

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. 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**

### **2. 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**

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### **4. 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**

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### **6. PM Modi attended FIPIC summit in Papua New Guinea ( May 24, 2023 )**

India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)

PM Modi attended the **third India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit in Papua New Guinea** 23 May. **14 countries from the Pacific Islands (PICs)** attended the summit.

An overview of the news

- The summit was led by Papua New Guinea's **PM James Marape and PM Modi.**
- As part of **India's Act East Policy**, the Prime Minister of India announced a **12-point development plan** for the Pacific Island Nations.
- The 12-point development plan focuses on a number of areas including health care, renewable energy and cyber security.
- The two leaders also launched a translation of the Tamil classic '**Thirukkural**' to the Tok Pisin language of Papua New Guinea.
- The translated book is co-authored by linguist Subha **Sasindran and Sasindran Muthuvel**, Governor of West New Britain Province of Papua New Guinea.

### **PM Modi's 12-point action plan**

- A 100-bed regional super specialty hospital in Fiji

- Setting up a regional IT and cyber security training hub in Papua New Guinea
- Sagar Amrut Scholarships-100 scholarships in the next five years
- Jaipur foot camp in Papua New Guinea in 2023
- FIPIC SME development project,
- A solar project for government buildings
- Provide desalination units for drinking water
- Supply sea ambulances
- Set up dialysis unit
- Emergency helpline number
- Set up Jan Aushadi kendras
- Set up yoga centres.

### **Pacific Island nations**

- The Pacific Islands are island geographic regions of the **Pacific Ocean**.
- Pacific Island nations include the **Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu**.

### **About India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC)**

- It was launched during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Fiji in November 2014.
- FIPIC includes India and 14 of the island countries - **Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu**.

### **About FIPIC summit**

- FIPIC-I, in 2014, took place at **Suva, Fiji's capital city**.
- India announced various development assistance initiatives and other cooperation projects in areas of **climate change, trade, economy, telemedicine and tele education, IT, grants for community development projects, etc.**
- **FIPIC-II summit** took place in 2015 in **Jaipur**.
- In 2019, the Leaders of the **Indo-Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS)** meeting (consisting of delegations from 12 of the 14 Pacific Island countries) was held in **New York** on September 24, 2019.

## **7. 76th World Health Assembly at Geneva ( May 23, 2023 )**

76th-World-Health-Assembly-at-Geneva

Union Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** will represent India in the **76th World Health Assembly at Geneva, Switzerland** to be held from 21st to 30th May 2023.

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

- In line with India's commitment to a healthier world, the Union Health Minister will deliver the keynote address at the side events of '**Heal in India and Heal by India**' as well as '**Together We Fight Against TB**'.
- During his stay till 24 May 2023, Mandaviya will participate in **various bilateral meetings with countries across the world**.
- He will promote opportunities for health-related cooperation among the participating countries.
- The bilateral meetings will engage representatives from **Singapore, France, Netherlands, USA, Bangladesh, Argentina, Brazil, Qatar and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**.
- Additionally, a multilateral meeting is also scheduled with representatives from **BRICS (Brazil, Russia, China and South-Africa)**.

### **Key agenda for assembly**

- Discussions and deliberations on the issues of Universal Health Coverage.
- Public Health Emergencies
- Health & Well-Being
- Emphasising the importance of global collaborations and partnerships for building resilient global health architecture.
- Collectively striving to achieve Universal Health Coverage through value-based healthcare.

### **About World Health Assembly**

- The **World Health Assembly** is the **decision-making body of WHO**.
- It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the **Executive Board**.
- The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget.
- The Health Assembly is held annually in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

### **8. 2nd Trade and Investment Working Group meeting begins in Bengaluru ( May 23, 2023 )**

2nd Trade and Investment Working Group meeting begins in Bengaluru

On 23 May, the **second Trade and Investment Working Group meeting** under the G20 India Presidency began in **Bengaluru**.

### **An Overview of the News**

- It is a three-day meeting and is attended by **75 delegates from G20 countries**, invited countries and regional/international organisations.
- The objective of the Bengaluru meeting is to address issues related to international trade and investment and seek agreeable solutions.
- Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry **Som Prakash** inaugurated the seminar.
- The meeting discussed reforming the multilateral trading system and finding agreeable solutions for international trade and investment.
- An exhibition of Indian Startups is also a part of the event.
- The first Trade and Investment Working Group meeting was held in Mumbai.

### **About the G20**

- It is an **international forum of the world's leading economies established in 1999**.
- Its **primary objective** is to promote international financial stability and sustainable economic growth.
- The G20 serves as a forum to discuss and coordinate policies related to a wide range of economic and financial issues such as trade, investment, employment, energy and climate change.

### **Karnataka:**

- It is a state in southwest India and is bordered by **Maharashtra to the north, Goa to the northwest, Andhra Pradesh to the east, Tamil Nadu to the southeast, and Kerala to the southwest**.
- **Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka**, is known as the "**Silicon Valley of India**" and is a major centre of technology and innovation.
- Hampi, located in northern Karnataka, was once the capital of the **Vijayanagara Empire** and is now a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- Kannada is the official language of Karnataka, although English and Hindi are also widely spoken.

Chief minister - **Siddaramaiah**

Governor - **Thawar Chand Gehlot**

Official Animal - **Indian Elephant**

Official Bird - **Indian Roller**

Official Dance - **Yakshagana**

Official Song - **Jaya Bharat Jananiya Tanujate**

## **9. Second G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group meeting begins in Mumbai ( May 23, 2023 )**

The **second meeting of the G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG)** began on 23 May in **Mumbai**.

### **An Overview of the News**

- **The objective** of the meeting is to reduce the impact of disasters on vulnerable communities.
- **The meeting aims** to identify opportunities and examine creative financing mechanisms for disaster risk reduction.
- Government officials, industry experts, private sector representatives and stakeholders from more than twenty countries participated in the three-day meeting.
- The meeting is based on the theme of "**Financing for DRR**" from the first DRRWG meeting held in Gandhinagar.
- The Coastal Road Project in Mumbai was discussed during the DRRWG meeting.

### **About Maharashtra**

It is a state located in the **western part of India** and covers a significant part of the Deccan Plateau.

Chief Minister - **Eknath Shinde**

Governor - **Ramesh Bais**

Official Animal - **Indian giant squirrel**

Official Bird - **Yellow-footed Green Pigeon**

Official Dance - **Lavani**

## **10. India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development virtually launched ( May 23, 2023 )**

India-US-Working

The **Ministry of Education, Government** of India and US Department of State on 22 May launched the **India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development** in virtual mode.

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



- Its aim is **to enhance cooperation and collaboration between the two countries** in the field of education and skill development.
- Both sides acknowledged the importance of **skilling and vocational education** in an industry-centric era.
- Recognizing the need to align skill training programs with industry requirements, both sides agreed to promote partnerships between educational institutions, industry stakeholders and relevant government agencies.
- The collaboration aims to bridge the skill gap, increase employability and promote entrepreneurship in both the countries.
- The delegations from both sides expressed their commitment **to strengthen cooperation in education and skill development between India and the United States.**
- The establishment of an India-US Working Group on Education and Skill Development was **announced during the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** held between India and the US in **Washington DC** in April 2022.

### **Topic of discussion**

- Skilling and vocational education
- Certification and recognition
- Matchmaking between U.S. and Indian higher educational institutions
- Engaging with the Private Sector