



# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**JUNE, 2024**

**Week-1**

**01-07 June, 2024**

★★ Useful for ★★

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams,  
SSC and Banking Exams**

1<sup>st</sup> JUNE, 2024

## Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV)

- **Context:** Recently, construction commenced on the first Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) for the Indian Coast Guard

### About NGOPV

- The NGOPVs, designed to meet the evolving challenges of maritime security, are equipped with state-of-the-art machinery and equipment.
- Powered by two diesel engines, these vessels are capable of achieving a maximum continuous speed of 23 knots and covering a distance of up to 5,000 nautical miles.
- They will also have integral twin-engine helicopter facilities and staging for heavy helicopters, enabling swift and effective aerial surveillance and response capabilities.
- The first vessel is scheduled for delivery by May 2027 under a ₹1,614.89 crore contract for six vessels signed by the Defence Ministry with MDL in December 2023.

## India-Japan Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism

- **Context:** The 6th Meeting of the India-Japan Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was held in New Delhi.

### Key highlights

- Both sides exchanged views on the terrorist threats in their respective regions, including State-sponsored cross-border terrorism in the Asian region.
- The two sides assessed counter terrorism challenges, including the use of new and emerging technologies by terrorists, misuse of the internet for terrorist purposes, radicalisation and terror financing.
- Countering terror financing, organized crime and narco-terror networks were also discussed in the meeting.

- Both sides emphasized the importance of strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation through exchanging information, capacity building, training programs & exercises, and cooperation at the multilateral fora, such as the United Nations, Financial Action Task Force, and QUAD.

## Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024

- **Context:** The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) has been awarded the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024

### About the award

- The Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion, established by World Health Organization (WHO) in 2019
- It recognizes individuals, institutions and/or governmental or non-governmental organizations that have demonstrated remarkable contributions to health promotion.

2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE, 2024

## Global Organ Transplant Strategy

- **Context:** At the 77th World Health Assembly, member states approved a draft resolution on improving organ transplantation availability, including human cells and tissues.

### Key highlights

- The resolution tasked countries with developing a global strategy to be presented for adoption in 2026.
- It also encouraged the establishment of a World Donor Day to raise public awareness and donations.
- The resolution urged the director-general to establish an expert committee under the Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees, to help the Secretariat in developing the proposed global strategy and its implementation.

- According to the WHO press release, “The latest data of 2022 from the Global Observatory on Donation and Transplantation indicate that more than 150,000 solid organ transplants ( $\leq 10$  percent of global needs) are performed worldwide annually, which is an increase of 52 per cent compared with 2010.”
- India sees 17,000–18,000 solid organ transplants performed every year—the most in the world after the US and China—but remains behind several high-income countries in transplantation rates per million population (0.65).

## India's FDI Inflow Decreases

- **Context:** FDI equity inflows into India declined to a five-year low of \$44.42 billion in FY24, a 3.5% decrease compared to the previous year.

### Key Highlights

- **Top Sources of FDI:** Singapore remained the top investor with \$11.77 billion, followed by Mauritius (\$7.97 billion), the United States (\$4.99 billion), and the Netherlands (\$4.92 billion).
- **Leading Sectors:** The computer software and hardware sector were the highest recipient of FDI.
- **Geographical Distribution:** Maharashtra continued to attract the most FDI, with \$15.11 billion.
- **Reason for Decline in FDI Inflows:** High interest rates in advanced economies made investments in India less attractive.
  - Some sectors in India, like IT and startups, have reached a saturation point in terms of investment.

### About Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

- It refers to the conditions when a company or investor takes ownership and controls operation in a business entity in another country.
- With FDI, foreign companies are directly involved with day-to-day operations in the other country which implies that along with bringing money, they also bring knowledge, skills and technology.
- It is an important non-debt monetary source for India's economic development.

- Economic liberalisation started in India in the wake of the 1991 crisis and since then, FDI has steadily increased in the country.

