

## **Testwale Current Affairs PDF**

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### **1. ISRO to launch OneWeb India-2 mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota ( March 22, 2023 )**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch OneWeb India-2 mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on March 26.

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

- Under a commercial agreement with **NewSpace India Ltd**, will launch **72 satellites of UK-based Network Access Associates Ltd** and place them in **low Earth orbit**.
- **NewSpace is the commercial wing of ISRO.**
- The first set of **36 satellites was launched on 23 October 2022 by an LVM3 M2 launch vehicle.**
- In the second mission on **March 26**, the remaining 36 satellites, each weighing approximately **5805 kg**, will be placed in a 450 km circular low earth orbit by the **LVM3 M3 launch vehicle.**
- LVM3 had five consecutive successful missions including the **Chandrayaan 2 mission.**
- Satellites provide **space-based broadband internet services** to all corners of the globe.
- After launch, **Access Associates Ltd will have more than 600 satellites in space** offering internet from space services to various countries.

#### **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**

- It was established on **15 August 1969.**
- It is the **national space agency** of India. It launches its space rocket from **Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.**
- Headquarter: **Bengaluru**
- Chairman: **S Somnath**

### **2. India and Sri Lanka inaugurated an exhibition titled Geoffrey Bawa in New Delhi ( March 21, 2023 )**

On 20 March, External Affairs Minister of India, **S Jaishankar** inaugurated an exhibition titled "**Geoffrey Bawa: It's Essential to Be There**" at the **National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi.**

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

- The exhibition is a joint collaboration between **National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi, High Commission of Sri Lanka** in New Delhi and **Geoffrey Bawa Trust**.
- The exhibition showcases the **architectural works of the renowned Sri Lankan architect Late Geoffrey Bawa**.
- The exhibition is being organised to commemorate the **75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Sri Lanka**.
- This is the first retrospective international exhibition of Geoffrey Bawa's architectural works **since 2004**, following exhibitions in **Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, North America, Australia, Brazil, Singapore and Germany**.
- The exhibition includes over **120 documents from Geoffrey Bawa's archives**, including his photographs from various travels and surrealist works.
- The **Sri Lanka-India Cultural Exchange Program** has sponsored the exhibition, which will be open for visitors till May 7, 2023.

### **3. MoU signed for implementation of Green Hydrogen Projects in Army Establishments ( March 21, 2023 )**

**NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd** has signed an MoU with the **Indian Army for setting up Green Hydrogen Projects** in its establishments **on Build, Own and Operate (BOO) model**.

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

- It aims to **reduce complex logistics, dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate decarbonisation**.
- The MoU was signed by **Mohit Bhargava**, CEO (NTPC REL) and **Lt Gen Rajinder Dewan**.
- Within the scope of the MoU, potential sites will be identified for **setting up green hydrogen projects for supply of electricity in a phased manner**.
- NTPC REL will also **design, develop and install renewable energy projects (solar, wind etc.)** for the Indian Army.
- The MoU signals an advanced approach to **modernization by the Indian Army**.
- This is the first of its kind agreement and heralds a new era of border security backed by energy security for the country's defense line.

#### **NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd**

- It is a wholly owned **subsidiary of NTPC Limited**.
- It currently has a portfolio of **3.6 GW RE capacity** under construction.

- NTPC Group has an ambitious plan of **60 GW RE capacity by 2032 and currently has an installed RE capacity of 3.2 GW.**

### **About NTPC**

- The NTPC which was earlier known as **National Thermal Power Corporation of India** is owned by the Government of India. It was set up in **1975**.
- The **Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station in the Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh**, with an **installed capacity of 4,760MW**, is currently the **biggest thermal power plant in India**.
- It is a coal-based power plant owned and operated by NTPC.
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- Chairman and Managing Director: **Gurdeep Singh**

### **4. India invited to attend G7 Hiroshima summit in Japan ( March 21, 2023 )**

Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

After a meeting between Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Japanese Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida**, Japan was **invited to attend the G7 Hiroshima summit**.

