

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. Govt forms cabinet secretary-led panel to monitor Mission Karmayogi ( Feb. 21, 2023 )**

An **apex panel comprising seven secretaries** has been constituted under the leadership of **Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba** to oversee the implementation of the **Karmayogi programme**, the government's ambitious mission for training government employees.

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

- It is the coordination committee of the **Cabinet Secretariat** that will oversee Mission Karmayogi.
- It will review the progress of the program and guide the government to train and upgrade the competencies of all civil servants to match the role.
- A **Cabinet Secretariat Coordination Unit (CSCU)** was recently set up under the **National Program for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB) or Mission Karmayogi**.
- The CSCU will have nominees from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat, Department of Personnel and Training Secretary, Home Secretary, Expenditure Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Secretary, Higher Education Secretary and Revenue Secretary as members.

#### **About Mission Karmayogi Scheme**

- Mission Karmayogi Yojana was launched on **2nd September 2020**.
- This scheme is operated under the leadership of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- The main objective of the Mission Karmayogi scheme is **to develop the capabilities of government employees**.
- Under the Mission Karmayogi scheme, a budget of **Rs 510.86 crore** has been set by the government for a period of 5 years for about 46 lakh central employees.
- For the successful operation of the scheme **iGOT Karmayogi platform** has also been formed through which online contact is made available.

### **2. Pangong Tso lake marathon registered as world's highest Frozen Lake Marathon in the Guinness Book ( Feb. 21, 2023 )**

The **Frozen Lake Marathon** at **Pangong Tso Lake** in the Union Territory of **Ladakh** has been officially included in the **Guinness Book of World Records** as the **Highest Frozen Lake Marathon for the first time**.

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

- It was organised on 20 February at the world-famous **Pangong Lake**, situated at an altitude of **4,350 metres above sea level**.
- The Frozen Lake Marathon is being organised for the **first time in the country** and is considered to be one of the toughest because of the **high altitude and cold**.
- The theme of this marathon is '**The Last Run**' and it is organised with the aim of creating **awareness about climate change in Ladakh** and **promoting border tourism**.
- It was organised under the **Vibrant Village Program** to accelerate the pace of development in border villages.
- The **21 km long marathon** that started at **Luking village** was organised by the **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council** in association with the **Adventure Sports Foundation of Ladakh**.

### **Pangong Tso lake**

- It is a long narrow, deep **landlocked lake** situated at an altitude of over **14,000 feet in the Himalayas**.
- The western end is located **54 km to the south-east of Leh**.
- This **salt water lake** freezes in winter.
- It is about **135 km long**, of which more than **two-thirds is under Chinese control**.
- The **Line of Actual Control** passes through the **middle of this lake**.

### **3. India and Singapore launch joint digital payment mechanism ( Feb. 21, 2023 )**

**India and Singapore** on 21 February launched a **joint digital payment mechanism** to enable residents of both countries to make **easier and faster cross-border transactions**.

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

- The facility was jointly launched by **Shaktikanta Das**, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and **Ravi Menon**, Managing Director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore.
- India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** and **Singapore's PayNow** have entered into an **agreement** in this regard to facilitate these transactions.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Prime Minister of Singapore **Lee Hsien Loong** participated in the virtual launch of Real Time Payment Linkage.
- This will add a new chapter in **fintech connectivity**. Now people can make cost effective and fast money transfers from their mobile phones.

- This real-time payment system will help the **Indian diaspora** in Singapore, especially **migrant workers and students**.

#### **4. Union Minister of Food Processing Industry inaugurates India Pavillion at Dubai ( Feb. 21, 2023 )**

**India Pavillion' at Gulfood, Dubai** was inaugurated by **Pashupati Kumar Paras**, Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India in the presence of **Sunjay Sudhir**, Ambassador of India to the UAE on 20 February.

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

- The 'India Pavillion' is the **largest pavilion at Gulfood 2023**.
- The 'India Pavillion' has **306 companies**, including leading SMEs and startups, participating on one platform.
- Indian companies are exhibiting in all sectors of Gulffood including beverages, pulses, cereals, food, meat and poultry, dairy, fats and oils etc.
- Major Indian companies participating include **Amul, MDH, Parle, Rasna, Bikanerwala, Bikaji, Everest Foods, Markfed, Safal and Red Fort**.
- In the 'India Pavillion', special promotion and branding of millets superfoods will be done as the United Nations celebrates the **International Year of Millets 2023**.
- **APEDA** will sign an MoU with Lulu Group International for in-store promotion of millets in its supermarkets in the UAE.

