

# Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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## **1. BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting ( July 15, 2022 )**

Union Labor and Employment Minister Bhupendra Yadav participated in the BRICS Labor and Employment Ministers meeting held under the Chinese presidency on 14 July.

### **Important facts**

- With regard to the priority issues discussed in the meeting, the Minister highlighted the initiatives taken by India.
- The Minister informed that a Sector Council for Green Jobs in India has been set up to develop strategies and implement programs for skill development in the green sector.
- The minister explained the steps taken by India to provide relief to the workers during the pandemic.
- India has taken several initiatives to increase the number of days of assured employment under MGNREGA and to provide free ration.
- The government has provided loans to street vendors to help them restart their business under the PM Svanidhi Yojana during the pandemic.
- The meeting was attended by ministers from member countries Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

### **Declaration of the meeting**

- The need for promoting green jobs was recognized in the Declaration of the meeting.
- The Declaration recognized the need to promote green jobs for sustainable development, strengthen cooperation in skill development and protect workers' rights in new forms of employment.

#### **• Discussions on three priority issues**

1. Promoting green jobs for sustainable development,
2. Developing skills for resilient recovery,
3. Protecting Workers Right in New Forms of Employment.

### **About BRICS**

- It is an acronym for the group of major emerging economies of the world – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- In 2001, British economist Jim O'Neill coined the term BRIC.
- South Africa was invited to join BRIC in December 2010.

## **2. I2U2 Summit : UAE to develop integrated food parks across India ( July 15, 2022 )**

The United Arab Emirates on July 14 announced an investment of USD 2 billion to develop a series of integrated food parks across India.

### **Outcome of the Summit**

- The decision was announced after the first virtual summit of I2U2 group leaders - Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid and UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- The Summit was focussed on the food security crisis and clean energy.
- Private sectors from the US and Israel will be invited to lend their expertise and provide innovative solutions that contribute to the overall sustainability of the project.
- The Summit discussed innovative ways to ensure sustainable, more diverse food production and food delivery systems that can better manage the global food crisis.
- The I2U2 group will take forward a 300 MW hybrid renewable energy project in Gujarat with wind and solar capacity.
- This was the first summit of this group.

### **Significance**

- Integrated food parks will incorporate cutting-edge climate-smart technologies to conserve waste, fresh water and employ renewable energy sources in food.
- India will provide suitable land for the project and facilitate integration of farmers into food parks.
- These investments will help in maximizing crop yields and combating food insecurity in South Asia and the Middle East.

### **What is the 'I2U2' group?**

- The I2U2 is a group comprising India, Israel, the U.S., and the UAE, has been called the 'West Asian Quad'.
- The group is known as 'I2U2' with "I" standing for India and Israel and "U" for the US and the UAE.
- This view was expressed by U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan with U.S. President Joe Biden.
- The I2U2 grouping was conceptualized during the meeting of foreign ministers of four countries held on 18 October 2021.

### **Aims of I2U2 Group**

- I2U2 aims to harness the vibrancy and entrepreneurial spirit of society to address some of the biggest challenges facing the world.
- It aims to encourage joint investment in six mutually recognized sectors such as water, energy, transport, space, health and food security.
- Appropriate use of private sector capital and expertise to help drive infrastructure modernization, low-carbon development pathways for industries, improve public health, and the development of critical emerging and green technologies.

### **3. France Bastille Day 2022 ( July 14, 2022 )**

France celebrates 14 July every year as National Day, also known as Bastille Day.

#### **Important facts**

- French National Day is formally called La Fete Nationale in France.
- It is celebrated on July 14, 1789, the anniversary of the invasion of Bastille, known as a military fort and prison, during the French Revolution.
- Along with France, it is also celebrated by other countries and especially by French speaking people and communities.
- Many public events are organised on this occasion but the most famous event is the Bastille Day Military Parade.
- This parade takes place in Paris on the morning of July 14. The first parade was held in the year 1880.
- The famous cycling race Tour de France also takes place during Bastille Day.
- The Bastille was a mediaeval armoury, fort and prison in Paris.
- For many common people it represented an unfair monarchy and the monarchy was a symbol of abuse of power.
- On July 14, 1789, soldiers stormed and captured Bastille.
- This signalled the beginning of the French Revolution, and three years later in 1792 the French Republic was formed.

#### **About France**

- France is a country located in Western Europe
- It is the largest country in the continent of Europe in terms of area.
- Capital- Paris
- President- Emmanuel Macron
- currency - euro

**4. Japan awards Ex-PM Shinzo Abe country's highest order posthumously ( July 14, 2022 )**

The Japanese government has decided to posthumously honour former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with the 'Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum'.

