

# Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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## **1. 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**.

## **2. Bangladesh records highest inflation rate in over a decade ( June 6, 2023 )**

### **Bangladesh-records-highest-inflation-rate-in-over-a-decade**

**Bangladesh** recently experienced its **highest monthly inflation rate in over a decade**, with inflation reaching **9.94 percent in May**.

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

- This rate is the **highest since 2010-11** when it was recorded at **10.11 percent**.
- The data was released by the **Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)**.
- The increase in inflation is primarily attributed to the rise in both **food and non-food prices during this period**.
- The average inflation rate for the period between **June 2022 and May 2023** has risen to **8.84 percent**, surpassing the budgetary target of **5.6 percent**.

- In comparison, the inflation rate in April 2023 was reported at **9.24 percent, and in March, it was 9.33 percent.**
- These figures indicate higher inflation compared to the corresponding months in **April 2022 (6.29 percent) and March 2022 (6.22 percent).**
  - To calculate inflation, the BBS has changed the base index from 2005-06 to 2021-22 and adopted a revised methodology for the compilation of the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** based on the latest 2020 CPI manual of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

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

- Capital: **Dhaka**
- Prime Minister: **Sheikh Hasina Wazed**
- President: **Abdul Hamid**
- Currency: **Taka**

### **3. 1st India-Namibia Joint Commission of Cooperation ( June 6, 2023 )**

External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** recently **co-chaired** the **first India-Namibia Joint Commission** with Namibian Foreign Minister **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah** in **Windhoek**.

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

- In his opening remarks, Dr. Jaishankar highlighted the special place Namibia holds in the hearts of Indians.
- He emphasized that India supports Namibian independence and expressed happiness at Namibia's rightful place in the international community.
- Dr. Jaishankar underlined the **strong bond between India and Namibia**, which is characterized by developmental cooperation, capacity building programs and political solidarity.
- The Joint Commission will assess the progress of India-Namibia relations. In addition, high-level visits and ongoing interactions will strengthen the **India-Namibia partnership** in the future.
- During his visit, the External Affairs Minister inaugurated the **India-Namibia Center of Excellence in Information Technology** in Windhoek. The center will contribute to research, cyber security and good governance.

#### **About Namibia**

- Namibia is a country located in **southwestern Africa**, bordering the **Atlantic Ocean** to the west.
- It shares borders with **Angola, Zambia, Botswana and South Africa.**

- The country's diverse geography includes the **Namib Desert** along the **Atlantic coast**, the **Kalahari Desert** to the east, and the **central plateau**.
- Namibia gained independence from South Africa on **March 21, 1990**, becoming the last African country to gain independence from colonial rule.
- **Windhoek is the capital and largest city of Namibia.**
- Namibia is known for its stunning **natural landscapes and diverse wildlife**.
- **Etosha National Park**, located in the north of the country, is a popular destination for wildlife enthusiasts, offering the chance to see **elephants, lions, giraffes, rhinos** and various bird species.

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## **5. President Droupadi Murmu conferred with highest civilian honour of Suriname ( June 6, 2023 )**

### **President-Droupadi-Murmu**

**Suriname** awarded **President Draupadi Murmu** its **highest civilian honour**, the **Grand Order of the Chain of Yellow Star**, on 5 June, making her the **first Indian to receive the award**.

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

- President Murmu was presented with the award by **Chandrikaprasad Santokhi**, President of the Republic of Suriname.
- He dedicated the award to successive generations of the **Indian-Surinamese community**, in recognition of the important role of the Indian diaspora in strengthening the fraternal ties between the two countries.
- During her state visit to Serbia and Suriname, President Draupadi Murmu arrived in **Paramaribo, Suriname** on 4 June.
- In addition, **India and Suriname signed four important Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)** in the fields of health, agriculture and capacity building.
- The agreements were finalized after delegation level talks between President Murmu and President Santokhi.

### **About Suriname**

- Suriname is a country located on the **northern coast of South America**. It is one of the **smallest countries in South America**.
- Formerly known as **Dutch Guiana**, Suriname was a plantation colony of the **Netherlands** that gained its independence on November 25, 1975.
- President: **Chandrikapersad Santokhi**
- Capital: **Paramaribo**
- Official Language: **Dutch**
- Currency: **Suriname dollar**

## **6. What is train 'Kavach' and why is it trending after the Odisha train accident? ( June 6, 2023 )**

Kavach initiative

The **Odisha triple-train accident**, which resulted in 290 deaths and 1,175 injuries, brought into focus the **Kavach initiative** that aims to make the Indian Railways safer.

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

- The Kavach system has **not yet started on the Odisha route**.
- Railways confirmed that no 'Kavach' system has been installed in the trains to prevent them from colliding with each other.
- The government is being severely criticized for neglecting railway safety.

### **Coverage of Kavach**

- To prevent incidents of accidents, the government announced **in 2022** that it would launch a new avatar of Kavach on a trial basis, initially covering a **distance of 2,000 kilometers** and then expanding the coverage further.
- **Only 1,455 km of railway routes** under South Central Railway have been brought under **Kavach by January 2023**.
- The government plans to expand it from **4,000 to 5,000 km in FY24**.
- For reference, Indian Railways has a total route coverage of around **1.03 lakh km**.
- A little over **1% of the route of the Indian Railways is protected by Kavach as of now**.

