

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. Saudi Arabia to send its 1st female astronaut to space this year ( Feb. 14, 2023 )**

#### **Saudi Arabia's first female astronaut**

**Saudi Arabia's first female astronaut** is set to go into space this year, in what is seen as a move to reform Saudi Arabia's **ultra-conservative image**.

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

- Saudi female astronaut **Rayna Barnawi** will join **Saudi Ali Al-Qarni** on a 10-day mission to the **International Space Station (ISS)** this year.
- **Barnawi and al-Karni** will fly to the ISS aboard a **SpaceX Dragon spacecraft** as part of a mission by American privately funded space infrastructure developer private space company **Axiom Space** .
- The **Ax-2** will be launched by a **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** from Launch Complex 39A at **NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, America**.
- Another fellow **Emirati, Sultan Al-Neyadi** will also visit the space station at the end of February 2023.
- Axiom Space launched its **first private astronaut mission** to the ISS in April 2022, with four private astronauts spending 17 days in space orbit.
- In 2019, Saudi Arabia's neighbouring **United Arab Emirates became the first Arab country** to send a citizen into space. Astronaut Hazza al-Mansoori spent eight days on the ISS.
- **In 1985**, Saudi royal prince **Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz** participated in a US-organised space mission, becoming the first Arab Muslim to travel in space.

#### **Saudi Arabia**

- King - **Salman**
- Capital - **Riyadh**
- Currency - **Saudi Arabian riyal**
- Official Language - **Arabic**
- Official Religion - **Islam**

### **2. Union Health Ministry organises “Cycle for Health” rally at Lady Hardinge Medical College ( Feb. 14, 2023 )**

The Union **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** organised a **Cyclothon** with the theme '**Cycle for Health**' at **Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC)** on 14 February.

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

- Faculty, staff and students participated in the rally with great enthusiasm and in large numbers.
- The main **objective of organising this rally** is to promote physical and mental health and to provide information about environment friendly transport to the citizens.
- Mega cycling events in the form of cyclothons or cycle rallies are being organised in all the **1.56 lakh Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centers (AB-HWCs)**.
- These activities are being carried out as part of the year-long "**Healthy Mind, Healthy Home**" campaign launched in November last year, which aims to promote awareness about healthy living.
- Accordingly, a health fair will also be organised on the **14th of every month** in all AB-HWCs across the country, where activities like yoga, tele-counselling, Nikshay Poshan Abhiyaan, non-communicable diseases screening and drug distribution, sickle cell disease screening will be organised. Activities will be organised.
- Union Health Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, also known as "**Green MP**" for his enthusiasm for cycling, has urged people to use cycles to promote health and fitness.

### **3. 'Khanan Prahari' Mobile app to Curb Illegal Mining launched ( Feb. 14, 2023 )**

Khanan Prahari

The government on 13 February launched a mobile app namely '**Khanan Prahari**' and a web app **Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System (CMSMS)**.

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

- It has been launched to report **unauthorised coal mining activities** so that monitoring and appropriate action can be taken by the concerned law and order enforcing authority.

### **CMSMS Application**

- CMSMS has been developed to take transparent action to curb **illegal mining and use of space technology** as an e-governance initiative of Government of India.

### **Objective of CMSMS Application**

- To ascertain the participation of citizens against illegal mining by receipt of complaints of citizens through Mobile App Khanan Prahari
- Monitoring and taking action on any illegal coal mining activity being carried out within the leasehold limits.

### **'Khanan Prahari' Mobile App**

- It is a mobile app of the **Ministry of Coal** to report illegal coal mining.
- It is a tool for **geo-tagged photographs** of any illegal coal mining incident as well as information to any citizen from the location of the incident.'

#### **4. Mohammad Shahabuddin elected President of Bangladesh ( Feb. 13, 2023 )**

According to the notification issued by the **Election Commission of Bangladesh** on **13th February Mohammad Shahabuddin** will be the next **President of Bangladesh**.

