

# Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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## **1. India Placed in 'Regular Follow-Up' Category by FATF ( July 1, 2024 )**

India has been categorized under the 'regular follow-up' by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

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

- The FATF held its plenary meeting in Singapore from June 26-28, 2024.
- This decision follows a review of India's efforts in implementing anti-money laundering, anti-terrorism financing, and anti-proliferation financing measures.
- Alongside India, Russia, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom were also placed in the 'regular follow-up' category.
- One country was added to the grey list, and others were categorized under 'enhanced follow-up'.
- The FATF acknowledged India's efforts in combating money laundering and terrorist financing but highlighted the need to address delays in concluding prosecutions related to these crimes.

### **FATF Evaluation of India:**

- India joined FATF in 2010 and underwent its first evaluation in the same year.
- The next evaluation was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and occurred in 2023.
- India must submit a report addressing FATF concerns by October 2027.

### **Implications for India:**

- Being in the regular follow-up category enhances ease of financial transactions globally.
- Easier access to international capital markets at lower costs for Indian companies.
- Increased foreign investment due to enhanced confidence in India's legal and payment systems, including UPI.

### **About FATF:**

- Established in 1989 by G-7 countries to set global standards on AML/CFT/PF.
- Inter-governmental body issuing recommendations and assessing countries' actions against financial crimes.
- Collaborates with IMF, World Bank, UN, and FATF-style regional bodies.
- Headquartered in Paris, France, with 39 current members excluding Russia (suspended since 2023).
- President: T Raja Kumar of Singapore.

**PMLA 2002:**

- Based on FATF recommendations, Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) 2002 combats money laundering in India.
- Enforced by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) since July 1, 2005.

**2. Japan Introduces New 3D Holographic Banknotes ( July 1, 2024 )**

Japan will start issuing new banknotes on July 3.

**An Overview of the News**

- These banknotes feature cutting-edge holography, making the portraits of historic figures appear to rotate in 3D.
- The new technology allows visually impaired people to feel and discern the banknotes they are holding.
- Tactile marks will make the banknotes recognizable by touch.
- By the end of March next year, nearly 7.5 billion new banknotes will be printed.
- Existing banknotes will remain valid after the introduction of the new banknotes.

**About Japan**

- Capital: Tokyo
- King: Prince Naruhito (The reign of the 126th king will be known as 'Riwa'.)
- Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida
- Currency: Japanese Yen

**3. South Korea, US, Japan Launch First Trilateral Exercise ( June 28, 2024 )**

South Korea, the US and Japan on **June 27** began their **first trilateral multi-domain exercise**, codenamed **Freedom Edge**.

**An Overview of the News**

- The exercise is taking place over **three days** on **Jeju Island in South Korea**.
- It aims to enhance security cooperation against threats posed by North Korea and its deepening relationship with Russia.
- Areas of focus include **ballistic missile defense, air defense, antisubmarine warfare, search and rescue operations, maritime interdiction, and defensive cyber training**.

- Previously, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and Russian President Vladimir Putin held a summit in Pyongyang, resulting in a comprehensive strategic partnership treaty. This treaty includes provisions for military assistance in case of an attack on either party.

### **Jeju Island**

- It is the largest island in South Korea, with an area of 1,833.2 km<sup>2</sup>.
- It constitutes 1.83% of the total land area of South Korea.
- Jeju Island, along with its outlying islands, forms Jeju Province.
- Situated in the Korea Strait, it lies south of the Korean Peninsula and South Jeolla Province.

### **South Korea**

- It is located in East Asia on the southern portion of the Korean Peninsula.
- It shares one of the world's most heavily militarized borders with North Korea.
  - Capital - Seoul
  - Currency - South Korean won
  - President - Yoon Suk Yeol
  - Prime Minister - Han Duck-soo

### **Japan**

- Capital: Tokyo
- King: Prince Naruhito (The reign of the 126th king will be known as 'Riwa'.)
- Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida
- Currency: Japanese Yen

### **United States**

- Capital - Washington, D.C.
- President - Joe Biden
- Vice President - Kamala Harris

## **4. Hunar Indian folk and tribal art exhibition opens in Dubai ( June 27, 2024 )**

The Dubai Art Centre, a prominent and long-standing art institution, is hosting the "Hunar" exhibition.

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

- The exhibition showcases a captivating display of Indian folk and tribal art.
- Each piece offers a glimpse into the soul of Indian traditions.
- Cultural Highlights
- It highlights the rich cultural heritage of India's folk and tribal art forms.

### **Artistic Styles Featured**

- Visitors can explore various artistic styles from across India, including:
  - Aipan Art from Uttarakhand
  - Madhubani Art from Bihar
  - Warli Art from Maharashtra
  - Vibrant Murals from Kerala
  - Intricate Muria Art from Chhattisgarh

### **Unique Opportunity for Art Enthusiasts**

- The "Hunar" exhibition provides a unique opportunity for art enthusiasts in Dubai to immerse themselves in the diverse world of Indian folk and tribal art.
- Attendees can experience firsthand the cultural richness and artistic heritage of India.

