

Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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1. Government of India launched National Rabies Control Program (NRCP) for prevention and control of Rabies (March 28, 2023)

The Central Government has launched the **National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP)** for prevention and control of Rabies recently.

National Rabies Control Program Strategy

1. Provision of Rabies Vaccine and Rabies Immune Globulin through National Free Drug Initiative.
2. Training on proper management of animal bites, prevention and control of rabies, surveillance and inter-sectoral coordination.
3. Strengthening monitoring of reporting of animal bites and rabies deaths.
4. Awareness about prevention of rabies.

What is Rabies?

- Rabies is a viral disease. This virus is present in the saliva of animals suffering from rabies such as **dogs, cats, monkeys** etc.
- It is caused by the rabies virus of the **Lyssavirus genus of the Rhabdoviridae family**. It is an **RNA virus**.
- According to statistics, about **99 percent of cases in humans are caused by dog bites**.
- Rabies is **100% fatal and 100% preventable** through vaccines.
- India accounts for **33% of global rabies deaths**.
- The time period between bites of an animal infected with rabies and the appearance of symptoms of rabies can range from four days to two years, or sometimes more.

World Rabies Day

- The day is observed every year on **28 September** to raise awareness about the **effects of rabies virus disease and ways to prevent it**.
- The day is celebrated to mark the **anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death**.
- Louis Pasteur developed the **first rabies vaccine and laid the foundation for the prevention of rabies**.
- The theme of this day for the year 2022 is '**Rabies: One Health, Zero Deaths**'.

2. Center sets up committee to monitor tur stock (March 28, 2023)

Center sets up committee to monitor tur stock

The **Department of Consumer Affairs** on 27 March constituted a **committee to monitor the stock of Tur (Arhar)** held by **importers, millers, traders**, and other such entities.

An overview of the news

- This committee has been constituted under the **chairmanship of Nidhi Khare**, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- A committee will monitor the stock of Arhar in coordination with state governments.
- The decision was taken following reports that traders were not selling the pigeon pea stock in the market despite a good quantity of imports.
- The **Government is also closely monitoring the stock position in the domestic market** to take necessary measures in case of an unexpected increase in the prices of pulses in the coming months.
- The Government had **issued an advisory to the States/UTs on August 12, 2022**, to implement stock disclosure in respect of Toor under the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**.

Hike of Toor prices

- According to the ministry's data, the all-India daily average retail price of Tur was recorded at **Rs 114.44 per kg** on 27 March, 2023, which was **11.47 per cent higher than a year ago**.
- The **all-India daily average wholesale price** of Tur was recorded at **Rs 10,462.03 per quintal**, which was **12.48 per cent higher than a year ago**.

3. PM Modi inaugurated Whitefield (Kadugodi) for Krishnarajapura Metro Line (March 27, 2023)

PM Modi inaugurated Whitefield (Kadugodi) for Krishnarajapura Metro Line

On March 26, PM Modi inaugurated the **new metro line** connecting **Whitefield (Kadugodi) to Krishnarajapuram**.

An Overview of the News

- The inauguration was seen as a boost to '**Ease of Living**' for the **people of Bengaluru**.
- The new metro line is expected **to reduce travel time and improve connectivity in the area**.
- The Whitefield (Kadugodi) to Krishnarajapura Metro line is a part of the **Namma Metro project in Bengaluru**.
- The project was completed at a cost of about **Rs 4,200 crore**.
- The metro line extends over a distance of **15.5 km and has 14 stations**.

About Namma Metro Project

- Namma Metro is a **rapid transit system**, also known as **Bangalore Metro**.
- The project was launched in **2005** with the goal of **providing a safe, efficient and sustainable means of public transport for the city's growing population**.
- The **first phase** of the project was **completed in 2017** and consists of **two lines: the Green Line and the Purple Line**.
- The **Green Line runs from Nagasandra in the northwest to Yelachenahalli in the south, while the Purple Line runs from Baiyappanahalli in the east to Mysore Road in the west**.
- The **second phase** of the project is currently **under construction** and will add an additional **72.1 km of track** to the network.
- The **second phase** will include the expansion of both the **Green and Purple Lines as well as two new lines, the Yellow and Blue Lines**.

4. India summons Canadian High Commissioner over actions of separatist elements (March 27, 2023)

India summons Canadian High Commissioner over actions of separatist elements

The Government of India summoned the High Commissioner of Canada on 26 March 2023 and the purpose of the summons was to express strong concern over the actions of separatist and extremist elements against India's diplomatic missions and consulates in Canada.

An Overview of the News

- The Government of India sought an explanation on how such elements were able to breach the security of diplomatic missions and consulates despite the presence of the police.
- The Government of India requested that the Government of Canada arrest and prosecute individuals who have already been identified as having been involved in such acts.
- India's Ministry of External Affairs expects the Government of Canada to take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of diplomats and the security of diplomatic premises.

About Canada

Geography: Canada is the second largest country in the world by land area. It shares a border with the United States to the south.

Government: Canada is a parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarchy. The current monarch is Queen Elizabeth II.

Languages: Canada has two official languages, English and French. French is primarily spoken in the province of Quebec, while English is the most widely spoken language in the rest of the country.

Culture: Hockey is considered the national sport of Canada, and the country is also known for its winter sports such as skiing and snowboarding.

Nature: Some of the country's most famous natural sites include Niagara Falls, Banff National Park, and the Canadian Rockies.

