

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. MRF emerges as 'second strongest tyre brand in the world' ( April 17, 2023 )**

**MRF Ltd** has emerged as the **second-strongest tyre brand** in the **world** according to the latest report by **Brand Finance** on the '**Most Valuable and Strongest Tyre Brands**' in the world.

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

- MRF has **scored high in almost all parameters** and is also recognized as the **second fastest growing tire brand in the world**.
- It has **scored 83.2 out of 100 in brand strength** and has been awarded **AAA-brand rating**.
- MRF scored high in the **Sustainability Perception Value** and is the only Indian tire manufacturer to feature in the **top 10**.
- Brand Finance's annual report on the **Most Valuable and Strongest Automobile, Auto Component, Tire and Mobility 2023** analyzes the value of brands across these industries.
- Brand value is understood as the net economic benefit that a brand owner would gain by licensing it on the open market.
- A brand's strength is assessed through a balanced scorecard of factors such as marketing investment, stakeholder equity and business performance.

#### **About MRF Ltd**

- **MRF (Madras Rubber Factory)** is India's No.1 tyre manufacturing company.
- It was **started in 1946 by K M Mammen Mappillai** as a small toy balloon unit.
- In November **1960 it ventured into manufacturing of tyres**.
- The company entered into a **technical collaboration with Tire & Rubber company, USA**.
- Currently MRF exports tyres to over **65 countries including America, Europe, Middle East, Japan, and the Pacific region**.
- It has overseas offices in **Dubai, Vietnam and Australia**.

### **2. Sixth meeting of the Steering Committee on the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 ( April 17, 2023 )**

The **sixth meeting of the Steering Committee** on matters relating to the **Indus Waters Treaty of 1960** was held in **New Delhi** on 17 April.

## **An Overview of the News**

- **The purpose of the meeting** was to take stock of the ongoing amendment process of the **Indus Water Treaty**.
- The meeting was presided over by Secretary, Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Jal Shakti, **Pankaj Kumar**.

## **About Indus Water Treaty (IWT)**

- The Indus Water Treaty (IWT) is a **water-distribution treaty** between **India and Pakistan**, arranged and negotiated by the **World Bank**, to utilise the water available in the **Indus River and its tributaries**.
- The treaty was **signed in Karachi on 19 September 1960** by the then Indian Prime Minister **Jawaharlal Nehru** and the then Pakistani President **Ayub Khan**.
- The treaty gives control over the waters of **three "eastern rivers" - the Beas, the Ravi and the Sutlej** with an average annual flow of **41 billion m3 (33 million acre feet)** - while controlling the waters of all three. The "**Western Rivers**" - **the Indus, the Chenab and the Jhelum**, with an average annual flow of **99 billion cubic metres** - flow to Pakistan.
- India has about **20% of the total water** carried by the Indus system while **Pakistan has 80%**.
- The treaty allows India to use the waters of the western river for limited irrigation use and unlimited non-consumptive use for applications such as **power generation, navigation, floating of assets, fisheries, etc.**

## **3. Nepal became a founding member of the International Big Cats Alliance ( April 17, 2023 )**

Nepal became a founding member of the International Big Cats Alliance

**Nepal** has become a **founding member of the International Big Cats Alliance** launched by India on 13 April.

## **An Overview of the News**

- The alliance was launched under India's initiative, and during the launch event, Nepal's Energy Minister **Shakti Bahadur Basnet** presented a letter indicating Nepal's membership as a founding member to India's Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupendra Yadav. Handed over
- The International Big Cats Alliance aims **to conserve seven big cat species including tigers, lions, leopards, snow leopards, cheetahs, jaguars and pumas**.
- Nepal's tiger population has seen a significant increase, increasing **from 121 in 2010 to 335 in 2022**.

- Nepal successfully achieved its target of doubling the tiger population by 2022, as done during the **first Tiger Summit in 2010 in St. Petersburg.**

### **About the International Big Cats Alliance**

- The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) was launched by the Prime Minister of India, Shri **Narendra Modi** on April 9, 2023, for the conservation of **seven big cat species including tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, and puma.**
- The alliance aims **to reach 97 range countries covering the natural habitats** of these big cats and strengthen global cooperation and efforts for their conservation.
- Ministers from **Bhutan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kenya, Nepal, Ethiopia and Malaysia** expressed their support for India's efforts in alliance and conservation.

