

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. India grants permission to NEA to export additional 40 megawatts of electricity ( Dec. 29, 2022 )**

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA)

India has allowed the **Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA)** to export an additional **40 MW** of power from two more hydroelectric projects.

#### **Important facts**

- The **Central Electricity Authority of India** has approved the sale of surplus power from two more hydro projects - **25 MW Kabeli B-1 and 20 MW Lower Modi** - at competitive rates in the Indian energy market.
- With this, **452.6 MW** of surplus power can be exported to India from **10 hydropower projects**.
- NEA has stopped the export of surplus power to India from 19 December as generation from river-based hydroelectric power stations has reduced.
- NEA has generated a net income of **Rs 11.16 billion** by trading **1.36 billion units of surplus power** at a competitive rate in the Indian energy market till 18 December.
- The current electricity demand of Nepal stands at around **1,680 MW**, while the domestic production is **1,000 MW**.

### **2. India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement comes into force ( Dec. 29, 2022 )**

#### **India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement comes into force**

**India, Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement** comes into force from 29 December, 2022.

#### **Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)**

- India and Australia signed the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) on the **2nd of April 2022**.
- ECTA is the **first trade agreement of India with a developed country** after more than a decade.
- The agreement covers cooperation in the entire gamut of bilateral economic and commercial relations between the two friendly countries.
- This will benefit **labour-intensive sectors** of India such as gems and jewellery, textiles, leather, furniture, food and agriculture products, engineering products and medical devices.

- On the other hand, India has granted preferential access to Australia on more than **70 per cent of its tariff lines**, mainly in raw materials.
- As a result of this agreement, 10 lakh jobs are expected to be created in the country.

### **India-Australia Trade Relations**

- Australia is the **17th largest trading partner** of India and India is Australia's **9th largest trading partner**.
- India-Australia bilateral trade in goods and services is pegged at **US\$ 27.5 billion in 2021**.
- India's merchandise exports to Australia grew by **135% between 2019 and 2021**.
- **India's exports to Australia** - Manufactured goods such as petroleum, medicaments, diamonds, jewellery, railway coaches and vehicles, milled rice and herbicides.
- **India's imports to Australia** - 82% of its imports from Australia are coal, gold, copper ore, aluminium oxide, liquified natural gas, manganese ore, aluminium waste, pigments, lentils, etc.

### **3. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to visit Cyprus, Austria from December 29 to 3 January ( Dec. 28, 2022 )**

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to visit Cyprus, Austria from December 29 to 3 January

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** will visit the Republic of Cyprus and Austria from December 29 to 3 January 2023.

Minister S.Jaishankar will be in the Republic of Cyprus from December 29 to December 31, 2022. This year marks **60 years of diplomatic relations between India and Cyprus**.

During his visit, Jaishankar will meet Cyprus foreign minister **Ioannis Kasoulides**. He will also address the Cyprus business and investment community and interact with the Indian diaspora.

#### **Jaishankar visit to Austria**

In Austria, the External affairs minister will meet Austrian Federal Minister for European and International Affairs, **Alexander Schallenberg**. This will be the first visit of an Indian foreign minister to Austria in the last 27 years. 2023 marks **75 years of diplomatic relations between India and Austria**.

S.Jaishankar will also meet the foreign ministers of Austria, Czech Republic foreign minister Jan **Lipavský** and Slovakia foreign minister **Rastislav Káčer** who will be there in the Austrian capital **Vienna** for the **Slavkov format meeting**.

Slavkov is a place in the Czech Republic. The Slavkov format was created in 2015. It is a cooperation format between **Austria, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic**.

During his visit, Jaishankar will call on Austrian **Chancellor Karl Nehammer**. He will also meet **Rafael Mariano Grossi**, Director General of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

### **Republic of Cyprus**

It is an island European country in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

It gained its Independence from Britain in 1960. The country has a majority population which are of Greece descent while the minority population are of Turkish origin.

Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974 and created a Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in 1983. Except Turkey no country recognises Turkish Cyprus.

India also recognises the Cyprus government.

Capital: **Nicosia**

Currency: **Euro**

President: **Nicos Anastasiades**

### **4. 'Bomb cyclone' hits US, more than 200 million people affected ( Dec. 28, 2022 )**

'Bomb cyclone' hits US, more than 200 million people affected

Recently a powerful "**Bomb Cyclone**" has hit the **United States**, affecting at least 200 million people. At least **64 people have died**.

