

Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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1. China's population drops for first time since 1961 (Jan. 17, 2023)

China's population drops

The biggest decline in the **population of China** has been recorded after the **year 1961**. **Negative population growth** has now started in **China**. The death toll in China is more than the number of children born.

An overview of the news

- According to the **China's National Bureau of Statistics** China's population declined by roughly **850,000 to 1.41175 billion** at the end of 2022.
- In China, **9.56 million** people were born in 2022, while **10.41 million** people died.
- China's birth rate last year was just **6.77 births per 1,000 people**, down from **7.52 births in 2021**, the lowest ever.
- The number of Chinese women of childbearing age, which the government defines as **25 to 35**, has declined by nearly **4 million**.
- This has caused domestic demographers to worry that China will grow old before it gets rich, slowing the economy as revenues decline and increasing government debt as health and welfare costs rise.

Impact of the One Child Policy

- The main reason for China's population decline is the **one-child policy** implemented between **1980 and 2015**.
- Additionally, **higher education in China is very expensive**, which has prohibited many Chinese people from having more than one child.
- The fundamental reason why women do not want children is the failure of society and men to take responsibility for raising children.
- **China's strict zero-covid policies** that were in force for three years have further damaged the country's demographic outlook.
- Local governments have introduced measures to encourage people to have more children from 2021, including tax cuts, longer maternity leave and housing subsidies.

2. UN declares Pakistan based Abdul Rehman Makki a global terrorist (Jan. 17, 2023)

Abdul Rehman Makki a global terrorist

On January 17, the [United Nations Security Council \(UNSC\)](#) listed Pakistan-based terrorist **Abdul Rehman Makki** as a global terrorist.

An overview of the news

- He has been declared a 'global terrorist' under **UNSC's ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee**.
- In **June 2022**, India criticised China for blocking the resolution of sanctions under the Sanctions Committee, also known as the **UNSC 1267 Committee**.
- Makki has already been listed as a terrorist by India and the United States for his involvement in fundraising, recruiting and radicalising youths to plan attacks in India, especially Jammu and Kashmir.

Who is Abdul Rehman Makki?

- Makki is the brother-in-law of **Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)** chief and 26/11 mastermind **Hafiz Saeed**.
- He heads the political affairs of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and also plays a role in raising funds for **Lashkar's operations**.
- The US government has placed a reward of **\$2 million** on Abdul Rahman.
- According to the US State Department, in 2020, a Pakistani anti-terrorism court convicted Makki on a terrorism financing count and sentenced him to prison.
- He is also a militant of **Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD)** and has been designated as a terrorist by India under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967**.

3. 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: **Cologne (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

4. Italian man sets Guinness World Record by creating 'mirror typing' books in ancient languages (Jan. 14, 2023)

According to a report by **Guinness World Records (GWR)**, an Italian man, **Michele Santaglia** has created a **world record** by typing copies of 81 books backwards, which is called '**mirror writing**'.

An overview of the news

- **Santaglia** types books using four completely **blank keyboards** without looking backwards.
- He types each book in its original language whether it be hieroglyphs, Old Hebrew, Traditional Chinese, Mayan, Etruscan, Cuneiform or Voynich glyphs.
- He reverse-typed the Bible, the Code of Hammurabi, the Epic of Gilgamesh, the Book of the Dead from ancient Egypt, the writings of Leonardo da Vinci.

- He is able to type using **16 computer keyboards** simultaneously located at different heights.
- He credits **Leonardo da Vinci** who inspired him to do mirror typing.
- **Santaglia** has given several books to various world figures over the years, including former US Presidents **Bill Clinton, George Bush and Barack Obama, Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI**, and former Italian Presidents **Carlo Ciampi and Giorgio Napolitano**.
- Also, he has compiled all the four Indian Vedas in a single book by reverse typing.

5. Lok Sabha Speaker to lead Parliamentary delegation to Kenya, Tanzania (Jan. 14, 2023)

Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** will lead a delegation to **Kenya and Tanzania** from January 16 to 21.

An overview of the news

- **The delegation includes** Chirag Paswan, Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak and S Phangnon Konyak (all Members of Parliament) and Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary General, Lok Sabha.
- During their visit to Tanzania, apart from meeting their host, the delegation will also call on the Vice President of Tanzania, **Philip Mpango**.
- The delegation will also visit places of cultural and historical importance.

About Kenya

- Kenya is a country in **East Africa**.
- President: **William Ruto**
- Capital: **Nairobi**
- Currency :**Kenyan shilling**

About Tanzania

- Tanzania, **East African country** situated just south of the Equator.
- President: **Samia Suluhu Hassan**
- Capital: **Dodoma**
- Currency: **Tanzanian shilling**

6. EU Inaugurates First Mainland Satellite Launch Port (Jan. 14, 2023)

European officials and Swedish King **Carl XVI Gustaf** inaugurated the **EU's first mainland orbital launch complex** on 13 January during a visit to **Sweden** by members of the European Commission, which is the **27-nation bloc's executive arm**.

An overview of the news

- The European Union is looking to boost its ability to launch **small satellites** into space with a new launchpad in arctic Sweden.
- The new facility inaugurated at the **Esrang Space Center** near the **city of Kiruna** will complement the EU's current launching capabilities in French Guiana.
- The tiny satellites are vital for tracking natural disasters in real time and helping to guarantee **global security** in light of Russia's war in Ukraine.
- The total number of satellites could reach **100,000 by 2040** as compared to the current **5,000 operational satellites**.

