

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. India provided 50 buses to Sri Lanka under the economic assistance scheme ( Feb. 6, 2023 )**

India has supplied 50 buses to Sri Lanka on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of independence.

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

- Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay handed over these buses to Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe.
- Commercial vehicle manufacturer **Ashok Leyland** has bagged a **contract for the supply of 500 buses from the Sri Lanka** Transport Board.
- Under the contract, 75 buses have been handed over to Sri Lanka in January 2023. The Indian Import-Export Bank is providing loans for these buses.

#### **About sri lanka**

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is a tropical island nation located off the southeast coast of the Indian subcontinent.
- **Sri Lanka is separated from the Indian subcontinent by the Gulf of Munnar and the Palk Strait.**
- Capital: Colombo (Executive and Judicial) and Sri Jayawardenepura (Legislative).
- Official languages: Sinhala and Tamil
- **President - Ranil Wickremesinghe**
- **Prime Minister - Dinesh Gunawardena**
- Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee

### **2. UN General Assembly president to visit India from Jan 29-31 ( Jan. 28, 2023 )**

UN General Assembly president to visit India from Jan 29-31

**United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** President **Saba Korosi** will visit **India** from January 29-31 to discuss multilateral and regional issues.

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

- Korosi, **Hungarian diplomat** who served as his **country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations**, is visiting India at the invitation of External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar**.

- He became the President of the **77th session of the United Nations General Assembly** in September 2022.
- Besides holding talks with Jaishankar on key multilateral and regional issues of mutual interest, Korosi will hold talks with senior officials of **NITI Aayog and India's G20 Presidency team**.
- On January 30, Korosi will deliver a public speech at the **Indian Council of World Affairs** on the topic "**Solidarity, Sustainability and Solutions through Science at the United Nations**".
- He will also attend the "**Beating the Retreat**" ceremony on January 29 and pay floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat on January 30 on the occasion of Martyrs' Day.
- On January 31, Korosi will travel to Bengaluru, which will include an interaction with scientists from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and a field visit to an IISc-led water conservation project.

### **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**

- It is the United Nation's chief policy-making and representative organ and was **created in 1945**.
- It is one of the **six principal organs** of the United Nations (UN).
- It serves as the main deliberative, policy making and representative organ of the United Nations.
- Its powers, structure, functions and procedures are set out in **Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter**.
- Its main functions are to prepare the budget of the United Nations, appoint non-permanent members to the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General of the United Nations, receive reports from other parts of the United Nations system, and make recommendations through resolutions.

### **3. Signing of MoU on Cultural Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of Egypt ( Jan. 28, 2023 )**

India's Ministry of Culture signed an MoU with the Government of Egypt to strengthen cultural ties.

An overview of the news

- The MoU was signed by the **Culture Minister of India, Shri G. Kishan Reddy** and the **Foreign Minister of Egypt, Shri Sameh Hassan Shoukry**, in the presence of the **Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi** and the **President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Abdel Fattah El Sisi**.
- This MoU has been signed for a period of five years.

- Under the aegis of the MoU on Cultural Cooperation signed between India and Egypt,
- both the countries will host cultural activities in the fields of music, dance, theatre, literature, libraries, organising festivals in the respective countries, research and documentation etc.

### **About Egypt**

- Egypt is a country **located in North Africa.**
- Egypt is home to famous monuments such as the Giza Pyramid Complex. One of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Pyramids of Giza are **located on the banks of the Nile River.** The **Great Pyramid of Giza was built in 2560 BC.**
- Capital - Cairo
- President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
- Currency - Egyptian pound

### **4. India announces 100 million Maldivian Rufiyaa for community development projects in Maldives ( Jan. 19, 2023 )**

External Affairs Minister **Dr S Jaishankar** arrived in **Maldives** on 18 January as part of his three-day visit to **Maldives and Sri Lanka.**

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

- To strengthen bilateral ties, India and Maldives signed an **MoU on development projects** and held talks with top leadership in the country.
- The agreement included grant assistance of **100 million rufiyaa (Maldives' currency)** for the **High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP).**
- Under this funding, several socio-economic development projects are planned to be implemented in Maldives.
- It also includes the development of a sports complex at **Gahadhoo** and academic collaboration between the Maldives National University and the Cochin University of Science and Technology.
- India has handed over two sea ambulances to help the **Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).**

### **About Maldives**

- It is also called **Maldives 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**

## **5. India-South Korea holds 5th Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue ( Jan. 18, 2023 )**

**Saurabh Kumar**, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), made an official visit to South Korea and co-chaired the **5th Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue (FPSD)** with his Korean counterpart **Cho Hyundong**.

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

- During the two-day talks that ended on January 17, the two sides agreed to deepen cooperation in the areas of **trade and investment, security and defence, science and technology as well as cultural and people-to-people exchanges**.
- India and South Korea agreed to work to make **global supply chains** more resilient and robust.
- Both the countries agreed to take bilateral trade to **US\$ 50 billion by 2030** from an all-time high of **US\$ 28 billion** at present.
- Both sides also discussed opportunities for cooperation in new and emerging technologies.
- India has offered investment to Korean companies in manufacturing, infrastructure and other sectors.

