

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

Current Affairs search results for tag: national-news

### 1. Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Sittwe Port in Myanmar ( May 10, 2023 )

Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Sittwe Port in Myanmar

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH **Sarbananda Sonowal** and Deputy Prime Minister of Myanmar **Admiral Tin Aung San** jointly inaugurated **Sittwe Port in Myanmar on 9 May.**

#### An overview of the news

- **Admiral Tin Aung San** also received the **first Indian cargo ship** which was flagged off from **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata.**
- The development of Sittwe port will **reduce the cost and time of movement of goods between Kolkata and Agartala and Aizawl** by 50 per cent.
- It will promote trade links and people-to-people ties between India and Myanmar and the wider region and help boost the economic development of the northeastern states.

#### About Sittwe port

- The project was envisaged to provide **alternative connectivity of Mizoram with Haldia, Kolkata** or any Indian port through **Kaladan River in Myanmar.**
- Sittwe Port has been developed as a part of the **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP)** funded under grant-in-aid assistance from the Indian government.
- Once the waterway and road components of the KMTTP are fully operational, the east coast of India will be **connected to the north-eastern states through the Sittwe port.**
- The commissioning of Sittwe port will increase **bilateral and regional trade** as well as boost the local economy of **Myanmar's Rakhine state.**
- The greater connectivity provided by the Port will **lead to employment opportunities and enhanced growth prospects in the region.**

#### About Myanmar

- It is a country located in **Southeast Asia** and is bordered by **India, Bangladesh, China, Laos and Thailand.**
- The capital city of Myanmar is **Naypyidaw**, which was officially designated as the **capital in 2005.**
- President - **Myint Swe (Acting)**
- Prime Minister - **Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing**
- Currency - **Myanmar kyat**

## **2. India Post signs MoU with CAIT and Tripta Technologies ( May 9, 2023 )**

India Post signs MoU with CAIT and Tripta Technologies

**India Post** has **signed an MoU** with **Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT)** and **Tripta Technologies** for **logistics services**.

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

- The MoU will benefit **small and medium traders** as they will be able to use **India Post as a single logistics service** provider across the country.
- The partnership between India Post, CAIT and Tripta Technologies will provide **shipping and last mile delivery services to CAIT's** strong merchant base and small and medium business in the unorganized sector.
- The MoU is a significant milestone in **taking e-commerce to smaller towns and rural areas** and is expected to benefit thousands of merchants.

### **India Post Payment Bank (IPPB)**

- It is a payment bank started by the **Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communications, Government of India**.
- IPPB was launched as a pilot project on **30 January 2017 in Ranchi (Jharkhand) and Raipur (Chhattisgarh)**.
- It was formally launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 September 2018**.
- Headquarters of IPPB: **New Delhi**
- Bank's Punchline: **Apna Bank Aapke Dwaar**
- Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer: **J Venkataramu**

## **3. Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar launches Phase-III of Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana ( May 9, 2023 )**

Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar launches Phase-III of Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana

**Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar**, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare on 8th May **launched the third phase of Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana (TBSY)** of the **Health Ministry**.

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

- She also launched the **Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana Portal**.
- Dr Pawar also released the **Standard Treatment Workflow for Sickle Cell Disease** on the occasion. This has been developed by ICMR.

- The Union Minister further highlighted the need to take advantage of various initiatives of the Union Government for treatment of diseases like sickle cell anemia such as the **e-Raktkosh portal** for blood transfusion requirements.

### **Phase-III of Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana**

- The third phase of the program will continue to provide financial assistance towards the package cost of **10 lakh per HSCT**, which will be directly transferred from CIL to the institutions performing HSCT.
- The program will benefit underprivileged thalassemia patients and people with aplastic anaemia.
- **10 reputed hospitals across India** have been empaneled under the programme.

### **About Thalassemia**

- Thalassemia is an **inherited blood disorder** that causes the human body to have less **haemoglobin** than normal.
- **World Thalassemia Day** is observed every year on **8 May** to spread awareness about this condition.
- **Iron deficiency** is the most common and can cause **extreme tiredness, shortness of breath, weakness and cold hands and feet.**
- Iron is a mineral that our body needs for **growth, development and making haemoglobin.**
- **Haemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells** that carries **oxygen from the lungs to all parts of the body.**
- Iron is a cofactor for neurotransmitters and is important for the synthesis and metabolism of hormones.

## **4. 27th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council ( May 9, 2023 )**

27th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council

Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 27th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** on 8th May in New Delhi.

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

- During the meeting of the Council, it was discussed that necessary policy and legislative reform measures can be formulated to further develop the financial sector.
- This will not only help in increasing the financial access of the people but also enhance their overall economic well-being.