##### **Food Processing Industry of India**

- **India is the second largest producer** of fruits and vegetables, rice, fish and tea.
- **India ranks first** in terms of production of milk, millets, spices, pulses.
- India has agricultural exports of US\$ 46.1 billion and 23 operational mega food parks and 12 agro-processing clusters.
- India has shown renewed interest in **millets** because of their nutritional value and sustainability.

#### **5. India to host Permanent Mission Roundtables at UN Head Quarter as Chair of G- 20 ( Feb. 21, 2023 )**

India as the **Chair of the G-20** will host the **Permanent Mission Roundtable at the UN Headquarters** ahead of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit** to be held in **New York** this year.

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

- A series of round table conferences have been lined up for the **next few months**.

- A roundtable titled '**Gandhian Trusteeship: A panel discussion on Sustainable Lifestyles and Enduring Pace**' will be held.
- This will be followed on March 9 by a roundtable on '**The world we women and girls want: Technology-driven social and economic advancement**'.
- On March 16, a roundtable on '**Grassroots leadership and transformation: Charting the path of empowerment through technology and skill development**' will take place.
- A special program has been planned to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Dr BR Ambedkar on 14th April**.
- During the event, the focus will be on India's growth story and achievements.
- The **2023 SDG Summit** will be held in **September 2023** under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly.

## **6. Eknath Shinde-led Sena faction gets 'bow and arrow' symbol ( Feb. 21, 2023 )**

The **Election Commission of India** on 17 February ordered the **Eknath Shinde faction** to be renamed the **Shiv Sena**, the commission also said that the **arrow and bow** would be retained as election symbols by **Eknath Shinde's party**.

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

- Both the Shiv Sena factions (**Eknath Shinde and Uddhav Thackeray**) are fighting for the party's bow and arrow symbol after Shinde (the current chief minister of Maharashtra) rebelled against Thackeray last year.
- The Election Commission, in its 78-page order, said the current constitution of Shiv Sena is "**undemocratic**".
- Uddhav Thackeray was the chief minister of Maharashtra before Shinde rebelled and took over in **June 2022**.
- Both the factions are fighting to keep the original name and symbol of the party to represent the "**real**" **Shiv Sena**.
- Shiv Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray said the Election Commission's order recognizing the Eknath Shinde faction as the real Shiv Sena was "dangerous for democracy", and he would challenge it in the Supreme Court.

### **How does EC decide who gets the symbol?**

- The question of a split in a political party outside the legislature is decided by **para 15 of the Emblems Order, 1968**.
- Accordingly, the Election Commission of India (ECI) may take into account all available facts and circumstances and conduct a majority test.

- The decision of the Election Commission shall be binding on all such rival sections or groups that have emerged after partition.
- This applies to disputes between recognized national and state parties.
- For splits in registered but unrecognised parties, the Election Commission usually advises the two factions to resolve their differences internally or approach the court.

### **Election Commission of India**

- It is a permanent and independent body established by the **Constitution of India** to ensure free and fair elections in India.
- It was established as per the Constitution on **25 January 1950**.
- It administers the elections to the **Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Assemblies, State Legislative Councils and the President and Vice President** of the country.
- It has nothing to do with elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states. For this the Constitution of India provides for a separate State Election Commission.
- Basically there is only **one Chief Election Commissioner** in the Election Commission.
- Currently it consists of **two Election Commissioners**.
- The **President** appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.
- They have a tenure of **six years, or up to the age of 65 years**.

### **7. India, Uzbekistan hold 4th Joint Military Exercise- 'Dustlik' ( Feb. 20, 2023 )**

As part of the **military-to-military exchange program** between the **Indian Army and the Uzbekistan Army**, the fourth edition of the training exercise **Dastlik (2023)** began on 20 February.

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

- The exercise will be held at **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand till March 5, 2023**.
- **45-45 soldiers** from both countries will participate in the exercise.
- The Indian contingent in this bilateral exercise will be represented by the **14th Battalion The Garhwal Rifles**, which is part of the Western Command.
- The Uzbekistan Army will be represented by troops from the **North Western Military District of the Uzbekistan Army**.
- Its purpose is to give impetus to the ever-growing military and diplomatic relations between the two countries.

This exercise shows the strong resolve of both the countries to combat terrorism.

### **Previous Exercises- 'Dustlik'**

- The **first edition** of this exercise was conducted in **November 2019** in Uzbekistan.
- The **second edition** was held in India in 2021 from 10 to 19 March at **Chaubatia, Ranikhet**.
- The **third edition** of the exercise was conducted from March 22 to 29 in 2022 in **Yangiyarik district of Uzbekistan**.

### **Significance**

- Keeping in mind the Belt and Road Initiative of China, this exercise is very important.
- Both the armies share counter-terrorist operations in mountain/rural/urban scenarios under the **UN mandate**.
- Military diplomacy to connect with Central Asia.

