

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### 1. Nepal's PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal's visit to India ( June 3, 2023 )

Nepal's-PM-Pushpa-Kamal-Dahal's-visit-to-India

In a significant diplomatic development, Prime Minister of Nepal **Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'** made a four-day visit to New Delhi on 31 May.

#### An overview of the news

- Various projects were launched during the visit which included the **Kurtha-Bijalpura section of the railway line.**
- An Indian Railways cargo train was inaugurated from the newly constructed **rail link Bathnaha (India) to Nepal Customs Yard** under Indian grant.
- **Integrated Checkposts (ICPs)** were inaugurated at Nepalgunj (Nepal) and Rupaidiha (India).
- Celebration of ICP in **Bhairahawa (Nepal) and Sonauli (India).**
- Phase-II facilities under **Motihari-Amlekhganj petroleum pipeline** inaugurated.
- Apart from this, another new pipeline will be built from **Siliguri to Jhapa in eastern Nepal.**

#### Exchange of MoU/Agreement between the two countries

- **Treaty of Transit** between India and Nepal.
- MoU between India and Nepal for cooperation in the field of **Petroleum Infrastructure.**
- MoU between India and Nepal for development of infrastructure at **Dodhra Chandani Check Post on Indo-Nepal border.**
- MoU between **NPCIL and NCHL**, Nepal for cross border payments.
- Project Development Agreement of Lower **Arun Hydro Electric Project.**
- MoU for the development of **Phukot-Karnali Hydroelectric Project.**

#### 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**

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### **3. US Congress approves deal to lift country's borrowing limit ( June 3, 2023 )**

US-Congress-approves-deal-to-lift-country's-borrowing-limit

The **US Congress** approved a deal to lift the **country's borrowing limit**, thereby preventing **default on its debt**.

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

- The bipartisan measure passed through the Senate with a vote of 63-36 after the **US House of Representatives approved it**.
- President Joe Biden committed to turning the measure into law to protect the US from a catastrophic default on its **\$31.4 trillion debt**.

#### **United States House of Representatives**

- It is the **lower house of the United States Congress**.
- It, along with the Senate, forms the national bicameral legislature of the United States.
- Its structure and functions are established by **Article One of the United States Constitution**.
- It provides proportional representation based on the population of each state.
- It has a total of **435 representatives**.

Founded - **1789**

Headquarters - **Washington, D.C., United States**

Speaker - **Kevin McCarthy**

Majority Leader - **Steve Scalise**

Minority Leader - **Hakeem Jeffries**

### **4. Latvian parliament elects Edgars Rinkevics as new president ( June 3, 2023 )**

**Latvian-parliament-elects-Edgars-Rinkevics-as-new-president**

**In 2011, Edgars Rinkevics, Latvia's foreign minister**, was elected as the new president by the **100-seat Saimaa legislature**.

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

- In a close vote, **Edgars Rinkevics** secured 52 votes, more than the minimum needed to win the election.
- Edgars Rinkevics, aged 49, has previously held positions such as State Secretary in the Ministry of Defense and worked as a journalist with Latvian Radio in the 1990s.

**Latvia:**

- It is a country on the **Baltic Sea**, situated between **Lithuania and Estonia**.
- The capital of Latvia is Riga, known for its remarkable woodwork and Art Nouveau architecture.
- Riga's mediaeval Old Town contains **St. Peter's Church** is a popular tourist destination.

Capital - **Riga**

Prime minister - **Krišjānis Kariņš**

Official language - **Latvian**

**5. BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Cape Town ( June 3, 2023 )**

**brics Nations**

**BRICS countries** kicked off its **foreign ministers meeting on 1st June in Cape Town**, the legislative capital of South Africa.

**An overview of the news**

- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** participated in the meeting of foreign ministers of **BRICS countries**.
- **South Africa**, which currently holds the **chair of the bloc**, hosted the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Cape Town on 1-2 June.
- The foreign ministers' meeting will finalise the agenda for the **15th BRICS summit scheduled to be held in South Africa in August**.
- It is believed that 19 countries are in line to join BRICS.

**Joint Agreement**

- The BRICS foreign ministers agreed BRICS cooperation should be strengthened to promote unity among developing countries.
- Advance the global governance system reform.
- Accelerate the realization of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- Contribute to world peace and development.

**About BRICS**

- The full form of BRICS is **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**.
- Goldman Sachs economist **Jim O'Neill** coined the term **BRIC (without South Africa) in 2001**.