### **About United Arab Emirates (UAE)**

- Location: It is located in Western Asia.
- Geographical Boundaries: It shares borders with Oman and Saudi Arabia.
- Maritime Borders: It also has maritime borders with Qatar and Iran in the Persian Gulf.
- Religion: Islam is the dominant religion in the UAE, with the majority of the population being Sunni Muslim.
  - Capital - **Abu Dhabi**
  - Official language - **Arabic**
  - President/Crown Prince - **Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**
  - Prime Minister - **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**
  - Vice President - **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

## **5. Paraguay Joins International Solar Alliance as 100th Full Member ( June 26, 2024 )**

Paraguay has achieved full membership status in the International Solar Alliance, marking its entry as the 100th country to join.

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

- The External Affairs Ministry confirmed this development, noting that Paraguay submitted its Instrument of Ratification.
- Ambassador Fleming Raul Duarte of Paraguay met with Abhishek Singh, the Head of Depository and Joint Secretary in the Ministry, during a meeting in New Delhi on June 26th.
- On 23 May 2024, Spain joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as the 99th member, reaffirming its commitment to the solar energy initiative.

### **About International Solar Alliance (ISA)**

- Formation: Established on **30 November 2015 in Paris, France.**
- Purpose: Unite over 120 nations, primarily within the Tropics, to promote solar energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- Headquarters: Located at the **National Institute of Solar Energy in Gurugram, Haryana, India.**
- Director General: Led by **Dr. Ajay Mathur**, the alliance fosters clean energy, sustainability, public transport, and climate initiatives.

### **About Paraguay**

- Paraguay, a landlocked nation, is situated between **Argentina, Brazil, and Bolivia.**
- It features extensive areas of swampland, subtropical forests, and chaco, which are wild expanses of savanna and scrubland.
  - Capital:- **Asunción**
  - Official languages:- **Paraguayan Guaraní, Spanish**
  - President:- **Santiago Peña**
  - Continent:- **South America**

## **6. Wärtsilä Unveils World's First Large-Scale 100% Hydrogen-Ready Engine Power Plant ( June 21, 2024 )**

Wärtsilä Oyj Abp, a Finland-based company, has launched the world's first large-scale 100% hydrogen-ready engine power plant to support net-zero power systems.

## **An Overview of the News**

- The Wärtsilä 31 is a highly efficient medium-speed 4-stroke marine engine that:
  - Synchronises with the grid within 30 seconds from the start command.
  - Ensures energy security through fuel flexibility.
  - Offers unparalleled load-following capabilities and high part-load efficiency.
- The engine can run on natural gas and 25% hydrogen (H2) by volume blends.
- It has completed over 1 million running hours with more than 1,000 MegaWatt (MW) installed capacity globally.
- The hydrogen-ready engine power plant concept is certified by TÜV SÜD (Technischer Überwachungsverein - Technical Inspection Association).
- The H2-Readiness certification includes three stages with three corresponding certificates.
- Wärtsilä has achieved the first stage with a Concept Certificate for the engine power plant's conceptual design.
- The 100% hydrogen-ready engine is expected to be available for orders in 2025 and for delivery from 2026.

## **About Finland**

- It is a northern European nation.
- It shares borders with Sweden, Norway and Russia.
- Finland's arctic Lapland province is famous for the Northern Lights, a spectacular natural phenomenon.
- Lapland is a vast wilderness area with national parks and ski resorts, making it a popular destination.
  - Capital - **Helsinki**
  - Helsinki is situated on a peninsula and is surrounded by islands in the Baltic Sea.
  - President - **Alexander Stubb**
  - Prime Minister - **Petteri Orpo**
  - Currency- **Euro**
  - **Nokia company is from Finland.**

## **7. Ukraine Launches World's First Unmanned Systems Forces ( June 20, 2024 )**

Ukraine has established the world's first stand-alone military branch solely dedicated to unmanned systems, known as the Unmanned Systems Forces (USF).

## **An Overview of the News**

- The USF was officially launched by the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in Kyiv, Ukraine.

## **Objectives of USF:**

- USF aims to enhance capabilities in unmanned and robotic warfare across air, sea, and ground domains during combat operations.
- It focuses on advancing the development and deployment of unmanned systems for military purposes.

## **Leadership and Command:**

- Colonel Vadym Sukharevsky, former Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, has been appointed as the inaugural Commander of the USF.
- He will lead the strategic direction and operational readiness of the USF.

## **Symbolism:**

- The symbol representing the USF is a "**steel swallow**," which was designed by a neural network.
- The swallow holds cultural significance in Ukrainian tradition as a symbol of victory.

## **Functions and Responsibilities:**

- The USF is responsible for providing operational units with drones and ensuring their logistical support.
- It oversees the recruitment and training of specialists in unmanned systems.
- It plays a crucial role in planning and executing military operations that involve unmanned technologies.