## **8. 18th World Security Congress ( Feb. 20, 2023 )**

The **18th World Security Congress** is being organised by the **International Union of Railways (UIC)** and **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** from 21 to 23 February in **Jaipur**.

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

- The 18th edition of this Congress is focused on the theme of "**Railway Safety Strategy: Responses and Vision for the Future**".
- It will be attended by concerned officials from UIC, partner international organisations, Indian Railways, RPF and senior police officers from India besides security heads from railway organisations across the globe.
- The Congress is divided into **4 sessions**, which include the topics "**Safety of critical assets and goods**", "**Human safety approaches**", "**Best railway safety equipment and practices around the world**" and "**Vision 2030**".
- Earlier, in **2006 and 2015**, RPF India successfully organized and hosted the International UIC World Security Congress in New Delhi.
- RPF Director General **Sanjay Chander** IPS has taken over as the **Chairman of the International UIC Security Forum** from July 2022 to July 2024.

### **About International Union of Railways (UIC)**

- The **Union Internationale des Chemins de Fer (UIC)** or International Union of Railways (UIC) is headquartered in **Paris, France**.

- It is a professional association which has been in **existence since 1922**.
- It represents the railway sector and promotes rail transport around the world.
- UIC serves on the mission of promoting interoperability and standardisation of rail transport, increasing cooperation and sharing of best practices, supporting members in new business and new areas of activities and proposing improved technical and environmental performance of rail transport.

### **About Railway Protection Force of India**

- This is a prime **security and Law Enforcement Agency** in the field of Railway Security in India.
- It was **formed in 1957** for better protection of railway property.
- It has proven itself with the additional roles of passenger safety and passenger convenience and protection of railway property.
- Director General of RPF - **Sanjay Chander**

### **9. India's lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 achieves another milestone ( Feb. 20, 2023 )**

**Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** on 19 February said that the 'Chandrayaan-3' lander has "**successfully**" underwent the **Electro-Magnetic Interference/Electro-Magnetic Compatibility (EMI/EMC) test** at the **U R Rao Satellite Centre**.

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

- The EMI-EMC test is conducted for satellite missions to ensure functionality of the satellite subsystems in space and their compatibility with the expected electromagnetic levels.
- The purpose of this test is to ensure that the satellite's systems work properly in conjunction with the expected electromagnetic levels in space.
- This is an important step in preparing the test satellites.
- The test was conducted between January 31 and February 2 at the UR RAW Satellite Center in Bengaluru.
- During this test several points related to the post-landing phase of Chandrayaan's mission were checked.
- These include a number of tests including launch capability, polarisation of antenna for radio frequency systems and compatibility of lander and rover.
- All the systems performed satisfactorily during the test.
- The complexity of this operation relates to the establishment of radio frequency communication links between these modules.

**10. UAE and India launch the UAE Chapter of the Business Council ( Feb. 19, 2023 )**

The **UAE and India** launched the **UAE India Business Council - UAE Chapter (UIBCUC)** on 18 February to strengthen economic ties and enhance **bilateral trade and investment**.

**An overview of the news**

- It was launched by **Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi**, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade in Dubai.
- One year of signing of the **India-UAE comprehensive free trade agreement**, completed.
- The UIBCUC aims to increase bilateral trade to \$100 billion and attract investments of **\$75 billion** from the UAE to India.
- The council will bring together key partners and stakeholders from both countries and encourage innovative collaboration between Emirati and Indian businesses.
- The Council will play a key role in supporting the two governments in their joint mission to promote bilateral trade and investment.
- It will operate under the supervision of the **Federation of UAE Chambers of Commerce and Industry**.
- It is registered with the **Dubai Chamber of Commerce** as a legal and financial entity.
- UIBC-UC will have its office in **Dubai**.
- **Faizal Kottikollon** of Kef Holdings has been appointed as the **Chairman of UIBC-UC**.
- **Major General (Retd.) Sharafuddin Sharaf**, the Chairman of the UIBC (India Chapter), will serve as the **Vice Chairman**.

**Key partners and stakeholders**

- Sovereign Wealth Funds from the UAE and large conglomerates from India such as - TATA group, Reliance, and Adani, as well as tech innovators like OLA, Zerodha, and EaseMyTrip.

**The founding members of the UIBC-UC from the UAE side**

- Mubadala - Sovereign Wealth Fund of the UAE, Wizz Financial, DP World, EMAAR, Emirates Airlines, Emirates NBD Bank.

**The founding members of the UIBC-UC from Indian side**

- TATA, Reliance, and Adani, OLA, Zerodha, Udaan, and EaseMyTrip.



- Prominent Indian entrepreneur-led corporations based in the UAE such as KEF Holdings,
- Buimark Corporation, Apparel Group, EFS and Lulu Financial.