

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. Sri Lanka's Council of Ministers Approves Establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Mechanism ( June 2, 2023 )**

#### **Sri Lanka's Council of Ministers Approves Establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Mechanism**

**Sri Lanka's cabinet** ministers approved a proposal to **set up a Truth and Reconciliation Mechanism.**

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

- The proposal draws inspiration from the successful **Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa.**
- In March, Sri Lanka's Foreign Affairs Minister **Ali Sabri and Justice Wijedasa Rajapaksa** visited South Africa to study the commission's functioning.
- The proposed mechanism aims to address issues surrounding the three-decade-long armed conflict in Sri Lanka.
- Former prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe submitted a cabinet memorandum and concept paper in 2018 as the basis for the commission.
- There were efforts to set up a **similar mechanism in 2015 under pressure from the United Nations human rights body**, but it was not followed through.
- The establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Mechanism is seen as a way to address the demands of affected Tamils seeking information on missing persons.
- The proposed commission aims to provide answers, reconciliation and justice in the post-conflict context of Sri Lanka.

#### **About Sri Lanka**

- It is an **island country in South Asia.**
- It was earlier known as **Ceylon.**
- The official name of the country is the **Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.**
- It is located in the **Indian Ocean, southwest of the Bay of Bengal.**
- Sri Lanka is separated from the Indian peninsula by the **Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait.**

Capital - **Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (legislative) and Colombo (executive and judicial)**

Official languages - **Sinhala AND Tamil**

President - **Ranil Wickremesinghe**

Prime Minister - **Dinesh Gunawardena**

## **2. India approves world's largest food storage scheme in co-operative sector ( June 2, 2023 )**

world's-largest-food-storage-scheme

The **Union Cabinet** on 31st May approved forming and empowering an **Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC)** to create the “**world’s largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector**” by converging **8 ongoing schemes of three ministries**.

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

- This **₹1 trillion scheme** will be the **world's largest grain storage scheme in the cooperative sector**.
- The scheme will help cooperatives set up decentralized storage facilities across the country, which is likely to reduce the burden on the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)**.
- This will reduce wastage of agricultural produce and help farmers to plan their sales better.

### **Implementation of the scheme**

- An **Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC)** will be constituted under the **chairmanship of the Cooperation Minister**.
- The Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Minister of Food Processing Industries and concerned Secretaries will be the members of this Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC).
- The **Ministry of Cooperation** will implement a pilot project in at least **10 selected districts of different States/UTs of the country**.

### **8 Schemes identified for convergence**

- **Schemes of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**

1. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
2. Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI)
3. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
4. Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)

- **Schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries**

1. Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME)
2. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

• **Schemes of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**

1. Allocation of food grains under the National Food Security Act
2. Procurement operations at Minimum Support Price

**3. Bureau of Indian Standards notifies 31 Indian Standards related to AYUSH herbs, products ( June 2, 2023 )**

31-Indian-Standards-related-to-AYUSH-herbs

The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, the national standard body of India, has recently introduced **31 Indian standards pertaining to Ayush herbs and products.**

**An overview of the news**

- The **31 Indian standards encompass various aspects of Ayush**, including **30 herbs and one product, namely the stainless steel neti pot.**
- These standards were recently made public through a gazette notification issued by the **AYUSH ministry.**
- In order to emphasize its commitment to Ayush, **BIS has established a separate department** to focus specifically on Ayush-related matters.
- BIS plays a crucial role in **standardization, marking, and quality certification activities.**
- By taking this step towards standardization in the field of Ayush, BIS aims to enhance the quality and credibility of Ayush products and services.
- The Ministry of Ayush states that the implementation of these standards will facilitate international trade by ensuring the quality of Ayush products and services.

