

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. Govt sanctions loans of more than 40,600 crore to over 1.8 lakh women entrepreneurs ( April 5, 2023 )**

Govt sanctions loans of more than 40,600 crore to over 1.8 lakh women entrepreneurs

The Government has sanctioned loans of more than **40,600 crore rupees** to over **1.8 lakh women entrepreneurs** under the **Stand Up India Scheme**.

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

- Speaking on the **7th anniversary of the Stand-up India scheme**, Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** said that over 1.8 lakh women and SC/ST entrepreneurs received loans under the scheme.
- The scheme has created an eco-system which provides a supportive environment for setting up green field enterprises by availing loans from bank branches of all scheduled commercial banks.

#### **About Stand Up India Scheme**

- It was launched on **April 5, 2016**, to promote entrepreneurship among **women, Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) categories**.
- It has been launched to help them start a greenfield venture in manufacturing, services or business sector and agriculture allied activities.
- The objective is to encourage all bank branches to extend loans to **SC, ST and women for setting up their own greenfield enterprises**.
- The Stand-up India scheme is based on the third pillar of the **National Mission for Financial Inclusion** namely "**Funding the Unfunded**".
- More than **80 per cent of the loans** given under the scheme have been given to women.

#### **Eligibility for the scheme**

- **SC/ST women entrepreneurs above 18 years** of age.
- Loans under the scheme are available only for greenfield projects.
- Borrower should not be in default to any bank or financial institution.

### **2. Banarasi paan among the 4 food items to get GI tag ( April 5, 2023 )**

Banarasi paan among the 4 food items to get GI tag

**Banarasi paan** has been awarded the **GI tag**, which signifies its **unique identity and origin**. Three other foods from the Varanasi region, including **Banarasi Langda Mango, Ramnagar Bhanta (Brinjal), and Adamchini rice, have also received the GI tag.**

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

- Banarasi paan is a popular **mouth-freshener** made from **betel leaves, betel nut, slaked lime and many other ingredients.**
- Banarasi paan is an important part of the **cultural heritage of the city of Varanasi**, having its origins in the **Mughal era.**
- The inclusion of these **four products takes the total number of GI-tagged products** from the **Kashi region alone to 22**, highlighting the rich cultural and culinary heritage of the region.
- The GI tag provides an opportunity to the producers of Banarasi paan to market and promote it as a unique and authentic product from the Varanasi region while preserving the traditional skills and knowledge.
- The GI tag can also boost the local economy by promoting tourism and increasing demand for **Banarasi Paan and other GI-tagged products from the region.**

### **What is GI Tag?**

- A Geographical Indication (GI) is a name or sign given to **products coming from a specific geographical location.**
- GIs certify that products have been made using traditional methods or have specific qualities due to their origin.
- GI is used for **food, handicrafts and industrial products.**
- GI tag ensures that only authorised users can use the name of the product.

### **Who grants and regulates Geographical Indications?**

- Geographical Indications (GI) are a type of **Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)** recognized and protected under the **Paris Convention** for the Protection of Industrial Property.
- The **World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)** provides a framework for the protection of GIs at the international level.
- In India, the registration and protection of GI is governed by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**, which came into effect in September 2003.
- The first product in India to receive the GI tag was **Darjeeling tea**, which was given GI tag in the **year 2004-05.**

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#### **4. IIT Kanpur to host Y20 consultation under India's G20 chairmanship ( April 5, 2023 )**

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The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** will host the **Youth20 Consultation under India's G20 chairmanship** from 5 to 6 April 2023.

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

- Y20 Consultancy is a platform that brings together **youth to connect, share ideas and experiences, and brainstorm** on finding innovative solutions to pressing global concerns.
- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India**, is the regulatory authority behind Y20 mentorship, and it is a pan-India activity until the final Youth-20 summit in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The consultation Y20 Summit 2023 focuses on two main themes: "**The Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation, and 21st Century Skills**"; and "**Health, Wellbeing and Sport: Agenda for Youth**."
- IIT Kanpur is one of the oldest IITs in India, **established in 1959**.
- IIT Kanpur focuses on research and development in various fields including aerospace engineering, biotechnology and renewable energy.

