

Current Affairs search results for tag: international-relations

1. Bangladesh Navy Inks Deal for 'Made in India' 800-Ton Ocean-Going Tug with GRSE (July 1, 2024)

Bangladesh Navy signs a contract for a "Made in India" 800-tonne ocean-going tug with Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

An Overview of the News

- This is the second contract for GRSE this month, following a \$16.6 million deal with the Bangladesh Inland Waterways Transport Authority (BIWTA) to build a dredger.

Admiral Tripathi's Visit

- Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi visits Bangladesh for a four-day official visit.
- The visit coincides with the contract signing between Bangladesh Navy and GRSE.

Bilateral Relations and Agreements

- The visit follows Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina's bilateral visit to India on June 21-22.
- Agreements were signed to strengthen ties in the maritime sphere and blue economy.
- Bangladesh decided to join the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), a forum promoted by India for collaborative solutions to common challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

Purpose of the Visit

- The visit aims to consolidate bilateral defence relations between India and Bangladesh.
- Exploration of new avenues for naval cooperation.

2. US and Ukraine Forge Long-Term Security Pact Amid G7 Summit in Italy (June 14, 2024)

The US and Ukraine signed a long-term security agreement during the G7 summit in Italy.

An Overview of the News

- On June 13, 2024, during the 2024 G7 summit in Italy, President Joe Biden of the USA and President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine concluded a **10-year bilateral security agreement**.
- Similar agreements have been reached previously with 15 other countries, such as Britain, France, and Germany.
- The agreement covers a wide range of cooperation levels between the US and Ukraine, including military equipment, training, and maneuvers.

- However, it does not include commitments to supply specific weapons systems to Ukraine.

About G7

- The G7 is a group of seven major industrialized countries, including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- The G7 holds annual meetings to discuss various global issues, but these meetings are usually held in different locations each year.
- The 48th G7 summit was hosted by Germany in 2022.
- The city of Hiroshima in Hiroshima Prefecture hosted the 49th G7 summit from May 19th to May 21st, 2023.
- The 50th G7 summit is currently taking place from June 13th to June 15th, 2024, at Borgo Egnazia in Fasano, Apulia, Italy. Italy is hosting the 50th G7 summit.

3. India Sends Humanitarian Aid to Papua New Guinea (June 13, 2024)

India dispatched a flight with 19 tons of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief supplies to Papua New Guinea.

An Overview of the News

- Response to Disaster: The aid is in response to a devastating landslide in Enga province, Papua New Guinea.

Aid Details

- Disaster Relief Material: 13 tons of supplies, including temporary shelters, water tanks, hygiene kits, and ready-to-eat meals.
- Medical Supplies: 6 tons of emergency use medicine and medical equipment, including dengue and malaria diagnostic kits and baby food.

Geographical Background Of Papua New Guinea:

- New Guinea, the world's second-largest island, covers an area of 785,753 km².
- Situated in Oceania, it lies in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, adjacent to Australia, separated by the Torres Strait.
- The island is surrounded by numerous smaller islands to the west and east.

India-Papua New Guinea Relations:

- Diplomatic ties between India and Papua New Guinea were established in 1975 upon PNG's independence from Australia.

- India opened its resident mission in Port Moresby in 1996, reciprocated by PNG with a resident mission in New Delhi in 2006.
- Both nations, being Commonwealth countries, share warm relations, aligning closely on various global issues.
- Collaboration extends to international forums like the Commonwealth, Non-Aligned Movement, and the United Nations Organization.

Humanitarian Aid and Assistance:

- India extends humanitarian aid and disaster relief to PNG periodically.
- In 2023, assistance included drugs for HIV/AIDS patients.
- A grant-in-aid totaling US \$760,000 provided computers and peripherals to PNG in 2017-18.
- Capacity-building efforts involve training through programs like Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) and the Colombo Plan.
- Ongoing implementation of aid proposals in various fields submitted by PNG under the annual grant-in-aid.
- A Centre of Excellence in Information Technology was established at the University of PNG with Indian financial and technical assistance.
- In 2018, Government of India provided assistance of US\$1 million for earthquake relief in areas affected by the PNG earthquake.

4. India announces \$1 million relief assistance to landslide-hit Papua New Guinea (May 29, 2024)

India announces immediate relief assistance of one million US dollars to aid Papua New Guinea.