European Union (EU)

- It is an international organisation made up of European countries, which was **formed in 1993**.
- It is a group of **27 countries** that act as a cohesive economic and political bloc.
- 19 of these countries use the **euro** as their official currency.
- Its goal is to promote peace and the well-being of all citizens of the EU.
- Headquarters: **Brussels, Belgium**

7. Uganda declares end of Ebola disease outbreak: WHO (Jan. 13, 2023)

Uganda declares end of Ebola disease outbreak: WHO

According to the statement released by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** Uganda declared the **end of the Ebola disease outbreak** caused by **Sudan ebolavirus** on Jan 11, 2023.

An overview of the news

- Uganda has managed to bring the outbreak to an end in less than four months after the first case was confirmed on September 20, 2022, in **Central Mubende District**.

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

- Formerly known as **Ebola hemorrhagic fever**, it is a rare, severe and fatal disease in humans.
- The Ebola virus was first discovered in **1976 near the Ebola River** in what is now the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**.
- The first case of the disease was reported in **Guinea** in December 2013. Later, the disease spread to neighbouring **Liberia and Sierra Leone**.

Transmission of disease

- The virus is transmitted from **wild animals** to people and through human-to-human transmission (zoonotic nature) to human populations.

Symptoms of the disease

- Fever, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, and sore throat.
- This is followed by vomiting, diarrhea, rash, liver and kidney dysfunction, and in some cases, internal and external bleeding.

Treatment of the disease

- The **Arvebo vaccine** has been shown to be effective in protecting people from the **Zaire ebolavirus species**.
- **Remdesivir** was also tested as an Ebola treatment.

8. Indian High Commission signs MoU to establish Hindi Chair at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (Jan. 12, 2023)

Indian High Commission signs MoU to establish Hindi Chair at Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

After **World Hindi Day**, the **Indian High Commission** signed an MoU to establish a **Hindi Chair at Sabaragamuwa University in Sri Lanka**.

An overview of the news

- High Commissioner **Gopal Bagale** and Vice-Chancellor of Sabaragamuwa University **Prof. Uday Ratnayake** signed an MoU for establishment of Hindi Chair for cultural engagement through **Indian Council for Cultural Relations**.
- The Hindi Chair will help to acquaint the students with India, its **history and culture**.
- This will pave the way for popularising Hindi by appointing Indian faculties.
- The Indian High Commissioner emphasised on sustainable use of resources by adopting innovative strategies in the event.

- The Indian Mission will award a **gold medal** to the best-performing student of the Hindi Chair.

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

- It is a public university in **Belihuloya, Balangoda, Sri Lanka**.
- It was established on **20 November 1991** and consists of nine faculties.

9. US to support restoration of Hyderabad's Paigah tombs (Jan. 12, 2023)

Financial assistance of **\$250,000** (through the US Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation) will be provided by the **US** for the conservation and restoration of **6 Paigah tombs** built in the **18th-19th centuries in Hyderabad**.

An overview of the news

- The project will be implemented by the **Aga Khan Trust for Culture**.
- **Paigah Tombs Complex** is a protected complex of the Department of Archaeology, Government of Telangana.
- The Paigah Tomb (or Tomb Shams al-Umra) is a mausoleum belonging to the nobility of the **Paigah family**, who served the **Nizam of Hyderabad** (Asaf Jahi dynasty).
- The construction of this mausoleum was started by **Nawab Tegjung Bahadur in 1787** and later his son **Amir-e-Kabir I** helped in its construction.
- It is also known for its architectural design. It is believed that the architectural style of the **mausoleum** is unique in the whole world.
- The mausoleum is decorated with lime marble and shows a mixture of **Greek, Persian, Mughal, Rajasthani, Asif Jahi and Deccani architecture**.
- The Paigahs were among the most **influential and powerful families** of Hyderabad in the 18th century. They were wealthier than most rulers, as well as responsible for the security and defence of the region.
- The Paigahs claim to be descended from **Hazrat Umar bin al-Khattab**, the second Caliph of Islam.

10. 13th India-US Trade Policy Forum (Jan. 12, 2023)

Piyush Goyal was on an official visit to **New York and Washington DC** from January 9-11 to participate in the **India-US Trade Policy Forum**.

An overview of the news

- The **13th Trade Policy Forum (TPF)** meeting was hosted by **US Trade Representative Catherine Tai** in **Washington** on 11 January.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal at the forum urged the US to expedite the **issuance of business visas** so that people can make short trips to pursue their trade and business interests.
- After participating in the forum, he said that the issuance of business visas in India is taking a long time and needs to be expedited so that investments are not affected.
- His visit included delegation-level talks and a meeting with **US Trade Representative Ambassador Catherine Tai**.
- There is an increasing movement of professionals, students, skilled workers, investors and business travellers between the two countries.
- According to the commerce ministry, in **2021-22**, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at **USD 119.42 billion** as against **USD 80.51 billion in 2020-21**.

About the India-US Trade Policy Forum

- It is a platform for continued engagement between the two countries in the field of **trade** and to further enhance bilateral trade and **investment ties**.
- The **12th TPF** Ministerial Conference was held in **New Delhi** on 23 November 2021 after a gap of four years.