## **Highlights of the meeting**

- Regulators should maintain constant vigil to ensure that 'financial sector stability is a shared responsibility'.
- Regulators should adopt a focused approach to reduce the compliance burden further and ensure a streamlined and efficient regulatory environment.
- The regulators need to be proactive and ensure cyber-security preparedness of the information technology systems to reduce the risk of cyber-attacks.
- Safeguarding the stability and resilience of the Indian financial ecosystem.
- Regulators should conduct a special drive to facilitate the settlement of unclaimed deposits and claims in the financial sector.
- Action Taken Report on Budget announcements made since 2019 was discussed.

## **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)**

- It was set up on the recommendation of the **Raghu Ram Rajan committee** on “**Financial Sector Reform**”.
- FSDC was set up by the Government of India in **2010**.

## **Function of the FSDC**

- The Council monitors macro prudential supervision of the economy, including functioning of large financial conglomerates, and addresses inter-regulatory coordination and financial sector development issues.
- It also focuses on financial literacy and financial inclusion.

## **5. 6th India- Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment ( May 9, 2023 )**

**Sixth India- Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment (MDTI)** held on 9th May in **Ottawa**.

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

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, **Piyush Goyal** along with **Mary Ng**, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, Government of Canada co-chaired the discussions.
- The Ministers also reviewed the **India-Canada CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) negotiations**.
- In the last MDTI meeting in March 2022, the two ministers launched **CEPA negotiations** with the possibility of having an **interim agreement or EPTA (Early Progress Trade Agreement)**. Since then seven rounds of talks have taken place.

- Goyal participated in various events to promote trade and investment in Toronto from 9 to 10 May 2023.
- Piyush Goyal inaugurated the **India Pavilion at SIAL Canada-2023**, the largest food innovation trade show in North America with participation of over 1000 national and international exhibitors from 50 countries.

### **Topics of Dialogue**

- Strengthening bilateral trade relations between India and Canada
- Investment Promotion and Cooperation
- Green transition - discussions on critical minerals and promotion of new areas of cooperation such as B2B engagement.

### **About Canada**

- Canada, the **second largest country in the world in area (after Russia)**.
- Prime Minister - **Justin Trudeau**
- Capital - **Ottawa**
- Currency - **Canadian dollar**
- King of Canada (British Monarch) - **Charles III**
- Official Languages - **English; French**

## **6. Petersberg Climate Dialogue 2023 ( May 9, 2023 )**

Petersberg Climate Dialogue 2023

The **Petersberg Dialogue on Climate Change** was held in **Berlin from May 2-3, 2023**.

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

- The Petersberg Climate Dialogue (PCD) was **hosted by Germany** and the **United Arab Emirates**, which is hosting the 28th **Conference of the Parties (COP28)** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**.
- Ministers from **40 countries attended** the conference to discuss the way forward towards COP28.
- The main topics of discussion at the event were **renewable targets, climate finance and global stocktake**.

### **Key points of the summit**

- To limit **global warming to 1.5°C**, the world needs to cut its greenhouse gas emissions at a rapid pace.
- The conference agreed to focus on phasing out **fossil fuel emissions** while phasing out **viable, affordable zero-carbon alternatives**.
- It calls for tripling renewable energy capacity by **2030 and then doubling it by 2040**.
- 2023 is the year of **Global Stocktech**. The Global Stocktake is essentially a periodic review of global climate action aimed at assessing whether current efforts will enable us to reach the objectives set out in the Paris Agreement.

### **Conference of Parties(COP)**

- Every year, the United Nations organizes a climate summit where the main agenda of the parties is **to limit global temperature rise**.
- These summits are called **Conference of the Parties (COPs)**.
- Participants come from **197 countries** that have signed the **1992 United Nations Climate Accord**.
- Its purpose is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere to prevent dangerous interference from human activity on the climate system.
- The agreement seeks to limit global warming to well **below 2 °C, preferably 1.5 °C**, compared to pre-industrial levels.
- It was signed in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**. **Since 1994**, COPs have been organised every year. **Year 2023 marks the 28th summit, called the COP28 summit**.
- The **COP28** conference will be held in **Dubai** from 30 November to 12 December 2023.

## **7. Project-SMART for Station Area Development ( May 8, 2023 )**

### Project-SMART for Station Area Development

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Ministry of Railways jointly signed an MoU with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for 'Station Area Development along Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail' (Project-SMART).

