

# Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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## **1. Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to receive first Indian cargo ship at Sittwe port ( May 6, 2023 )**

Minister Sarbananda Sonowal to receive first Indian cargo ship at Sittwe port

Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** will receive the first **Indian cargo ship at Sittwe Port in Myanmar** on 9th May.

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

- **Sittwe Port** is a part of the **Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project** and its development will enable multi-modal transit connectivity with **Southeast Asia**.
- The port has been built under a framework agreement between India and Myanmar to set up a multimodal transit transport facility on the Kaladan River, which connects Sittwe Port in Myanmar to Mizoram in India.
- The Kaladan River route has the potential to open up economic opportunities for the entire Bay of Bengal peninsula.

### **About Myanmar**

- It is a country located in Southeast Asia and is bordered by India, Bangladesh, China, Laos and Thailand.
- The capital city of Myanmar is Naypyidaw, which was officially designated as the capital in 2005.
- President - **Myint Swe (Acting)**
- SAC President and Prime Minister - **Min Aung Hlaing**
- SAC Vice President and Deputy Prime Minister - **Soe Win**

## **2. Japan to train 1000 Indian engineers for bullet train project ( May 6, 2023 )**

**Japan** has decided to provide specialized training to **1,000 Indian engineers** ahead of starting work on the **high-speed rail track system** for the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor (MAHSR)**.

### **Important Points:**

- **National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL)** has signed an MoU with **Japan Railway Technical Service (JARTS)** to operationalize bullet trains in the country.
- Work on the high-speed rail track system will be started only under this agreement.
- The bullet train being built between Mumbai and Ahmedabad will use a ballastless slab track system, similar to that used in the Japanese Shinkansen high-speed railway. Because the Japanese Shinkansen high speed railway will be used in the Indian bullet train.
- The ballastless slab track system is known as J slab track system.
- The Japanese track system is one of the best in the world and its construction requires a very high level of skill from all the technicians.
- According to the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) in this regard, the track is the most important part of the HSR system and needs to be laid with a very high degree of precision.

- For this purpose, 20 Japanese experts will provide intensive training to Indian engineers, supervisors and technicians and certify their skills.

### **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor (MAHSR):**

- The total length of the corridor between **Ahmedabad and Mumbai** is **508 km**, of which **348 km falls in Gujarat and 156 km in Maharashtra**. The remaining four kilometers will fall in **Dadra Nagar Haveli**.
- A total of **12 stations** will be set up in the journey between Ahmedabad and Mumbai, of which eight stations will be in Gujarat and four in Maharashtra.

**Rajendra Prasad**, MD, National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited

### **3. SEBI launches LEI system ( May 6, 2023 )**

SEBI introduced the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system

**SEBI introduced the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system** for issuers of non-convertible securities, securitized debt instruments and security receipts.

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

- LEI is a unique global identifier for legal entities participating in financial transactions.
- The system is primarily intended for issuers that have listed or plan to list non-convertible securities, securitized debt instruments and security receipts.
- It aims to create a global reference data system that identifies each legal entity that is party to a financial transaction.
- The LEI system will enable greater transparency and better risk management in the financial markets.
- Companies planning to list non-convertible securities, securitized debt instruments, and security receipts will need to obtain an LEI from an authorised issuer.
- The LEI system will also help prevent fraud and financial crimes by properly identifying and verifying legal entities participating in financial transactions.
- Entity Identifier India Limited is a subsidiary of Clearing Corporation of India Limited.

### **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):**

- It is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India **established in 1988**.
- Its main objectives are to **protect the interests of investors in securities and promote the development of the securities market in India by regulating intermediaries, ensuring transparency and accountability of listed companies, and promoting investor education**.
- It is owned by the **Ministry of Finance, Government of India, but functions as an autonomous body with its own governing board**.
- It has the power to issue guidelines, rules and regulations, investigate and punish fraudulent business practices.

Headquarters - **Mumbai, Maharashtra**

#### **4. Indian-origin Neera Tandon becomes domestic policy advisor in Biden administration ( May 6, 2023 )**

Indian-origin Neera Tandon becomes domestic policy advisor in Biden administration

On 5 May 2023, an **Indian-American Neera Tandon** has been appointed as the **domestic policy advisor in US President Joe Biden's team.**

##### **Important Point:-**

- Tandon's appointment has been made keeping in mind the presidential election to be held in the US in 2024.
- Following Biden's decision to appoint Neera Tandon, she became the first Asian-American to lead the White House Advisory Council.
- Prior to this, Tandon served as Biden's staff secretary during this term.
- Neera Tandon responsibly processed all the paperwork that arrived on the President's desk.
- According to the White House, Neera Tandon oversaw decision-making processes in the domestic, economic and national security teams.