An Overview of the News

- The assistance aims to support relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts following a devastating landslide in Enga Province on May 24th.
- The landslide buried hundreds of people, resulting in significant destruction and loss of life.

Condolences and Support:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi expresses grief over the loss of lives and damage caused by the landslide.
- In a social media post, Mr. Modi extends heartfelt condolences to the affected families and offers prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured.
- India stands ready to offer all possible support and assistance to Papua New Guinea during this difficult time.

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5. India-UK Hold 16th Counter-Terrorism Meeting in New Delhi (May 23, 2024)

The 16th meeting of the India-United Kingdom Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism took place in New Delhi.

An Overview of the News

- The Indian delegation was led by **K.D Dewal, Joint Secretary for Counter-Terrorism** in the **Ministry of External Affairs**.

- The UK delegation was led by **Chris Felton, Head of the Counter Terrorism Network for Asia and Oceania, Government of the United Kingdom.**
- **Discussions centered around** ongoing counter-terrorism cooperation between India and the UK.
 - Both nations emphasized the importance of strengthening international cooperation to combat terrorism comprehensively and sustainably.
 - The External Affairs Ministry stated that both sides shared their assessments of terrorist and extremist threats in their respective territories and regions.
 - Discussions included threats posed by globally sanctioned terrorist entities and individuals.

United Kingdom:

- It includes England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- It is an island nation located in northwestern Europe.
- Capital and largest city - **London**
- Prime Minister - **Rishi Sunak**

6. PM Modi Unveils Cutting-edge Medical Center in Thimphu (March 27, 2024)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay jointly inaugurated Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck Mother and Child Hospital in Bhutan's capital Thimphu.

An Overview of the News

- This hospital is an example of the strong development cooperation between India and Bhutan.
- The hospital has a state-of-the-art 150-bed facility built with Indian assistance.
- Built in two phases, the first phase costing ₹22 crore became operational in 2019, while the second phase, completed recently, was undertaken as part of Bhutan's 12th Five Year Plan at a cost of ₹119 crore.

Strengthening Bilateral Ties

- Prime Minister Modi's visit aims to bolster the unique and long-standing friendship between India and Bhutan.
- During his visit, PM Modi met with Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and held talks with Prime Minister Tobgay.

Recognition and Support

- The King of Bhutan confers the prestigious 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo' on PM Modi, making him the first foreign Head of Government to receive this honor.

- India pledges ₹10,000 crore in support to Bhutan over the next five years, reinforcing the enduring partnership between the two nations.

About Bhutan:

Capital- Thimphu

King - Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk

Currencies - Bhutanese Ngultrum, Indian Rupee

Official language- Dzongkha

7. India and UAE sign MoU for advanced technical cooperation (Oct. 6, 2023)

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was officially signed between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

An Overview of the News

- The signatories include Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry of India and Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology of the United Arab Emirates.
- The signing took place in Abu Dhabi in the presence of Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a Member of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council.

Focus areas of cooperation:

The MoU entails collaborative efforts in several key areas, including:

- Supply chain flexibility
- Clean energy technology
- Health care
- Space exploration
- Industry 4.0
- Advanced technologies
- Industrial standards

These sectors were chosen to facilitate industrial investment, technology transfer and implementation of innovations for mutual benefit.

Strategic Objective:

- The primary goal of this historic agreement is to promote industrial development and technological progress in both countries.

- The agreement seeks to enhance sustainable economic growth and competitiveness by promoting innovation and technological excellence.
- It aims to facilitate the transfer of advanced technologies and promote sustainable practices, including clean energy and climate neutrality.

Seven key areas of focus:

The MoU identifies seven specific areas of cooperation, including:

1. Increase supply chain flexibility
2. Progress in renewable energy and energy efficiency
3. Collaborative efforts in health care and life sciences
4. Strengthening space industries, including commercial development and space exploration
5. Deploying AI technologies in various sectors
6. Emphasis on Industry 4.0 technologies and automation
7. Standardization and metrology to harmonize industrial standards and certification processes.

Promoting Cooperation:

- The MoU encourages various forms of cooperation including industrial and academic partnerships.
- Collaborative research and development projects are promoted to advance technological advancements.
- Sharing of best practices in science and technology policies is encouraged to ensure the comprehensive nature of the partnership and its potential to benefit both countries.