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

- He will be the **22nd President of Bangladesh**.
- He was the only candidate to file his nomination after the time for nomination and withdrawal was over.
- Retired judge, Anti-Corruption Commission commissioner and freedom fighter Mohammad Shahabuddin was nominated for the post by the ruling **Awami League**.
- The term of current President **Abdul Hamid** ends on **April 23**.
- He served as the President of Bangladesh for two consecutive terms.
- The Constitution of Bangladesh does not allow any person to hold the presidency for more than two terms.

##### **About Mohammad Shahabuddin**

- He was born in **1949 in Pabna**. He took part in the **Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971**.
- After the assassination of **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** on 15 August 1975 along with most of his family members, he was imprisoned for several years.
- He is a member of the **Awami League Advisory Council**.

##### **People's Republic of Bangladesh**

- Capital: **Dhaka**
- Prime Minister: **Sheikh Hasina Wazed**
- President: **Mohammad Shahabuddin**
- Currency: **Taka**

#### **5. Govt to set up Bima Sugam portal to address existing protection gap across general insurance business ( Feb. 13, 2023 )**

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on 13 February, Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** said that the government will set up a **Bima Sugam portal**.

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

- The portal will address the existing **protection gap** across life, health and general insurance businesses in the country.
- According to the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority** of India, the portal will be the infrastructure of an insurance market where insurers, distribution networks and policy holders will meet virtually on a seamless digital platform.
- The portal is expected to improve the **accessibility and ease of purchasing insurance** for policyholders.
- It will also serve as a **readymade digital platform** for insurers and distribution networks.

### **6. Around 39 crore loans extended under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana till Jan 27 ( Feb. 13, 2023 )**

Minister of State for Finance, **Dr Bhagawat Karad** said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on February 13 that **till January 27, 2023**, about **39 crore loans** have been given under the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**.

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

- Out of this, more than **26 crore loans** have been given to **women entrepreneurs** and about **20 crore loans to SC, ST and OBC borrowers**.
- This scheme has helped in creating **one crore 12 lakh net additional employment** in the country **from 2015 to 2018**.

### **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**

- It was launched on **8 April 2015**.
- Under the scheme, the people of the country are given loans up to a **maximum of 10 lakhs** to start their own small business.
- Any person who wants to further his business can take a loan under this scheme.
- People are issued a **Mudra card** to avail loans under this scheme.
- The loans are provided through Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), Micro Financial Institutions (MFIs), and other financial intermediaries.
- More than **64 per cent** of the loan accounts opened under the scheme are of **women**.

### **Three types of loans under Mudra Yojana**

- Under this scheme, three types of loans are given in **Shishu, Kishore and Tarun**.

1. **Shishu** - Loans up to Rs.50,000.
2. **Kishor** - Loans above Rs.50,000 and less than Rs.5 lakh.
3. **Tarun** - Loans above Rs.5 lakh and up to Rs.10 lakh.

## **7. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Asia's biggest air show Aero India 2023 in Bengaluru ( Feb. 13, 2023 )**

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **14th edition of Aero India show** in **Bengaluru** on 13 February.

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

- The 14th edition of Aero India 2023 is being organised by the **Indian Department of Defense Production** from February 13 to 17 at the **Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- The theme of the five-day event is '**The Runway to a Billion Opportunities**'.
- The **main objective** of the event is to promote indigenous production and exports of aerial platforms and attract foreign investment.
- **98 countries** are participating in the event and MoUs worth **Rs 75,000 crore** are expected to be signed during the event.
- Defence Ministers' Conference, CEOs' Round Table, Brainstorm Startup Event, India and Karnataka Pavilion and an Air Show are the highlights of the event.
- In the India Pavilion section, **115 Indian companies** will display **227 products** made in India.
- **LCA Tejas Mark 1** is the main attraction of these products.
- Made in India **Tejas Light Combat Aircraft**, Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv Mark III and IV, Light Combat Helicopter Prachanda participating in HAL's HTT 40 Trainer Air Show.

### **Significance of Aero India 2023**

- The event will promote the export of indigenous air platforms - Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Tejas, HTT-40, Dornier Light Utility Helicopter (LUH), Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) and Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).
- The event will help **integrate domestic MSMEs and start-ups** into the global supply chain.
- It will attract foreign investment including partnership for **co-development and co-production**.
- This event will make a significant contribution to the development of the aerospace and aviation sector.