Capital - **Ottawa**

Prime Minister - **Justin Trudeau**

Currency - **Canadian Dollar**

5. PM Modi launched 'Call Before u Dig' app (March 27, 2023)

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The **Prime Minister** on 22 March launched the '**Call Before u Dig' (CBuD) app**, to **tackle Uncoordinated digging and excavation.**

An overview of the news

- The mobile application is an initiative of the **Department of Telecom, Ministry of Communications.**
- **It aims** to prevent damage to underlying assets such as optical fiber cables, which is caused by unorganized quarrying and mining, which leads to a loss of about **Rs 3,000 crore every year.**
- This will save **potential business losses due to lesser disruption of essential services like road, telecom, water, gas and electricity** and reduce the inconvenience caused to citizens.
- The app will **connect excavators and property owners** so that planned excavation can be carried out in the country while ensuring the safety of underground assets.

Significance

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7. AFSPA removed from most areas of North Eastern states (March 26, 2023)

Centre has decided to further reduce the jurisdiction of '**disturbed areas**' under the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in Assam, Nagaland and Manipur.**

An overview of the news

- The decision has been taken in view of the significant **improvement in the security situation in North-East India.**
- **Compared to 2014, there has been a 76 percent reduction in extremist incidents in 2022.**
- During this period, there has been a **90 percent reduction in the deaths of security personnel and 97 percent in the deaths of civilians.**
- Earlier, in a historic move, the Center brought down the disturbed areas in **Nagaland, Assam and Manipur from April 2022** under AFSPA.

What is AFSPA?

- **Armed Forces Special Powers Act, (AFSPA),1958**, gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in "**disturbed areas.**"
- It came into force decades ago in the context of **insurgency in the northeastern states.**
- It provides "**special powers**" to the army, air force and central paramilitary forces.
- The Act provides that if "**reasonable suspicion exists**", the armed forces may also arrest any person without warrant; May enter or search premises without warrant and prohibit possession of firearms.

What are the Disturbed Areas?

- A disturbed area means which is declared by notification under **Section 3 of the AFSPA.**
- A region may be disturbed because of differences or disputes between members of different, **racial, religious, language or regional groups or castes or communities.**
- The Central Government or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory have power to declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.

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9. Bhupender Yadav launches Aravalli Green Wall Project (March 26, 2023)

Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister **Bhupendra Yadav** inaugurated the **Aravalli Green Wall Project** on March 26 at **Tikli village in Haryana** in a program organized on the occasion of **International Forest Day**.

An overview of the news

- The project will increase the **green cover and biodiversity of Aravallis** through **afforestation, reforestation and restoration of water bodies.**
- It will also improve **soil fertility, water availability and climate resilience of the region.**
- The project will benefit the local communities by providing them with **employment opportunities, income generation and ecosystem services.**
- The objective of this initiative is to green a **buffer zone of about 5 km of Aravalli mountain range** spread over five states.
- **75 water sources** will be rejuvenated under the project, starting with five water sources in each district of the Aravalli landscape on March 25.
- The project will also involve massive tree plantation drive and conservation of water resources in the Aravalli region.
- The project will cover barren land in **Gurgaon, Faridabad, Bhiwani, Mahendragarh and Rewari** districts of Haryana.

About Aravali Green Wall Project

- The project is part of the **Union Forest Ministry's vision of creating green corridors across the country** to combat **land degradation and desertification.**
- The project covers the states of **Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi** where the Aravalli hills are spread over an area of **6 million hectares.**
- The project will involve **rejuvenation and restoration of ponds, lakes and rivers as well as planting of native species of trees** and shrubs on scrub, barren land and degraded forest land.
- The project will also focus on **agro-forestry and grassland development** to enhance the livelihood of local communities.

About Aravalli Range

- It extends from **Himmatnagar in Gujarat to Delhi for a distance of about 720 km**, which extends to **Haryana and Rajasthan**.
- It is thousands of years old, formed when the **Indian subcontinental plate collided with the mainland of the Eurasian plate**.
- According to carbon dating, copper and other metals were mined in the Aravalli range around the **5th century BCE**.
- Its height is between **300 m to 900 m**.
- **Its highest peak is Guru Shikhar (1,722 m) on Mount Abu**.

10. Government hikes raw jute MSP Rs 300 to Rs 5,050 per quintal (March 26, 2023)

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 24 March increased the **minimum support price (MSP) of raw jute** by **Rs 300 to Rs 5,050 per quintal** for 2023-24 season.

An overview of the news

- The approval is based on the **recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACAP)**.
- The MSP of Raw Jute (TD-3 equivalent to earlier TD-5 grade) has been fixed at **Rs 5,050 per quintal for 2023-24 season**.
- The announced MSP for raw jute for the 2023-24 season is in line with the principle of fixing the MSP at a level of **at least 1.5 times** the all-India weighted average cost of production announced by the Government in the Budget for 2018-19.
- It assures a minimum of **50 per cent** as profit margin.
- This is one of the important and progressive steps towards ensuring better remunerative returns to the jute growers and promoting quality jute fibre.
- The Jute Corporation of India shall continue as the nodal agency of the Central Government to conduct price support operations and the loss, if any, incurred in such operations shall be fully reimbursed by the Central Government.

What is Minimum Support Price (MSP)?

- **MSP is the rate** at which the government buys food grains from farmers.
- This is **based on the calculation of at least one and a half times the cost of production incurred by the farmers**.
- The Government of India fixes the MSP for **24 items twice a year**.

- When the market price falls below the declared MSP, the government buys food grains from the farmers at the MSP rate.

Who decides MSP?

- The MSP price is calculated by an **expert committee under the ministry of Agriculture**.
- The expert committee is called **CACP (Commission for Agricultural Costs and Price)**.
- It recommends the MSP to the **Agricultural ministry** and the ministry announces the MSP.
- However the Agricultural Ministry is not bound to accept the recommendation of the CACP.