**About Bureau of Indian Standards**

- Bureau of Indian Standards is the **national standards body** of India under the **Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India.**
- Headquarter- **Manak Bhawan, Old Delhi**
- Director General- **Pramod Kumar Tiwari**
- Established- **23 December 1986**

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## **5. UPI hits record 9 billion transactions worth Rs 14 lakh crore ( June 2, 2023 )**

UPI-hits-record-9-billion-transactions

The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** registered more than **nine billion transactions in May 2023** amounting to over **14 lakh crore rupees.**

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

- According to the **National Payments Corporation of India NPCI**, UPI recorded a total **9.41 billion transactions in May 2023.**
- UPI had recorded **8 billion transactions in January** this year, followed by 7.5 billion in February, 8.7 billion in March, and 8.89 billion in April.
- In Financial Year 2022-23, the payment system processed a total of **83 billion transactions**, amounting to a value of **139 lakh crore rupees.**

- India's homegrown payments system UPI is one of the globally accepted payment systems and has emerged as a trusted payment mode ever since its launch in 2016.
- The report titled "**The Indian Payments Handbook - 2022-27**" said that the share of UPI in the total transaction volume in the retail segment during 2022-23 was around 75 per cent.
- The Indian digital payments market is expected to reach **411 billion transactions in FY 2026-27 from 103 billion in FY 2022-23.**

### **About UPI**

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a single platform that integrates various banking services and facilities under one umbrella.
- It is developed by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).**
- The names of the top UPI apps currently are - **PhonePe, Paytm, Google Pay, Amazon Pay and BHIM.**
- NPCI **launched UPI in 2016** with 21 member banks.

### **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**

- NPCI, an umbrella organization for operating retail payment and settlement systems in India, has been initiated by the 'RBI' and the 'Indian Banks' Association' (IBA) under the '**Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**'.
- It is a '**not-for-profit**' company established under the provisions of **Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956** (as amended in 2013), with the objective of providing physical and electronic payment infrastructure to the entire banking system in India.

## **6. UAE withdraws from US-led Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) ( June 2, 2023 )**

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Recently the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has announced its **withdrawal from the US-led Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)**, a maritime alliance.

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

- A few weeks ago, Iran seized two tankers within a week in **Gulf waters near the Strait of Hormuz.**
- The second tanker, Niovi, was on its way from Dubai to the port of **Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates.**
- The UAE was disappointed by the lack of US response to the recent tanker seizures, saying it was a "**misrepresentation**" of the talks between the two countries.

### **Why did UAE withdraw from this alliance?**

- The UAE did not give any specific reasons for withdrawing from the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) in an official statement.
- This could be part of a broader strategy by the UAE to assert its own regional influence, pursue independent foreign policies, or rebalance its relations with China and Iran.

### **About Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)**

- It was **established in 2002**.
- Its objective is promoting **security, stability, and prosperity across maritime regions**.
- **Member Nations** - 34 member nations: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, United Kingdom, United States, and Yemen.
- Its main operations are **counter-narcotics, counter-smuggling, suppressing piracy, encouraging regional cooperation**.
- Focus Areas - **Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, Indian Ocean, Arabian Gulf, and surrounding areas**.
- In **April 2022**, India had announced that it would join the CMF as an **Associate Partner**.

### **7. South Korea launches first commercial-grade satellite ( June 1, 2023 )**

South Korea to launch its first commercial-grade satellite on May 25, 2023.

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

- The **commercial-grade satellite** was launched by the **Naro Space Center in Gohang, South Korea**, using a Launch **Nuri rocket**.
- The main satellite, called "**Next Generation Small Satellite 2**", was accompanied by seven cube-shaped satellites.
- The main satellite objectives include verifying **imaging radar technology and observing cosmic radiation** in near-Earth orbit.
- South Korea's Science Minister Lee confirmed the successful launch of all seven secondary satellites from the rocket.
- South Korea plans to launch **three more Nuri rockets by 2027**.
- In the past year, South Korea became the **10th country to send a satellite into space** using its technology, with a "**performance verification satellite**" launched via a Nuri rocket.