#### **Important facts**

- Temperatures are predicted to **plunge -57 degrees Celsius** in certain locations due to the largest winter storm to hit the country in decades.
- Temperatures dropped across the United States and heavy snow caused power outages in cities, thousands of flights were cancelled and people were stuck in their homes without food.
- New York's **Erie County**, which includes **Buffalo**, is one of the areas most affected by the winter storm, which stretches from the **Canadian to the Mexican border**.

#### **What is a 'Bomb Cyclone'?**

- Bomb cyclone is used by meteorologists to denote a **mid-latitude cyclone** that rapidly intensifies.
- It is a giant winter storm that hits the coast and brings **strong winds, flooding, snow and ice**.
- It consists of a combination of rapidly decreasing pressure and **extreme cold**.
- This particular storm is the most explosive ever seen on the **East Coast**.

- It is called a bomb cyclone because in this the **storm strengthens** explosively while the pressure subsides.

### **Formation of 'Bomb Cyclone'**

- Storms form when a **mass of low pressure air** (warm air mass) meets a **high pressure mass** (cold air mass).
- The lower the pressure, the stronger the storm.
- This occurs when a mid-latitude cyclone intensifies rapidly, dropping at least **24 millibars** (millibar measures atmospheric pressure) in 24 hours.
- This rapidly increases the pressure difference, or gradient, between the two air masses, causing the winds to be stronger.

### **5. Former Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen sentenced to 11 years in prison for money laundering and bribery ( Dec. 26, 2022 )**

Former Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen sentenced to 11 years in prison for money laundering and bribery

The **Maldives criminal court** on 25th December sentenced former president **Abdulla Yameen to 11 years in jail** and fined him \$5 million after he was found guilty of **money laundering and accepting bribe**.

### **Important facts**

- The court found Yameen guilty of accepting money to lease an island owned by the government.
- The court sentenced the former leader to seven years in the money laundering case and four years in the bribery case.
- Yameen was accused that he had given permission to develop a resort on **V Ara's land** by taking money during his tenure.
- Yameen was accused of misusing his position to get the Ara's land to ex-parliamentarian Yusuf Nai by taking **US \$ 1 million**.
- Yameen was also fined US \$ 5 million in this case.
- According to the court's decision, Yameen will have to deposit the fine amount to the **Maldives Inland Revenue Authority (MIRA)** within six months.

### **About Maldives**

- It is also called **Maldiv Islands**, an independent island country in the north-central Indian Ocean.

- It extends more than 510 miles (820 km) from north to south and 80 miles (130 km) from east to west.
- Basis of economy - **fisheries, tourism**
- Industries - handicraft or cottage including the making of coir (coconut-husk fibre) and coir products, fish canning, and boatbuilding.
- Capital - **Male**
- President - **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih**
- Official Language - **Dhivehi (Maldivian)**
- Official Religion - **Islam**
- Currency - **Rufiyaa**

## **6. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' appointed as the Prime Minister of Nepal for the third time ( Dec. 25, 2022 )**

Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' appointed as the Prime Minister of Nepal for the third time

President **Bidya Devi Bhandari** of Nepal has appointed **Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'** as the new prime minister of Nepal on 25 December 2022. Prachanda will become the prime minister for the third time.

In the recently held parliamentary election no party got any clear majority. Prachanda's **Maoist Center Party** won 32 seats in Nepal's 275-member House of Representatives.

He has formed a coalition government with the support of the Communist Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) party, Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), Rastriya Prajatantra Party and other smaller parties. Prachanda has the support of 165 lawmakers in the 275-member House of Representatives.

According to the deal with the UML party he will remain prime minister for the **first half of the five-year term** and later will be replaced by a candidate from the UML party.

Pushpa Kamal Dahal will replace **Sher Bahadur Deuba** of the Nepali Congress party as the Prime Minister.

### **Nepal's Parliament**

The Federal Parliament of Nepal is called **Sanghiya Sansad**. It is a bicameral house.

The Upper house is called the **National Assembly or Rastriya Sabha**. It consists of 59 members. It is a permanent body and the term of a member of the house is **six years**.

The lower house is called the **House of Representative or Pratinidhi Sabha**. It consists of 275 members with a term of five years.

Currency of Nepal: **Nepalese Rupees**

Capital: **Kathmandu**

President: Vidya **Devi Bhandari**

## **7. Sitiveni Rabuka becomes the new Prime Minister of Fiji ( Dec. 24, 2022 )**

Sitiveni Rabuka became Fiji's prime minister on 24 December 2022

**Sitiveni Rabuka** became Fiji's prime minister on 24 December 2022 after a coalition of parties voted narrowly to install him as leader of the country. It also signals the end of the former Prime Minister **Frank Bainimarama's** 16 years in power. In the 55 member Parliament of Fiji, Sitiveni Rabuka secured 28 votes against Bainimarama's 27 votes.

