

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. 11th High Level Meeting between Indian Coast Guard and Korean Coast Guard ( April 26, 2023 )**

The **11th high level meeting between the Indian Coast Guard and the Korean Coast Guard** was held in **New Delhi** on 25 April.

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

- A **seven-member delegation of the Korean Coast Guard** held a meeting with the **Indian Coast Guard**.
- Both sides discussed ways to strengthen the existing relationship in accordance with the provisions of the **MoU to share best practices, conduct joint exercises and enhance training cooperation**.
- The high-level meeting between the two Coast Guards was held **under the provisions of the MoU signed in 2006**.
- The high level meeting focused on enhancing operational level interactions and capacity building in the areas of **maritime search and rescue, marine pollution response and maritime law enforcement**.

#### **About South Korea**

- South Korea is a country located in **East Asia that is known as the 'Land of Quiet Mornings'**.
- The Korean peninsula was divided into **communist Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and Republic of Korea (South Korea)** after the **Korean War in 1953**.
- The nation's capital, **Seoul**, is the **world's second largest metropolitan area and a major global city**.
- **Martial arts Taekwondo** originated in Korea.
- President- **Yoon Suk-yol**
- Currency- **South Korean won**

### **2. 4th India-Mozambique Joint Defence Working Group meeting ( April 26, 2023 )**

The **fourth meeting of the India-Mozambique Joint Defense Working Group** was held in **New Delhi** on 25 April.

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

- The meeting was co-chaired by **Amitabh Prasad**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defense and **Casimiro Augusto Muio**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Defense of Mozambique.
- Both sides discussed a wide range of issues including **military training, exercises, medicine and capacity building with a view to deepening defense ties.**
- The Indian side highlighted the country's **growing capabilities in the field of defense production** and discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral military ties.
- The Mozambican side held separate talks with representatives of the defense industry.
- The Indian side assured Mozambique of India's continued support and commitment to a strong bilateral defense relationship.

### **About Mozambique**

- Mozambique is a **central African nation.**
- India has sent food and defence equipment to under **Mission Sagar.**
- It was delivered at Port Maputo of Mozambique.
- Capital: **Maputo**
- President: **Philippe Nyusi**
- Prime Minister: **Carlos Agostinho do Rosário**
- Currency: **Mozambican metical (MZN)**
- Joint Maritime Exercise among the Indian, Mozambique and Tanzanian navies - **India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise (IMT TRILAT).**

### **3. Vibrant Villages Programme to be Integrated with PM Gati Shakti ( April 25, 2023 )**

Vibrant Villages Programme to be Integrated with PM Gati Shakti

The Centre's ambitious **Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)**, which aims to develop infrastructure and open up villages along the China border to tourists, will be **integrated with the Prime Minister's Gati Shakti mega project.**

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

- The Vibrant Villages Program (VVP) aims **to develop infrastructure and promote tourism in villages bordering China.**
- The program will be integrated with the **Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti mega project**, which brings together **16 ministries for coordinated infrastructure planning.**

- The **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N)** will provide satellite images and GIS mapping of the projects for real-time monitoring.
- The objective of VVP is to prevent migration of border population and to **gather intelligence from the people of border villages.**
- The program will cover **2,967 villages in 46 border blocks of 19 districts in four states and one union territory.**

### **About Vibrant Villages Programme**

- This program was announced in the **budget speech 2022.**
- It aims to **improve infrastructure in villages along India's border with China.**
- Under the programme, states such as **Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh** will improve infrastructure and build residential and tourism hubs.
- The focus areas of the programme are **livelihood, road connectivity, housing, rural infrastructure, renewable energy, television and broadband connections.**

### **About PM Gati Shakti initiative**

- It is a transformative approach to **economic growth and sustainable development.**
- It was **launched on 13 October 2021** to provide **multimodal connectivity infrastructure** to various economic zones.
- Its targets are to cut **logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity and reduce the turnaround time.**
- Economic zones like **Textile Clusters, Pharmaceutical Clusters, Defence Corridor, Electronic Park, Industrial Corridor, Fishing Clusters, Agri Zone** will be covered under this program to improve connectivity.
- **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan** was implemented on **21st October 2021.**

### **The approach of PM Gati Shakti is driven by 7 engines-**

- Railways
- Roads
- Ports
- Waterways
- Airports
- Mass Transport

Logistics Infrastructure

## Significance

- It will give a boost to the overall infrastructure of the country.
- It will strive to build next generation infrastructure that improves ease of living as well as ease of doing business.
- It will provide integrated and seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services as a mode of transport.
- It will create many employment opportunities and boost the economy.
- It will improve the global competitiveness of local products by cutting logistics costs and improving the supply chain.

