

Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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1. Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships awarded to 300 students in Sri Lanka (May 21, 2023)

Recently **three hundred school students** from all **25 districts of Sri Lanka** have received the prestigious **Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship**.

An overview of the news

- Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka **Gopal Baglay**, Sri Lankan Education Minister **Dr. Sushil Premjayantha** and Minister of State for Education **A.K. Arvind Kumar** provided scholarships to the students.
- The scholarship provides **2500 Sri Lankan Rupees per student per month** to the top six students from each district based on merit.
- This year, two batches of scholarships were awarded simultaneously to compensate for the disruptions caused by **COVID-19** during the period 2021-2022.
- During the ceremony, the High Commissioner emphasized the importance of bilateral cooperation in the education sector for the bright future of the youth in Sri Lanka and India.
- Drawing parallels between the philosophies of **Mahatma Gandhi and Buddha**, he said Gandhi's ideals remain relevant even in a rapidly changing world.

Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship

- Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship plays a vital role in **promoting educational opportunities for students in Sri Lanka**.
- By providing financial support, these scholarships enable students to pursue their **academic aspirations and fulfill their potential**.
- In addition to the Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship, the Government of India offers about **210 scholarships annually to Sri Lankan students** in fields such as **engineering, technology, arts, science and indigenous medicine**.
- The **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Scheme** offers over **400 scholarships** to Sri Lankan government officials to enhance their domain knowledge.
- Furthermore, there are thousands of seats available for Sri Lankan students in India under the Study in India program.

2. Panel discussion on 'Role of G20 in creating global economic stability' (May 21, 2023)

A recent panel discussion held in **Dubai** highlighted the **important role of the G20 in creating global economic stability**.

An overview of the news

- A panel discussion held in Dubai shed light on the vital role of the G20 in creating global economic stability.
- The event took place on the sidelines of the International Conference jointly organized by the Indian Institute of Management Rohtak, Academy for Global Business Advancement, and Council for Strategic Affairs.

Importance of the G20

- The panelists highlighted the significance of the G20 in the current international order.
- The group plays a multifaceted role in creating global economic stability, fostering inclusive growth, ensuring financial stability, promoting balanced and sustainable growth, and effectively managing and preventing crises.

Panelists and insights

- The panel consisted of Manjeev Singh Puri, former ambassador of India to Nepal, Prof Tatiana Karabchuk from UAE University, and Prof Mayssa Banat from Rafik Hariri University in Lebanon.
- They provided valuable insights into the G20's role and its impact on global economic stability.
- The discussion was moderated by Prof. Dheeraj Sharma, the Director of IIM Rohtak.

G20 as a platform for decision-making

- Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri highlighted the G20's ability to bring together leaders from the world's largest economies and facilitate effective decision-making and implementation through national and multinational systems.
- Despite lacking de jure power, the G20 possesses significant de facto power, making it influential in driving positive change globally.

Specific areas of impact

- The panelists delved into specific areas where the G20 can make a significant impact.
- Prof Tatiana Karabchuk emphasized the importance of public opinion polls for informed decision-making and suggested the G20's role in implementing necessary changes in online education.
- Prof Mayssa Banat emphasized the power of language education in overcoming barriers and shaping global economic policies.

G20's contribution to global economic stability

- The panel discussion showcased the diverse aspects of the G20's role in fostering cooperation among major economies and driving sustainable development.

- The group's focus on inclusive growth, financial stability, crisis management, and balancing de jure and de facto power within global institutions is essential for global economic stability.

3. Centre promulgates ordinance to constitute National Capital Civil Services Authority (May 20, 2023)

Centre-promulgates-ordinance-to-constitute-National-Capital-Civil-Services-Authority

Centre on 19th May **promulgated an ordinance to create a National Capital Civil Service Authority** that will have the **power to recommend the transfer and posting of all Group A officers serving in Delhi.**

