

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. India participated in the 6th East Asia Education Ministers' Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam ( Oct. 14, 2022 )**

India participated at the 6th **East Asia Summit Education Minister's Meeting** held on 14 October, 2022 in **Hanoi, Vietnam**.

#### **Important facts**

- **Ms. Neeta Prasad**, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Education addressed the gathering through virtually.
- She informed about the key initiatives of National Education Policy 2020 and India's collaborative efforts in education and research with partner countries.
- Ms. Neeta Prasad said that the National Education Policy - 2020 is a holistic, flexible and multi-disciplinary vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for education.
- She said that this policy is based on the fundamental pillars of equity, quality, affordability and accountability.
- She informed that the **National Education Policy-2020** focuses on internationalisation of education and building cooperation with other countries.

#### **About East Asia Summit (EAS)**

- It was initiated in 2005 with the convening of the **1st East Asia Summit** in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.
- At the time of its establishment, **16 countries** had participated in the East Asia Summit.
- The United States and the Russian Federation attended the East Asia Summit in **Bali, Indonesia on 19 November 2011**.
- It refers to the meeting of the Heads of State/Government of the countries participating in the EAS which is held annually.
- It has identified **six priority areas** of cooperation which include environment and energy, education, finance, global health issues and pandemic diseases, natural disaster management and ASEAN connectivity.

### **2. Living Planet Report 2022 ( Oct. 14, 2022 )**

Recently the **Living Planet Report 2022** has been jointly released by the **World Wildlife Fund and the Zoological Society of London**.

#### **Important facts**

- According to this report, the global wildlife population has **declined by 69%** between **1970 and 2018**.

- The report has been prepared by tracking about **32,000 organisms** of more than **5,230 vertebrate species** between 1970 and 2018 in the 'Living Planet Report'.
- The Living Planet Index has been used to calculate the **decline in vertebrate species** in the Living Planet Report.

### **'Living Planet Index'**

- It assesses the state of biodiversity of the world based on population trends of vertebrate species in terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats.
- It is issued by the **Institute of Zoology (Zoological Society of London)**.

### **Other key findings of the report**

- According to this report, **Latin America and the Caribbean region** that hosts the **Amazon rainforest** saw the highest wildlife decline of **94 percent** between 1970 and 2018.
- **Africa** recorded the **second biggest decline** with 66 percent, followed by the Pacific (55 percent).
- **North America and Europe** recorded declines of **20 percent and 18 percent**, respectively.
- The population of freshwater species has declined by **83 percent**.

### **3. External Affairs minister S.Jaishankar to visit Egypt on his first official tour ( Oct. 13, 2022 )**

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, External Affairs Minister **Dr S.Jaishankar** will be on his **first official visit** to Egypt from 15-16 October 2022. He is going there on the invitation of Egypt's Foreign minister **Sameh Hassan Shoukry**. According to the ministry both the leaders will discuss a range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

India and Egypt traditionally enjoy warm and friendly relations underpinned by historical and cultural linkages. India is trying to deepen its relation with Egypt.

Recently in the month of September Defence minister [Rajnath Singh](#) was on a visit to Egypt to deepen defence ties.

Both countries are celebrating **75 years of establishment of diplomatic relations this year**.

Egypt has been invited as a 'Guest Country' during India's Presidency of G-20 in 2022-23.

### **Economic relations**

Egypt has been one of India's largest trading partners in Africa and the promotion of bilateral trade, commerce and investments will be one of the focus areas during the visit.

India - Egypt bilateral trade touched a record high at US\$ 7.26 billion during the financial year 2021-22.

Indian investment in Egypt exceeds US\$ 3.15 billion. Over 50 Indian companies are actively present in Egypt in a range of sectors like manufacturing, chemicals, energy, infrastructure, retail etc.

### **Arab Republic of Egypt**

It is an Arab country which is located on the African continent.

President: **Abdel Fattah al-Sisi**

Capital: **Cairo**

Currency: **Egyptian pound**

### **4. Meenaskshi Lekhi leads Indian delegation at the 6th CICA Summit meeting at Astana ( Oct. 13, 2022 )**

Union Minister for External Affairs **Meenaskshi Lekhi** led the Indian delegation at the 6th Conference on Confidence Building Measures and Interaction in Asia (CICA) summit held on 12-13 October 2022 at the Kazakhstan capital, [Astana](#).

Replying to the Statement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif on Kashmir she said that Pakistan is misusing the CICA for propagating malicious propaganda against India. She said that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

### **Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.

The idea of convening CICA was first proposed by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan **Nursultan Nazarbayev**, on 5 October 1992, at the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

**27 countries including India**, China, and Pakistan are members of CICA.

### **Summit meetings of CICA**

The First summit meeting was held in **Almaty, Kazakhstan** on 4 June 2022. It was attended by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The second CICA summit was held in **Almaty, Kazakhstan** on June 17, 2006

The third CICA Summit was held in **Istanbul, Turkey** on 8 June 2010

The Fourth CICA Summit, was held in **Shanghai, China** on 21 May 2014

The Fifth CICA Summit was held in **Dushanbe, Tajikistan**, on 15 June 2019.