## **8. Govt to borrow ₹13,879 crore to strengthen health infra from international agencies ( Feb. 13, 2023 )**

Minister of State for Health, **Dr Bharti Pawar** in a written reply in the Lok Sabha said that the Government of India has signed loan agreements worth **Rs 13,879 crore** from international agencies to **strengthen health infrastructure**.

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

- With whom the loan agreement has been signed are-
1. Asian Development Bank (ADB) (\$300 million or Rs 2,474 crore).
  2. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (50 billion Japanese yen or Rs 3,162 crore)
  3. World Bank (\$1 billion or Rs 8,243 crore)
- This loan has been taken to strengthen the **Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM)** which is the largest health mission in India.
  - PMABHIM was launched to fill the gaps in the field of health infrastructure, especially critical and primary care facilities.

### **Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Infrastructure Mission**

- It is one of the **biggest health schemes** to strengthen the health care infrastructure in India.
- The mission was announced in the **Budget 2021-22** with an outlay of **Rs 64,180 crore**.
- It was launched in **October 2021** with an aim to provide comprehensive health services across the country.
- It aims to fill gaps in public healthcare infrastructure, especially in **critical care facilities and primary care** in urban and rural areas.

## **9. Digital economy working group meeting of G20 to be held in Lucknow ( Feb. 13, 2023 )**

As part of **India's G20 chairmanship**, the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** will organise the **first Digital Economy Working Group** meeting in **Lucknow** from February 13-15.

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

- This year three defined areas will be discussed with representatives from all 20 countries.
- **The first** is digital public infrastructure in which India has done a lot of work in this area with schemes like UPI, UIDAI, Diksha, Kovin, eSanjeevani and other apps developed in the Covid era.
- **Cyber security** will be another important aspect of the meeting.
- The third issue that will be discussed is **digital skilling**.
- India is launching various projects in this area and providing skills through **PM-DISHA and Future Prime Skills with NASSCOM**, which is the National Association of Software and Service Companies.
- During the meeting on the first day, side events will be organized which will showcase the work done by the State and Central Governments.
- The Digital Economy Working Group was first introduced at the **G20 in 2017**.

#### **Four workshops focussing on digital public infrastructure**

- Sharing implementation experiences of digital identity in various countries.
- Sharing of cyber security solutions for **MSMEs**.
- Digital public infrastructure to boost attainment of sustainable development goals and use of geo-spatial technologies for infrastructure.
- Product development in the digital economy.

#### **Global Digital Economy**

- The global digital economy is currently estimated at **US\$11 trillion** and is expected to reach **US\$23 trillion by 2025**.
- Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) plays a critical role in shaping the global policy discourse in the digital space.

#### **10. Nikos Christodoulides elected as the new president of Cyprus ( Feb. 13, 2023 )**

Former Foreign Minister **Nikos Christodoulides** was elected **President of Cyprus** on 13 February after a second and final round of voting.

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

- Christodoulides, 49, won **51.9% of the vote**, while his opponent **Andreas Mavroyanis, 66, took 48.1%**.

- More than **72.4 percent** of people voted in Cyprus this time, which is higher than before.
- He was appointed **Government Spokesperson in 2014 and Foreign Minister in 2018**.
- Christodoulides is supported by the **Democratic Party**, the Movement for Social Democracy and the Democratic Alignment.
- Cyprus was divided in **1974**, when Turkish forces occupied the northern part in response to a Greek-sponsored coup d'état.
- Since then the current issue between Cyprus and Turkey is the ongoing dispute between the Greek Cypriots in the south and the Turkish Cypriots in the north.

## **Republic of Cyprus**

- It is an island **European country** in the **eastern Mediterranean Sea**.
- It gained its Independence from **Britain in 1960**.
- The country has a majority population which are of Greece descent while the minority population are of Turkish origin.
- Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974 and created a Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in 1983.
- Except Turkey no country recognises Turkish Cyprus.
- India also recognises the Cyprus government.
- Capital: **Nicosia**
- Currency: **Euro**
- President: **Nikos Christodoulides**