**South Korea**

- It is an **East Asian nation** located in the **southern part of the Korean Peninsula**.
- It shares a heavily militarised border with North Korea.
- President - **Yoon Suk Yeol**
- Capital - **Seoul**
- Prime minister - **Han Duck-soo**

**8. FCI becomes leading recruiter in recent years ( June 1, 2023 )**

The **Food Corporation of India (FCI)**, a prominent **Public Sector Undertaking** under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**, has emerged as one of the **leading recruiters in recent years**.

**An overview of the news**

- FCI plays a crucial role in ensuring the food security of the nation and **recruits a significant number of young individuals annually**.
- FCI follows a transparent and genuine recruitment process, conducting examinations solely through **online mode**.
- The vacancies are widely advertised in Employment News, as well as leading national and local newspapers.
- The selection is based on open competition and merit, strictly adhering to the rules and regulations of the **Corporation and the Government of India**.

**Recruitment of FCI**

- The recruitment includes various categories, namely **Category I, II, III, and IV**.
- In 2020, FCI successfully recruited **3,687 Category III officials**, followed by **307 Category II and 87 Category I officers in 2021**.
- FCI has advertised **5,159 posts for Category II & III in 2022**.
- The recruitment process has witnessed the participation of **around 11.70 lakhs candidates**.
- Two phases of the online exams have already been completed, and the final stage of the recruitment process is expected to conclude soon.
- FCI is actively filling up existing vacancies within the organization to ensure efficient operations and address the shortage of human resources.

**About Food Corporation of India (FCI)**

- It is a prominent **Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in India**.
- It was **established in 1965** to ensure food security and support the nation's public distribution system.
- FCI's primary mandate is to **procure, store, and distribute food grains** across the country.
- It aims to maintain an adequate buffer stock of essential commodities and provide timely and **affordable food grains to the vulnerable sections of society**.
- FCI undertakes the procurement of food grains from farmers at **Minimum Support Prices (MSPs)** declared by the government.
- It procures crops such as wheat, rice, and coarse grains directly from farmers through designated procurement centers.

## **9. FCI becomes leading recruiter in recent years ( June 1, 2023 )**

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### **10. South Korea offers KSS-III batch-II submarine to India ( June 1, 2023 )**

Recently **South Korea** has made an exclusive offer to provide its advanced **KSS-III Batch-II submarines to India.**

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

- The proposal comes at a time when Germany is about to complete India's submarine acquisition programme, **Project 75I.**

#### **About KSS-III Batch-II submarine**

- The KSS-III is the largest submarine to ever be built by South Korea, is being developed in two phases, **Batch-I and Batch-II.**
- It is part of the Korean Attack Submarine program and represents a significant advancement in the country's naval capabilities.
- The KSS-III Batch-II submarine is an advanced version of its predecessor submarine in terms of **combat management system, firepower and sonar capabilities.**
- It is jointly developed by **Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME) and Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI).**
- The KSS-III submarine is a series of **diesel-electric attack submarines.**

#### **Features of KSS-III batch-II submarine**

- It is equipped with advanced technologies and facilities to enhance **operational effectiveness**.
- The submarine has a **length of approximately 84 m (275 ft)** and a **submerged displacement** of approximately **3,000 tonnes**.
- The KSS-III Batch-II submarine utilizes a combination of **air-independent propulsion (AIP) system** and diesel-electric propulsion.
- The submarine is capable of reaching **speeds of over 20 knots (37 kilometers per hour)** while submerged.
- The submarine is equipped with a **range of armaments and sensors** to fulfill its mission requirements.
- It includes **torpedoes** for anti-submarine warfare, **anti-ship missiles** for surface engagement, and **land-attack capabilities**.
- The submarine also features **advanced sensor systems**, such as **sonar and radar**, to detect and track underwater and surface targets.
- The KSS-III Batch-II submarine has a crew capacity of around **50 personnel**.

### **Export Potential**

- South Korea aims to promote the KSS-III Batch-II submarine for potential export to other countries.
- The advanced features, operational capabilities, and competitive pricing make it an attractive option for nations seeking to modernize their naval forces.