

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. Ministry of Power to celebrate “Energy Conservation Day 2022” ( Dec. 13, 2022 )**

“Energy Conservation Day 2022”

**Ministry of Power** to celebrate “**Energy Conservation Day 2022**” on the occasion of the National Energy Conservation Day on **14th December 2022**. The purpose is to showcase the achievements of the nation in energy efficiency and conservation.

#### **Important facts**

- **Droupadi Murmu**, Hon’ble President of India will be the **Chief Guest** of the event. **R. K. Singh**, Union Minister of Power, New & Renewable Energy will address the event.
- Hon'ble President of India will felicitate the winners of National Energy Conservation Awards, National Energy Efficiency Innovation Awards, National Painting Competition Awards and also launch the EV Travel Portal on the occasion.

#### **Major attractions of the event**

- National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2022
- National Energy Efficiency Innovation Awards (NEEIA) 2022
- National painting competition for school children 2022
- Launch of ‘EV-Yatra portal’ and mobile app
- Session on emerging new technologies in the area of energy efficiency

#### **EV-YATRA PORTAL and Mobile App**

- The Mobile application titled “**EV Yatra**” has been designed and developed to facilitate in-vehicle navigation to the nearest public EV charger.
- This mobile application can be easily downloaded from Google Play Store and Apple Store on Android and iPhone smartphones.
- The **Bureau of Energy Efficiency** has developed this mobile application to facilitate in-vehicle navigation.

### **2. Govt blocked Pakistan-based OTT app for showing anti-India content ( Dec. 13, 2022 )**

Govt blocked Pakistan-based OTT app

The **Information and Broadcasting Ministry** has blocked **Pakistan-based OTT Platform Vidly TV** and **four social media accounts** for displaying anti-India content on 12 December.

### **Important facts**

- Utilising emergency powers under **IT Rules 2021**, the Information & Broadcasting Ministry issued directions to block the website, two mobile applications, **four social media accounts, and one smart TV app of Pakistan-based OTT platform Vidly TV.**
- Vidly TV recently released a web series - '**Sevak: The Confessions**'.
- The web series was found to be "**prejudicial to national security, sovereignty and integrity of India, India's friendly relations with foreign states and public order**".
- Three episodes of the web series have been released.
- Its first episode was aired on 26 November, the anniversary of the **2008 Mumbai terror attacks**, and the content shows a "distorted version of sensitive historical events relating to India".
- The web series portrayed **anti-India narrative** on sensitive topics like Operation Bluestar, demolition of Babri Masjid, murder of Christian missionary Graham Staines, Malegaon blast, Samjhauta Express blast, and inter-state river water dispute.
- In September, the broadcasting ministry directed YouTube to remove 45 videos from 10 of its channels.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister - **Anurag Singh Thakur**

### **3. India, Poland hold 10th round of Foreign Office Consultations in Warsaw ( Dec. 13, 2022 )**

India, Poland hold 10th round of Foreign Office Consultations

**India and Poland** held the **10th round of Foreign Office Consultations in Warsaw** on December 12.

### **Important facts**

- During the meeting, the two sides discussed regional and international issues, including developments in the Indo-Pacific, India's neighbourhood, the Ukraine conflict, cooperation in multilateral fora including the United Nations, and United Nations Security Council reforms.
- During the meeting, India and Poland identified agriculture, food processing, information technology and green transformation as areas of interest to further enhance bilateral ties.
- Both sides expressed satisfaction at the discussions at the **sixth round of the India-Poland Joint Commission Meeting on Economic Cooperation** to be held in October 2022.

- The Indian side in the meeting was led by **Sanjay Verma**, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs.
- Both countries agreed to hold the next round of Foreign Office Consultations on mutually convenient dates in **New Delhi**.

### **Bilateral Trade**

- The two nations noted the potential of bilateral trade and investment ties.
- According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the bilateral trade between India and Poland has witnessed steady growth in recent years and it stood at **USD 4.3 billion in 2021**.
- Indian companies have invested over **USD 3 billion** in Poland while Polish investments in India stand at USD 700 million.

