

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. Paraguay's Colorado Party's Santiago Peña wins presidential election ( May 3, 2023 )**

Paraguay's Colorado Party's Santiago Peña wins presidential election

**Santiago Peña**, an economist from **Paraguay's ruling conservative Colorado party**, won the **country's presidential election**.

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

- The election was decided in a single round of voting, and with nearly all ballots counted, **Santiago Peña received over 42% of the vote**.
- His main challenger, **Efraín Alegre**, who represented the **Concertación Nacional coalition**, received about **28% of the vote**.
- The Colorado Party has been the dominant political force in Paraguay for more than 70 years, and Santiago Peña's victory solidified its hold on power.
- Despite an expected economic growth of more than 4% this year, Paraguay still struggles with high levels of poverty and corruption.

#### **About Paraguay**

- It is a country **located in the middle of South America**. It is a landlocked country, bordered by **Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia**.
- **Asuncion is the capital of Paraguay** and is situated on the banks of the Paraguay River.
- Official languages - **Paraguayan Guarani, Spanish**

### **2. 60th Foundation Day of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade ( May 3, 2023 )**

60th Foundation Day of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

**Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)**, New Delhi celebrated **Diamond Jubilee on 2nd May on 60th Foundation Day**.

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

- On the occasion, **Vice-Chancellor of IIFT Prof. Satinder Bhatia** released the commemorative issue of **Foreign Trade Review (FTR) Journal**.
- On this significant occasion, Prof. Satinder Bhatia, remembered Late **HD Shourie, the founding Director General of IIFT**.
- She mentioned that he was the **father figure to IIFTians**, who laid the foundation of IIFT with the motto, '**Excellence is a way of life**'.

- In the journey of 60 years, IIFT has consistently achieved better rankings among top business schools by earning AACSB accreditation for offering an impressive range of innovative MDP/EDP offered by the institute.

### **Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)**

- The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) was **established in 1963** as an **autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry** to contribute in the skill building for the external trade sector of India.
- It is one of the top business schools of India with a **special focus on Trade and Finance**.
- The Institute was granted “**Deemed to be University**” status in **2002**.
- It has campuses at **Delhi, Kolkata and Kakinada**.
- Vice Chancellor : **Prof. Satinder Bhatia**

### **3. Maiden ASEAN-India Maritime exercise begins in Singapore ( May 2, 2023 )**

Maiden ASEAN-India Maritime exercise begins in Singapore

**The first ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2023)** began on 2 May in **Singapore**.

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

- The maiden exercise is being conducted **off the coast of Singapore**.
- It aims **to enhance interoperability and exchange of best practices** among the participating navies.
- **INS Satpura and INS Delhi**, accompanied by RADM Gurcharan Singh, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, have reached Singapore to participate in the exercise.
- AIME 2023 will provide an opportunity for **Indian Navy and ASEAN navies** to work together closely and conduct seamless operations in the maritime domain.
- Indian Navy ships will also participate in the **International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC)** and the **International Maritime Defense Exhibition (IMDEX-23)**.
- The Philippine Navy has deployed its **missile frigate BRP Antonio Luna (FF-151)** with a 140-man crew of Naval Task Group 80.5 onboard in the exercise.

#### **Phase of the exercise**

- **Harbour Phase** - to be conducted at Changi Naval Base.
- **Sea Phase** - to be conducted in the South China Sea.

**INS Delhi and INS Satpura**

- **INS Delhi** is **India's first indigenously-built guided missile destroyer**.
- **INS Satpura**, is an **indigenously built guided missile stealth frigate** and are fitted with **state-of-the art weapons and sensors**.
- Both are part of the **Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam** and are under the operational command of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.

**4. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs signs MoU with RITES ( May 2, 2023 )**

The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **RITES Limited** on 2 May to **accelerate solid waste and used water management**.

**An overview of the news**

- The MoU was signed for **technical assistance for Solid Waste Management (SWM) under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0**.
- The Technical Support Unit (TSU) of RITES will assist **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-U) for a period of 3 years**.
- Under SWM, the areas of engagement will be process standardization and engineering design of **waste management facilities, like Material Recovery Facility, legacy waste etc**.
- Under Urban Waste Management (UWM), RITES will provide technical support for standards & specification in the field of **sewage and faecal sludge management**.
- RITES will assist with preparation of model tender documents and procurement in the field of sewage, wastewater management and **Solid Waste Management**.

**Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **second phase of the 'Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban'** on October 2, 2021, on the occasion of **Gandhi Jayanti**.
- It has been designed to make all **cities garbage free and achieve the goal of water conservation**.
- In this, a provision has also been made to store and filter waste water by adopting a complete liquid waste management system in cities with a **population of less than 1 lakh**.
- Under this, **3.5 lakh individual**, community and public toilets will be constructed for the population going to urban areas for employment in the **next 5 years**.
- Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was **launched on October 2, 2014** with the objective of promoting '**cleanliness and Sanitation**' in the society and the country.

## **5. India to hand-over fast Patrol Vessel ship & landing Craft to Maldives ( May 2, 2023 )**

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** will hand over a **fast patrol vessel and a landing craft to the Maldives** as India's "**gift**" during his visit to the island nation from May 1 to 3.

An overview of the news

- It will be an "**important landmark**" in building "**strong bonds**" of friendship between the two countries.
- Maldives is one of India's major maritime neighbors **in the Indian Ocean region and overall bilateral relations** between the two countries, including in the areas of **defense and security**, have been on the rise over the years.
- Singh will also review the implementation of various **India-aided projects in the Maldives** and interact with the Indian expatriate.
- India and Maldives are working together to effectively address common challenges including **maritime security, terrorism, radicalism, piracy, smuggling**, organized crime and natural disasters.

### **About Maldives**

- It is also called **Maldives Islands**, an independent island country in the **north-central Indian Ocean**.
- It extends more than **510 miles (820 km)** from north to **south and 80 miles (130 km)** from east to west.
- Basis of economy -**fisheries, tourism**
- Industries - **handicraft or cottage including the making of coir (coconut-husk fibre) and coir products, fish canning, and boatbuilding.**
- Capital -**Male**
- President -**Ibrahim Mohamed Solih**
- Official Language - **Dhivehi (Maldivian)**
- Official Religion - **Islam**
- Currency -**Rufiyaa**

## **6. ED raids Byju's premises, alleges FEMA violation ( May 2, 2023 )**

ED raids Byju's premises, alleges FEMA violation

The **Directorate of Foreign Exchange (ED)** carried out searches at three premises linked to **edtech firm Byju's in Bengaluru** in connection with its probe into alleged **foreign exchange violations**.

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

- ED recovered **several incriminating documents and digital data** during its searches.
- **“FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act)** searches have also revealed that the company has received Foreign Direct Investment of **Rs 28,000 crore (approx) during the period 2011 to 2023**.
- Apart from this, the company has also **remitted Rs 9,754 crore (approx)** to various countries during the same period in the name of Foreign Direct Investment.

### **About Foreign Exchange Management Act**

- It is an act which **mainly deals with the provisions relating to cross border trade and payments**.
- It defines the **procedures, formalities and practices** of all foreign exchange transactions in India.
- It was **brought in in 1999** as a replacement to the earlier **Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA)**.
- This act **came into force on 1 June 2000**.
- The head office of FEMA is known as **Directorate of Enforcement which is situated in Delhi**.
- Its **primary objective** is to help facilitate **external trade and payments in India**.
- FEMA is **applicable in all parts of India**.
- This applies equally to **offices and agencies located outside India**.

## **7. "Supreme Court confirms power to issue official decree of divorce in cases of irretrievable breakdown of marriage" ( May 2, 2023 )**

"Supreme Court confirms power to issue official decree of divorce in cases of irretrievable breakdown of marriage"

The Supreme Court is empowered to exercise its absolute powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to issue official orders of divorce to the consenting parties in cases of irretrievable breakdown of marriage.

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

- In such cases the period of six months prescribed under the Hindu Marriage Act may be waived.

- The judgement in a batch of petitions related to the exercise of absolute powers of the apex court to dissolve marriages between consenting parties without reference to family courts to wait for the mandatory period prescribed under Section 13-B of the Hindu Marriage Act I went.
- Article 142 empowers the apex court to pass such orders as may be necessary for "doing complete justice" in any matter pending before it.
- The matter was referred to a five-judge bench nearly five years ago on June 29, 2016, by a division bench of Justices Shiv Kirti Singh and R Bhanumathi (both retired) in a transfer petition.
- The Constitution Bench had reserved the decision on 29 September 2022 after hearing the arguments.

#### Hindu Marriage Act:

- It is a law that regulates marriages of Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs.
- It was enacted in 1955 and has been amended several times.
- This act defines the conditions for a Hindu marriage to be considered legally valid.
- These include monogamy, minimum age of marriage, stability of mind, absence of prohibited degrees of relationship, and ability to consummate the marriage.
- The Act provides for the registration of Hindu marriages. Registration of marriage is not mandatory but it is advisable as it serves as proof of marriage and facilitates settlement of disputes.
- The Act also recognizes the validity of prenuptial agreements.
- The Act provides for punishment for bigamy, dowry and cruelty to married women.