### FDI Routes

- **Government Route:** For investment in business sectors requiring prior approval from the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).
- **Automatic Route:** For investment in business sectors that do not require prior approval from the government.

3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE, 2024

## PraVaHa

- **Context:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software named Parallel RANS Solver for Aerospace Vehicle Aero-thermo-dynamic Analysis (PraVaHa).

### About PraVaHa

- It can simulate external and internal flows on launch vehicles, winged and non-winged re-entry vehicles.
- Any aerospace vehicle while moving through the Earth's atmosphere during launch or re-entry is subjected to severe aerodynamic and aerothermal loads in terms of external pressure and heat flux.
- PraVaHa has been used extensively in the Gaganyaan program for aerodynamic analysis of human-rated launch vehicles, viz, HLVM3, Crew Escape System (CES), and CM.
- Currently, the PraVaHa code is operational to simulate airflow for Perfect Gas & Real Gas conditions.

## State of India's Environment

- **Context:** Recently, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) released the State of India's Environment in Figures for 2024.

### About the India's Climate Trends in 2023 and 2024

- **Second-Hottest Year:** India experienced its second-hottest year on record in 2023.

- **Record-Breaking Temperatures:** At least 102 weather stations across the country shattered their monthly highest 24-hour maximum temperature in 122 years.
  - Ten of these stations were in million-plus cities.
  - Twenty-seven of the weather stations with record-breaking temperatures were in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
  - The country recorded its hottest minimum temperature in 122 years during 2023.
- **Minimum Temperatures:** Except for October, minimum temperatures remained above normal in the other five months.
  - Anomalies increased from 0.57°C in July to 1.71°C in December.
  - December saw the highest minimum temperature anomaly in 122 years (1.71°C above normal).
- **Consistent Warmth:** The average minimum temperature in the southern peninsular region remained above normal during all four months.
  - The region consistently experienced its second-highest minimum temperature in 122 years.
- **New Normal for Minimum Temperatures:** The trend suggests a new normal for minimum temperatures, indicating warmer nights.
  - The rising maximum temperature and record-breaking temperatures reported from Delhi and other states are concerning.
  - The ongoing trend for minimum temperatures highlights the shift toward warmer nights.
- India's total gold holding now stands at 822 metric tonnes in FY24.
- India's gold reserves are primarily stored in the Bank of England, which is known for its stringent security protocols.
  - The RBI stores a portion of its gold reserves at the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in Basel, Switzerland, and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in the United States.

4<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2024

## NOTA

- **Context:** Recently, the 'None of the Above (NOTA)' has created a new record in Indore, Madhya Pradesh in the Lok Sabha election results.

## About the None of the Above (NOTA)

- It allows voters to express their dissatisfaction with the available candidates during elections.
- It enables the voter to officially register a vote of rejection for all candidates who are contesting an election.
  - If a voter chooses to press NOTA on the EVM, it indicates that the voter has not chosen to vote for any party.
- The voter must be eligible to register a vote of rejection if they feel that the contesting candidates do not deserve to be voted for.
- The Right to vote granted to all citizens must allow the vote of disapproval.

## Legal Recognition

- In 2013, the Supreme Court ruled that the NOTA option should be provided in Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).
  - It allows voters to exercise their right not to vote while maintaining secrecy.
- Rule 41(1) of the Conduct of Election Rules 1961 recognises the right not to vote, both under the Representation of the People Act (RPA) and the Rules.

## RBI's Gold Reserve

- **Context:** Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has transferred 100 metric tonnes of gold from the United Kingdom to domestic vaults in FY24.

## About the Gold Reserve

- It is the gold held by a country's central bank (RBI in case of India), acting as a backup for financial promises and a store of value.
- India, like other nations, stores some of its gold reserves in foreign vaults to spread out risk and facilitate international trading.