### About Poland

- Prime Minister - **Mateusz Morawiecki**
- President - **Andrzej Duda**
- Capital - **Warsaw**
- Currency - **Polish zloty**

## **4. Culture Ministry set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres to conserve, develop art, culture & crafts across country ( Dec. 13, 2022 )**

### seven Zonal Cultural Centers

For the preservation and development of arts, culture and crafts across the country, the **Union Ministry of Culture** has set up **seven Zonal Cultural Centers (ZCCs)** at **Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur**.

### **Important facts**

- These centres aim to conserve and develop art, culture and crafts across the country.
- The government provides regular annual grant-in-aid for conducting various activities and programmes to ZCCs.
- However, no State and Union Territory wise funds are released by the Ministry for the purpose.
- This information was given by the Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region **G. Kishan Reddy** while replying to a question in the Lok Sabha.
- ZCCs organize a minimum **42 Regional Festivals** for promotion of art and culture every year as per their programme calendar.

- These centers also implement a number of schemes for preservation and promotion of various folk arts and culture of the country.

Union Minister of Culture - **G. Kishan Reddy**

## **5. Parliament passes Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 ( Dec. 12, 2022 )**

Parliament passes Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022

Parliament passed the **Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022** with the approval of **Rajya Sabha** on 12 December. The Lok Sabha has already passed the Bill.

### **Highlight of the bill**

- This bill has been brought to amend the **Energy Conservation Act of 2001**.
- It promotes energy efficiency and conservation.
- The Bill empowers the Center to specify a **carbon credit** trading scheme.
- The legislation also stipulates that designated consumers may be required to meet a proportion of their energy needs from non-fossil sources.
- The Energy Conservation Code for Buildings will be applicable to office and residential buildings with a connected load of **100 kW or more**.
- It provides for increasing the membership in the Governing Council of the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**.
- Empowers the **State Electricity Regulatory Commissions** to frame rules for the smooth discharge of their functions.
- Enacts enabling provisions to mandate the use of clean energy, including green hydrogen, and to establish a carbon market.
- The Bill seeks to mandate the use of non-fossil sources for energy and feedstock, including **green hydrogen, green ammonia, biomass and ethanol**.

### **Why was this bill introduced?**

- During the **COP-26 summit in 2021**, India made relevant commitments for energy efficiency efforts.
- In this backdrop, the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was introduced in the Lok Sabha in August 2022.

**6. UAE successfully launches first ever Arab-Built lunar spacecraft ( Dec. 12, 2022 )**

UAE successfully launches first ever Arab-Built lunar spacecraft

A **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** on 11 December carried into space the **first ever Arab-built lunar spacecraft**. It was launched from the **Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida**.

**Important facts**

- Named as **Rashid Rover** was built by **Dubai's Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC)**, in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, and is being delivered by the **HAKUTO-R** lander, engineered by Japanese lunar exploration company **ispace**.
- If the landing is successful, HAKUTO-R will also become the **first commercial spacecraft** ever to make a controlled landing on the moon.
- Rashid rover will provide 'novel and highly valued data, images, and insights,' as well as 'collect scientific data on matters relating to the origin of the solar system, our planet and life.'
- Its rover weighs just **22 pounds (10 kg)** and will work on the surface for about 10 days.

**7. Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) acquires OZiva and Wellbeing Nutrition ( Dec. 12, 2022 )**

Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)

**Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG)** major **Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)** announced the acquisition of two D2C brands - **OZiva and Wellbeing Nutrition**. With the acquisition, the company will foray into the **health and well-being category**.

**Important facts**

- HUL will acquire **51% equity interest in OZiva** for Rs 264 crore in the first tranche, while the **remaining 49%** will be received at the end of a three-year period based on a pre-agreed valuation.
- In addition, HUL will buy a **19.8% stake in Wellbeing Nutrition** for approximately Rs 70 crore.
- These strategic investments allow HUL to enter the fast-growing health and wellbeing category.
- The deal also marks the beginning of the brand's consolidation in the **direct-to-consumer (D2C) market**.
- Last year, **Tata Consumer** acquired a 100% stake in **Kottaram Agro Foods** – manufacturer of the Soulfull brand of millet-based breakfast cereals and snacks.

- The vegetarian food category is an emerging segment in India and is worth around 2,000 crores as over 250 startups have entered this space in the last few years.
- The health and wellness segment in India has a total potential market size of **Rs 30,000 crore** as per Euromonitor data.