#### **About the G20**

- It is an **international forum** of the world's major 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**.

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## **6. India Justice Report 2022 : Karnataka tops states, UTs in providing access to justice ( April 5, 2023 )**

India Justice Report 2022

According to the **India Justice Report 2022** released in New Delhi on April 4, **Karnataka tops the list** of states and Union Territories in providing access to justice.

**Parameters** - This study relies on overall statistics from four pillars of justice delivery:

- Police
- Judiciary
- Prisons
- Legal aid

## Highlights of the report

### Shortage of Judges

- According to the report, as of **December 2022**, the **high courts were functioning with only 778 judges** as against the **sanctioned strength of 1,108**.
- The **subordinate courts** were functioning with **19,288 judges** as against the **sanctioned strength of 24,631 judges**.

### Case Clearance Rate (CCR)

- As per reports, the **High Courts are settling more cases than the subordinate courts**.
- Between 2018-19 and 2022, the national average increased by **six percentage points (88.5% to 94.6%)** in **high courts**, but decreased by **3.6 points (93% to 89.4%)** in **subordinate courts**.
- The **High Courts of Kerala and Odisha have the highest case disposal rates** - 156% and 131%, respectively - while the **High Courts of Rajasthan (65%) and Bombay (72%)** have the lowest, respectively.

### Increasing Pendency

- The number of cases per judgment has been **relatively stable** over the past five years in most states.
- At the High Court level, cases are **pending for an average of 11.34 years in Uttar Pradesh**, while West Bengal has a delay of 9.9 years. **Tripura has the lowest average (1 year), Sikkim (1.9 years) and Meghalaya (2.1 years)**.

### Performance of States

- **Karnataka ranks first among 18 large and medium-sized states** with a population of over one crore in terms of delivery of justice, which includes police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid.
- **Tamil Nadu is second and Telangana is third**. **Uttar Pradesh is at the 18th position**, which is at the bottom.
- Among small states, **Sikkim topped the list of seven small states** with less than one crore population, followed by **Arunachal Pradesh**. **Goa** is at the bottom, at seventh position.

### Court Hall

- Nationwide, the number of courts appears to be sufficient to accommodate the actual number of judges.
- But as per reports if all the sanctioned posts are filled, the court hall will become an issue.

## **About India Justice Report**

- **Tata Trusts launched the India Justice Report (IJR) in 2019.**
- This is the **third edition**.
- Center for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Daksh, TISS-Prayas, Vidhi Institute for Law Policy, and How India Lives, data partner of IJR, are among its partners.

## **7. Skyroot Aerospace test-fires advanced fully 3D-printed cryogenic engine ( April 5, 2023 )**

Skyroot Aerospace test-fires advanced fully 3D-printed cryogenic engine

**In Nagpur**, private space vehicle company **Skyroot Aerospace** test-fired its **3D-printed Dhawan II engine** for a duration of **200 seconds** on 4 April.

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

- This is the second cryogenic rocket that has been successfully test-fired by **Skyroot**, following the **Dhawan-I engine that was tested in November 2021**.
- The achievement comes after the **November 2022 launch of Vikram-S**, making **Skyroot the first Indian private company** to send a rocket into space.
- The engine has been developed by the company for its heavy vehicle **Vikram II**.
- This cryogenic engine will be used as an **advanced stage of the updated version of Vikram-II**.
- The cryogenic engine series is named after **Dr. Satish Dhawan**, a renowned Indian rocket scientist who played a key role in the development of the Indian space programme.

### **Utilisation of Skyroot's cryogenic rocket engines**

- Skyroot's cryogenic rocket engines use two **high-performance rocket propellants, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and liquid oxygen (LOX)**, which require cryogenic temperatures (below -150 °C) for storage and operation .
- Fully cryogenic engines are ideal for rocket upper stages due to their high specific impulse, which increases payload carrying capacity.