## 4. Ministry of Tourism organises G20 Tourism Expo in Jaipur ( April 25, 2023 )

The **Ministry of Tourism**, Government of India in association with the **Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan**, organised **G20 Tourism Expo in Jaipur** from 23rd to 25th April, 2023 to coincide with **India's G20 Presidency and Amrit Kaal**, the elixir of independence.

### An Overview of the News

- **The Ministry of Tourism** plans to develop **50 new tourist destinations across India** and launch promotions in foreign markets to promote tourism.
- **India to register 6.19 million foreign tourist arrivals in 2022**, a growth of 305% as compared to 1.52 million in 2021, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.
- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has made **51 of the 59 tourist routes recommended under the UDAN scheme operational**.
- Government of Rajasthan to promote tourism and generate employment opportunities its newly launched G20 Tourism Expo is organised along with the **12th edition of Great Indian Travel Bazaar (GITB)**, one of the biggest events for inbound tourism in India  
There is one.

### About the G20

- It is an **international forum of the world's major 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**.

## **5. 6th Edition of Advantage Healthcare India 2023 ( April 25, 2023 )**

6th Edition of Advantage Healthcare India 2023

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **6th edition of Advantage Healthcare India (AHCI) 2023** on 26th April at **Pragati Maidan New Delhi**. This event will be held from **26 to 27 April 2023**.

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

- The program is in line with **India's G20 Presidency theme 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'** and is aptly named '**One Earth, One Health - Advantage Healthcare India 2023**'.
- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** in association with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** co-branded the **6th edition of One Earth One Health, Advantage Healthcare India 2023** with the G20 Presidency of India.
- The event is being organized by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** and will be attended by **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- **Prem Singh Tamang**, Chief Minister of Sikkim and **Dr. Manik Saha**, Chief Minister of Tripura will be present along with senior national and state high level leadership.
- Health ministers of **10 countries** will also be present in this programme.
- The summit will witness **125 exhibitors from 70 countries** and around **500 foreign delegates**.

### **Aims of the event**

- To emphasize the importance of global collaborations and partnerships for **Building Resilient Global Health Architecture and work towards achieving Universal Health Coverage through value-based healthcare**.
- To showcase **India's strength in the field of medical value travel** and as an exporter of healthcare workforce providing value based healthcare services.

## **6. Stolen Chola Period idol of Lord Hanuman recovered, handed over to Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu ( April 25, 2023 )**

Stolen Chola Period idol of Lord Hanuman recovered, handed over to Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu

The **stolen idol of Lord Hanuman** belonging to the **Chola period** has been **recovered and handed over to Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu**.

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

- The sculpture of Lord Hanuman was **stolen from a Vishnu Temple, Shri Varatharaja Perumal, Pottaveli Vellur, Ariyalur district.**
- It belongs to the **late Chola Period (14th -15th century).**
- It was documented by “**French institute of Pondicherry**” in **1961.**
- The sculpture was handed over to the **High Commissioner of India in Canberra.**
- The idol was returned to India in the last week of **February, 2023** and handed over to Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu as a case property on 18th April 2023.
- The Government of India is working towards safeguarding the **country's ancient heritage** within the country and has been instrumental in bringing back antiquities that were taken abroad illegally in the past.
- **So far 251 antiquities** have been brought back from different countries out of which **238 antiquities have been brought back since 2014.**

## **7. India launches Operation Kaveri to evacuate Indian citizens stranded in Sudan ( April 25, 2023 )**

**India launched Operation Kaveri to evacuate its nationals from unrest-hit Sudan** and it is the latest evacuation operation launched by India to rescue its citizens and those of friendly nations from war zones.

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

- Official figures show that there are about **4,000 Indians in Sudan.**
- **Sudan is currently experiencing a violent power struggle** between the army and the paramilitary **Rapid Support Force (RSF)** across the country.
- The conflict arose due to a dispute over an internationally supported plan to establish a new civilian government, four years after the overthrow of **authoritarian leader Omar al-Bashir** and two years after a military coup.
- Both sides have been accusing each other of obstructing the transition, resulting in widespread violence and instability.

