

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. Ram Chandra Paudel elected as the new President of Nepal ( March 10, 2023 )**

On 9 March 2023, senior Nepali Congress leader **Ram Chandra Paudel** has been elected as the **new President of Nepal**.

News Overview

- Ram Chandra Paudel got votes **by 214 MPs of Parliament and 352 Members of Provincial Assemblies**.
- The President is elected by an electoral college consisting of members of the provincial assemblies and the federal parliament.
- The total number of electors for the presidential election in Nepal is 882, including 332 members of the parliament as well as 550 members of the provincial assemblies of the 7 provinces.
- He will succeed **Bidya Devi Bhandari** as the head of state of Nepal.

#### **About Ram Chandra Paudel**

- He also served as the **Deputy Prime Minister, Cabinet Minister and President of Nepal**.
- He served as the **Vice President of Nepali Congress** Tanhu District Committee in 1980, General Secretary in 2005, Vice President in 2007 and Acting President of the party in 2015.
- Ram Chandra Paudel served as **Minister of Local Development** in May 1991, Minister of Agriculture in 1992 and Speaker from December 1994 to March 1999.

#### **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**
- Capital: **Kathmandu**
- Currency: **Nepalese Rupee**

### **2. Former Malaysian PM Muhyiddin Yassin arrested on corruption charges ( March 10, 2023 )**

The **Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission** on 9 March arrested former Malaysian Prime Minister **Muhyiddin Yassin** on the **charges of corruption**.

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

- Muhyiddin, who was Malaysia's prime minister for 17 months **between 2020 and 2021**, has been charged under laws related to abuse of power and money laundering.
- He and his party have faced a corruption investigation after losing the November election to Prime Minister **Anwar Ibrahim**.
- Prime Minister Ibrahim last year ordered a review of **billions of dollars of government projects** approved by Muhyiddin, including **Covid-19 relief programmes**, alleging that he did not follow proper procedures.
- Muhyiddin, who is also **chairman of Bersatu**, a major opposition party in Malaysia's ruling coalition, would be the second former prime minister to be indicted.
- Another former Malaysian prime minister, **Najib Razak**, is also serving a 12-year prison sentence for corruption.

### **About Malaysia**

- Prime Minister - **Anwar Ibrahim**
- Capital - **Kuala Lumpur**
- Currency - **Malaysian ringgit**
- Official Language - **Malay**
- Official Religion - **Islam**

### **3. 3rd session of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction begins in New Delhi ( March 10, 2023 )**

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **third session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR)** in **New Delhi** on 10 March.

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

- The **main theme** of the 3rd session of this Platform is “**Building Local Resilience in a Changing Climate**”.
- The theme of the session is in line with the **10-point agenda** announced by the Prime Minister for building local capacities, especially in the context of the rapidly changing disaster risk landscape in the wake of climate change.
- The session will identify gaps, recommendations and partnerships to further accelerate disaster risk reduction efforts.
- During the event, the Prime Minister presented awards to the winners of the **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar**.
- The **winners of the 2023** award are **Odisha State Disaster Management Authority and Lunglei Fire Station of Mizoram**.

- The Prime Minister also inaugurated the exhibition to showcase innovative ideas and initiatives and technologies in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction.
- More than **a thousand dignitaries** will participate in this two-day, third session.
- Home Minister **Amit Shah** chaired the ministerial session in which wide-ranging consultations were held with ministers from states and union territories.

### **About NPDRR**

- NPDRR is a **multi-stakeholder forum** constituted by the Government to facilitate dialogue and share experiences, ideas, action oriented research and explore opportunities in the area of disaster risk reduction.

### **4. President of India confers Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023 ( March 6, 2023 )**

“Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023”,

The “**Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023**”, organized by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** to honour the **women champions of rural water and sanitation sector**, was graced by the President **Droupadi Murmu**.

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

- The President launched the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain 2023 campaign** in New Delhi.