An overview of the news

- The Ordinance, 2023 is being seen as an attempt to nullify last week's judgment by a **constitution bench of the Supreme Court, which had handed over the reins of "services" to the Delhi government.**
- The court then underlined the importance of the mandate of the people in a democracy expressed through an elected government.
- With a view to constitute this Authority for transfer of '**Group-A' officers of 'DANICS' (Delhi, Andaman-Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Civil) Services) Cadre**, the Central Government has issued this Ordinance.
- The Authority will be **headed by the Chief Minister** of Delhi and will include the **Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary, Home.**
- All matters to be decided by the Authority shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting.
- The **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)** has alleged that the Centre's ordinance on transfer of bureaucrats in Delhi is "unconstitutional" and a move to usurp the powers given to the Delhi government by the Supreme Court in service matters.
- This, effectively, means two bureaucrats, appointed by the Centre, could **over-rule the elected CM.**

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5. Department of Pharmaceuticals to organise International Conference on 'India Pharma and India Medical Devices' (May 20, 2023)

India-Medical-Devices

Department of Pharmaceuticals, **International Conference on 'India Pharma and India Medical Devices'** will be organised on 26th May and the **8th edition** of this conference will be inaugurated by **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers.

An Overview of the News

- The Department of Pharmaceuticals is partnering with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** for the event.
- The aim of the conference is to showcase India as a manufacturing hub for high quality medical products in the pharmaceutical and medical devices sector.
- During the conclave, Dr. Mandaviya will launch the **National Medical Devices Policy-2023** and **Export Promotion Council for Medical Devices.**
- A new scheme called '**Medical Device Clusters for Common Facilities (AMD-CF)**' will also be launched, focusing on strengthening or setting up of common infrastructure and testing facilities for medical devices.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI):

- It is a **non-governmental trade association** and advocacy group based in India.

- **Subhrakant**, Managing Director of Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Limited has been appointed as the President of FICCI for 2022-2023.
- He took over from **Sanjiv Mehta** during the 95th **Annual Convention held in New Delhi**.

Formation - **1927**

Founder - **Ghanshyam Das Birla, Purushottamdas Thakurdas**

Headquarters - **New Delhi**

6. India Achieves 47 % growth in Coal Production during last Nine Years (May 20, 2023)

Coal-Production

During the last nine years, India's total coal production has increased by 47 percent to 893.08 million tonnes (MT) and supply has reached 877.74 million tonnes, registering a growth of 45.37 percent.

An overview of the news

- In FY2023, the country has made a huge jump in the history of **coal production with 893.08 MT**.
- As per the action plan for 2023-24 of the Ministry of Coal, there is a **target of 1012 million tonnes of coal production in the financial year 2023-24** by increasing overall **production, efficiency, stability and adoption of new technologies**.
- During the financial year 2022-23, the Ministry of Coal has signed agreements for a total of 23 coal mines with a cumulative peak rated capacity (PRC) of **33.224 MT per annum**.
- It is expected that 25 coal blocks will be allotted for commercial mining during the **financial year 2023-24**.

Mission 'Coking Coal'

- Mission 'Coking Coal' has been launched by the government in August 2021 with a roadmap that will suggest ways **to increase production and utilization of domestic coking coal in India by 2030**.
- In this mission, mainly recommendations related to new **exploration, increasing production, increasing washing capacity, auction of new coking coal mines** have been made.

Objective of Mission 'Coking Coal'

- To increase coking coal production from 52 million tonnes (MT) in FY2022 to 140 MT in FY2030.
- To increase coking coal washing capacity from 23 MT in FY2022 to 61 MT in FY2023.

Use of Coking Coal

- It is mainly used in the manufacture of steel through the **blast furnace route**.
- Domestic coking coal generates very **high ash content (mostly between 18%-49%)** which is not suitable for direct use in blast furnaces.
- To reduce the ash percentage, the coking coal is washed and Indian prime and medium coking coal (<18% ash) is blended with imported coking coal (<9% ash) before use in the blast furnace.

7. Supreme Court gets two new judges (May 20, 2023)

Supreme-Court-gets-two-new-judges

CJI DY Chandrachud administered the oath of office to **Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and senior advocate Kalpathy Venkataraman Viswanathan** as a judge of the Supreme Court on 19th May.