## Global Soil Partnership (GSP)

- **Context:** The Global Soil Partnership (GSP), urged for immediate action to enhance soil health, in its 12th Plenary Assembly Hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

### About Global Soil Partnership (GSP)

- The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) was established in 2012 to promote sustainable soil management.
- It brings together international, regional and national organizations that are working in the area of soil protection and sustainable management.
- GSP aims to implement the provisions of the 1982 World Soil Charter, and maintain the health of at least 50 percent of the world's soils by 2030.
- The achievements of the partnership, include:
  - The establishment of an Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils and related international networks for different soil matters;
  - The proposal for and annual celebration of UN World Soil Day (5 December) and the International Year of Soils 2015;
  - Production of the Status of the World's Soil Resources 2015 report.

## Phenome India-CSIR Health Cohort Knowledgebase' (PI-CheCK)

- **Context:** The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) announced the conclusion of the first phase of its longitudinal health monitoring project, the 'Phenome India-CSIR Health Cohort Knowledgebase' (PI-CheCK).

### About PI-CHeCK Project

- The PI-CHeCK project aims to assess risk factors in non-communicable (cardio-metabolic) diseases within the Indian populace.
- This health cohort study will collect comprehensive data, including clinical questionnaires, lifestyle and dietary habits, body composition measurements,

scanning-based assessments, blood biochemistry, and molecular assay-based data.

5<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2024

## High-Altitude Platforms (HAP)

- **Context:** India is on course to join a very select club of countries that have their own long-flight, High-Altitude Platforms (HAP).

### About High-Altitude Platforms (HAP)

- HAP is an unmanned aerial vehicle. The HAP typically operates at a height of 18-20 km above earth, clearing all air traffic and weather, and is equipped to stay up there for longer periods than drones.
- The HAP that NAL is developing is being designed to stay airborne for 90 days.
- **Application:** Surveillance, imaging the earth below, for both civilian and strategic purposes.
- **Satellite vs HAPs:** A satellite can be packed with far more capabilities and can stay up there for years — so HAPs won't replace satellites but will complement them.
  - A satellite does not need to be powered for its orbital flight — it does this by gravity. But a HAP needs some propulsion system, with on-board energy generation capability.

### Significance

- HAPs are the most effective communication and Surveillance tools due to the longest possible mission in the atmosphere and the highest available altitude after the satellites.
- Besides being the lower cost alternatives to the last ones HAPs can offer several other important advantages, like multiple use, possibility to maintain or upgrade the mission payload.
- HAPs use similar to space vehicles approaches such as solar energy use and state of the art technologies and materials capable to withstand challenges of the near space.

## UN's WSIS 2024 PRIZE 'Champion' Award

- **Context:** Recently, the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) won the UN's WSIS 2024 'Champion' Award for Mobile-Enabled Disaster Resilience through Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting.

### Recognition and Impact

- The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20 Forum 2024, conducted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland, and co-organised with UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD.
- It underscores C-DOT's commitment to leveraging technology for societal impact.
- C-DOT showcased cutting-edge telecom solutions, including an ITU-CAP-based early warning alert system and AI-powered fraud detection.

## World's Largest Grain Storage Plan

- **Context:** The Ministry of Cooperation approved the "World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in 2023 to address the shortage of food grain storage capacity in India,

### Key highlights

- **Infrastructure facilities:** It envisages creation of various agricultural infrastructure at Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) level, including warehouses, custom hiring center, processing units, Fair Price Shops, etc.
- **Convergence of Existing Schemes:** The plan leverages a whole-of-Government approach by integrating existing schemes. These are
  - Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
  - Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI)
  - Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)
  - Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME)

- **Financial Support and Subsidies:** PACS can avail subsidies and interest subvention benefits for constructing godowns and other agri infrastructure.
  - NABARD refines PACS at highly subsidized rates (around 1%) after incorporating the benefits of the 3% interest subvention under the AIF scheme for projects up to Rs. 2 Crore.