### **8. Government of India blocked 14 messenger mobile applications for spreading terror ( May 2, 2023 )**

Govt blocks 14 messenger mobile applications used in J&K for spreading terror

The **Government of India blocked 14 messenger mobile applications** widely used in **Jammu and Kashmir for spreading terror.**

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

- The banned apps were primarily used as **communication platforms to disseminate information in the field.**
- The messenger applications that have been banned include **Crypvisor, Enigma, SafeSwiss, Vikrame, Mediafire, Briar, Beechat, Nandbox, Conion, IMO, Elementor, Second Line, Jangi and Threema.**
- The Indian government found that these apps were being used by terrorists to communicate with their supporters and on-ground workers.

- The Center had earlier also banned **several Chinese apps** for being prejudicial to
- **India's sovereignty and integrity.**
  - The ban on these apps has been implemented under **Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000**, which empowers the government to block access to any website or mobile application that poses a threat to national security or public order.

### **About Jammu and Kashmir**

It was a state of **India until August 2019**, which was bifurcated as two union territories namely **Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on 31 August 2019.**

Capital- **Srinagar (May-October), Jammu (November-April)**

Lieutenant Governor - **Manoj Sinha**

Legislative Council - **36 seats**

Legislative Assembly - **89 seats**

Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, Justice - **Koteshwar Singh**

### **9. India to join international climate action in civil aviation from 2027 ( May 1, 2023 )**

**India will join the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA) and Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027.**

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

- This announcement was made in the meeting of the **Consultative Committee of the Parliament of the Ministry of Civil Aviation** under the **chairmanship of Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.**
- ICAO has adopted several key ambitious targets, including a **two percent annual fuel efficiency improvement by 2050, carbon neutral development, and net zero by 2050, all covered under CORSA and LTAG.**
- India's Ministry of Civil Aviation stated that joining these measures from 2027 would help airlines from developing countries like India to achieve greater growth and avoid adverse **financial consequences due to CORSA.**
- The financial impact caused by offsetting will be borne by individual airlines based on their international operations, and CORSA only applies to flights originating from one country to another.

#### **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO):**

- It is a **specialised agency of the United Nations** and its primary function is to **coordinate the principles and techniques of international air navigation.**

- The organisation is also responsible for promoting the **planning and development of international air transport.**
- ICAO's mission is to ensure the **safe and orderly development of the international aviation industry.**
- The organisation works with its member states to **develop and implement policies and regulations related to air navigation and air transport.**
- ICAO also provides technical assistance and training to help its member states meet international aviation standards and regulations.

Established - **7 December 1944**

Headquarters - **Montreal, Canada**

### **Carbon Offsetting and Mitigation Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA):**

- It is a global plan developed by the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** to **reduce CO2 emissions from international flights.**
- It aims to achieve **carbon-neutral growth for international flights** by offsetting any increase in emissions through the purchase of carbon credits from eligible projects.
- The plan has a phased implementation and includes all international flights, except to **least developed countries, small island developing states and landlocked developing countries.**

### **10. Indian Army inducts five women officers into its Artillery Regiment ( May 1, 2023 )**

The women officers, including **Lt Mehak Saini, Lt Sakshi Dubey, Lt Aditi Yadav, Lt Pavitra Moudgil and Lt Akanksha**, joined **major artillery units of the Army after completing their training at the Officers Training Academy in Chennai.**

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

- The move is a significant step towards **gender equality in the Indian Armed Forces** and reflects the **Army's commitment to** promoting diversity and inclusivity.
- According to military sources, out of the five women officers, three have been posted on the forward front along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** with China, while the other two have been posted at challenging positions near the **border with Pakistan.**
- The Artillery Regiment is a major combat support branch responsible for various gun systems including the **Bofors howitzer, Dhanush, M-777 howitzer and K-9 Vajra self-propelled guns.**
- Women officers are being posted in major artillery units of all types, where they will get adequate training and experience in handling rocket, area and surveillance, and target acquisition (SATA) systems, as well as major equipment.



- The decision to induct women officers into artillery units was announced by Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pandey in January and later approved by the government.
- Staff General Manoj Pandey in January and later approved by the government.

### **About Indian Army**

Established- **26 January 1950**

Headquarters- **New Delhi**

Motto- **Seva Paramo Dharma: (Sanskrit); "Service Before Self" (translation)**

Colour- **Gold, Red and Black**

Part- **Indian Armed Forces**

Role- **Land War**