).**
- Founder and Executive Chairman: **Klaus Schwab.**
- Chairperson: **Borge Brende**

Major reports published by WEF

- Global Gender Gap Report
- Global Risk Report
- Global Travel and Tourism Report
- Energy Transition Index (ETI)
- Global Competitiveness Report

8. PM Modi flags off Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express train (Jan. 15, 2023)

Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express train

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, on the occasion of Pongal on 15 January, virtually flagged off the **Vande Bharata Express train** connecting **Secunderabad with Vishakhapatnam.**

An overview of the news

- This is the **8th Vande Bharata Express** which will cover a distance of about eight hours between Secunderabad in Telangana and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- The intermediate stops envisaged for the train include **Warangal, Khammam, Vijayawada and Rajahmundry.**
- This will lead to ease of living, boost tourism and benefit the economy.
- In the last few years, seven Vande Bharat trains have covered a distance of **23 lakh kms**, carrying 40 lakh passengers to their destinations.
- The state-of-the-art Vande Bharat Express can accelerate to **100 kmph in just 52 seconds.**

Name of all 8 Vande Bharat Express train

1. Varanasi-New Delhi,
2. Katra-New Delhi,
3. Mumbai Central-Gandhinagar,
4. Amb Andaura - New Delhi
5. Chennai - Mysuru
6. Nagpur - Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)

- Howraha-New Jalpaiguri
7.
8. Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam

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 which can save diesel and reduce electricity usage by up to **30%**.
- The first Vande Bharat Express was manufactured by **Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai**.
- It was manufactured under the '**Make in India**' programme, at a cost of about Rs 100 crore.
- These trains can achieve a maximum speed of **160 kmph**.
- In the Union Budget for 2022-2023 the government has proposed the development and manufacture of **400 new Vande Bharat trains** in the next three years.

9. Rajasthan Government to provide LPG cylinder at Rs 500 per cylinder; Ashok Gehlot (Dec. 20, 2022)

Rajasthan Government to provide LPG cylinder at Rs 500 per cylinder

The Rajasthan Government will provide **12 LPG cylinders** per year to the poor families at **Rs 500 per cylinder** from 1 April 2023. This was announced by the Rajasthan Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot** at the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Alwar on 19 December 2022.

He said the decision was taken to provide relief to the people suffering from unprecedented inflation and unemployment.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' (PMUY) was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 May 2016 in **Ballia, Uttar Pradesh**.

Under the scheme a poor household headed by a woman is provided with a free LPG gas stove and free first LPG Cylinder.

However under the scheme the beneficiaries have to buy the subsidized LPG cylinder.

The target of the PMUY was to release **8 crore LPG connections** by March 2020 which was achieved on 7 September 2019.

PMUY 2.0

It was launched virtually by PM Modi on 10 August 2021 at **Mahoba, Madhya Pradesh**.

It aims to provide additional 1.6 crore LPG connections with special focus on migrant households.

Connection is provided to an adult woman belonging to a poor household.

The beneficiaries should belong to any of the following categories:

- Eligible as per Socio Economic Caste Census 2011 list,
- Belongs to SC/ST households, be a beneficiary of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Forest dwellers, Most Backward Classes (MBC), Tea and Ex-Tea Garden Tribes, People residing in river Islands.

10. Fifth Scorpene Submarine 'Vagir' delivered to Indian Navy (Dec. 20, 2022)

Fifth Scorpene Submarine 'Vagir' delivered to Indian Navy

The **fifth submarine of the Project -75, Kalvari Class submarines, Yard 11879 (Vagir)** was delivered to the Indian Navy on 20 December.

Important facts

- Project -75 includes indigenous construction of **six submarines of Scorpene design.**
- These submarines are being constructed at **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai**, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France.
- **Launched on 12 Nov 20, Vagir** commenced sea trials from 1 Feb 2022 and has completed all major trials, including weapon and sensor trials, in less time than earlier submarines.
- The construction of these submarines in an Indian yard is another step towards '**Atmanirbhar Bharat**' and instills confidence in the region.
- What is also a remarkable achievement is that this is the third submarine delivered to the Indian Navy in a span of 24 months.

Project- 75

- Project- 75 intends to build six diesel-electric attack submarines of the **Kalvari class** that are based on the **Scorpene-class**, which are being built at MDL (Mazagon Dock Limited).
- Project 75 (I), approved in 2007, is part of the **Indian Navy's 30 year Plan** for indigenous submarine construction.