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

- MoUs were signed for four high speed rail stations – Sabarmati, Surat in Gujarat and Virar and Thane in Maharashtra.
- Surat, Virar and Thane are green fields while Sabarmati is a brown field development.

### **Project-SMART**

- Project-SMART envisages developing areas around Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Railway (MAHSR) stations to enhance accessibility and convenience for commuters and other stakeholders.
- The project will facilitate institutional capacity of state governments, municipal corporations and urban development authorities for planning, development and management of areas around MAHSR stations.
- MoHUA, Govts of Gujarat, Maharashtra and JICA are organizing a series of Seminars and field visits for the Project-SMART in Delhi, Ahmedabad and Mumbai.
- The first seminar of the Series has been organized at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi on 8th May, 2023.

## **8. Indian Air Force's MiG-21 crashes near Hanumangarh in Rajasthan ( May 8, 2023 )**

Indian Air Force's MiG-21 crashes near Hanumangarh in Rajasthan

Three people died after a MiG-21 fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh on 8th May.

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

- The fighter jet was doing a routine training sortie earlier in the day when it crashed.
- According to IAF sources, the MiG-21 jet had taken off from Suratgarh.

### **MiG 21 and its high crash rates :**

- Mikoyan and Gurevich were two Soviet engineers who designed the MiG series of fighter jets for the Soviet Union.
- India inducted MiG-21 fighters in 1963 and it inducted a total 874 planes.
- More than 400 MiG-21s have been involved in accidents that have claimed the lives of around 200 pilots during the last six decades.
- One of the main reasons for the high rates of crashes is that it is the largest number of planes in the IAF.
- The IAF has been forced to fly Mig-21 despite the fact that it has outlived its age.
- The government of India has failed to buy an adequate number of planes to replace existing MiG -21 planes.
- Now the government plans to replace the MiG-21 plane with the various versions of the indigenously developed Tejas fighter Aircraft.

## **9. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Indian Air Force Heritage Center in Chandigarh ( May 8, 2023 )**

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Indian Air Force Heritage Center in Chandigarh

Defense Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the **Indian Air Force Heritage Center in Chandigarh** on 8 April.

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

- During the function, the minister also laid the foundation stone of Center for Cyber Ops and Security.
- The Heritage Center displayed artefacts, simulators and interactive boards highlighting various aspects of operations in the Indian Air Force.
- The centre also displayed vintage aircraft and underlined the important role played by the Air Force in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief as well as its combat capabilities.
- The Heritage Center aims to inspire the youth of Chandigarh to pursue a career in the Indian Air Force.
- The inauguration of the Indian Air Force Heritage Center was a momentous event that celebrated the history, achievements and contribution of the Indian Air Force to the nation.

### **About Chandigarh**

- It is the capital of two northern Indian states, both Punjab and Haryana.
- The city was designed in the 1950s by Le Corbusier, a Swiss-French modernist architect.
- The Capitol Complex, which includes the High Court, the Secretariat and the Legislative Assembly, is one of Le Corbusier's most prominent buildings in Chandigarh.
- The Open Hand Monument is another iconic structure in the city, designed by Le Corbusier to represent "the hand to give and the hand to take".
- The Rock Garden, located near the Capitol Complex, is a popular tourist attraction in Chandigarh.

Mayor - **Sarabjit Kaur**

Official Animal - **Indian Gray Mongoose**

Official Bird - **Indian Gray Hornbill**

Official Flower - **Sacred Tree**

Official tree - **Mangifera indica**

### **10. Border Haat between India and Bangladesh inaugurated at Bholaganj in Sylhet ( May 7, 2023 )**

Border Haat between India and Bangladesh inaugurated at Bholaganj in Sylhet



On 6 May a new **border-haat** was inaugurated between **India and Bangladesh at Bholaganj under Companyganj Upazila of Sylhet.**

**An overview of the news**

- Bangladesh's Minister for Migrant Welfare and Overseas Employment **Imran Ahmed** and India's Assistant High Commissioner **Neeraj Kumar Jaiswal** jointly inaugurated the border-haat.
- The opening of the border haat at Bholaganj on the **border between Sylhet in Bangladesh and the East Khasi Hills of Meghalaya** was greeted with great enthusiasm by people on both sides of the border.
- This is the **fourth border haat in Sylhet division**, out of which **three are currently functioning**. There are plans to open three more border haats in Sylhet division.
- The Border Haat will open from **10 am to 4 pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays.**
- The Bholaganj Border Haat will have 26 stalls from India and 24 stalls from Bangladesh, where traditional items from both the countries will be sold duty free.
- The **first border haats were inaugurated in 2011 at Kalaichar in West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya and Kurigram in Bangladesh.**