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

- Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Japanese Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida** signed two agreements during their bilateral talks: the renewal of the **Memorandum of Cooperation in Japanese and the exchange of notes on the JICA loan for 300 billion yen** for the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed railway project**.
- The objective of the meeting is **to strengthen India-Japan relations** and provide a voice for the Global South.
- Foreign Secretary **Vinay Mohan Kwatra**

### **About the G7**

- The **G7 is a group of seven major industrialised countries**, including **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States**.
- The G7 holds annual meetings to discuss various global issues, but these meetings are usually held in different locations each year.
- The **48th G7 summit was hosted by Germany in 2022**.

### **5. IMF approves Sri Lanka's much-awaited bailout package ( March 21, 2023 )**

IMF approves Sri Lanka's much-awaited bailout package

**Sri Lanka's** request for a **\$2.9 billion bailout** has been **approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)** on March 20.

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

- The package of special drawing rights of about **\$3 billion will be available over 4 years.**
- The Executive Board's decision will enable immediate disbursement of **\$333 million.**
- With the approval of the much awaited bailout, Sri Lanka will **restore macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability while carrying forward structural reforms.**
- Stabilizing Sri Lanka's economy and achieving sustainable debt levels has been a priority since Ranil Wickremesinghe took office last July.
- The IMF facility will enable Sri Lanka to access finance from the markets and other lending institutions such as the **ADB and the World Bank.**
- Sri Lanka was hit by an unprecedented **financial crisis in 2022** due to a severe shortage of foreign exchange reserves, the worst since its independence from Britain in 1948.

### **Aim of bailout package**

- To boost government revenue,
- Encourage fiscal consolidation,
- Introduce new pricing for fuel and electricity,
- Hike social spending,
- Bolster central bank autonomy,
- Rebuild depleted foreign reserves
- To reach a primary surplus of 2.3% of GDP by 2024.

### **About International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

- It is an **international organization** that promotes **global economic growth and financial stability, encourages international trade, and reduces poverty.**
- It was **established in 1944** in the aftermath of the **Great Depression of the 1930s.**
- It is an organization of **190 member countries.**
- It is governed by and accountable to 190 countries.
- **India became its member in December 1945.**

- The IMF's resources come mainly from money that countries pay in as their **capital subscriptions (quotas)** when they become members.
- The International Monetary Fund's executive board comprises **24 members**.
- Managing Director - **Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria)**
- Headquarter (HQ) - **Washington, D.C., US**

## **6. Bangladesh commissions its first submarine base ( March 21, 2023 )**

### **Bangladesh commissions its first submarine base**

Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** inaugurated the **first submarine base** of Bangladesh '**BNS Sheikh Hasina**' at **Pekua in Cox's Bazar** on 20 March.

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

- This new submarine base will help the Navy **to enhance its operational capability to secure the vast maritime resources**.
- Ships passing through the Bay of Bengal can also take help from this base.
- The government of Bangladesh is working on '**Forces Goal 2030**' to transform its military force into a modern organization appropriate for the times.
- The government established the **Bangladesh Navy as a full-fledged three-dimensional force** with the induction of two submarines ("**BNS Navagatra**" and "**BNS Joyjatra**") into the naval fleet on **12 March 2017**.
- Bangladesh is building ships at local shipyards for its own use as well as for others.
- Bangladesh Navy has completed construction of **five patrol vessels at Khulna Shipyard**.
- In the last 14 years, a total of **31 warships including 4 frigates, 6 corvettes, 4 large patrol craft, 5 patrol craft and 2 training ships** joined the Bangladesh fleet.
- The Government of Bangladesh signed an agreement with China in **September 2019** for the construction of the submarine base.

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

- Capital: **Dhaka**
- Prime Minister: **Sheikh Hasina Wazed**
- President: **Abdul Hamid**
- Currency: **Taka**

## **7. 2nd G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group meeting begins in Udaipur ( March 21, 2023 )**

2nd G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group meeting begins in Udaipur

The **2nd Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) meeting** under India's G20 chairmanship began in **Udaipur, Rajasthan** and will last for three days.

