



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 06-01-2024**

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## **Gulf of Aden**

**Syllabus: GS-1: World geography.**

**Context:**

- *Navy steps up surveillance in Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden.*

**Background:**

- **Houthi militants** stepping up attacks on several commercial ships in the Red sea region.
- Maritime surveillance efforts were increased due to recent attacks on commercial ships, including a **drone attack on MV Chem Pluto**.

**Mission deployed:**

- The Navy is actively monitoring the maritime security situation in the **north/central Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden**.
- Indian naval ships and aircraft are actively deployed for enhanced surveillance and maritime security operations.
- **Maritime patrol aircraft and remotely piloted aircraft** are conducting persistent surveillance in the area.
- Collaboration with the Coast Guard is ongoing to maintain increased surveillance in **India's exclusive economic zone**.
- **Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) and Information Fusion Centre 'Indian Ocean Region' (IFC IOR)** are actively monitoring white shipping, particularly Indian-flagged merchant vessels in the area.

**About Gulf Aden:**

**Geographical Location:**

- *Located in the Indian Ocean.*
- *Connects with the Red Sea through the Bab-el-Mandeb strait in the northwest.*



### Topography and Movement:

- *Deepwater gulf.*
- *Connects with the Arabian Sea to the east and narrows into the Gulf of Tadjoura in Djibouti to the west.*
- **Aden Ridge** in the middle causing the widening of the Gulf by about 15mm per year.

### Economic Importance:

- *Part of the Suez Canal shipping route.*
- *Around 21,000 ships cross annually.*
- *Crucial for delivering Persian Gulf oil.*
- *Integral waterway in the world economy.*

### Cities and Settlements:

- *Important cities along the Gulf include Aden in Yemen, and others like Zinjibar, Shuqrah, Ahwar, Balhaf, and Mukalla.*
- **On the Horn African side:** Djibouti, Berbera, and Bosaso.

### Fishing and Marine Life:

- *Despite limited commercial fishing facilities, the coastline has fishing towns and villages.*
- *Rich marine life, including fish, turtles, and lobsters.*
- *Local fishing for sardines, tuna, kingfish, mackerel, crayfish, and sharks.*

### About Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR).

- *Hosted by the Indian Navy. **Launched in December 2018.***
- *Focuses on enhancing maritime security and safety in the **Indian Ocean Region.***
- *Currently, has **International Liaison Officers (ILO)** from 12 partner nations.*

- *Maintains more than **65 international working-level linkages** with nations and multi-national/maritime security centers.*
- *Works as a regional maritime security center. Specifically dedicated to activities and issues in the Indian Ocean.*
- *Ongoing operations since its launch in 2018.*

## **Digi Yatra Scheme**

### **Syllabus: GS-2: E-Governance.**

#### **Context:**

- *Jaipur Airport soon to start biometric check-in with DigiYatra app.*

#### **What is Digi Yatra?**

- **Objective:** *Achieve contactless, seamless passenger processing at airports using Facial Recognition Technology (FRT).*
- **Paperless Processing:** *Enable travelers to navigate airport checkpoints without physical documents.*

#### **FRT Integration:**

- **Core Technology:** *Utilizes Facial Recognition Technology for identity verification.*
- **Boarding Pass Linkage:** *Facial features linked to the traveler's boarding pass.*
- **Mobile Wallet-Based Identity Management:**
- **Decentralized Platform:** *Introduces a mobile wallet-based identity management platform.*
- **Cost-Effective:** *Aims for efficiency while being cost-effective.*
- **Privacy Assurance:** *Addresses privacy and data protection concerns in DIGI YATRA implementation.*

#### **Enhanced User Experience:**

- **Seamless Travel:** *Minimizes hassles with a seamless, document-free process.*
- **Efficient Checkpoints:** *Swift and efficient passage through checkpoints.*

#### **Alignment with DIGI YATRA Initiative:**

- **Synergy:** *Aligns with DIGI YATRA's digital transformation goals.*
- **Comprehensive Solution:** *Integrates facial recognition, mobile wallet, and identity management.*

- **Government's Technology Focus:** Reflects the government's commitment to advanced technologies in airport processes.
- **Forward Steps:** Represents a significant stride in DIGI YATRA implementation, showcasing innovative identity verification solutions in aviation.

#### **Digi Yatra Foundation:**

- **Formation:** Established in 2019 as a joint venture (JV) company under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- **Objective:** Created with the primary aim of building the Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem (DYCE).

#### **Pan-India Entity:**

- **Scope:** Digi Yatra Foundation operates as a nationwide entity.
- **Role:** Functions as the custodian of the Passenger ID validation process.

#### **Consensus Development:**

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Aims to foster consensus among Aviation Stakeholders in India.
- **Collaborative Decision-Making:** Facilitates collaboration for collective decision-making in the aviation sector.

#### **Guidelines Establishment:**

- **Compliance Criteria:** Defines criteria for compliance in the implementation of Digi Yatra.
- **Local Systems Guidelines:** Develops guidelines for local airport systems, ensuring standardized processes.

