

Testwale Current Affairs PDF

Current Affairs search results for tag: national-news

1. First joint conference of army chiefs of India and African countries held in Pune (March 28, 2023)

first joint conference of army chiefs of India and African countries was held in Pune

The **first joint conference of army chiefs of India and African countries** was held in **Pune** on 28 March.

An overview of the news

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** attended the **conference as the chief guest**. Army Chief **General Manoj Pandey** was also present.
- This is the **first ever conference of the army chiefs** of these countries.
- **Army chiefs of 10 countries** were present in this conference along with **31 representatives of African countries**.
- A defense exhibition will be organized under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign** and the aim of the exhibition is to target African countries as a market for defense products.

About African continent

- It is the **second largest continent (after Asia)**, covering about **one-fifth of the total land surface of Earth**.
- It is bounded by the **Atlantic Ocean in the west, the Mediterranean Sea in the north, the Red Sea and Indian Ocean in the east, and the Atlantic and Indian Oceans in the south**.
- The **island of Madagascar**, off the coast of Africa, is **one of the largest islands in the world**.
- The African continent has a **population of over one billion**, with a combined **GDP of \$2.5 trillion**, making it a huge potential market.
- Africa is a resource-rich continent rich in crude oil, gas, pulses and lentils, leather, gold and other metals, all of which are lacking in substantial quantities in India.

2. Government of India launched National Rabies Control Program (NRCP) for prevention and control of Rabies (March 28, 2023)

The Central Government has launched the **National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP)** for prevention and control of Rabies recently.

National Rabies Control Program Strategy

1. Provision of Rabies Vaccine and Rabies Immune Globulin through National Free Drug Initiative.

2. surveillance and inter-sectoral coordination.
3. Strengthening monitoring of reporting of animal bites and rabies deaths.
4. Awareness about prevention of rabies.

What is Rabies?

- Rabies is a viral disease. This virus is present in the saliva of animals suffering from rabies such as **dogs, cats, monkeys** etc.
- It is caused by the rabies virus of the **Lyssavirus genus of the Rhabdoviridae family**. It is an **RNA virus**.
- According to statistics, about **99 percent of cases in humans are caused by dog bites**.
- Rabies is **100% fatal and 100% preventable** through vaccines.
- India accounts for **33% of global rabies deaths**.
- The time period between bites of an animal infected with rabies and the appearance of symptoms of rabies can range from four days to two years, or sometimes more.

World Rabies Day

- The day is observed every year on **28 September** to raise awareness about the **effects of rabies virus disease and ways to prevent it**.
- The day is celebrated to mark the **anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death**.
- Louis Pasteur developed the **first rabies vaccine and laid the foundation for the prevention of rabies**.
- The theme of this day for the year 2022 is '**Rabies: One Health, Zero Deaths**'.

3. Center sets up committee to monitor tur stock (March 28, 2023)

Center sets up committee to monitor tur stock

The **Department of Consumer Affairs** on 27 March constituted a **committee to monitor the stock of Tur (Arhar)** held by **importers, millers, traders**, and other such entities.

An overview of the news

- This committee has been constituted under the **chairmanship of Nidhi Khare**, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- A committee will monitor the stock of Arhar in coordination with state governments.

- The decision was taken following reports that traders were not selling the pigeon pea stock in the market despite a good quantity of imports.
- The **Government is also closely monitoring the stock position in the domestic market** to take necessary measures in case of an unexpected increase in the prices of pulses in the coming months.
- The Government had **issued an advisory to the States/UTs on August 12, 2022**, to implement stock disclosure in respect of Toor under the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**.

Hike of Toor prices

- According to the ministry's data, the all-India daily average retail price of Tur was recorded at **Rs 114.44 per kg** on 27 March, 2023, which was **11.47 per cent higher than a year ago**.
- The **all-India daily average wholesale price** of Tur was recorded at **Rs 10,462.03 per quintal**, which was **12.48 per cent higher than a year ago**.

4. PM Modi launched 'Call Before u Dig' app (March 27, 2023)

PM Modi launched 'Call Before u Dig' app

The **Prime Minister** on 22 March launched the **'Call Before u Dig' (CBuD) app**, to **tackle Uncoordinated digging and excavation**.