### **About Sudan**

Capital - **Khartoum**

Currency - **Sudanese pound (SDG)**

Region - **North Africa**

President - **Abdel Fatah al-Burhan (Chairman of the Sovereignty Council)**

Official language - **Arabic, English**

## **8. Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launches new features in eShram Portal ( April 25, 2023 )**

Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Bhupender Yadav, launched new features in eShram Portal on 24th April.**

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

- The new features added in eShram portal will enhance the utility of the portal and facilitate ease of registration for **unorganised workers.**
- The eShram registered workers can now connect with **Employment opportunities, Skilling, Apprenticeship, Pension Scheme, Digital Skilling and States' schemes through eShram portal.**
- The Union Minister also formally launched the **Data Sharing Portal (DSP)** for sharing of eShram data with the State/ UT Governments.

### **What are new features added?**

- Facility to enter details of families of **migrant workers has been added in the e-Shram Portal.**
- This facility can help migrant workers migrating with family to get benefits of child education and women centric schemes.
- In addition, a new feature has been added regarding **sharing of data of construction workers registered on Eshram with the concerned Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Welfare Board.**
- It will ensure registration of eShram construction workers with the concerned BOCW board and ensure access to schemes for them.

### **About e-Shram portal**

- The **Ministry of Labor and Employment** has developed an eSHRAM portal **to create a national database of unorganised workers.**
- **It was launched in 2021.**
- Its aim is to welfare of workers in the **unorganised sector who are not members of the EPFO or ESIC.**
- Registered members will be eligible for a range of benefits after signing up for **Shramik Yojana and getting the e-Shram Card.**
- This will allow workers to receive **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) through e-Shramik Unique ID Number.**

## **9. "Locked Shields" cyber-defense exercise 2023 to be held by NATO in Tallinn ( April 24, 2023 )**

The 2023 edition of the **annual exercise "Locked Shields"** was **hosted by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence in Tallinn (Estonia)**.

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

- **"Locked Shields"** is an **annual cyber defence exercise** hosted by the **NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence in Tallinn**. The exercise started on 18 April 2023.
- More than **3000 participants from 38 countries** including **NATO allies** and partners took part in the exercise.
- The exercise simulates **real-time attacks and tests strategic decision making** in critical situations.
- The exercise highlights the importance of **international collaboration and cooperation in the field of cyber defence**.
- The **NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence** helps participating countries and organisations improve their cyber defence capabilities.

### **About Locked Shields**

- It is an **annual cyber defence exercise that simulates a large-scale cyber incident**.
- Rapid Reaction Teams from different countries work together to assist a fictional nation in managing a **massive cyber attack**.
- Blue Teams made up of **CCDCOE member nations protect** the mock state's information systems and critical infrastructure from thousands of attacks.
- **The aim of the exercise is to improve the skills and capabilities** of the participating teams and enhance international cooperation and communication in cyber defence.
- The exercise includes both **defensive and offensive operations**, with **Red Teams simulating attacks and Blue Teams defending**.

### **About the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**

Established - **4 April 1949**

Founders - **United States, United Kingdom, France, Canada, Italy**

Headquarters - **Brussels, Belgium**

Secretary General - **Jens Stoltenberg**



## **10. First ever census on Water Bodies in India ( April 24, 2023 )**

For the first time in the country's history, the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** recently released the **first census report of water bodies**, providing important insights into the **country's water resources**.

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

- The census provides a **comprehensive list of India's water resources**, which includes **natural and man-made water bodies such as ponds, tanks, lakes, etc.**
- It has collected data on **encroachment of water bodies**.
- The census also highlighted **disparities between rural and urban areas** and different levels of encroachment and revealed important insights into the country's water resources.

### **Major findings of the census**

- **24,24,540 water bodies** have been **enumerated in the country**, out of which **97.1% (23,55,055) are in rural areas and only 2.9% (69,485) are in urban areas**.
- **Top 05 States in terms of number of water bodies** - West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam which constitute around 63% of the total water bodies in the country.
- **Top 05 States in terms of number of water bodies in urban areas** - West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura.
- **Top 05 States in terms of number of water bodies in rural areas** - West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Assam.
- **59.5% of water bodies are ponds**, followed by **tanks (15.7%), reservoirs (12.1%), Water conservation schemes/percolation tanks/check dams (9.3%), lakes (0.9%) and others (2.5%)**.
- **55.2% of water bodies are owned by private entities** whereas **44.8% of water bodies are in the domain of public ownership**.
- **Top 05 States which lead in the private owned water bodies** - West Bengal, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand.
- **Top 05 States wherein major use of water bodies is in pisciculture** - West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh;
- **Top 05 States wherein major use of water bodies is in irrigation** - Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal and Gujarat.
- **78% water bodies are man-made water bodies** whereas **22% are natural water bodies**.

- **1.6% (38,496) water bodies** out of all the enumerated water bodies are reported to be **encroached out of which 95.4% are in rural areas and remaining 4.6% in urban areas.**