## **8. Nepal organises 19th Handicraft Trade Fair and 17th Craft Competition in Kathmandu ( Dec. 12, 2022 )**

Nepal organises 19th Handicraft Trade Fair

The **Federation of Handicraft Associations of Nepal (FHAN)** organised **19th Handicraft Trade Fair and 17th Craft Competition in Kathmandu** from December 9 to 13.

### **Important facts**

- The objective of this trade fair is to promote the development and market of **handicraft products**.
- The basic objective of the event is to emphasise the need to preserve and protect the traditional arts, which are in danger of disappearing with the advent of modern technology.
- Businessmen and sculptors from 17 districts, including the Kathmandu Valley, participated in the fair, in which about 150 stalls were set up.
- This trade fair is attracting local people as well as foreign tourists.

## **9. US prints first banknotes with women's signatures ( Dec. 10, 2022 )**

US prints first banknotes with women's signatures

The U.S. The Treasury (United States of America's Finance Ministry) has printed the first US banknotes (currency notes) with two women's signatures. The new currency notes of \$1 and \$5 value carry the signature of the Secretary of Treasury (American Finance Minister) **Janet Yellen** and **Lynn Malerba**. The United States currency notes are popularly called as **Greenback**.

**Lynn Malerba** is Native American and is the chief of the Mohegan Tribe, who holds the position of Treasurer of the United States within the Department of Treasury, United States government.

Janet Yellen is a former chairman of the United States Central Bank, **Federal Reserve of New York**. She was the first female head of the Federal Reserve.

In the United States the currency notes are printed by the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the Federal Reserve decides how much currency notes will be printed.

The Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing has note printing facilities **at Fort Worth, Texas and another in Washington.**

## **India**

In India the government of India issues currency notes of **one Rupees and the Coins** under the Coinage act 1906(as amended in 2011).

Notes in the denomination of **Rs 2 to Rs 10,000 are issued by the Reserve Bank of India under the Reserve Bank of India act 1934.**

In India Currency notes issued by the RBI are called **bank notes**. The Bank notes are **signed by the governor of RBI**. Till date there has been no women governor in RBI.

The One rupee note is signed by the **Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.**

## **Printing of notes in India**

Bank notes are printed at **four currency presses**, two of which are owned by the Government of India through its **Corporation, Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL)** and two are owned by the **Reserve Bank, through its wholly owned subsidiary, Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Ltd. (BRBNMPL).**

The currency presses of SPMCIL are at **Nasik** (Maharashtra) and **Dewas** (Madhya Pradesh).

The two presses of BRBNMPL are at **Mysuru** (Karnataka) and **Salboni** (West Bengal).

## **10. India ranked 5th in the 2022 Hurun Global 500 list of valuable companies ( Dec. 10, 2022 )**

India ranked 5th in the 2022 Hurun Global

According to the recently released **Hurun Global 500 list 2022**, India, with 20 most valuable companies in the world, has moved into the **fifth position** among countries that are home to the world's top 500 firms. Last year India was ranked **9th** with 8 companies.

The list, released by the Hurun Research Institute, is a compilation of the 500 most valuable **non-state-controlled companies** in the world. Companies were ranked according to their market capitalization (for listed companies) and valuations for non-listed companies.

## **Top ranked Indian companies**

**The top ranked Indian companies in the Hurun 500 list are as follows;**

- **Reliance Industries Limited** was the top ranked Indian company. It was ranked **34th in the world.**
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) was ranked second , and
- HDFC bank was ranked third.

For the first time, 4 Adani group companies also made to the list. These companies are; Adani Transmission, Adani Green Energy, Adani Enterprises and Adani Total Gas.

### **Top ranked company in the world**

US based **Apple** was the top ranked company followed by **Microsoft**, Alphabet (**owner of Google**), **Amazon** and **Tesla**.

### **Country wise ranking**

- The **United States of America** with 260 companies came at the top. It was followed by
- **China** with 35 companies,
- **Japan** with 28 companies,
- The **United Kingdom** with 21 companies ,
- **India** and **Canada** were at the 5th position with 20 companies each.

Of the 20 Indian companies featured on the list this year, 11 are based in **Mumbai**, four in Ahmedabad and one each in Noida, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Kolkata.

### **Hurun**

It was set up in the United Kingdom by Rupert Hoogewerf in 1999. Hurun is a research, media and investments group, which publishes a series of research reports.

The Company is headquartered in Shanghai, China.