

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### 1. NHPC inks MoU with Maharashtra Government ( June 7, 2023 )

NHPC-inks-MoU-with-Maharashtra-Government

State-owned **NHPC Limited** has announced its **collaboration with the Department of Energy, Maharashtra government** through a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on 7 June.

#### An overview of the news

- The primary objective of this partnership is to establish **Energy Storage Systems**, specifically **Pumped Storage Systems**, alongside other Renewable Energy Sources like Solar, Wind, and Hybrid, with **a total combined capacity of 7,350 MW**.
- The introduction of energy storage systems, such as **Pumped Storage Systems**, is crucial for storing excess energy during periods of low demand and utilizing it during peak hours.
- These systems play a vital role in ensuring a **reliable and uninterrupted power supply**.
- They contribute to grid stability, enable efficient energy management, and facilitate the **integration of intermittent renewable energy sources into the power grid**.
- By combining pumped storage systems with **solar, wind, and hybrid power generation**, this collaboration aims to optimize the utilization of renewable energy resources.

#### NHPC Limited

- NHPC Limited, formerly known as the **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation**, is a state-owned company in India.
- It was **incorporated in 1975**.
- Its objective is **developing, operating, and maintaining hydroelectric power projects in India**.
- It is a government-owned company, with the **majority of shares held by the Government of India**.
- It operates under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Power**.
- Some of its major projects include the **Indira Sagar Project** in Madhya Pradesh, the **Teesta Low Dam Project** in West Bengal, and the **Parbati Hydroelectric Project** in Himachal Pradesh.

### 2. Union Cabinet approves continuation of 'Exploration of Coal and Lignite Scheme' ( June 7, 2023 )

‘Exploration-of-Coal-and-Lignite-Scheme

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 7 June, has approved the continuation of the **Central Sector Scheme called "Exploration of Coal and Lignite scheme."**

**An overview of the news**

- The scheme will be implemented from **2021-22 to 2025-26**, aligned with the **15th Finance Commission cycle**, and will require an estimated expenditure of Rs 2980 crore.
- The scheme focuses on the exploration of coal and lignite through two main stages: **Promotional (Regional) Exploration and Detailed Exploration in Non-Coal India Limited (CIL) blocks.**
- The approved funding includes **Rs 1650 crore** for Promotional (Regional) Exploration and **Rs 1330 crore for Detailed Drilling in Non-CIL areas.**
- The scheme aims to cover approximately **1300 sq. km under Regional exploration and approximately 650 sq. km under Detailed exploration.**

**Significance of the scheme**

- Exploration for **Coal and Lignite** is essential to ascertain and estimate the available coal resources in the country.
- It plays a crucial role in preparing **detailed project reports** required to initiate coal mining operations.
- The geological reports generated through these exploration activities are utilized in the **auctioning of new coal blocks.**
- The cost of exploration is subsequently recovered from successful allocatees.
- The continuation of the Exploration of Coal and Lignite scheme will contribute to the assessment and **identification of coal and lignite reserves**, facilitating future coal mining operations.
- It ensures the availability of reliable geological data for the **auctioning process, promoting transparency and efficiency in the allocation of coal blocks.**

**3. AIIMS Nagpur first AIIMS in country to get NABH accreditation ( June 7, 2023 )**

AIIMS-Nagpur

**AIIMS Nagpur**, the branch of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Nagpur, has emerged as the **first AIIMS in India to be accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals (NABH).**

**An overview of the news**

- This accreditation places AIIMS Nagpur at par with the world's **leading hospital standards in terms of quality and patient care.**
- AIIMS officials proudly announce this achievement and emphasize their commitment to provide the highest quality of patient care, ensure safety and maintain organizational efficiency.
- The NABH accreditation serves as validation of their efforts in these fields.
- Minister of Health and Family Welfare, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** praised the institute for its state-of-the-art facilities, advanced infrastructure and remarkable contribution in patient care, academic activities and research.

### **What is NABH accreditation?**

- The NABH accreditation is a **voluntary and internationally recognized certification** that signifies a healthcare organization's commitment to delivering **high-quality healthcare services and ensuring patient safety.**
- NABH has developed a set of rigorous standards that cover various aspects of healthcare delivery, including **patient care, infrastructure, infection control, patient rights, medication management, safety protocols**, and more.
- These standards are designed to ensure that healthcare providers adhere to the best practices and deliver superior quality care.