##### **Neera Tandon:**

- Neera Tandon was born in Massachusetts to Indian immigrant parents. Tandon studied at the University of California Los Angeles and Yale University.
- With over 25 years of experience working in public policy, Neera Tandon has worked with three US presidents, and also headed one of the country's largest think tanks for nearly a decade.
- Neera Tandon is the former US Secretary of State and a close aide of Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate in the 2016 presidential election.
- **Neera also helped pass the Affordable Care Act in the Obama administration.**

#### **5. Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela ( May 6, 2023 )**

Under **Skill India Mission, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** is organising the **Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela (PMNAM)** on **8th May 2023, in 200 districts across the country.**

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

- Several local businesses and organizations have been invited to be a part of this **Apprenticeship Fair** to provide relevant apprenticeship training opportunities to local youth.

- The event will witness the **participation of a number of companies**
- **representing various sectors.**
  - The candidates who are **Class 5 to Class 12 pass** outs or have skill training certificates or are ITI certificate holders or Diploma holders or graduates can apply in this apprenticeship mela.

### **About Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Mela**

- Apprenticeship fairs are **organized across the country on the second Monday of every month.**
- In these melas, selected individuals are offered apprenticeship opportunities during which **they receive a monthly stipend as per government norms to acquire new skills.**
- Apprenticeship is considered to be the most **sustainable model of skill development** and is getting a lot of boost under the **Skill India Mission.**
- Government is trying **to train 15 lakh youth every year** through apprenticeship training to fulfill this mission.

### **6. Ukraine apologises for ‘Devi Kali’ tweet ( May 5, 2023 )**

Ukraine apologises for ‘Devi Kali’ tweet

Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister **Emin Zhaparova** expressed regret over the "**misrepresentation**" of **Goddess Kali** by the country's Defense Ministry.

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

- Apologizing for this act, he said that this country and its people respect the '**unique Indian culture**'.
- In this illustration, a distorted picture of Goddess Kali was written '**Work of Art**' amidst the smoke of the explosion.
- This picture was tweeted on April 30, about which objection was expressed on the social media platform.
- Jhaparova visited India on 9 April. This was the first official foreign trip by a minister from the Eastern European country (Ukraine) since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began in February last year.

#### **About Ukraine**

- Ukraine is a country located in **Eastern Europe** and the **second largest country in the continent after Russia.**
- Its **capital is Kiev**, located on the **Dnieper River in north-central Ukraine.**
- Prime Minister: **Denys Shmyhal**

- President: **Volodymyr Zelensky**
- Capital: **Kyiv**
- Official Language : **Ukrainian**
- Currency : **Rryvnya (UAH)**

## **7. 21st meeting of Bangladesh-India Joint Steering Committee on Cooperation in Power Sector ( May 5, 2023 )**

21st meeting of Bangladesh-India Joint Steering Committee on Cooperation in Power Sector

The **21st meeting of the Bangladesh-India Joint Steering Committee (BIJSC)** on the power sector was held on 4th May at **Khulna, Bangladesh.**

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

- Bangladesh's Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary **Habibur Rahman** and his Indian counterpart **Alok Kumar** led their respective sides at the meeting.
- The meeting reviewed the progress of ongoing activities related to **mutual cooperation in the power sector** between Bangladesh and India.
- The meeting also examined the **possibility of power generation projects** in India through **BIFPCL** including power export from Bangladesh to India and setting up of solar power projects.
- The delegation also discussed the signing of an agreement to **import 500 MW of hydro power from Nepal by GMR to Bangladesh** through India.
- The progress in the management of the first unit and the implementation of the second unit of the **1320 MW Maitri Super Thermal Power Project** construction project was also reviewed.