An overview of the news

- With this, the total strength of judges in the Supreme Court has gone up to the **sanctioned strength of 34**.
- However, the number of Supreme Court justices will remain at its highest level for only a short period as **three judges are due to retire in June**.
- Justice **KM Joseph, Justice Ajay Rastogi and Justice V Ramasubramanian** are set to complete their tenure next month during the summer vacation.
- Summer vacation of the apex court will run from **May 22 to July 2**.
- **Justice Vishwanathan**, the newly appointed Supreme Court judge, will become the **Chief Justice of India after the retirement of Justice JB Pardiwala on August 11, 2030**, and will hold office till May 25, 2031.
- The warrant of appointment of Justice Mishra and Justice Vishwanathan as judges of the apex court was issued by the office of President Draupadi Murmu on May 18.

Appointment of Judges : Collegium System

- The **collegium system in India refers to the process of appointment and transfer of judges** in the higher judiciary, which includes the Supreme Court and the High Courts.
- Under this system, a collegium of the Chief Justice of India and four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court recommend appointments and transfers to the President of India, who has the power to make the appointments.
- The system was **established by a 1993** judgement of the Supreme Court and has been the subject of controversy and criticism.

- Some have criticized it for **lack of transparency and accountability**, while others
- have defended it as necessary to ensure the independence of the judiciary.

National Judicial Appointments Commission

- The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) was a proposed body in India that was intended to replace the existing collegium system for the **appointment and transfer of judges to the higher judiciary.**
- The NJAC Act was passed by the Indian Parliament in 2014, but it was later struck down by the Supreme Court of India in 2015 on the grounds that it violated the **basic structure of the Indian Constitution.**
- The court held that the NJAC Act sought to undermine the **independence of the judiciary and the basic feature of separation of powers between the executive and the judiciary.**
- As a result, the collegium system was restored and continues to be used for the appointment of judges to the higher judiciary in India.

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9. Big win for Twitter, Google at US Supreme Court in internet liability cases (May 20, 2023)

Big-win-for-Twitter

Recently social media platforms **Twitter and Google** have registered a **big victory in the US Supreme Court**. The court ruled that **Internet companies could not be held liable for content posted on their sites**.

An overview of the news

- The judges delivered their ruling on two cases in which families of victims of a **terrorist attack** claimed that Google and Twitter should be held accountable for aiding and abetting ISIS, which resulted in the death of their loved ones.
- The decision has far-reaching implications for the tech industry, intellectual property rights and freedom of expression.
- In particular, these judgments highlight the evolving legal landscape surrounding online platforms and their role in shaping public discourse.

10. PM Narendra Modi holds bilateral meeting with Japanese PM Fumio Kishida in Hiroshima (May 20, 2023)

PM-Narendra-Modi-holds-bilateral-meeting

On May 20, **PM Modi** held a bilateral meeting with his Japanese counterpart **Fumio Kishida** ahead of the **G-7 summit in Hiroshima, Japan.**

An Overview of the News

- Discussed enhancing India-Japan friendship in **trade, economy, culture and Indo-Pacific cooperation.**
- Emphasised efforts to synergize between the **G-7 and G-20 Presidencies and the voices of the Global South.**
- Prime Minister Modi unveiled a **statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Hiroshima as a symbol of friendship and peace.**
- G-7 summit priorities include **nuclear disarmament, economic resilience and security, regional issues, climate and energy, food and health, digitization and science and technology.**
- Later, Prime Minister Modi had a productive meeting with President of **South Korea Yoon Suk Yeol** to strengthen bilateral friendship in key developmental areas.

About G-7

- It is an **intergovernmental political forum.**
- It consists of seven member states: **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.**
- In addition to the seven member states, the European Union is also part of the G7 as a non-enumerated member.

Formation - **25 March 1973**

First G6 Summit - **15 November 1975**

Japan:

- It is also called **Nihon or Nippon** and is an archipelago in the **western Pacific Ocean in East Asia.**
- It is made up of four main islands **Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu** and **Honshu** is the largest island of Japan.
- Its highest mountain is **Mount Fuji.**
- It is the third largest economy in the world after the **United States and China.**

Capital - **Tokyo**

Currency - **Yen**

Prime Minister - **Fumio Kishida**