### **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.

- North Korea is the only country bordering this country.
- **Martial arts Taekwondo** originated in Korea.
- President- **Yoon Suk-yol**
- Currency- **South Korean won**

## **6. Indian Railways to start 'Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train' between Ayodhya to Janakpur ( Jan. 14, 2023 )**

Indian Railways to start 'Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train' between Ayodhya to Janakpur Indian Railways is going to run Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC tourist train "Shri Ram-Janaki Yatra: Ayodhya to Janakpur", which will cover two most important pilgrimage sites of neighbouring India and Nepal, Ayodhya and Janakpur.

- The initiative aims to strengthen bilateral relations between India and Nepal and promote cultural ties between the two countries.
- This train will be operated by Railway's PSU - IRCTC.
- The state-of-the-art Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train will depart from **Delhi on 17th February, 2023** for a 7 days all inclusive tour.
- The train will cover Ayodhya and Janakpur Dham (Nepal) as well as pilgrimage and heritage sites at Nandigram, Sitamarhi, Varanasi and Prayag.
- This tourist train can carry 156 tourists and will have 4 first AC coaches, 2 second AC coaches, a well-equipped pantry car and two rail restaurants.
- **Indo-Nepal Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train**
- **The first Indo-Nepal Bharat Gaurav tourism train was flagged off from Safdarjung Railway Station in Delhi in June 2022.**
- 500 Indian tourists travelled in this train.
- This unique idea was conceptualised by the Ministry of Railways.
- This train returned to Delhi after covering a distance of about 8000 kms in a journey of 18 days.
- The Bharat Gaurav train was run with the theme '**Dekho Apna Desh**'.

## **7. India, Panama sign agreement on cooperation in training diplomats ( Jan. 10, 2023 )**

India, Panama sign agreement on cooperation in training diplomats

External Affairs Minister **Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** signed an MoU to enhance cooperation in the training of diplomats during his bilateral meeting with Panamanian Foreign Minister **Janaina Tevane Mencomo in Indore.**

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

- The agreement was signed during the visit of the Foreign Minister of Panama to participate in the **17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** Conference.
- The visit of the Panamanian Foreign Minister to India comes more than a month after the two sides held the **2nd Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Panama City** on November 23, 2022.
- During the consultations, both sides comprehensively reviewed their bilateral relations covering issues such as trade and investment, pharmaceuticals, capacity building, space cooperation and consular.
- Both countries also discussed cooperation in **multilateral fora.**
- Both countries agreed to hold the next round of consultations at a mutually convenient date in **New Delhi.**

### **About Panama**

- Panama is the southernmost nation in **Central America.**
- The country is known for the Panama Canal, a man-made waterway that opened in 1914. This canal passes through the country, connecting the **Caribbean Sea (Atlantic) with the Pacific Ocean.**
- Capital - **Panama City**
- Currency - **Balboa**
- President - **Laurentino Cortizo**

## **8. India & France hold 36th Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi ( Jan. 5, 2023 )**

**India and France** held the **36th Strategic Dialogue** in New Delhi on 5 January. The two sides discussed a wide range of bilateral and global issues.

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

- National Security Advisor **Ajit Doval** led the Indian delegation while the French delegation was led by **Emmanuel Bonne**, Diplomatic Advisor to the French President.
- The last edition of the Strategic Dialogue was to be held in **Paris in November 2021.**

### **India, France bilateral relations**

- France is the first country with which India started a strategic dialogue after its **1998 nuclear tests**.
- Bilateral trade with France has reached **US\$ 10.75 billion** in the last decade and is showing a steady increase.
- Both sides recognized the importance of discussing the **India-EU Trade and Investment Agreement**.
- There are around **1,000 French companies** present in India while over a hundred Indian businesses have established a presence in France.
- **In 2005**, an agreement was signed to build **six Scorpene submarines** in India with the help of France.
- There has been an agreement between the Government of France and India for **36 Rafale aircraft**.

### **About France**

- President: **Emmanuel Macron**
- Prime minister: **Élisabeth Borne**
- Capital: **Paris**
- Currency : **euro**

### **9. India, Austria to sign 5 agreements ( Jan. 2, 2023 )**

External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** said that **India and Austria** will sign five agreements on January 2, 2023 and two of them are in the interest of the Indian community living in Austria.

#### **Important facts**

- The two agreements would be in the **interest of the Indian community**.
- There is an agreement on '**Migration and Mobility**' for people who want to work in Austria and who want to come to India for business, or who come here as students and professionals.
- Another agreement is on the '**Working Holiday**' program that will enable Indian students in Austria to work for 6 months.
- S Jaishankar is on an official visit to Austria where he held a meeting with Austrian Foreign Minister **Alexander Schallenberg**.
- This is the first India-Austria EAM-level visit in the **last 27 years** which is taking place in 2023 against the backdrop of 75 years of diplomatic relations.

## **About Austria**

- It is a largely mountainous landlocked country of **south-central Europe**.
- Chancellor: **Karl Nehammer**
- President: **Alexander Van der Bellen**
- Capital: **Vienna**
- Currency : **euro**
- Official Language : **German**

## **10. 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.