

DAILY PT POINTERS

4th July, 2024



HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu :_GS 2/IR –Page 11



Reading: [https://www.thehindu.com/news-international/world/nato-at-75-an-enduring-alliance/article17111111.ece](#)

Till Russia do us part? NATO at 75, an enduring alliance

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation came into being on April 4, 1949. Writers explain the complex structure of this alliance, after it began life as the Atlantic Alliance. After NATO's failures in Afghanistan, Russia's aggression has given new momentum to the alliance, making it feel relevant.

Reading: [https://www.thehindu.com/news-international/world/nato-at-75-an-enduring-alliance/article17111111.ece](#)

By Anand Gopal

In 1949, the United States led a coalition of 12 nations, including the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Canada, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States, to form the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). The alliance was created in the aftermath of the Second World War, when the world was still reeling from the devastation of the conflict. The alliance was designed to provide a collective defence against the Soviet Union, which was seen as a major threat to the security of the West.

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- NATO, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is a **military alliance of countries.**
 - **Establishment:** It was founded in **1949** with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty, more popularly known as the **Washington Treaty.**
 - **Aim:** To ensure the **security and defense of its member countries** through collective defense.
 - **Founding Members:** The original members of NATO were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
 - **Collective Defense:** The cornerstone of NATO is Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which states that an armed attack against one or more of its members is considered an attack against all members.
 - **Decision-Making:** Decisions within NATO are made on the basis of **consensus among member countries.**
- NATO now has **32 members** across Europe and North America, including the **UK, US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Turkey.**

The Hindu :GS2-Governance(Page -12)

Smart Cities Mission period extended till March 2025

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has extended the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) under the Union Urban Development Ministry till March 31, 2025.

Under the SCM, launched in June 2015, 100 cities were chosen through a competition to be developed as smart cities. The mission envisions developing areas within selected cities in the country as model areas based on an area development plan, which is expected to have a rub-off effect on other parts of the city and nearby cities and towns.

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Govt. reconstitutes Cabinet committees, several NDA partners included in panels

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government reconstituted various important Cabinet committees here on Wednesday.

Ministers of the Bharatiya Janata Party's National Democratic Alliance partners, Janata Dal (U), Telugu Desam Party, Janata Dal (S), Shiv Sena and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), have found place in the committees.

Most of the panels are headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to a government release on Wednesday, the Cabinet Committee on Appointments, which oversees various high-level appointments, has two members — the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The Cabinet Committee on Accommodation is headed by Mr. Shah and se-

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nior BJP Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman, Manohar Lal Khattar and Piyush Goyal are members. Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh is a special invitee to the panel.

Security panel

The crucial Cabinet Committee on Security is headed by the Prime Minister and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Mr. Shah, Ms. Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar are its members.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, the panel that takes decisions on allocations and disbursements, is also headed by the Prime Minister. Mr.

Singh, Mr. Shah, Ms. Sitharaman, Mr. Jaishankar, Mr. Gadkari, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Heavy Industries and Steel Minister and JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy are its members.

The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs is headed by Mr. Singh.

Mr. Shah, Union Health Minister and BJP president JP Nadda, Ms. Sitharaman, Mr. Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Ministers K. Rammohan Naidu, Kiren Rijiju, Virendra Kumar, Jual Oram, and C.R. Patil are its members.

The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, also headed by Mr. Modi, has Rajnath Singh, Mr. Shah, Mr. Gadkari, Ms. Sitharaman, Mr. Goyal, Mr. Nadda, Mr. Naidu, Ministers Jitan Ram Manjhi, Sarbananda Sonowal, Bhupender Yadav, Annpurna Devi, Mr. Rijiju and G. Kishan Reddy as its members.

the Cabinet Committee on Appointments, which oversees various high-level appointments, has two members — the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The Cabinet Committee on Accommodation is headed by Mr. Shah and senior BJP Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman, Manohar Lal Khattar and Piyush Goyal are members. Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh is a special invitee to the panel.

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Speaker forms committee to frame rules on oath-taking of members

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has constituted a committee to frame rules for “oath-taking and affirmation” of MPs, so that any deviations can be punished, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said at a press conference here on Wednesday at the end of the first session of Parliament after the new Lok Sabha was constituted.

There were several in-

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has constituted a committee to frame rules for “oath-taking and affirmation” of MPs, so that any deviations can be punished,
- There were several instances of members raising slogans while taking oath as MPs
- Oath or affirmation is a constitutional process and The Constitution’s third schedule contains the text of the parliamentary oath.

The Hindu-Art and Culture (GSI)-Page 14

India to host 46th UNESCO heritage panel session

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, being hosted by India from July 21-31, will be held at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

The event will be attended by over 2,500 delegates from State Parties, advisory bodies, senior diplomats, heritage experts, scholars, and researchers from 195 countries, a senior official said. State Parties are countries which have adhered to the World Heritage Convention.