## **5. IAEA chief Rafael Gross calls for protecting Zaporizhzhia nuclear power in a meeting with President Putin in Russia ( Oct. 13, 2022 )**

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael **Gross** met the Russian President **Vladimir Putin** in **St Petersburg**, amid concern over the safety of the Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine.

Rafael Gross met Putin after his meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv last week.

Rafael Gross called for setting up a protection zone around the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear power plant and asserted that they cannot lose any more time. He emphasised that Russia and Ukraine must do everything to help in ensuring that a nuclear accident does not occur during the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.

### **Concern over the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant**

The 6000 MW Zaporizhzhia nuclear power complex is the **largest European nuclear power complex** which has been occupied by the invading Russian forces since early March 2022.

The area has been heavily fortified by the Russian military and the Ukrainian forces are also launching a counter attack. This has led to the fear that the nuclear complex could be hit in an attack which could lead to a nuclear catastrophe in the area.

### **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

The IAEA was set up in 1957 as an agency of the United Nations.

The IAEA was set up to work with the member countries and multiple partners worldwide to promote safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field.

Member Countries: **175**

The IAEA headquarters is at **Vienna, Austria** and it has two regional offices located in Toronto, Canada and Tokyo, Japan,

Director General: **Rafael Gross**

## **6. World's first space tourist Dennis Tito to ride to moon again on SpaceX ( Oct. 13, 2022 )**

World's first space tourist, **Dennis Tito**, has signed up with the Elon Musk Company SpaceX, to fly around the Moon aboard the Starship rocket.

The SpaceX Company on 12 October 2022 said that the rocket will take Tito and his wife, Akiko, within 200km (125 miles) of the far side of the Moon without landing on its surface. The date of the launch has yet to be announced as the Starship is yet to be tested.

Dennis Tito, an American engineer and entrepreneur became the first human space tourist to visit the International Space Station in 2001.

He was launched onboard a Russian rocket with the help of US-based Space Adventures in 2001.

Few companies in the world are striving to make space travel a reality. They are **SpaceX**, Richard Branson-founded **Virgin Galactic SPCE.N**, and **Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin** which currently offers suborbital joyrides that hit an altitude of about 106km (66 miles) above the Earth.

90 year old American actor, **William Shatner**, who played the role of Captain James T Kirk on the TV series Star Trek, became the **oldest person** to ride a rocket into space when he travelled on a Blue Origin flight last year.

### **Human Space Flight**

The first person to go into space was **Yury Gagarin** of the Soviet Union on 12 April 1961 onboard the Vostok Rocket.

The first woman to go into space was **Valentina Tereshkova** of the Soviet Union on 16 June 1963 onboard the Vostok 6 Rocket.

The first American to go into space was **Alan Shepard** in 1961.

Wing Commander **Rakesh Sharma** is the only Indian to go into space. He was part of the Soviet mission aboard Soyuz T-11 on 3 April 1984.

## **7. India improves its ranks to 123 on the Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index 2022 ( Oct. 12, 2022 )**

India has improved its ranking by 6 places in the recently released Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRII) 2022. It has been ranked **123th** in the world out of **161 countries**. India was ranked 129 in the 2020 Index.

India's rank has improved primarily due to improvement in indicators quantifying the impact of public spending and the impact of tax on reducing inequality.

The index ranks the countries on the policies made by the government and action taken to fight inequality in the first two years of covid pandemic.

**Norway** has been ranked as the top country followed by Germany and Australia. **South Sudan has been ranked 161st at the bottom of the Index.**

### **Composition of the Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRII)**

The Index which is prepared by **Oxfam International** and **Development Finance International (DFI)** measures governments policies and actions in three areas proven to have a major impact on reducing inequality.

The three areas are **public services** (health, education, and social protection), **taxation** and **workers' rights**.

### **India's performance**

**Public service**

India has been ranked **129th in the Public service spending**. It was ranked 141 in the 2020 report.

According to the Index, India features among the lowest performers on health spending. It dropped to 157th rank, a drop of two places. The Indian government spends 3.64 % of all it's spending on health which is lowest among all neighbouring countries. Pakistan spending is at 4.3%, Bangladesh is at 5.19%, Sri Lanka is at 5.88%, and Nepal is at 7.8%,

**Progressive taxation**

India was ranked **16 on progressive taxation** in 2022 while it was ranked 19 in 2020.

**Labour Ranking (workers' rights and wages)**

India was ranked 151 on labour ranking (which includes workers' rights) while in 2020 also it was ranked 151.