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## **5. Government launches Mission on Advanced and High-Impact Research, MAHIR ( June 7, 2023 )**

High-Impact-Research,-MAHIR

The government launched the Mission on **Advanced and High-Impact Research, MAHIR**, in the power sector.

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

- The objective of the mission is **to identify emerging technologies and develop them indigenously** for use within and outside the country.
- It focuses on facilitating indigenous research, development and demonstration of latest technologies in the power sector.
- It aims to leverage these technologies for future economic growth and make India a global manufacturing hub.
- The mission is planned for an initial period of five years **from 2023-24 to 2027-28**.
- Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy - **RK Singh**

### **Make in India:**

- Launched on **25 September 2014**.
- **Objective:** To facilitate investment, promote innovation and create best-in-class infrastructure.
- **Goal:** To make India a manufacturing, design and innovation hub.

### **Startup India:**

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- **Objective:** To nurture and support startups, encourage entrepreneurship and innovation.
- **Benefits:** Tax exemptions, simplified rules and access to funding opportunities.

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## **7. India Sri Lanka Defense Seminar cum Exhibition to be held at Taj Samudra in Colombo ( June 7, 2023 )**

### **India-Sri-Lanka-Defense-Seminar**

**India Sri Lanka Defence seminar cum exhibition** to be held on 6 June at **Taj Samudra in Colombo.**

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

- The seminar seeks to identify potential areas of cooperation for economic revival and capacity building of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces.

- It aims to strengthen the partnership between India and Sri Lanka in defence-related matters.
- The event will feature a comprehensive exhibition that showcases the capabilities of both countries in defence equipment manufacturing.
- The exhibition will be open to the public, offering them an immersive experience of various defence equipment on display.
- The exhibition promotes exchange of ideas and promotes dialogue and encourages meaningful partnerships in the defense sector.

**Objective of the event**

- The event aims to highlight and celebrate India's prowess in defence manufacturing while fostering a stable and peaceful Indian Ocean region.
- It aligns with India's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region.

**Successful Utilization of Indian Defence Equipment**

- The Sri Lankan Armed Forces have successfully utilized a wide range of Indian defence equipment, including the Indra Radar, Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessels, L 70 Guns, Dornier Aircraft, and Army training simulators.
- This highlights the effectiveness and reliability of Indian defence technology.

**Mutual Benefits**

- The Indian armed forces have also benefited from the use of Fast Interceptor Crafts and the refit of a Floating Dock in Colombo.
- In line with India's 'Neighborhood First' policy, the Government of India has committed to supplying additional equipment such as a Floating Dock, a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, and Dornier aircraft.
- This commitment further strengthens the capacity building of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces.

**Significance of the Event**

- The India-Sri Lanka Defence Seminar and Exhibition hold great importance as a landmark event.
- It fosters greater cooperation and collaboration between the two nations, ultimately contributing to regional peace and stability in the Indian Ocean.

**Boost for Indigenous Defence Manufacturing**

- With the Sri Lankan Armed Forces utilizing Indian defence equipment, the seminar and exhibition are likely to provide a boost for indigenous defence manufacturing.

- It showcases India's technological capabilities and encourages self-reliance in defence production.

## **8. Five new countries elected as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council ( June 7, 2023 )**

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

**Algeria, Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia** were elected **non-permanent members** of the **UN Security Council** on 6 June for a **two-year term**.

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

- The newly elected members will take up their new responsibilities on **January 1, 2024 and serve till December 31, 2025**.
- **Slovenia defeated Belarus by a vote of 153 to 38**, while Algeria, Guyana, Sierra Leone and the Republic of Korea were elected unopposed.
- These new members will replace **Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates** at present when their two-year term ends on **31 December 2023**.