6<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2024

## Special Category Status

- **Context:** The talks over special category status for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh have once again gained momentum after Lok Sabha elections.

### About Special Category Status

- It is a classification granted by the Centre to assist the development of States that face geographical or socio-economic disadvantages.
- It was introduced in 1969 on the recommendation of the fifth Finance Commission (FC).
- It was aimed at providing certain states with additional support to overcome geographical and infrastructural handicaps.
- **Factors are considered before granting SCS includes**
  - Hilly and difficult terrain
  - Low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population
  - Strategic location along international borders
  - Economic and infrastructural backwardness and
  - Non-viable nature of state finances.
- **States Covered:** In 1969, three States — Jammu & Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland — were granted the SCS.
  - **Subsequently, eight more States** including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand were given the SCS by the erstwhile National Development Council.

## Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

- **Context:** The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has recorded an all-time high of 8.9 million transactions across retail and ride-hailing segments in May 2024.

### Key highlights

- ONDC now has 5,35,000 sellers across over 1,200 cities, with 84 percent being small sellers.
- These small sellers contribute 56 percent of the total orders, aligning with the ONDC's goal of benefiting small businesses.

### About ONDC

- Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is an initiative aiming at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.
- ONDC is to be based on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.
- It is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

7<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2024

## Agnipath Scheme

- **Context:** The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) coalition said the new government should review the "Agnipath" scheme for short term recruitments to the armed forces.

### About Agnipath Scheme

- It was introduced in 2022, and is also called the Tour of Duty scheme.
- It is a short-term recruitment scheme for the Indian Army.

- Under the policy, soldiers — called 'Agniveers' — are recruited for four years, at the end of which only 25 percent of recruits from a batch are retained for regular service for 15 years.
- **Age Limit:** Candidates between the age of 17.5 years to 21 years are eligible for enrolling in the Agnipath scheme.
- The scheme provides an avenue to Indian youth, desirous of serving the country to get recruited in the Armed Forces for a short duration.
  - The scheme enhances the youth profile of the Armed Forces.

## India-Qatar Joint Task Force on Investment (JTFI)

- **Context:** First Joint Task Force on Investment (JTFI) held between India and Qatar.

### Key highlights

- The meeting outlays the robust economic relationship between India and Qatar rooted in a shared vision for inclusive development.
- India's bilateral trade with Qatar in 2022-23 was US\$ 18.77 billion.
- India's export to Qatar during 2022-23 was US\$ 1.96 billion and India's import from Qatar was US\$ 16.8 billion.
- India is among the top three largest export destinations for Qatar (China and Japan being the other two) and is also among the top three sources of Qatar's imports, along with China and US.
- Qatar is the largest supplier of LNG to India accounting for over 48% of India's global LNG imports.
- Qatar is also India's largest supplier of LPG accounting for 29% of India's total LPG imports. Therefore, the balance of trade continues to be heavily in Qatar's favour.

## Nagi and Nakti Wetlands: New Ramsar Sites

- **Context:** Recently, the Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries of Bihar, have been recognised as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

### About the Nagi and Nakti Wetlands

- These man-made wetlands are located in the Jamui district of Bihar, nestled in the Jhajha forest range.
- These are designated as bird sanctuaries in 1984 for their importance as wintering habitats for several migratory species.
- Over 20,000 birds congregate here during the winter months, including one of the largest congregations of red-crested pochard (*Netta rufina*) on the Indo-Gangetic plain.
- The Nagi Bird Sanctuary hosts one of the largest congregations of bar-headed geese (*Anser Indicus*) on the Indo-Gangetic plain.
- The wetlands and their fringes provide habitat for over 75 bird species, 33 fish, and 12 aquatic plants, and support globally threatened species, including the endangered Indian elephant (*Elephas Maximus Indicus*) and a vulnerable native catfish (*Wallago Attu*).