**Important facts**

- Shinzo Abe was the longest-serving prime minister of Japan.
- He is the fourth former prime minister to receive the Supreme Order of Japan under the post-war constitution.
- Shinzo Abe was assassinated on July 8, 2022, while he was campaigning in the city of Nara.
- Tetsuya Yamagami, 41, fired two shots at her from a distance of 10 metres.
- His condition deteriorated on the way to the hospital due to cardiac and pulmonary arrest. He was later declared dead at Nara Medical University Hospital.

**Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum**

- It is the highest order in Japan.
- The Grand Cordon of the Order was established in 1876 by Emperor Meiji of Japan.
- Later, on January 4, 1888, the Collar of the Order was added.
- Unlike European orders, this order can also be awarded posthumously.
- So far, apart from the Imperial family, only 7 Japanese citizens have been given this order.
- In 1928 the final order was given to former Prime Minister Sayenji Kinmochi.

**5. Ahmedabad and Kerala on TIME magazine's list of World's Greatest Places of 2022 ( July 14, 2022 )**

India's first UNESCO World Heritage City, Ahmedabad and Kerala has been included in the list of the "World's 50 Greatest Places of 2022" by Time Magazine.

**Important facts**

- Both these places in India have been selected as '50 Extraordinary Places to Visit'.
- Time magazine described Kerala as one of the most beautiful states in India with spectacular beaches and lush backwaters, temples and palaces.
- Time magazine described Ahmedabad as a city that "represents ancient sites and contemporary innovations" making it a "Mecca for cultural tourism".

- Gandhi Ashram, Gujarat Science City and Navratri festival, located on the banks of the Sabarmati river, have been given special mention in Time magazine.
- Apart from Ahmedabad and Kerala, other cities in the world that figure in the top 50 list include Seoul, Buan in Bali, Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

### **About TIME Magazine**

- It was founded in 1923.
- This has been the most authoritative and informative guide to what is happening in Current Affairs, Politics, Business, Health, Science & Entertainment.
- It is a magazine published from New York.

### **6. Record surge in India's imports from China in first half of 2022 ( July 14, 2022 )**

According to China's trade figures released on July 13 India's imports from China reached a record \$57.51 billion in the first half of the year.

#### **India-China Bilateral Trade**

- Chinese goods imports are on record growth this year, and are set to surpass last year's \$97.5 billion mark.
- The trade imbalance is also heading towards another record. Imports this year are up 34.5% from the same period in 2021.
- Two-way trade crossed 100 billion dollars for the first time in 2021 to reach 125.6 billion dollars, of which India's imports were 97.5 billion dollars.
- Trade declined in 2020 due to the corona pandemic, but is now well above pre-pandemic levels.
- China is the largest trading partner of India.

#### **Major commodities imported from China into India**

- Electronic equipment, machines, engines, pumps, organic chemicals, fertilizers, iron and steel, plastics, iron or steel products, gems etc.

#### **Major commodities exported from India to China**

- Cotton, gems, precious metals, coins, copper ores, slag, ash, organic chemicals, salt, sulphur, stone, cement, machines, engines etc.

### **7. India ranks 135 out of 146 in Global Gender Gap Index ( July 14, 2022 )**

The World Economic Forum's (WEF) Annual Gender Gap Report 2022 was released on 13 July in Geneva. India is ranked 135th out of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index, 2022.

### **India's position**

- India is the worst performing country in the world in the "Health and Survival" sub-index, where it ranks 146th.
- India ranks worse than its neighbours and is behind Bangladesh (71), Nepal (96), Sri Lanka (110), Maldives (117) and Bhutan (126).
- In South Asia, only Iran (143), Pakistan (145) and Afghanistan (146) performed worse than India.
- In 2021, India was ranked 140 out of a total of 156 countries in the index.

### **The top 10 Countries**

- Iceland (90.8%) leads the global ranking.
- Other Scandinavian countries such as Finland (86%, second), Norway (84.5%, third) and Sweden (82.2%) figure in the top five.
- Sub-Saharan African countries Rwanda (81.1%, 6th) and Namibia (80.7%, 8th), a Latin American country, Nicaragua (81%, 7th), and a country from East Asia and the Pacific, New Zealand (84.1%, 4th) ranked in the top 10.
- Other European countries such as Ireland (80.4%) and Germany (80.1%) are ranked ninth and tenth.

### **4 key dimensions**

#### **1. Political Empowerment**

This includes metrics such as the percentage of women in Parliament.

#### **1. Economic Participation and Opportunity**

The metrics involved are, percentage of women who are part of the labor force, pay parity for equal work, earned income, etc.

#### **1. Educational Attainment**

It includes metrics such as literacy rate and enrollment rate in primary, secondary and tertiary education.

#### **1. Health and Survival**

This includes two metrics: the sex ratio at birth (in %) and healthy life expectancy (in years).

### **About Global Gender Gap Index**

- It is annually published by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- It was first introduced in 2006 to benchmark progress towards gender equality.
- It is the 16th edition of the Global Gender Gap Report.
- It tracks the progress of bridging the gender gap over time.