### **About Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman**

- The Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman is to highlight and **acknowledge the leadership and contribution of women** at the grassroots level in the journey of creating a 'Swachh Sujal Bharat'.
- Women who have made significant contributions in **ODF Plus Model Villages, Har Ghar Jal Villages, Water Conservation etc.** under the National Flagship Mission were felicitated.
- This year's event was organized by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti to honor women champions of the rural water and sanitation sector.

### **About Catch the Rain campaign**

- It is a **mass movement campaign** that encourages all stakeholders to build **Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS)**.
- Tag Line: **Catch the rain where it falls, when it falls.**
- The campaign is implemented by the **National Water Mission (NWM)** under Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The campaign is run across the country in both **rural and urban areas**.

## **5. UN inks first 'High Seas Treaty' in a bid to protect ocean bodies of the world ( March 6, 2023 )**

world's oceans located outside national boundaries.

For the first time in history, the **United Nations** signed the '**High Seas Treaty**' to protect the **world's oceans located outside national boundaries.**

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

- The treaty is the result of nearly a decade of negotiations on environmental concerns.
- The treaty was agreed upon on 4 March after 38 hours of negotiations at the **United Nations Headquarters in New York.**
- The last international agreement on ocean conservation was signed 40 years ago **in 1982.**

### **What is the UN High Seas Treaty?**

- The treaty will create a **new body to manage the conservation of marine life** and establish marine protected areas in the high seas.
- The treaty brings **30 percent of the world's oceans** into a protected area, spends more on marine conservation, and sets new rules for ocean mining.
- The treaty aims to protect against potential impacts such as **deep-sea mining.**
- The treaty would put restrictions on how much fish could be caught in the high seas.

### **What are High Seas?**

- **International water bodies** that cross the boundaries of nations are considered high seas.
- They cover about **two-thirds of the world's oceans.**
- These are water bodies where all countries have the right to **fish, sail and conduct research.**
- But so far only about **1% of this water** – known as the high seas – has been protected.
- These are also important areas for exploration of **valuable minerals, pharmaceuticals, oil and gas reserves.**

### **Vulnerable marine species**

- According to the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**, about **10% of marine species** are at risk of extinction.
- In addition, **41% of threatened species** are affected by climate change.

- **Shellfish, sharks and whales** are under particular pressure due to their use as seafood and medicines.

## **6. Government approves nano liquid DAP fertilizer for benefits of farmers ( March 5, 2023 )**

Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** on 5 March said the **government has approved the launch of nano liquid DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) fertilizer** for the benefits of farmers and making the country self-reliant.

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

- Fertilizer cooperative **IFFCO**, which is set to launch **Nano Liquid Urea in 2021**, also announced that the government has approved the launch of its Nano DAP fertilizer.
- One bottle will be equivalent to one bag of DAP, which **costs Rs 1,350**.
- IFFCO is also planning to launch **Nano-Potash, Nano-Zinc and Nano-Copper fertilizers**.
- In June 2021, IFFCO launched Nano Urea in liquid form as an alternative to conventional urea.
- It has set up several manufacturing plants in **Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh** to produce Nano Urea.
- There is no government subsidy on Nano Urea and it is being sold at **Rs 240 per bottle**.

### **What is Liquid Nano Urea (LNU)?**

- Nano urea is a **liquid form of nitrogen** providing plant nutrient as a conventional alternative to urea.
- It has been developed in place of conventional urea and has the potential to reduce the requirement of conventional urea by at least **50 percent**.
- One **500 ml bottle contains 40,000 mg/l nitrogen**, which can provide nitrogen nutrients equivalent to one bag/sack of normal urea.
- The effectiveness of Nano Urea Liquid is **more than 80%**.
- Its use has been found to increase the yield by **about 8%**.
- Its aim is to reduce **farmers' dependence on packaged urea**.

## **7. Belarus court jails Nobel Peace Prize winner Ales Bialiatski for 10 years ( March 4, 2023 )**

**A court in Belarus** on March 3 sentenced **2022 Nobel Peace Prize winner** and human rights activist **Ales Bialiatski** to **10 years in prison** for financing protests and other crimes.