Rabuka now heads a three-party coalition government consisting of his **People's Alliance**, the National Federation Party led by Biman Prasad and the Sodelpa Party, led by Viliame Gavoka.

Fiji will have three deputy prime ministers in Biman Prasad (finance), Viliame Gavoka (tourism), and Manoa Kamikamica (external trade) under the coalition arrangement.

### **Republic of Fiji**

It is an archipelago of 300 islands and 500 islets in the South Pacific Ocean near New Zealand.

It gained Independence from Great Britain in 1970.

About two-fifths of the Fijian populations are Indians who were brought as indentured labourer by the British from North India to work in the sugar fields of Fiji.

**English, Fijian, and [Fijian Hindi](#)** are the official languages of the country.

The Parliament of Fiji is unicameral and consists of **55 members**. The term of the Fijian parliament is of **four years**.

Capital of Fiji: **Suva**

Currency: **Fijian Dollar**

President: **Jioji Konrote**

## **8. UNSC adopts first-ever resolution on Myanmar ( Dec. 22, 2022 )**

The **U.N. The Security Council** on 21 December adopted its **first ever resolution on Myanmar** in 74 years to demand an end to violence and urge the **military junta** to release all political prisoners, including ousted leader [Aung San Suu Kyi](#).

### **Important facts**

- **The 15-member council** has long been split on how to deal with the Myanmar crisis with China and Russia arguing against strong action.
- The resolution also demands “**an immediate end to all forms of violence**” and asks for “**all parties to respect human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.**”

- The motion was adopted with 12 votes in favour. Permanent members **China and Russia** opted not to use the veto after amending the wording. India also remained absent.
- The resolution sent a "**strong message**" to the world that the junta must "**end its violence across the country**" and free prisoners.
- The only resolution regarding Myanmar was passed by the United Nations in **1948 approving** its membership in the UN Security Council.
- About Myanmar**
  - Capital - **Naypyidaw**
  - Currency - **Kyat**
  - Prime Minister - **Min Aung Hlaing**
  - Nobel Laureate - **Aung San Suu Kyi** of the National League of Democracy (NLD) party, was awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, for her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights.
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## **9. US to provide its key Patriot missile defence system to Ukraine ( Dec. 22, 2022 )**

The **United States** has announced on 21 December that it would provide its key **Patriot missile defence system** to **Ukraine**.

### **Important facts**

- The White House stated that the Patriot missile system would be part of another **1.85 billion dollars in aid to Ukraine**.
- The package also includes **military vehicles, mortars, ammunition for HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems), and small arms**.
- The aid announcement comes at a time when Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelensky** is on a visit to Washington to strengthen military ties between the two countries.

### **About Patriot missile system**

- It is a **surface-to-air guided missile** system that was first deployed in the **1980s**.
- It can target aircraft, cruise missiles and short-range ballistic missiles.
- Each Patriot battery consists of a **truck-mounted launching system** with eight launchers that can hold up to four missile interceptors each, a ground radar, a control station and a generator.

- Patriot batteries can also shoot down aircraft.
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- In military circles this weapon system is seen as a **protective shield**, which protects the population, soldiers or even buildings from incoming fire.
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## **10. India votes in favour of UNSC resolution on mental health of UN peacekeepers ( Dec. 22, 2022 )**

**India** on 21 December voted in favour of a **resolution on the mental health of UN peacekeepers**.

### **Important facts**

- India's Permanent Ambassador to the UN **Ruchira Kamboj** said, as one of the largest troop contributing countries over the years, India attaches the highest importance to the **safety and well-being** of UN peacekeepers.
- Mental health is an essential component of the overall health in which UN peacekeepers work.
- Therefore, the medical care and well-being of UN personnel is the collective responsibility of all Member States.
- Meanwhile, Kamboj raised the issue of data and studies done in consultation with troop and police contributing countries and the Special Committee on **Peacekeeping Operations, or C34**.
- C 34 has been giving due consideration to the issue of mental health of **UN personnel in peace operations**.

### **UNSC resolution on mental health**

- members of the [United Nations Security Council](#) unanimously passed a resolution on mental health and psychosocial support for personnel of UN peace operations.
- **Mexico** initiated the draft resolution on mental health and psychosocial support.
- The draft resolution will be the **first stand-alone Security Council resolution** on mental health.
- The draft resolution recognises the need to raise awareness of the importance of **mental health and psychosocial support** for UN peace operations personnel.
- It references the **2018 United Nations Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy**, a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of UN personnel and improving organizational capabilities to maintain and protect mental health, which Applies to the entire United Nations system.
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