#### **Central Role in Digi Yatra:**

- **Custodianship:** Holds a central role as the custodian of the Passenger ID validation process.
- **Strategic Oversight:** Plays a strategic role in the development and implementation of Digi Yatra initiatives.
- **Collaborative Framework:** Operates within a collaborative framework, bringing together diverse stakeholders to shape the future of aviation in India.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Adheres to the regulatory framework outlined in the Companies Act, 2013, as a Section 8 company.
- **Industry Leadership:** As a joint venture, the foundation assumes a leadership role in steering the aviation industry towards a more digitally integrated and passenger-friendly future.

### Objectives of DIGI YATRA:

- **Passenger Experience:** Elevate overall experience for air travelers.
- **Throughput Optimization:** Achieve better throughput via a "Digital Framework."
- **Cost-Efficiency:** Attain lower operational costs through digitization.
- **Process Digitization:** Transform manual processes into digital workflows.
- **Security Enhancement:** Strengthen aviation security standards.
- **System Performance Improvement:** Optimize overall system performance.
- **Digi Yatra Rollout:** Implement "Digi Yatra" with a digital "ID" linked to government-issued identity like AADHAAR.

## India-Nepal Relations

### Syllabus: GS-2: Bilateral relations – India & Nepal.

#### Context:

- India, Nepal sign power pact, MoU in renewable energy.

#### Major developments:

- Nepal signed a long-term agreement **to export 10,000 MW of power to India** in the next 10 years.
- An MoU for cooperation in renewable energy was signed during the **7th meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Commission**.
- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Nepal's counterpart N P Saud jointly inaugurated 3 cross-border transmission lines.
- The power export agreement was signed by India's Energy Secretary Pankaj Agrawal and Nepal's Energy Secretary Gopal Sigdel.
- Discussions during the visit included various aspects of Nepal-India relations, trade, economic ties, connectivity projects, defense, security, agriculture, energy, power, water resources, disaster management, tourism, civil aviation, people-to-people and cultural exchange, and development partnership.
- Nepal's Prime Minister Prachanda termed the agreement a **major breakthrough in Nepal's power sector**.
- The 3 cross-border transmission lines, completed with India's help, were virtually inaugurated by Jaishankar and Saud, including the **132 kV Raxaul-Parwanipur, 132 kV Kushaha-Kataiya, and New Nautanwa-Mainahiya lines**.

## **Desert Cyclone**

**Syllabus: GS-2; International Relations**

### **Context**

- *The two-week-long joint military exercise 'Desert Cyclone' between India and UAE is underway in the arid landscape of Rajasthan.*



## **EX DESERT CYCLONE 2024**

### **Aim**

- *The first edition of the India-UAE military exercise aims to enhance interoperability through exchanging knowledge and sharing best practices in military operations.*

### **More to know**

- *Representing the UAE are the Zayed First Brigade troops, while the Indian Army contingent, consisting of 45 personnel, is predominantly from a Battalion of the Mechanised Infantry Regiment.*
- *The primary aim of 'Desert Cyclone' is to enhance interoperability in Sub-conventional Operations, specifically focusing on **Fighting in Built-Up Area (FIBUA)** in desert and semi-desert terrain.*

- *The joint military exercise is strategically designed to **boost cooperation and interoperability** between the participating forces during peace keeping operations, fostering a stronger alliance between India and the UAE.*
- *'Desert Cyclone' will see the rehearsal of crucial drills, including the establishment of a joint surveillance centre, cordon and search operation, domination of the built-up area, and heliborne operations. These exercises aim to hone the skills required for effective peacekeeping in challenging terrains.*
- *A key outcome of the joint military exercise is the fostering of a collaborative partnership between the armed forces of India and the UAE. This collaboration is essential for achieving shared security objectives and strengthening bilateral relations.*

### Significance

- *Joint military exercises with friendly countries result in **constructive engagements** in operational terms and **enhance the skills of armed forces in diverse areas of war-fighting** by operating with armed forces of various nations.*
- *In this process, **current tactical and technological practices, techniques, and strategies are exchanged, contributing to the continuous improvement and modernization of military operations.***

## **GSAT-20**

### Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology – Satellite.

#### Context:

- *Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will use SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket to deploy its heavy communication satellite GSAT-20 in the middle of this year.*

#### What is GSAT-20?

- **GSAT-20 also known as CMS-03 or GSAT-N2** is a communication satellite jointly being developed by Indian Space Research Organisation Satellite Centre and Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.
- *The satellite is designed to **provide high-speed internet services**, especially in rural and remote areas, and enable in-flight internet services.*
- **Connectivity Impact:** *GSAT-20 aims to address high-speed connectivity gaps across the entire country, including remote regions like the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.*
- *GSAT-20 weighs about 4,700 kg, exceeding the launch capacity of ISRO's most powerful rocket, LVM-3.*



- *India previously relied on the **European launch provider Arianespace** for heavier satellites, but Ariane-5 was retired, and its successor Ariane-6 is yet to debut.*
- **Falcon-9 Capacity:** *Falcon-9, a reusable rocket, can carry over 8,300 kg to Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO), making it suitable for heavier payloads like GSAT-20.*
- **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, *the commercial arm of ISRO, has a launch agreement with SpaceX, facilitating the deployment of Indian satellites using Falcon-9.*
- **NSIL's Role:** *NSIL previously facilitated the launch of GSAT-24, a "demand-driven" satellite, whose entire capacity was purchased by Tata Play, a Direct-To-Home broadcaster.*