

SHORTNEWS:

1.NETWORK PLANNING GROUP (NPG)- PM GATISHAKTI

NEWS: The 95th meeting of the Network Planning Group (NPG) under PM GatiShakti was convened to evaluate infrastructure projects and enhance multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency.

- The NPG evaluated five projects to assess their conformity to the PM GatiShakti principles of integrated multimodal infrastructure, last-mile connectivity to economic and social nodes and intermodal coordination.

Key Projects Discussed

- **Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project Phase-2A:**
 - **Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affair (MoHUA)
 - **Project:** Metro connectivity to extend the Ahmedabad Metro by 6.032 km to provide direct connectivity to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport from Koteswar Metro Station
- **8-lane access-controlled Highways of NH 248S for Connectivity to Proposed Vadhavan port in Maharashtra:**
 - **Ministry:** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)
- **Construction of Four Lane Elevated Road in Jodhpur city portion from Mahamandir to Akhaliya Chouraha.**
 - **Ministry:** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)
- **MMLP Hyderabad**
 - **Ministry:** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)
 - **Project:** To develop a Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) at Parkibanda village in Manoharabad Mandal, Medak district, Telangana.
- **MMLP Patna**
 - **Ministry:** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)
 - **Project:** To develop a 106.19 acres Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) at Jaitiya village, located in Patna district, Bihar.

2.OFFSHORE SECURITY COORDINATION COMMITTEE

NEWS: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) chaired the 137th meeting of the Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC) in New Delhi recently.

- **Aim:** The meeting aimed to review the preparedness & effectiveness of the security of India's offshore installations and enhance joint response mechanisms

The Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC)

- The OSCC was **constituted in 1978** to ensure the effective functioning of offshore security arrangements.
- **Chairman:** The Director General Indian Coast Guard is the Chairman of the OSCC
- **Composition:** The Committee has representatives from organisations including,
 - **Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons, Intelligence Bureau, ONGC**
- The committee is **responsible for framing policies and providing guidance and resolution** to Offshore Defence Area related issues.

About Indian Coast Guard

- **Established:** The Indian Coast Guard was formally inaugurated on **19 Aug 1978** with a fleet strength of seven ships for surveillance in the Indian waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone.
- **Motto:** “Vayam Rakshamah” – We Protect.
- **Role:** The Indian Coast Guard is responsible to protect,
 - **Ocean and offshore wealth** including oil, fish and minerals.
 - **To assist mariners in distress and safeguard life and property** at sea.
 - **To enforce maritime laws** with respect to sea, poaching, smuggling and narcotics.
 - **To preserve marine environment and ecology** and protect rare species.
 - **To collect scientific data and back-up the navy** during war.
- **Award:** The Tatrakshak Medal (TM) is awarded to personnel of the Coast Guard for acts of conspicuous devotion to duty as well as for a Gallantry act.

3.METTUR DAM

NEWS: The Chief Minister of **Tamil Nadu** opened the gates of **Stanley Reservoir in Mettur** for irrigation on the customary date of June 12.

About Mettur Dam

- **Location:** Located in **Mettur in Salem District, Tamil Nadu** on **Kaveri River** where it enters the plains.

- **Construction:** Built between **1925–1934** under the supervision of Irish engineer **Vincent Hart**.
- **Reservoir:** Creates the **Stanley Reservoir** with a capacity of 93.4 billion cubic feet (2.64 km³).
- **Features:** It is a **masonry gravity dam**.
 - **Gravity Dam:** Gravity dams are made of **concrete or stone masonry** and **rely on their weight** to resist the force of water.
- **Significance:** **Largest dam in Tamil Nadu** and one of the largest in India, vital for **irrigation, drinking water**, and **hydroelectric** power.
- **Funding:** Financed by taxes from the Madras Presidency, initiated by Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer.
- **Kaveri Conflict:** Tamil Nadu and Karnataka dispute water sharing, especially during lean seasons. Karnataka's upstream dams (e.g., Kabini) reduce inflows to Mettur.

4.UNEARTHING OF EARLY HARAPPAN SETTLEMENT IN GUJARAT

NEWS: Archaeologists from Kerala University **excavated a 5,300-year-old Early Harappan settlement near Lakhapar village, Kachchh (Gujarat).**

Key Findings From The Excavation

- **Structural Evidence:** Remains of **walls made of local sandstone and shale** indicate **planned urban settlement**.
- **Rare Pottery:** Pottery from both **Early and Classical Harappan phases**, dating back to around **3300 BC** are found.
 - Extremely rare **Pre-Prabhas Ware**, previously known from **only three sites** across Gujarat is also found which suggests **a unique cultural group within Harappan civilization**.
 - **Pre-Prabhas Ware** is an **early ceramic tradition** from Saurashtra, **Gujarat** during the **Early Harappan period**.
 - **They were first unearthed in the 1956-57 excavation at Prabhas Patan (Somnath).**
- **Burial Site:** A human skeleton buried with **Pre-Prabhas pottery**.
 - This is the **first known burial to include this rare ware**.
- **Beads & Tools:** **Carnelian, agate, copper objects, and Rohri chert blades** (indicating trade with Sindh).

- **Animal Remains:** Evidence of **cattle, sheep, goats, fish, and shells** suggest that **inhabitants relied on both animal husbandry and aquatic resources.**
- **Links to Juna Khatiya Necropolis:** The **Lakhapar site** is located just **1.5 km** from the **previously excavated Early Harappan burial ground at Juna Khatiya (197 graves).**
 - The site provides **crucial habitation context**, helping bridge the **gap between settlement patterns and mortuary practices of the Early Harappan phase.**