## **8. 'Nepal International Tourism Expo' Kick Starts in Kathmandu ( June 15, 2024 )**

The two-day 'Nepal International Tourism Expo (NITE)' kicked off in Kathmandu on June 14 to promote Nepal's tourism globally.

## **An Overview of the News**

- Held from June 14-15, 2024 at Bhrikutimandap Exhibition Hall.
- Organised in collaboration with Kathmandu Metropolitan City in collaboration with Nepal Tourism Board and other associations.

## **Inauguration and Goals**

- Inaugurated by Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Hit Bahadur Tamang.
- Minister Tamang emphasised the event's potential to boost Nepal's international tourism presence.
- Minister Tamang noted ongoing efforts to meet the government's target of 1.6 million tourists this year, including resolving tourism sector issues and waiving VAT and unnecessary taxes on air tickets.

### **Participation and Networking**

- It aims to unite tourism related businesses such as hotels, resorts, homestays, travel/tour/trekking/mountaineering agencies, airlines and stakeholders from both domestic and international sectors.
- Participating countries include Nepal, India, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Maldives, USA, Netherlands, Sri Lanka, China, Thailand, UAE, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Malaysia and Bhutan, with a total of 155 entrepreneurs.
- Government of Bihar participated to promote tourism opportunities in ecotourism in Guru Circuit, Jain Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Buddhist Circuit and Valmiki Tiger Reserve.
- Provides a two-day networking opportunity for national and international tourism stakeholders to foster collaboration and lasting partnerships.

### **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
- President - Ram Chandra Paudel
- Capital - Kathmandu
- Currency - Nepalese Rupee

## **9. Cyril Ramaphosa Re-Elected South African President ( June 15, 2024 )**

Cyril Ramaphosa has been re-elected as the President of South Africa.

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

- This follows a landmark coalition deal between his African National Congress (ANC) and opposition parties.
- The new government combines Ramaphosa's ANC, the centre-right Democratic Alliance, and other smaller parties.

### **Parliament Vote**



- Ramaphosa won convincingly in a Parliament vote.
- He received 283 votes against Julius Malema's 44 in the 400-member house.
- Malema is the leader of the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters.

### **Crucial Agreement**

- Ramaphosa secured his second term after an agreement with the Democratic Alliance.
- This agreement was struck just hours before the presidential vote.
- The ANC lost its 30-year majority in Africa's national assembly.

### **Election Results**

- In the recent elections, the ANC's vote share dropped to 40%.
- The Democratic Alliance emerged as the second-largest party with 22% of the votes.

### **Co-Governance**

- The parties will now co-govern South Africa.
- This marks the first national coalition where no party has a majority.

### **About South Africa**

- It is located at the southernmost tip of the African continent and is known for its diverse ecosystems.
- Capital:- Pretoria (executive), Cape Town (legislative) and Bloemfontein (judicial)
- Largest city:- Johannesburg

## **10. India Sends Humanitarian Aid to Papua New Guinea ( June 13, 2024 )**

India dispatched a flight with 19 tons of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief supplies to Papua New Guinea.

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

- Response to Disaster: The aid is in response to a devastating landslide in Enga province, Papua New Guinea.

### **Aid Details**

- Disaster Relief Material: 13 tons of supplies, including temporary shelters, water tanks, hygiene kits, and ready-to-eat meals.

- Medical Supplies: 6 tons of emergency use medicine and medical equipment, including dengue and malaria diagnostic kits and baby food.

**Geographical Background Of Papua New Guinea:**

- New Guinea, the world's second-largest island, covers an area of 785,753 km<sup>2</sup>.
- Situated in Oceania, it lies in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, adjacent to Australia, separated by the Torres Strait.
- The island is surrounded by numerous smaller islands to the west and east.

**India-Papua New Guinea Relations:**

- Diplomatic ties between India and Papua New Guinea were established in 1975 upon PNG's independence from Australia.
- India opened its resident mission in Port Moresby in 1996, reciprocated by PNG with a resident mission in New Delhi in 2006.
- Both nations, being Commonwealth countries, share warm relations, aligning closely on various global issues.
- Collaboration extends to international forums like the Commonwealth, Non-Aligned Movement, and the United Nations Organization.

**Humanitarian Aid and Assistance:**

- India extends humanitarian aid and disaster relief to PNG periodically.
- In 2023, assistance included drugs for HIV/AIDS patients.
- A grant-in-aid totaling US \$760,000 provided computers and peripherals to PNG in 2017-18.
- Capacity-building efforts involve training through programs like Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) and the Colombo Plan.
- Ongoing implementation of aid proposals in various fields submitted by PNG under the annual grant-in-aid.
- A Centre of Excellence in Information Technology was established at the University of PNG with Indian financial and technical assistance.
- In 2018, Government of India provided assistance of US\$1 million for earthquake relief in areas affected by the PNG earthquake.