### **Skyroot Aerospace**

- Skyroot Aerospace is a **spacetech start-up** that aims to address growing concerns in the global space industry.
- It provides **low cost launch solutions** to reach space in short time.

- The startup's three launch vehicles - **Vikram I, II and III** - can carry payloads ranging from **200 kg to 700 kg to low Earth orbit**.
- Currently, the team is testing a **3D printed liquid propellant engine** and a **fully composite (carbon fiber)** and high-performance solid rocket motor.
- Headquarters - **Hyderabad, Telangana**

## **8. Bahrain Launches Golden License To Make Large-Scale Investments ( April 4, 2023 )**

Bahrain Launches Golden License To Make Large-Scale Investments

**Bahrain launched the Golden License Initiative** to encourage investment and job creation in the country and aims to provide streamlined services and benefits to local and foreign businesses with large-scale investment projects in Bahrain.

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

- Companies with important strategic projects and investments of more than **US\$50 million or creating more than 500 jobs in Bahrain** will be eligible for the licence.
- The Golden License offers various benefits, including **priority land allotment for investment, infrastructure services, utilities, and streamlined access to government services** such as business licensing and building permit approval.
- The licence will also provide support from **Tamkin and the Bahrain Development Bank**.
- The initiative was launched by Bahrain's cabinet, chaired by Prince **Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa**, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Bahrain, to attract local and international investment to create job opportunities.
- India has the largest expatriate population in Bahrain, with around **350,000 Indians living in the country**.

### **About Bahrain**

- It is an island country **located in western Asia** on the **Persian Gulf and consists of 50 natural islands and 33 artificial islands**, of which Bahrain Island is the largest.
- The **capital of Bahrain is Manama**, which serves as the **commercial and financial centre of the country**.
- The majority of the population is **Muslim, with Sunni and Shia Muslims** being the largest groups.



## **9. 2nd G20 Empower meeting of Ministry of Women and Child Development begins in Thiruvananthapuram ( April 4, 2023 )**

2nd G20 Empower meeting of Ministry of Women and Child Development begins in Thiruvananthapuram

The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has launched the **2nd G20 Empower meeting** in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala** under the theme “**Women Empowerment: Win-win for Equality and Economy**”.

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

- The meeting includes various side events that address important issues related to **women's safety, health, wages and insurance**.
- Issues such as **women empowerment, women entrepreneurship, leadership development and economic prosperity** through women's participation in non-traditional sectors will be discussed in the meeting.
- G20 Empower 2023, under the chairmanship of India, aims to promote India's women-led development agenda.

### **About the G20**

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- Its primary objective is to promote **international financial stability and sustainable economic growth**.
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State Health Minister of Kerala - **Veena George**

Chairperson of G20 Empower - **Dr. Sangita Reddy**

Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development - **Munjpara Mahendrabhai**

## **10. MF Hydra: World's first liquid hydrogen ferry ( April 4, 2023 )**

MF Hydra: World's first liquid hydrogen ferry

**Norwegian company Norld** launched the **world's first ferry to run on MF Hydra liquid hydrogen**.

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

- The vessel, named **MF Hydra**, is a hybrid and uses both batteries and liquid hydrogen fuel cells for power.

- The **Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA)** granted approval to operate the yacht.
- An important step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the marine industry.
- **Hydrogen fuel cells** produce only clean water as a byproduct, making them an environmentally friendly option for powering ferries and other marine vessels.
- The **MF Hydra was to be delivered in 2021 and measures 82.4 metres in length**, with a passenger capacity of 300 and a capacity to carry 80 vehicles.
- It uses **two 200 kW fuel cells, two 440 kW** generators and two Shottel thrusters to reach a speed of 9 knots.
- The hydrogen system was provided by **Linde Engineering**, the fuel cell by Ballard and the battery by Corvus Energy. The ferry was completed by Westcon and systems integrator SEAM.

### **About Norway**

Capital- **Oslo**

Currency- **Norwegian Krone**

King- **Harald V of Norway**