### **About Nepal**

The kingdom of Nepal was established by the **Shah dynasty.**

It is a **landlocked country in South Asia.**

Prime Minister - **Pushpa Kamal Dahal**

President - **Ram Chandra Paudel**

Capital - **Kathmandu**

Currency - **Nepalese Rupee**

### **4. UAE India's second largest export destination and third largest source of imports ( April 17, 2023 )**

UAE India's second largest export destination and third largest source of imports

According to the **annual trade data released by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, UAE is the second most important export destination of India.**

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

- The **US and the UAE** retained their **first and second positions**, respectively, as India's top export destinations during the financial year 2022-23.
- India's total **exports of goods and services grew by six per cent** during the fiscal year that ended last month.
- The **Netherlands replaced China last year** due to higher levels of imports of refined petroleum products through the maritime nation and moved up to the **third spot in India's overall export ranking during the same period.**
- The commerce ministry also released India's trade data for March 2023, which showed UAE as second only to the US among India's export destinations.

- **The UAE ranked third among India's import sources in March 2023, after China and Russia.**

### **About United Arab Emirates (UAE)**

- **Location:** It is located in Western Asia.
- **Geographical Boundaries:** It shares borders with Oman and Saudi Arabia.
- **Maritime Borders:** It also has maritime borders with Qatar and Iran in the Persian Gulf.
- **Religion:** Islam is the dominant religion in the UAE, with the majority of the population being Sunni Muslim.

Capital - **Abu Dhabi**

Official language - **Arabic**

Government - **Federal Islamic parliamentary elective semi-constitutional monarchy**

President/Crown Prince - **Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

Prime Minister - **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

Vice President - **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

### **5. Union Minister of Steel Jyotiraditya Scindia to inaugurate India Steel 2023 in Mumbai ( April 17, 2023 )**

Union Minister of Steel **Jyotiraditya Scindia** will inaugurate **India Steel 2023** on 19th April at the **Mumbai Exhibition Centre in Goregaon, Mumbai.**

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

- The Union Ministry of Steel, in association with the **Department of Commerce, Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and FICCI** is organising India Steel 2023.
- The **conference and International Exhibition on the steel industry** will be held from April 19-21.
- The **main objective** of the event is to bring together industry leaders, policy makers and experts to discuss the latest developments, challenges and opportunities in the steel industry.
- The India Steel 2023 exhibition will showcase advanced **technologies, products and solutions** from the Indian steel industry.
- This biennial event will provide a unique platform for attendees to engage with industry leaders, gain insight into future growth prospects and explore collaboration opportunities in the Indian steel industry.

## **Topics of sessions**

- Augmentation of Enabling Logistics Infrastructure.
- Demand Dynamics for Indian Steel Industry.
- Sustainability Goals via Green Steel: Challenges and Way Forward.
- Conducive Policy Framework & Key Enablers for Indian Steel.
- Technology Solutions for Enhancing Productivity & Efficiency.

## **Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**

- It is a **business lobby group** of top business houses in India which was **founded by Ghanshyam Das Birla**.
- It was **set up in 1927**
- It articulates the views and concerns of industry and tries to influence the government to make policy which is in favour of the industry and business.
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- President: **Subhrakant Panda**

## **6. Buzi Bridge in Mozambique inaugurated by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar ( April 17, 2023 )**

Buzi Bridge in Mozambique inaugurated by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar

On 14 April, India's External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar** virtually inaugurated the **Buzi Bridge built by India in Mozambique**.

The bridge is part of the **132 km long Tika-Buzi-Nova-Sofala road project** and was constructed by India.

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

- The **bridge represents the strong bond of friendship and solidarity between India and Mozambique**.
- Dr Jaishankar took a train ride from Maputo to Machava in an Indian made train and showcased India's contribution to the development of Mozambique's rail infrastructure.

### **About Mozambique**

- Mozambique is located in **southeastern Africa**, with the **Indian Ocean to the east and several neighbouring countries** to the **north, northwest, west, and southwest**.

- The **Portuguese arrived in 1498** and colonised Mozambique for four centuries before the country gained independence in 1975.
- Mozambique descended into a **civil war from 1977 to 1992**, but has since held multi-party elections and become a relatively stable presidential republic.
- Christianity is the largest religion in **Mozambique, with Islam and African traditional religions** also present.

Government - **Unitary major-party semi-presidential republic**

President - **Filipe Nyusi**

Prime Minister - **Adriano Maleiane**

Capital - **Maputo**

Official language - **Portuguese**

Currency - **Mozambican metical**

## **7. G20 Second Digital Economy Working Group meeting begins in Hyderabad ( April 17, 2023 )**

G20 Second Digital Economy Working Group meeting begins in Hyderabad

The **G20 Second Digital Economy Working Group meeting** began on April 17 in **Hyderabad**, India, with **140 representatives** from member and invited countries and international organisations.

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

- The three-day meet focused on **digital public infrastructure, cyber security and skills**.
- Highlighted the government's objective of bridging the **digital divide and providing broadband facilities to all villages** in the country by 2025.
- The meeting stressed the importance of multi-stakeholder participation in creating an inclusive and robust digital economy and the use of digital technologies and the empowerment of **vulnerable sections in the digital economy**.
- Indian Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology - **Dev Singh Chauhan**
- Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment - **A Narayanaswamy**

### **About Telangana**

- It is a state **located in south-central India on the high Deccan Plateau**.
- It is the **eleventh largest state of India by area**.