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

- He has been given this sentence in the case of activities disturbing public order, financing and smuggling.
- A fine of 65 thousand US dollars has also been imposed on **60-year-old Bialiatsky**.
- He is co-founder of the **Viasna human rights group**.
- In October 2022, he was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize for his work on human rights and democracy**.
- Along with Bialyatsky, representatives of the Vesna Human Rights Center, **Valentin Stefanovich and Vladimir Labkovich**, were also sentenced to **9 years and 7 years**, respectively.
- Investigation revealed that Ales Bialiatsky and other members received funds from various organizations in Lithuania during April **2016 to July 2021**.
- After this these funds were sent outside the Eurasian Economic Union with the help of many people.
- According to the law of Belarus, this is a crime and the maximum **punishment for this crime is 12 years**.
- Bialiatsky, a Belarusian litterateur, school teacher and museum director, has been involved in pro-democracy protests since the **1980s**.
- He was an avid supporter of Belarus' independence from the **Soviet Union in the early 1980s**, organizing anti-Soviet protests across the country.

### **8. NADA and NCERT tie up to strengthen value based sports education ( March 4, 2023 )**

The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** and the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** signed an MoU on 3 March 2023 to strengthen value-based sports education among school children and teachers.

#### **News Overview**

- The MoU will help in developing an **accessible format on sports values and ethics in e-content**.
- The MoU will also help in creating awareness at the grass root level.

#### **About NADA**

- The **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** was established on **24 November 2005** as a registered society under the **Societies Registration Act 1860** with a mandate for dope free sports in India.
- Its objectives are to promote education and research, enforce anti-doping rules, regulate dope control programs, promote education and research, and create public awareness about doping and its ill-effects.
- Headquarters - **New Delhi**
- Director General - **Ritu San**

### **About NCERT**

- The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** was established by the Government of India for the purpose of advising the Central Government and the Provincial Governments on matters related to school education.
- Objective - **To bring quality in education**
- Headquarters - **New Delhi**
- Director - **Hrishikesh Senapati**

### **9. Jan Aushadhi Train flagged off by Mansukh Mandaviya and Ashwini Vaishnav ( March 4, 2023 )**

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** and Railway Minister **Ashwini Vaishnav** flagged off the **Jan Aushadhi train (Chhattisgarh Sampark Kranti Express)** in **New Delhi** on 3 March.

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

- The train is dedicated to the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**.
- The train has been wrapped with branding of **Jan Aushadhi scheme** to spread the awareness among public about generic medicines available at **Jan Aushadhi centers**.
- Medicines are available at affordable prices in more than **nine thousand Jan Aushadhi Kendras** in India.
- This train will travel through **184 stations** covering more than four states in two months.
- **Jan Aushadhi Kendras** provide quality and affordable medicines.
- Indian Railways is also running a special campaign for promotion of affordable generic medicines to create awareness among the public.
- The Ministry of Railways has decided to open Jan Aushadhi Kendras at some major railway stations which will prove beneficial for the passengers.

This train will travel to more than **4 states in 2 months**.

### **About Jan Aushadhi Scheme**

- The Jan aushadhi scheme was launched in **2008 by the UPA government**.
- This scheme was **relaunched in the year 2015**, by the **Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi**.
- This campaign was started across the country by selling generic medicines through "**Jan Aushadhi Medical Stores**".
- In 2015, the name of '**Jan Aushadhi Yojana**' was changed to '**Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana**' (**PMJAY**), but it was changed to "**Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Yojana**" in November 2016.
- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) scheme was launched by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**, Government of India with the objective of providing quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all.

### **10. RBI imposes Rs 3.06 Crore penalty on Amazon Pay (India) ( March 4, 2023 )**

**Reserve Bank of India** has imposed a **penalty of Rs 3.06 crore** on **Amazon Pay (India) Private Limited** for **non-compliance** of certain directions related to **Prepaid Payment Instruments** and Know Your Customer.

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

- The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under **section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.
- It was found that **Amazon Pay (India)** was not complying with the directions issued by RBI on **KYC requirements**.
- Accordingly, notice was issued to the unit advising it to show cause why penalty should not be imposed for non-compliance of the directions.
- **Amazon Pay (India) Pvt Ltd** is the online payments service owned by US-based Amazon.