8. BEL and Israel Aerospace Industries signed MoU (Sept. 5, 2023)

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

An Overview of the News

- The signing ceremony was **held in Bengaluru.**
- The MoU focuses **on the area of Short Range Air Defense Systems.**
- BEL and IAI have previously worked together on **joint development, production and product support programs for the Indian Defense Forces.**
- The MoU is in line with India's '**Atmanirbhar Bharat**' (self-reliant India) and '**Make in India**' policies.

- These policies emphasize self-reliance in domestic manufacturing and defense capabilities.
- BEL and IAI aim to contribute **to these national objectives through their collaboration.**

IAI's expertise in aerospace and defense:

- Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) is a **leading aerospace and defense company in Israel.**
- They are known for their **capabilities in aerospace and defense technologies.**
- IAI offers a wide range of solutions, including **space technology, UAVs, missiles, intelligence solutions, air defense systems, radars and more.**
- President and CEO of IAI - **Boaz Levy**
- Establishment of IAI - **1953**

Role of BEL in Self-Reliance in Defense Electronics:

- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) was established **to enhance India's self-reliance in defense electronics.**
- BEL operates across diverse sectors, producing state-of-the-art products and systems.
- His areas of expertise include **radar, missile systems, military communications and naval systems.**
- The company also expands its efforts into non-defense areas including electronic voting machines, homeland security, smart cities, satellite integration, space electronics and cyber security.
- BEL was established in **1954.**
- BEL Chairman and Managing Director - **Bhanu Prakash Srivastava**

9. Goa Shipyard and Kenya Shipyard sign MoU for ship design and building cooperatio (Aug. 31, 2023)

Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) and Kenya Shipyard Limited (KSL) signed an MoU for cooperation in ship design and construction.

An Overview of the News

- The MoU was formalized during a meeting between India's Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and Kenya's Cabinet Secretary Defense Aden Bare Duale on August 29, 2023.
- The signing event took place in New Delhi, Delhi.

- Chief of Defense Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan and Defense Secretary Giridhar Aramane attended the bilateral meeting.
- Aden Bare Duale, serving as the Defense Cabinet Secretary of Kenya, is on a 3-day visit to India.
- Kenya Shipyard Limited is a state-owned company under the Ministry of Defense of Kenya, established in 2020 to meet the operational needs of the Kenya Navy through shipbuilding, repair, maintenance, and marine services.

Highlights of the bilateral meeting between India and Kenya:

Defense Cooperation and Regional Security:

- Discussion Strengthening defense industry ties and cooperation in equipment development.
- Both countries are engaged in dialogue on mutual regional security concerns.

Symbolic gifts and technical assistance:

- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh presented 15 pairs of Glider India Limited parachutes to Aden Beyer Duelle for the Kenyan forces.
- India offered assistance in setting up an advanced CT scan facility in Kenya.

Expanded participation in various fields:

- Cooperation commitment for maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) was expanded.
- It was agreed upon for intensive cooperation in counter-insurgency training.
- Reciprocated commitment to an expanded partnership in UN peacekeeping efforts.

About Goa Shipyard Limited:

- GSL is a Miniratna Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) operating under the Ministry of Defense (MoD) of India.
- Chairman & Managing Director - **Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay**
- Establishment - **1957**
- Headquarters - **Vasco da Gama, Goa**

10. Indian Coast Guard and Philippine Coast Guard sign MoU to strengthen maritime cooperation (Aug. 22, 2023)

The Indian Coast Guard and the Philippine Coast Guard have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen their maritime cooperation.

An Overview of the News

- The objective of the MoU is to enhance bilateral maritime cooperation between the two countries with a focus on ensuring safe, secure, and clean seas in the region.
- The MoU was signed in New Delhi by Rakesh Pal, Director General of, the Indian Coast Guard, and Admiral Artemio M. Abu, Commandant of, the Philippine Coast Guard.
- The two sides held their inaugural bilateral meeting after the signing of the MoU, addressing a range of maritime issues.

Areas of Focus: The key areas of cooperation under the MoU include:

1. Maritime Law Enforcement: Strengthening cooperation in the enforcement of maritime laws.
2. Maritime Search and Rescue: To enhance joint efforts in search and rescue operations at sea.
3. Marine Pollution Response: Collaborating to respond effectively to marine pollution incidents.

Delegation visit: A five-member delegation of the Philippine Coast Guard is on an official visit to India from 20 August to 24 August.