Sources said the event, being organised by the Archaeological Survey of India, is likely to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. UNESCO has already released a provisional agenda and timetable for the meeting.

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- The World Heritage Committee has representatives from 21 State Parties to the World Heritage Convention (1972) elected by the General Assembly.
- The current members of the committee, after elections in the 24th General Assembly of UNESCO in November 2023, are Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Türkiye, Ukraine, Vietnam, and Zambia.
- The committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention

We want to be part of planetary defence mission, study asteroid: ISRO Chairman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, JULY 3

ISRO is keen on participating in a planetary defence mission in space and study the asteroid Apophis when it comes close to the Earth, ISRO Chairman S Somanath said in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

"When Apophis comes in 2029, we should be able to go and meet this asteroid when it is very close to Earth. It is a one-time opportunity and India should be part of such efforts. It is yet to be decided in what way we should participate," Somanath said.

Discovered in 2004, Apophis was seen as a potential contender to have a collision with the Earth. But subsequent measurements have shown that there was no risk of Apophis impacting the Earth for at least a century, according to NASA. In 2029, however, it would make a fly-by of the Earth at a distance of about 32,000 km. NASA has redirected one of its operational spacecraft to study this asteroid, and this spacecraft would



ISRO chief S Somanath speaks at Antariksh Bhavan in Bengaluru, Wednesday. PTI

get as near to Apophis as 4,000 km on April 23, 2029. It will therefore, keep following the asteroid for 18 months to map its terrain and understand its chemical make-up.

ISRO is looking at working in some capacity to study the asteroid Apophis when it is 32,000 km away from Earth in 2029 to prepare for planetary defence efforts, ISRO scientists said.

"We must provide whatever support we can in the asteroid mission to participate and learn. We are eager to spread our knowledge," Somanath said.

Referring to NASA's Double

Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) mission in 2022, which facilitated the change of trajectory of an asteroid in deep space, he said, "When there is information that an asteroid will strike Earth in a couple of years, there will be a demand to act. It would be better if we act when there is no threat. This is why there are many missions to go near asteroids and understand them. One of them is DART."

"It is a mission to show it is possible to change the asteroid trajectory a little and cause it to depart from its course. If we can change the trajectory, it will miss Earth by a whisker. That will be good enough to save Earth," he said.

DART showed that a spacecraft's kinetic impact with its target asteroid, Dimorphos, had successfully altered its orbit. "This marks humanity's first time purposely changing the motion of a celestial object and the first full-scale demonstration of asteroid deflection technology," NASA had stated in 2022.

As a major space-faring nation with the capability "to carry out complex missions of taking a

spacecraft from one place to another", Somanath said India "will one day be in a position to handle an asteroid mission, land on an asteroid and possibly carry out a planetary defense action to protect Earth".

"We should start by collaborating with other nations that have already started work in this area. For example, there is Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), which has gone to an asteroid and collected samples. There are also many other agencies," he said.

Associate director of ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Centre (ISTRAC), Anil Kumar A K said, "In 2004, our observatories were able to see an object 340 meters in size was coming close. Our people calculated with the available data that the threat of this object coming and impacting Earth is more than one in 100 probability which is a high risk."

"The object is known as Apophis and its sphere is 360 days which is almost one Earth year and as a result it can be seen often in the vicinity of Earth," he said.

Asteroid 99942 Apophis is a near-Earth object (NEO) estimated to be about 1,100 feet (335 meters) across. When it was discovered in 2004, Apophis was identified as one of the most hazardous asteroids that could impact Earth. But that impact assessment changed after astronomers tracked Apophis, and its orbit became better determined.

ISRO's plans for Apophis

ISRO is looking at working in some capacity to study the asteroid Apophis when it is 32,000 km away from Earth in 2029 in order to prepare for planetary defense efforts to prevent the asteroid from crashing onto Earth "It could involve putting an instrument on the JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency), ESA (European Space Agency), and NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) joint Apophis asteroid mission,

Indian Express –Science and Tech (GSIII)-Page 15

6TH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

In 'integrated partnership' of global AI group with OECD, some trade-offs for India

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, JULY 3

DURING THE sixth ministerial council meeting of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), representatives of the grouping announced an "integrated partnership" with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to bring "OECD members and GPAI countries on equal footing, under the GPAI brand" – but to arrive at this consensus, some trade-offs had to be made behind the scenes, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The GPAI since its inception in 2020, was supported by a secretariat hosted by the OECD. This paper has learnt that the initial conversation was that the GPAI would work under the OECD's Working Party on Artificial Intelligence Governance (AIGO). However, countries like India and Japan are understood to have pushed back on it, with concerns that the efforts they have made at making GPAI a relevant multi stakeholder organisation might

A STRATEGIC WIN

■ The announcement that the GPAI will have an "integrated partnership" with the OECD, bringing OECD members and GPAI countries together under the former's brand is a strategic win for India and like-minded countries

get diluted if it were to work under the OECD.