## **8. Indonesia announced 'Digital Nomad' Visas for travellers ( July 12, 2022 )**

Indonesia has announced "**Digital Nomad Visa**" for travelers to attract foreign tourists.

### **• Important facts**

- Bali is one of the most famous places in the country for beaches and bars, Indonesia is looking to bring back the sluggish economy due to Covid through these visas.

### **• Who are digital nomads?**

- Digital nomads are people who work while travelling to different places and spend their earned income in the country they are travelling to.
- Most workplaces were moved online during the pandemic, while some offices are beginning to open, with most organizations announcing remote work.
- As the world moves towards vaccination and international borders have opened, people can continue to do their routine work remotely from anywhere in the world.
- A study found that 10.9 million American workers described themselves as digital nomads in 2020, a 49 percent increase from 2019.

### **• What is the "Digital Nomad Visa" of Indonesia?**

- The digital nomad visa will allow remote workers to live in Indonesia, which includes Bali that will be tax-free.
- Its purpose is to promote tourism in the country, the visa will be applicable for five years.
- The announcement of the Digital Nomad Visa is aimed at attracting over 3.6 million foreign travellers to the country to visit in the next year.

### **• Which countries are providing Nomad Visas?**

- In March, Italy issued a new permit for non-EU citizens or digital nomads who can stay in the country for up to 90 days without a visa.
- Antigua and Barbuda are offering nomadic visas for two years.
- Barbados offers a one-year remote working visa that can be extended.
- Croatia, Costa Rica, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Mauritius, Norway and Spain are also offering nomadic visas.

## **9. India will surpass China as the most populous country on earth in 2023: UN ( July 11, 2022 )**

According to a report by the United Nations released on 11 July India will surpass China as the most populous country on earth in 2023.

### **• Important facts**

- The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Population Division has said that the global population is projected to reach eight billion on November 15, 2022.
- As per a UN report, the world's population is growing at its slowest pace since 1950. It has fallen under 1% in 2020.
- According to the United Nations the world's population could grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030 and 9.7 billion in 2050.
- This year's World Population Day, July 11, marks a milestone, when the birth of the eight billionth person on Earth is expected.
- More than half of the projected growth in global population by 2050 will be concentrated in just eight countries of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and Tanzania.

### **• India's population in 2022**

- According to the report, India's population is 1.412 billion in 2022 as compared to China's 1.426 billion.
- India, which will overtake China as the world's most populous country by 2023, is projected to have 1.668 billion people in 2050, far ahead of China's 1.317 billion people by the middle of the century.

### **• World's most populous regions in 2022**

- The world's two most populous regions in 2022 were East and South-East Asia, with 2.3 billion people, representing 29% of the global population.
- Central and Southern Asia, with 2.1 billion, account for 26% of the world's population in 2022.
- With a population of over 1.4 billion in 2022, China and India account for the largest populations in these regions.

### **• Outflow of more than 1 million migrants**

- It is estimated that ten countries experienced a net outflow of more than 1 million migrants between 2010 and 2021.
- In many of these countries, these outflows were due to temporary workers leaving their country.
- Pakistan (net outflow of -16.5 million during 2010-2021), India (-3.5 million), Bangladesh (-2.9 million), Nepal (-1.6 million) and Sri Lanka (-1 million).



**Projections of Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)**

- Alternative long-term population estimates have also been made by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME).
- In its recent projections, IHME projected that the global population will reach 8.8 billion in 2100.

**10. Gita Gopinath becomes first woman to feature on IMF's 'wall of former chief economists' ( July 9, 2022 )**

inscribed on the wall of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) former chief economists.

**• Important facts**

- The first Indian to receive this honour was Raghuram Rajan, who was the IMF's Chief Economist and Director of Research between 2003 and 2006.
- Gita Gopinath was appointed Chief Economist of the IMF in October 2018 and was later promoted as the first Deputy Managing Director of the IMF in December 2021.
- Gita Gopinath served as the first female chief economist of the Washington-based Monetary Fund for three years.
- Gita Gopinath is one of the foremost economists. She is also known for her research on international finance and macroeconomics.
- Geeta is the third woman to become a tenured professor (permanent professor) of Harvard's Department of Economics and the second Indian after Nobel laureate Amartya Sen.
- In 2019, Geeta was awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman by the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, which is the highest honour for Indians living outside the country.

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

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF), a United Nations (UN) specialised agency, was established in 1944 at the Bretton Woods Conference to secure international monetary policies.
- The International Monetary Fund is an organisation with 189 member countries.
- First Deputy Managing Director- Geeta Gopinath
- Headquarters- Washington, D.C., U.S.
- Managing Director- Kristalina Georgieva
- Chief Economist - Pierre Olivier Gourinchas