**South Asian country's ranking**

Country	Public service ranking	Tax ranking	Labour ranking	Regional ranking
Maldives	71	12	54	1
Bangladesh	136	47	101	2
Sri Lanka	128	85	93	3
Nepal	116	36	126	4
Bhutan	114	27	140	5
India	129	16	151	6
Pakistan	151	77	113	7
Afghanistan	158	115	117	8

**OXFAM International**

Oxfam International was formed in 1995 by a group of independent non-governmental organizations. They joined together as a confederation to maximize efficiency and achieve greater impact to reduce global poverty and injustice.

The name "Oxfam" comes from the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, founded in Britain in 1942.

The Oxfam International Secretariat is based in **Nairobi, Kenya**

**Oxfam India CEO** : Amitabh Behar

## **8. INS Tarkash reaches South Africa to participate in 7th edition of IBSAMAR ( Oct. 12, 2022 )**

**INS Tarkash** reached **Port Gqeberha (also known as Port Elizabeth), South Africa** to participate in the **7th edition of IBSAMAR**, a joint multinational maritime exercise among **Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies** from 10 - 12 Oct 2022.

### **Important facts**

- The previous edition of IBSAMAR (IBSAMAR VI) was conducted at **Simons Town, South Africa** from 1 to 13 October 2018.
- The Indian Navy is represented by a **Teg class guided missile frigate, INS Tarkash, a Chetak helicopter** and personnel from the Marine Commando Force (MARCOS).
- The Harbor phase of IBSAMAR VII includes major exercises such as damage control and fire fighting exercises, VBSS/Cross boarding lectures and interactions between Special Forces.
- This joint maritime exercise will strengthen inter-operability for maritime security, joint operational training, sharing of best practices and addressing common maritime threats.

### **INS Tarkash**

- INS Tarkash is a state-of-the-art **stealth frigate** of the **Indian Navy**.
- It is built by **Yantar Shipyard at Kaliningrad, Russia**.
- It is equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors capable of addressing threats in all three dimensions.
- The ship incorporates the latest stealth features such as low radar, infra-red, acoustic and magnetic signatures, making it difficult to detect at sea.
- The ship is part of the Western Fleet of the Indian Navy based at Mumbai under the Western Naval Command.

## **9. Lucknow's Jagriti Yadav becomes UK high commissioner for a day ( Oct. 12, 2022 )**

20-year-old **Jagriti Yadav of Lucknow** has been appointed to the highest post of **British High Commission in India** for a day under women empowerment after winning a competition on the occasion of **International Girl Child Day on 11 October** 2022.

### **Important Facts**

- Jagriti is the **sixth person** to receive this honour of becoming the British High Commissioner.

- According to the British Embassy, Jagriti is the sixth winner to win the '**High Commissioner for a Day-India Edition**' competition held every year since **2017**.
- Jagriti, who hails from Lucknow, remained Britain's highest diplomat in India for a whole day. She gained experience in many diplomatic activities.
- Including holding meetings with various parties and presiding over the meeting. Apart from this, she has been involved in many events throughout the day.
- During this, Jagriti met the Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture **Meenakshi Lekhi** as well as met West Yorkshire Mayor Tracy Brabin.

### **High Commissioner for a Day-India Edition**

- The High Commissioner for a Day-India Edition competition is open to young girls in the **age group of 18-23**. Last year's winner was **Aditi Maheshwari**, 20, from **Chittorgarh, Rajasthan**.
- To celebrate International Girl Child Day, the British High Commission provides a unique opportunity for women across India to experience the life of the UK's top diplomat in the country.

### **10. S Jaishankar inaugurates new Indian High Commission Chancery at Wellington in New Zealand ( Oct. 10, 2022 )**

External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** on 9 October inaugurated the new **Indian High Commission Chancery in Wellington, New Zealand**.

#### **Important facts**

- He said that coordinating each other's potentials is a more prudent way to further deepen the vital ties between India and New Zealand.
- S. Jaishankar, who is on his **first visit to New Zealand** as External Affairs Minister, also said that there is a need to take the ties between the two countries afresh.
- He also said that there is massive potential for partnership between India and New Zealand in the field of agri-business.
- Strong cooperation between India and New Zealand will ensure peace, prosperity and progress in the shared region, he said.
- There is huge potential in business, digital, agriculture, education, skills, traditional medicine and maritime security domains, he said.

#### **About New Zealand**

- It is a remote, mountainous group of islands located off the **southeast coast of Australia**.
- Prime Minister - **Jacinda Ardern**



- Capital - **Wellington**
- Currency - **New Zealand dollar**
- New Zealand was the first country to allow **women to vote in 1893.**
- New Zealand's **wetapunga** is one of the **heaviest insects** in the world.
- Major rivers - **Waikato, Clurtha, Rangitaiki, Wanganui, Manawatu, Buller, Rakaia, Waitaki, Waiau**
- Major Mountain Ranges - **Southern Alps, Kaikoura Ranges**
- New Zealand's two main islands - **North and South Islands**, are separated by the **Cook Strait.**