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

- The focus of the meeting is to identify relevant policies and best practices for **mobilising sustainable finance** to help ensure global growth and stability.
- Two workshops were organised during the meeting, namely **Non-pricing policy** levers to support sustainable investment and efficient finance for the Sustainable Development Goals.
- More than **90 delegates from G20 member states**, guest countries and various international organisations participated in the event.
- The first meeting of the **Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG)** was held in **Guwahati on February 2 and 3** this year, and the third and fourth meetings will be held in Mahabalipuram and Varanasi, respectively.

### **About the Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG)**

- Sustainable Finance Working Groups are collaborative initiatives that bring together stakeholders to advance sustainable finance practices.
- They aim to promote best practices, share **knowledge and resources, and develop standards and guidelines** for sustainable finance.
- Members may include financial institutions, companies, regulators, civil society organisations and academia.
- Examples of sustainable finance working groups include the **United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)**, the **Sustainable Accounting Standards Board (SASB)** and the **Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)**.

### **About the G20**

- **The G20 (Group of Twenty) is an international forum** consisting of **19 countries** and the **European Union**, representing the world's major economies.
- Its members include **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States**.

- It is an international forum of the world's leading economies, **established in 1999**, and 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**.

## **8. Women and Child Development Ministry to celebrate the 5th Poshan Pakhwada ( March 20, 2023 )**

The **5th Poshan Pakhwada** will be celebrated by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** from **March 20 to April 3, 2023**, with several events across the country.

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

- The 5th Poshan Pakhwada is being celebrated by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to promote **good eating habits and focus on the value of nutrition through mass movement and public participation**.
- The **theme of Poshan Pakhwada 2023** is **-Nutrition for All: Together Towards a Healthy India**.
- During Poshan Pakhwada, campaigns will be launched to raise awareness and popularize efficient **Anganwadis** with advanced infrastructure and facilities.
- This year, Poshan Pakhwada will concentrate on promoting "**Shree Anna: the mother of all grains**", as a useful tool to combat malnutrition, in light of the declaration of 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

### **About Poshan Pakhwada**

- Poshan Pakhwada is celebrated for **15 days in March**.
- Similarly, the **month of September is known as National Nutrition Month** across the country.
- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** will be the nodal ministry for organizing programs during Poshan Pakhwada.

## **9. SC asks to file counter-affidavit to plea to protect Western Ghats ( March 20, 2023 )**

SC asks to file counter-affidavit to plea to protect Western Ghats

The Supreme Court on March 18 directed the **Environment Ministry** to **file its counter affidavit on the petition filed by minor M Kavya**, a resident of Nilgiris.

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

- The petition sought **judicial intervention to save the Western Ghats from destruction.**
- The petition is pending for the **last two years after the apex court issued notice in 2020.**

### **About Western Ghats**

- The Western Ghats are also known as the **Sahyadri Hills.**
- It is a mountain range that covers an **area of 160,000 km<sup>2</sup>.**
- The entire range of hills from **Tapi to Kanyakumari is known as the Western Ghats.**
- The Western Ghats is **one of the four global biodiversity hotspots** in India.
- The Western Ghats are made up of a range of mountains in the states of **Kerala, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.**
- It is recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site.**
- **Anamudi peak in Kerala** is the **highest peak** in the Western Ghats.
- According to UNESCO, the Western Ghats are older than the Himalayas.

### **10. Global Conference on Digital Health organised by Government of India in New Delhi ( March 20, 2023 )**

Global Conference on Digital Health organised by Government of India in New Delhi

The Government of India hosted a two-day **Global Conference on Digital Health in New Delhi** and it was chaired by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya.**

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

- **The objective** of the conference is **to reach universal health coverage to the last citizen** by taking advantage of India's chairmanship of G20 and collaboration with WHO **South-East Asia Regional Office.**
- The conference will bring together **global leaders, health policy makers, digital health innovators and influencers, academics and other stakeholders** to address issues to accelerate the implementation of connected digital health initiatives.
- The conference focuses on unlocking the potential to deliver and share digital health solutions in an **ethical, safe, secure, reliable, equitable and sustainable manner.**



- The conference is expected to make a significant contribution to achieving
- the Sustainable Development Goals related to health and well-being, especially **SDG 3**, which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for people at all ages.

**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**.