- He claimed that by 2050, the four BRIC economies would dominate the **global economy by 2050.**
- **South Africa** was included in the list in **2010.**
- The presidency of the Forum is rotated annually among the members.
- BRICS accounts for about **40% of the world's population.**
- It accounts for **30% of the world's GDP** (Gross Domestic Product).
- In the year 2014, during the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil, the BRICS leaders signed an agreement to establish a **New Development Bank (NDB).**

## **6. Cabinet approves setting up of UPU Regional Office in New Delhi ( June 2, 2023 )**

The Cabinet approved the setting up of a **Regional Office of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) at New Delhi.**

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

- The purpose of the office is to carry out the development cooperation and technical assistance activities of the **UPU in the region through an agreement with the UPU.**
- India will actively participate in multilateral organizations in the postal sector with a focus on South-South and triangular cooperation.
- India will provide field project experts, staff and office infrastructure for the UPU Regional Office.
- The office will formulate and implement projects for capacity building, training, improving postal service efficiency and quality, enhancing postal technology, promoting e-commerce and trade in the region.
- These projects will be coordinated with UPU.
- The establishment of the office will expand India's diplomatic footprint and strengthen its ties with other countries, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.
- It will also enhance India's presence and influence in global postal forums.

### **About UPU**

- **Establishment:** The UPU was established in 1874 through the Treaty of Bern.
- **Purpose:** It is a specialised agency of the United Nations.
- **Postal Coordination:** The UPU coordinates postal policies among the member countries.
- **Global Postal System:** It oversees and enhances the postal system around the world.

- **Financial Services:** UPU promotes accessible and affordable postal financial services.
- **Innovation and Collaboration:** It encourages member countries to embrace innovation and collaborate with stakeholders.

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## **8. Health Ministry asks OTTs to post anti-tobacco warnings ( June 2, 2023 )**

Health-Ministry-asks-OTTs-to-post-anti-tobacco-warnings

The **Union Health Ministry** has made it mandatory for **OTT platforms** to display **anti-tobacco warnings** as seen in cinema halls and television programmes.

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

- The amendment to the **Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2004** requires online platforms to show at **least 30 seconds** of anti-tobacco health spots at the beginning and middle of their programmes.
- A prominent static message stating "**Tobacco causes cancer**" or "**Tobacco kills**" must be displayed at the bottom of the screen when displaying tobacco products or their use.
- Warning messages should be legible with black font on a white background and health warnings, spots and disclaimers should be in the language of the material.
- Display of tobacco brands, product placement and use of tobacco in promotional material is prohibited.
- India has implemented measures to reduce tobacco use including 85% pictorial warnings on cigarette packets since 2018.
- India's data from the Global Youth Tobacco Survey shows that tobacco use has declined by **42% among school-going children aged 13-15 over the past decade.**
- The decision was taken by the Health Ministry after consultations with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) and other stakeholders.

### **Tobacco Effects:**

- More than 7 million deaths are caused by direct tobacco use, while **1.2 million deaths** are due to secondhand smoke exposure.
- More than **80% of the world's 1.3 billion tobacco** users live in low- and middle-income countries.
- In 2020, 22.3% of the global population used tobacco (36.7% men, 7.8% women).

### **WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC):**

- Adopted by WHO member states in 2003, it is currently ratified by **182 countries.**
- It aims to address the tobacco epidemic and its harmful effects.

### **New and Emerging Nicotine and Tobacco Products:**

- **Heated Tobacco Products (HTPs):** Toxicity similar to other tobacco products, proved no less harmful.
- **Electronic-cigarettes:** injurious to health, especially risky for young people and pregnant women.

**WHO response:**

- **MPOWER** measures were **launched in 2007** for effective tobacco control implementation.
- MPOWER measures include monitoring, protection, termination support, warnings, advertising restrictions, and taxes.

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## **10. Etihad Airways named Environmental Airline of the Year 2023 ( June 2, 2023 )**

**Etihad Airways**, the **national airline of the UAE**, has been named the **Environmental Airline of the Year 2023** for the second year in a row at the **Airline Rating Awards**.

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

- The prestigious award acknowledges the airline's commitment to **sustainable aviation through innovation and collaboration**.
- **Etihad is ranked third in the 'Top 10 Airlines' category**, which evaluates comfort, innovation, value and safety in economy, business and first class.
- Etihad's sustainability strategy focuses on emissions reduction, industry alignment, collaboration with the UAE ecosystem and proactive transparency.
- Key initiatives of the airline include the **Greenliner program** using Boeing 787 Dreamliners and the deployment of Sustainable50 A350-1000 aircraft.
- **Antonaldo Neves**, Group CEO, Etihad Aviation Group
- **Geoffrey Thomas**, Editor-in-Chief, AirlineRatings.com

### **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**

Government - **Federal Islamic parliamentary elective semi-constitutional monarchy**

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**