### **What is Kavach?**

- Kavach is an **indigenous Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system**.
- It was developed by the **Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO)**, an Indian Railways department, way back in **2002**.
- The Kavach system is designed to **prevent collisions of trains** - a leading cause of railway accidents in India.
- It is a set of **electronic devices and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) devices** installed in locomotives, in the signalling system as well as the tracks.
- They communicate with each other using **ultra high radio frequency** to control the brakes of the trains and also alert the drivers.
- While there have been **58 railway accidents in the last 10 years**, the Odisha accident is the deadliest.
- This protection system is aimed at avoiding accidents arising out of driver-related or technical errors, as well as aid drivers (loco pilots) in running the trains safely even in inclement weather conditions.
- It activates the train braking system automatically if the driver fails to control the train as per the speed restrictions.

## **7. Sarbananda Sonowal flags off maiden International Cruise Vessel, MV Empress in Chennai ( June 6, 2023 )**

Sarbananda-Sonowal-flags-off-maiden-International Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, **Sarbananda Sonowal** flagged off **India's first international cruise vessel - MV Empress, from Chennai to Sri Lanka** on June 5.

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

- This is the launch of the **International Cruise Tourism Terminal at Chennai** built at a cost of **Rs 17.21 crore**, ushering in a new era of **cruise tourism** and maritime trade in the country.
- On the occasion of Environment Day, Sonowal along with the port officials also planted 2,500 saplings at the port.
- The launch of the first cruise service between Chennai and Sri Lanka has opened a **new chapter in the cruise tourism sector** in the country.
- This is the result of an MoU signed during the Incredible India **International Cruise Summit** in 2022 between **Chennai Port and M/s Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt Ltd** to start domestic and international cruise services.

### **International Cruise Vessel, MV Empress**

- It is a renowned and **luxurious cruise ship** that operates globally.
- It offers passengers a unique and unforgettable experience on the **open seas, combining comfort, entertainment, and leisure.**
- The vessel is equipped with state-of-the-art navigation systems and safety features, ensuring a secure and smooth journey for all on board.
- Its elegant design and modern amenities make it a preferred choice for travelers seeking a premium cruising experience.

## **8. RBI Governor launches financial inclusion dashboard Antardrishti ( June 6, 2023 )**

**RBI-Governor-launches-financial-inclusion-dashboard-Antardrishti**  
**Reserve Bank of India** Governor **Shaktikanta Das** launched a **financial inclusion dashboard** named '**Antardrishti**' on 6 June.

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

- The dashboard will provide necessary insights to assess and monitor the progress of financial inclusion by capturing relevant parameters.
- The progress of financial inclusion will be assessed against set parameters through an **Antardrishti dashboard**. Along with this, it will also help in monitoring.

- With the help of the dashboard, the areas of lack of **financial services on a large scale** in the country can be detected and then work will be done on the basis of this.
- Currently, the **Antardrishti Dashboard** will be used **internally by RBI**.
  - Multi stakeholder approach will be adopted for the Antardrishti Dashboard to enhance **financial inclusion in future**.

### **Financial Inclusion Index**

- The **Financial Inclusion Index was launched in 2021** to measure financial inclusion.
- In this, financial inclusion is measured on the basis of **access, utility and quality**.
- This index also includes information related to **banking, investment, insurance and postal services** etc. of an area.
- This index ranges from 0 to 100.
- **0 indicates complete financial exclusion**, while **100 indicates complete financial inclusion**.

### **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

- Reserve Bank of India was set up under the **Reserve Bank of India act 1934**. It started functioning from **1 April 1935**.
- It was **nationalized in 1949** and now the government of India is the owner of RBI.
- It has the power to regulate Banks under the **Banking Regulation Act 1949**.
- It has the power to regulate the **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** under the **RBI act 1934**.
- RBI is also the regulator of the digital payment system under the **Payment and settlement act 2007**.
- Headquarters of RBI: **Mumbai**
- Governor of RBI : **Shaktikanta Das**

## **9. 3rd Health Working Group Meeting at Hyderabad ( June 5, 2023 )**

3rd-Health-Working-Group-Meeting-at-Hyderabad

The **third meeting of the G20 Health Working Group (HWG)** was held at **Hyderabad** from June 4 to 6.

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

- Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare **Dr. Bharti Praveen Pawar** addressed the 3rd Health Working Group meeting under the G20 India Presidency.



- The 3rd meeting of the HWG held a main event focusing on **cooperation in R&D of**
- **Medical Counter Measures (MCMs).**

## Highlights of the event

### Co-branded events

- The meeting included co-branded events with the **Global Vaccine Research Collaborative and the Joint Finance Health Task Force** meeting.
- The objective of these events is to increase cooperation in the field of healthcare.

### Participant

- The meeting was attended by representatives of **19 G20 member states, 10 invited countries and 22 international organizations.**

### Proposed deliverables

- The HWG has proposed a number of deliverables, including a mapping of ongoing initiatives in **health emergencies, prevention, preparedness and response.**
- The launch of a **Climate Change and Health Centre**, regional networks for vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics (VTD) research and development, and the creation of a global medical countermeasure coordination platform were also discussed.

### Global Initiative on Digital Health

- Another proposed '**Global Initiative on Digital Health**' was launched.
- The initiative aims to establish an institutional framework for convergence of existing digital health initiatives.

### Past HWG Meetings

- Health priorities were introduced and discussed in detail during the HWG meetings held in **Thiruvananthapuram and Goa** earlier this year, emphasizing the importance of advancing health objectives.

### Showcasing India's Life Sciences and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

- Delegates will have the opportunity to visit '**Genome Valley**' in **Hyderabad**, a well-known hub for global life science companies.
- The visit will highlight India's expertise in life science research and drug manufacturing.
- Genome Valley is responsible for 33% of global vaccine production, including vaccines for diseases such as **COVID-19, polio and rotavirus.**

## **10. 3rd Health Working Group Meeting at Hyderabad ( June 5, 2023 )**

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