As such, the announcement that the GPAI will have an "integrated partnership" with the OECD, bringing OECD members and GPAI countries together under the former's brand is a strategic win for India and like-minded countries. Effectively, India managed to negotiate that the GPAI banner be kept alive, and function alongside OECD members, rather than working under them.

There were also concerns that because India, and a large part of

the developing world, is not a member of the OECD, if the GPAI was to go under the AIGO, it would reduce the space for them to raise issues relevant to the AI-related discourse in their respective nations. The joint announcement made Wednesday says that it "underscores that all members of the integrated partnership will participate equally, without distinction or disparities, in the partnership's activities and its decision-making". It also added that the integrated partnership may consider the development of its specific working methods, through consensus, based on the equal footing of all members irrespective of their OECD membership status.

But, there have been trade-offs, especially on where the secretariat of the GPAI would be hosted. It is understood that since India took over the presidency of the GPAI, it had been pushing for an independent secretariat, to essentially take the grouping outside of the OECD's purview. This has not come to fruition, as the GPAI's secretariat is expected to

continue with the OECD.

"The secretariat at the OECD was coming to an end around May, but the whole thing was in a limbo on where the secretariat would be after that. India wanted either an independent or a rotation secretariat, but OECD seems to have put its foot down in keeping the secretariat with itself," a senior government official said. "The idea is that GPAI will remain associated with OECD. Non-OECD GPAI members will be treated on par with OECD members," a second senior government official said on condition of anonymity.

Launched in June 2020 with 15 members, GPAI is the fruition of an idea developed within the G7. Today, GPAI's 29 members are Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

- Launched in June 2020, GPAI ("gee-pay") is a multistakeholder initiative bringing together leading experts from science, industry, civil society, international organizations and government that share values to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.
- India is a founding member of GPAI, having joined the multi-stakeholder initiative on June 15, 2020.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB–Defense (GSIII)

Ministry of Defence

TDF scheme playing a crucial role in promoting 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence; Start-ups & MSMEs being encouraged to enhance capabilities in cutting-edge technology

Posted On: 03 JUL 2024 5:16PM by PIB Delhi

- The Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme is encouraging the participation of public/private industries, especially start-ups and MSMEs, to create an ecosystem aimed at enhancing the capabilities in cutting-edge technology and promoting 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence.
- The TDF scheme is a flagship programme of Ministry of Defence executed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the 'Make in India' initiative.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB–Defense (GSIII)

Ministry of Defence

INDIA-MONGOLIA JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE NOMADIC ELEPHANT COMMENCES IN MEGHALAYA

Posted On: 03 JUL 2024 2:37PM by PIB Delhi

- The 16th edition of India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT commenced today, at Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Meghalaya). The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 03rd to 16th July 2024.
- Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT is an annual training event conducted alternatively in India and Mongolia. Last edition was conducted in Mongolia in July 2023. Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT will enable both sides to share their best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures of conducting joint operations. The exercise will also facilitate developing inter-operability, bonhomie and camaraderie between the two armies. This will also enhance the level of defence cooperation, further augmenting bilateral relations between the two friendly nations.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB–Health(GSII)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Union Health Ministry Issues Advisory to States in view of Zika virus cases from Maharashtra

States urged to maintain a state of constant vigil through screening of pregnant women for Zika virus infection and monitoring the growth of foetus of expecting mothers who tested positive for Zika

Health facilities/hospitals to identify a nodal officer to monitor and act to keep the premises Aedes mosquito free

States to strengthen entomological surveillance and intensify vector control activities in residential areas, workplaces, schools, construction sites, institutions and health facilities

Posted On: 03 JUL 2024 3:07PM by PIB Delhi

- Zika is an Aedes mosquito borne viral disease like Dengue and Chikungunya. It is a non-fatal disease. However, Zika is associated with microcephaly (reduced head size) of babies born to affected pregnant women which makes it a major concern.
- India reported first Zika case from Gujarat State in 2016. Since then, many other States namely Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Karnataka have reported cases subsequently.
- In 2024 (till 2nd July), Maharashtra has reported eight cases from Pune (6), Kolhapur (1) and Sangamner (1).
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HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB–Health(GSII)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

India participates in the 86th session of the Executive Committee of Codex Alimentarius Commission

India supported the advancement of standards development for various spices for smoother international trade

Champions proposal for developing Codex guidance on food safety considerations related to the use of recycled materials in food packaging

Posted On: 03 JUL 2024 2:03PM by PIB Delhi

- India, as a member elected on a geographic basis (Asia), is actively participating in the 86th session of the Executive Committee (CCEXEC) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).
- The Codex Alimentarius Commission, an international body established by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), aims to protect consumer health and promote fair practices in food trade. The CCEXEC plays a critical role in reviewing proposals for new work and monitoring the progress of standards development.