### **Election of non-permanent members**

- Voting is done by **secret ballot** and candidates have to get a **two-thirds majority, or 128 votes**.
- In all, **192 countries** voted to fill five seats on the council allocated to the Africa and Asia-Pacific groups, and one each to Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **About United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**

- It was **established in 1945** by the **United Nations Charter**.
- It is one of the six major organs of the United Nations.
- The other 5 organs of the United Nations are - the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the Trusteeship Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat**.
- It has five permanent members - **China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States**, collectively known as the **P5**.
- Any one of them can **veto** a resolution.
- Headquarters - **New York**

## **9. Oil tanker breaks down in Egypt's Suez Canal ( June 6, 2023 )**

On 4 June, an **oil tanker broke down** in the **Suez Canal**, a major global waterway, **disrupting traffic and temporarily halting the transit of other ships.**

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

- As a result of the breakdown, **eight other vessels in the convoy were affected by the disruption.**
- The **Seavigour** was part of the north convoy, which moves from the **Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea.**
- The Suez Canal Authority deployed three **tugboats** to tow the stranded tanker away from the single-lane area.
- The goal was to move the tanker to a double-lane section at the **17 kilometer mark**, allowing other vessels to continue their transit.

### **About Seavigour**

- According to MarineTraffic, the Seavigour is a tanker **built in 2016**, measuring 274 meters (899 ft) in length and 48.63 meters (159 ft) in width.

### **Previous Incidents in the Suez Canal**

- The recent incident adds to a series of vessels encountering difficulties in the vital waterway.
- Notably, in **March 2021**, the Panama-flagged Ever Given, a massive container ship, blocked the canal for six days, causing significant disruptions to global trade.

### **About Suez Canal**

- The Suez Canal, **operational since 1869**, serves as a **crucial link for oil, natural gas, and cargo transportation.**
- The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway running north to south from the Isthmus of **Suez in Egypt to connect the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.**
- This canal separates the continent of **Africa from Asia.**
- It provides the shortest sea route between **Europe and the lands surrounding the Indian and Western Pacific Oceans.**
- The Suez Canal is one of the **busiest trade routes in the world.** About **12 percent of the world's total trade** passes through this canal daily.

## **10. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh holds talks with his US counterpart Lloyd Austin ( June 6, 2023 )**



Defence-Minister-Rajnath-Singh

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, held discussions with **US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin** in New Delhi on 5th June.

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

- The meeting focused on **strengthening defence cooperation** in various areas, including aligning strategic interests and enhancing security cooperation.
- During the talks, Minister Singh emphasized the significance of the **India-US partnership** in ensuring a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.
- He expressed India's commitment to closely collaborate with the United States across different domains, aiming for capacity building and further **strengthening strategic partnership**.
- Both ministers explored opportunities to build resilient supply chains and identified areas for co-development of new technologies and co-production of existing and new systems.
- Facilitation to enhance cooperation between the **defense start-up ecosystems** of the two countries was also discussed.
- A roadmap for **US-India defense industrial cooperation** was agreed upon, which will shape their cooperation in the years to come.
- They welcomed the recent dialogues focused on **Defense Artificial Intelligence and Defense Space**.
- Regional security issues were also discussed, reflecting their shared interest in promoting **peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region**.
- The meeting was attended by senior officials of the Ministry of Defense including Chief of Defense Staff General **Anil Chauhan**, Defense Secretary **Giridhar Armane** and DRDO Secretary and Chairman **Dr Sameer V Kamat**.

### **India America relations**

#### **Historical Background**

- The establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the United States **dates back to 1947**.
- Both countries share common values of **democracy, pluralism and rule of law**.

#### **Strategic Partnership**

- India and the United States have developed a strong strategic partnership based on shared interests and values.
- The partnership has seen significant growth in various areas including defence, trade and technology.

#### **Defense and Security Cooperation**

- Defense cooperation between India and the US has expanded significantly in recent years.
- Both countries engage in joint military exercises, defense equipment cooperation and intelligence sharing.
- Defense ties have been strengthened by the signing of the **US-India Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)**.

### **Economic and trade relations**

- Economic relations between India and America have grown steadily.
- The US is one of India's largest trading partners and bilateral trade has grown over the years.
- Both the countries have signed various agreements to enhance economic cooperation and promote investments.

### **Technology and Innovation**

- India and the US cooperate in the fields of **science, technology and innovation**.
- Cooperation has been promoted in areas such as space exploration, clean energy and information technology.
- The US has supported India's initiatives like **Digital India and Skill India**.