An overview of the news

- The mobile application is an initiative of the **Department of Telecom, Ministry of Communications**.
- **It aims** to prevent damage to underlying assets such as optical fiber cables, which is caused by unorganized quarrying and mining, which leads to a loss of about **Rs 3,000 crore every year**.
- This will save **potential business losses due to lesser disruption of essential services like road, telecom, water, gas and electricity** and reduce the inconvenience caused to citizens.
- The app will **connect excavators and property owners** so that planned excavation can be carried out in the country while ensuring the safety of underground assets.

Significance

- The App will save potential business loss and minimise discomfort to the citizens due to reduced disruption in essential services like road, telecom, water, gas and electricity.

5. AFSPA removed from most areas of North Eastern states (March 26, 2023)

Centre has decided to further reduce the jurisdiction of '**disturbed areas**' under the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in Assam, Nagaland and Manipur.**

An overview of the news

- The decision has been taken in view of the significant **improvement in the security situation in North-East India.**
- **Compared to 2014, there has been a 76 percent reduction in extremist incidents in 2022.**
- During this period, there has been a **90 percent reduction in the deaths of security personnel and 97 percent in the deaths of civilians.**
- Earlier, in a historic move, the Center brought down the disturbed areas in **Nagaland, Assam and Manipur from April 2022** under AFSPA.

What is AFSPA?

- **Armed Forces Special Powers Act, (AFSPA),1958**, gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in "**disturbed areas.**"
- It came into force decades ago in the context of **insurgency in the northeastern states.**
- It provides "**special powers**" to the army, air force and central paramilitary forces.
- The Act provides that if "**reasonable suspicion exists**", the armed forces may also arrest any person without warrant; May enter or search premises without warrant and prohibit possession of firearms.

What are the Disturbed Areas?

- A disturbed area means which is declared by notification under **Section 3 of the AFSPA.**
- A region may be disturbed because of differences or disputes between members of different, **racial, religious, language or regional groups or castes or communities.**
- The Central Government or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory have power to declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.

6. Bhupender Yadav launches Aravalli Green Wall Project (March 26, 2023)

Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister **Bhupendra Yadav** inaugurated the **Aravalli Green Wall Project** on March 26 at **Tikli village in Haryana** in a program organized on the occasion of **International Forest Day**.

An overview of the news

- The project will increase the **green cover and biodiversity of Aravallis** through **afforestation, reforestation and restoration of water bodies**.
- It will also improve **soil fertility, water availability and climate resilience of the region**.
- The project will benefit the local communities by providing them with **employment opportunities, income generation and ecosystem services**.
- The objective of this initiative is to green a **buffer zone of about 5 km of Aravalli mountain range** spread over five states.
- **75 water sources** will be rejuvenated under the project, starting with five water sources in each district of the Aravalli landscape on March 25.
- The project will also involve massive tree plantation drive and conservation of water resources in the Aravalli region.
- The project will cover barren land in **Gurgaon, Faridabad, Bhiwani, Mahendragarh and Rewari** districts of Haryana.

About Aravali Green Wall Project

- The project is part of the **Union Forest Ministry's vision of creating green corridors across the country** to combat **land degradation and desertification**.
- The project covers the states of **Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi** where the Aravalli hills are spread over an area of **6 million hectares**.
- The project will involve **rejuvenation and restoration of ponds, lakes and rivers as well as planting of native species of trees** and shrubs on scrub, barren land and degraded forest land.
- The project will also focus on **agro-forestry and grassland development** to enhance the livelihood of local communities.

About Aravalli Range

- It extends from **Himmatnagar in Gujarat to Delhi for a distance of about 720 km**, which extends to **Haryana and Rajasthan**.
- It is thousands of years old, formed when the **Indian subcontinental plate collided with the mainland of the Eurasian plate**.
- According to carbon dating, copper and other metals were mined in the Aravalli range around the **5th century BCE**.

- Its height is between **300 m to 900 m**.
- **Its highest peak is Guru Shikhar (1,722 m) on Mount Abu.**

7. Government hikes raw jute MSP Rs 300 to Rs 5,050 per quintal (March 26, 2023)

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 24 March increased the **minimum support price (MSP) of raw jute** by **Rs 300 to Rs 5,050 per quintal** for 2023-24 season.