- Telangana was carved out of the northwestern part of Andhra Pradesh on **2 June 2014** and became the newly formed state of Telangana with **Hyderabad as the capital**.
- Telangana is bordered by **Maharashtra to the north, Chhattisgarh to the northeast, Karnataka to the west, and Andhra Pradesh to the east and south**.

Formed (by split) - **2 June 2014**

Capital - **Hyderabad**

District - **33**

Governor - **Tamilisai Soundararajan**

Chief Minister - **K Chandrasekhar Rao (BRS)**

State Legislature - **Bicameral**

Rajya Sabha - **7 seats**

Lok Sabha - **17 seats**

High Court - **Telangana High Court**

## **8. Second Health Working Group meeting begins in Goa ( April 17, 2023 )**

The **second Health Working Group meeting** under the chairmanship of the Indian G20 began in **Goa** on 17 April and will conclude on 19 April.

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

The meeting was attended by over **180 delegates from 19 G20 member states, 10 invited states and 22 international organisations**.

- **Prevention, preparedness and response to health emergencies**, including strengthening cooperation in the **pharmaceutical sector**, were discussed at the second G20 health working group meeting.
- Which will focus on access to **safe, effective, quality and affordable medical interventions** and **digital health innovations** and solutions to aid universal health coverage and improve healthcare delivery.
- Cultural programs infused with flavours of Goan culture were planned to showcase the rich diversity and culture of India based on the Indian philosophy of '**Atithi Devo Bhava**'.
- Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare - **Mr. Lav Agarwal**

### **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.**

### **About Goa**

- It is a state **located on the west coast of India**, bordering the **Arabian Sea.**
- It is the **smallest state of India** by area.

Formation (as a state) - **30 May 1987**

Capital - **Panaji (Executive Branch)**

State Legislature - **Unicameral**

Accession to the Union - **19 December 1961**

Official Animal - **Gaur**

Official Bird - **Yellow Throated Bulbul**

Official Sport - **Football**

Official Tree - **Terminalia elliptica**

Rajya Sabha - **1 seat**

Lok Sabha - **2 seats**

High Court - **Bombay High Court**

Governor - **PS Sreedharan Pillai**

Chief Minister - **Pramod Sawant**

### **9. G20 meeting of chief agricultural scientists begins in Varanasi ( April 17, 2023 )**

G20 meeting of chief agricultural scientists begins in Varanasi

The **G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS)** began on 17 April in **Varanasi.**

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

- The three-day meet is being organized by the **Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.**
- The theme of the meeting is “**Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems for Healthy People and the Planet.**’
- Around **80 foreign delegates from G20 member states** are participating in the event.
- Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research **Dr. Himanshu Pathak** told that this is the 100th event related to G20.
- The discussions covered various issues of agricultural research and development including food security and nutrition, climate smart agriculture, digital agriculture, public private partnership etc.

### **Invited guest countries**

- Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain, UAE, Vietnam and international bodies like United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Health Organization will participate in the meeting.
- International Solar Alliance, CDR and Asian Development Bank will also be participating as special invitees in the three-day meeting.

### **Millets and other Ancient Grains International Research Initiative (MAHARISHI)**

- This initiative is also proposed for discussion as a **G20 initiative during India's chairmanship.**
- MAHARISHI aims to advance research collaboration and create awareness about millets and other ancient grains during the International Years of 2023 and beyond.

### **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.**

### **10. India opens its 16th Visa application center in Bangladesh's Kushtia ( April 17, 2023 )**

India opens its 16th Visa application center in Bangladesh's Kushtia

The **High Commission of India** opened its **16th Visa application center in Kushtia town of Southwestern Bangladesh** on 16th April.

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

- The new **Indian Visa Application Center (IVAC) was inaugurated by High Commissioner Pranya Verma.**
- **Mahbubul Alam Hanif**, MP from Kushtia-3 was also present on this occasion.
- This will provide greater ease and convenience to residents of **Kushtia and its surrounding areas** seeking visa services to visit India.
- Continuous efforts are being made to improve visa facilities for the people of Bangladesh.
- The new center will further strengthen people-to-people contact.
- It will serve as a new platform to promote tourism, trade and people-to-people exchanges between India and Bangladesh.
- The High Commission of India operates its largest Visa Operations Center in the world in Bangladesh.
- **Bangladesh accounts for the largest number of foreign tourists in India**, including those availing medical, tourism, business and student visa facilities.
- **In the year 2019-20, more than 16 lakh visas were issued in Dhaka.**

### **People's Republic of Bangladesh**

- Capital: **Dhaka**
- Prime Minister: **Sheikh Hasina Wazed**
- President: **Mohammad Shahabuddin**
- Currency: **Taka**