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

- Capital: **Dhaka**
- Prime Minister: **Sheikh Hasina Wazed**
- President: **Mohammad Shahabuddin**
- Currency: **Taka**

## **8. India and Israel sign MoU for cooperation on industrial research and development ( May 5, 2023 )**

India and Israel sign MoU for cooperation on industrial research and development

India and Israel signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to enhance **industrial research and development cooperation** in high-tech areas such as **AI, quantum, semiconductors, healthcare, aerospace, sustainable energy and agriculture.**

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

- The partnership aims to facilitate **collaborative initiatives for industrial research and development** in a diverse range of high-tech domains, including **artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductor technology, synthetic biology, healthcare, aerospace, sustainable energy and agriculture.**
- The MoU will focus on specific projects and will be monitored by a **Joint Steering Committee** to ensure effective implementation.

### **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):**

- It is a type of agreement between two or more parties that expresses a shared intention to take a **common line of action.**
- Memoranda of Understanding can be used in situations where the **parties do not intend a legal commitment or cannot form a legally enforceable agreement.**
- MOUs are often used by many companies and government agencies to **define relationships between departments, agencies, or closely related companies.**

### **About Israel**

Israel is a **Middle Eastern country** on the **Mediterranean Sea.**

It is considered the **Holy Land of the Bible by Jews**, Christians and Muslims.

Tel Aviv is the financial centre of the country and is known for its **beaches and Bauhaus architecture.**

Capital and largest city - **Jerusalem**

Official language - **Hebrew**

Recognized Language - **Arabic**

Government - **Unitary parliamentary republic**

President - **Isaac Herzog**

Prime Minister - **Benjamin Netanyahu**

Chief Justice - **Esther Hayut**

**9. 4th edition of G20 TechSprint competition launched by RBI and BIS ( May 5, 2023 )**

4th edition of G20 TechSprint competition launched by RBI and BIS

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)** launched the **G20 TechSprint 2023 competition** for **cross-border payments innovation**.

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

- The competition focuses on three problem statements: **AML/CFT, sanctions technology and CBDC platform**.
- The competition is open to global innovators and aims to showcase **innovative technology solutions for cross border payments**.
- Techsprint fosters collaboration between **financial institutions, technology providers and stakeholders** to develop innovative solutions for **cross-border payments**.

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

- It was **established on April 1, 1935** under the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.
- Its central office was initially in **Kolkata, but in 1937** it was permanently **shifted to Mumbai**.
- It regulates banks and NBFCs under the **Banking Regulation Act 1949 and RBI Act 1934 respectively**.
- It issued currency for **India and Myanmar till 1942**, but was discontinued after 1947.

Headquarters - **Mumbai**

Current Governor - **Shaktikanta Das**

### **About the G20**

- It is an **international forum** of the **world's leading economies established in 1999**.
- Its primary objective is **to promote international financial stability and sustainable economic growth**.
- The G20 serves as a forum to discuss and coordinate policies related to a wide range of economic and financial issues such as **trade, investment, employment, energy and climate change**.

## **10. National Mission For Clean Ganga Organizes River-Cities Alliance Global Seminar ( May 5, 2023 )**

National Mission For Clean Ganga Organizes River-Cities Alliance Global Seminar

The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** in association with the **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** organized the '**River-Cities Alliance (RCA) Global Seminar: Partnership for Building International River-Sensitive Cities**' on 4th May in New Delhi.

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

- The RCA Global Seminar was presided over by **G. Asok Kumar**, Director General (NMCG).
- The aim of this global symposium was to provide a platform for officials from member cities and international stakeholders to discuss and learn from good practices for managing urban rivers.
- The RCA Global Symposium saw the participation of **Embassies/High Commissions of select countries** and their respective river cities.
- The seminar highlighted **RCA's objectives, achievements and potential collaborative outcomes.**

### **About River Cities Alliance (RCA)**

- It was **launched in 2021** as a dedicated platform for river cities of India for discussion and exchange of information for **sustainable management of urban rivers.**
- It was started with **30 cities in 2021** and currently has **95 cities as members across India.**
- It is formed by the successful partnership of the two Ministries - **Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.**
- It focuses on three broad themes - **networking, capacity building and technical support.**
- It will enable cities to learn from each other's success and failure and connect people to rivers.

### **National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG)**

- It was registered on **12 August 12, 2011** as a society under the **Societies Registration Act 1860.**
- It serves as the implementing arm of the **National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)**, which was constituted under the provisions of the **Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986.**
- It was established to address **pollution challenges in the Ganga river.**
- The operational area of the project covers the Ganga basin and all the states through which the river flows, including Delhi.
- The objective is to **reduce pollution and ensure rejuvenation of the Ganga river.**