An overview of the news

- The approval is based on the **recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.
- The MSP of Raw Jute (TD-3 equivalent to earlier TD-5 grade) has been fixed at **Rs 5,050 per quintal for 2023-24 season**.
- The announced MSP for raw jute for the 2023-24 season is in line with the principle of fixing the MSP at a level of **at least 1.5 times** the all-India weighted average cost of production announced by the Government in the Budget for 2018-19.
- It assures a minimum of **50 per cent** as profit margin.
- This is one of the important and progressive steps towards ensuring better remunerative returns to the jute growers and promoting quality jute fibre.
- The Jute Corporation of India shall continue as the nodal agency of the Central Government to conduct price support operations and the loss, if any, incurred in such operations shall be fully reimbursed by the Central Government.

What is Minimum Support Price (MSP)?

- **MSP is the rate** at which the government buys food grains from farmers.
- This is **based on the calculation of at least one and a half times the cost of production incurred by the farmers**.
- The Government of India fixes the MSP for **24 items twice a year**.
- When the market price falls below the declared MSP, the government buys food grains from the farmers at the MSP rate.

Who decides MSP?

- The MSP price is calculated by an **expert committee under the ministry of Agriculture**.
- The expert committee is called **CACP (Commission for Agricultural Costs and Price)**.

- It recommends the MSP to the **Agricultural ministry** and the ministry announces the MSP.
- However the Agricultural Ministry is not bound to accept the recommendation of the CACP.

8. ISRO launches heaviest rocket LVM-3 (March 26, 2023)

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** on 26 March successfully launched **India's largest Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3) rocket/OneWeb India-2 Mission** with **36 satellites** onboard from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota**, Andhra Pradesh.

An overview of the news

- The LVM-III will deploy **36 satellites of the UK-based Network Access Associated Ltd (OneWeb) to Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.
- The OneWeb Group Company has inked a contract with ISRO's commercial arm **NewSpace India Ltd to launch 72 satellites into LEO**.
- The first satellite deployment collaboration between the two organisations took place in **October 2022 with ISRO launching 36 satellites of OneWeb**.
- In the **second mission** on 26 March, the remaining 36 satellites, each weighing approximately **5805 kg, were placed into a circular low Earth orbit of 450 km by the LVM3 M3 launch vehicle**.
- LVM3 had five consecutive successful missions including the **Chandrayaan 2 mission**.

About OneWeb

- **OneWeb is a global communication network** powered from space, enabling connectivity for governments and businesses.
- Bharti Enterprises is a major investor in **OneWeb group**.
- After the **SSLV-D2/EOS07 mission in February**, the OneWeb India-2 Mission is ISRO's **second successful launch this year**.

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**

9. National Science Centre organizes Innovation Festival (March 26, 2023)

The two-day **National Science Center Innovation Festival** event was inaugurated in **New Delhi** on 25 March.

An overview of the news

- The festival was inaugurated by **Prof. Balram Bhargava** (Chief Guest) President, NASI, Former Secretary, Department of Health Research, Govt of India.
- The closing ceremony on March 26, 2023 was presided over by **Dr. Debashish Mohanty**, Director, National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi.
- **It aims** to foster a passion and aptitude for science and technology and provide a unique platform to innovative and creative innovators.
- The Innovation Festival consisted of Innovation Fair, Creative Robo Design, Innovative Challenges for families, Family Science Quiz, Popular Science lecture, Workshop on Intellectual Property Right and Idea Contest.
- The festival provides an opportunity to the people to showcase their **innovative works and the products made by them in the past.**
- It is a platform for innovators to showcase their **creative work and interact with others from different fields.**

10. Ministry of Defence inks Rs 3,700 crore contracts with BEL (March 25, 2023)

Indian Air Force (IAF),

To enhance the operational capabilities of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, the **Defense Ministry** on March 23 signed **two separate contracts with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** at a total cost of over **Rs 3,700 crore.**

An overview of the news

- The **first contract**, worth over **Rs 2,800 crore**, pertains to the **supply of Medium Power Radar (MPR) 'Arudhra'** to the IAF.
- The **second contract**, at a total cost of about **Rs 950 crore**, pertains to '**Radar Warning Receivers' (RWR).**
- Both the projects are under the **indigenously designed, developed and manufactured-IDMM category.**
- The radar has been designed and developed by the **Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** and will be **manufactured by BEL.**
- The RWR has been designed to also enhance the **capabilities of Su-30 MKI aircraft.**

About Arudhra Radar

- **This 4D radar** is capable of automatic detection and tracking of slow moving aerial targets ranging from fighter jets.
- The system has an instrumented **range of 400 km.**
- It is capable of **detecting RCS targets** with a range of **300 km with altitudes ranging from 100 m to 30 km.**
- The radar operates in either Staring or Rotation mode.