

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. G7 price cap on Russian oil comes into force, Indian not to be affected: Hardeep Singh Puri ( Dec. 5, 2022 )**

G7 price cap on Russian oil comes into force

The [Group of 7 countries](#) (G7) price cap of **\$60 per barrel on the Russian seaborne oil came** into effect on 5 December 2022. Seaborne oil means petroleum crude oil which is transported through tankers. It doesn't include Russian oils transported through pipelines. Russia however has refused to accept the decision of the G7 countries.

The G7( The United States of America, Canada, France, Germany, Italy ,United Kingdom and Japan) attempt to target Russian oil supplies is seen as an attempt by the western countries to limit the Russian ability to finance its war on Ukraine .

Russia which is the world's **second largest exporter** of petroleum oil in the world after Saudi Arabia attacked Ukraine on 24 February as it accused Ukraine of genocide in the Eastern part of Ukraine . Western countries are supporting Ukraine and in an effort to cripple the Russian war effort, have imposed a series of sanctions on Russia.

#### **Oil Price Cap**

The **G7 countries, Australia and the European Union** have agreed to impose a \$60 per barrel price cap on Russian crude oil transported through sea.

The G7 agreement allows Russian oil to be shipped to third-party countries using G7 and EU tankers, insurance companies and banks, only if the cargo is bought at or below the \$60 per barrel cap.

**However Industry players and a U.S.** official said in October that Russia can access enough tankers to ship most of its oil beyond the reach of the cap, underscoring the limits of the most ambitious plan yet to curb Russia's wartime revenue.

#### **Impact on India**

The Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas **Hardeep Singh Puri** has said that the decision of the G7 countries will not impact India.

He said that 'Russia is not our top supplier of oil; our traditional top suppliers are **Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE**'. In 2021-22, India imported 53 percent of its oil from these countries. In 2022-23, between April and September, 52 percent of India's crude oil imports came from these countries,"

He said that if Russia refuses to sell crude oil at the capped price or cuts down production, it will affect the global supply chain. It will put pressure on producing countries to meet the energy demand, resulting in a spike in crude prices.

### **2. Air Pollution second largest cause of death & disability in Bangladesh: World Bank ( Dec. 5, 2022 )**

Air Pollution second largest cause of death & disability in Bangladesh

According to a [World Bank report](#) released on 4 December, 2022, air pollution is the

**second largest cause of death and disability in Bangladesh** and costs about **3.9 to 4.00 percent of the country's GDP**.

### **Important facts**

- According to report air pollution caused the death of between **78,000 to 88,000 thousand people** in Bangladesh in 2019.
- **Bangladesh** was ranked as the **most polluted country in the world**, and **Dhaka** as the **second most polluted city** each year between 2018 and 2021.
- The report found that major construction sites and traffic in **Dhaka** have the **highest levels of pollution**.
- In these places, **particulate matter (PM2.5)**, which is considered the most dangerous to health, exceeds WHO air quality guidelines (AQG) by an average of 150 percent, which is equivalent to smoking about 1.7 cigarettes per day.
- The second highest concentration of PM2.5 levels is found near brick kilns in **Greater Dhaka**, which is 136 percent above the WHO AQG – equivalent to smoking 1.6 cigarettes per day.
- In Bangladesh, Dhaka is the most polluted division while **Sylhet is the least polluted**.
- The **western regions** (Khulna and Rajshahi) are more polluted than the eastern ones (Sylhet and Chattogram).
- Exposure to high levels of air pollution increases the risk of difficulties in breathing, cough, respiratory tract infections, depression, and other health conditions.
- The World Bank report said children under five, the elderly and people with diabetes, heart or respiratory disease are most vulnerable.

### **3. Only CNG and Electric autos to ply in Delhi NCR from 1 January 2027; Air Quality Panel ( Dec. 5, 2022 )**

Only CNG and Electric autos to ply in Delhi NCR from 1 January 2027

The Central government's air quality panel has directed **Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan** and **Haryana** to register only CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) and electric autos from **1 January 2027** and to completely phase out the diesel autos in the National Capital Region by the end of 2026.

The Commission for Air Quality Management has said that only CNG and e-autos will ply in the NCR from January 1, 2027.

The NCR covers Delhi, 14 districts of Haryana, eight districts of Uttar Pradesh and two districts of Rajasthan.

Delhi had launched a programme in 1998 to convert its fleet of diesel auto rickshaws into CNG ones. No diesel-run auto is registered in Delhi at present.

In 1998, Delhi introduced a campaign to transfer its fleet of diesel auto rickshaws to CNG vehicles. At the moment, no diesel-powered vehicle is registered in Delhi. In October of last year, the Delhi Transport Department launched a program for the enrollment of 4,261 e-autos.

### **Delhi National Capital Region (Delhi NCR)**

The Delhi National Capital Region was set up in 1985 under the National Capital Region Planning Board Act 1985 by the Central government.

Delhi NCR was set up to deal with uncontrolled migration of people to Delhi. It aims to develop surrounding areas of Delhi so that people's migration to Delhi can be controlled.

Delhi NCR includes Delhi (**all 11 districts**), areas of Uttar Pradesh (**8 districts**), Haryana (**14 districts**) and Rajasthan (**2 districts**).

Region	Name of Districts	Areas in sq. Km
Haryana	Faridabad, Gurugram, Nuh, Rohtak, Sonapat, Rewari, Jhajjar, Gurugram, Panipat, Palwal, Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, Mahendragarh, Jind and Karnal ( <b>fourteen districts</b> ).	25,327
Uttar Pradesh	Meerut, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar, Bulandshahr, Baghpat, Hapur, Shamli and Muzaffarnagar ( <b>Eight districts</b> ).	14,826
Rajasthan	Alwar and Bharatpur ( <b>two districts</b> ).	13,447
Delhi	Whole of NCT Delhi.	1,483
		55,083 sq. kms.

### **4. Jindal Shadeed Group to set up a \$3 billion green steel plant in Oman ( Dec. 5, 2022 )**

Jindal Shadeed Group to set up a \$3 billion green steel plant in Oman

The **Jindal Shadeed Group** has announced that it will invest more than **\$3 billion** to set up a green steel plant in a special economic zone in the southern port city of Duqm, **Oman**. The [hydrogen](#)-ready steel project will have a capacity to produce 5 million tonnes of steel a year. The proposed new green steel plant will use **natural gas** for the production of steel.

Jindal Shadeed Group is a wholly owned subsidiary of Naveen Jindal's Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) Company. It also has a 2 million tonnes steel per annum steel plant at Sohar in Oman.

### **What is Green Steel?**

Green steel is the manufacturing of steel without the **use carbon intensive fossil fuels**. The steel is produced by using low-carbon energy sources such as hydrogen, natural gas, coal gasification, or electricity instead of the traditional carbon-intensive manufacturing route of coal-fired plants.

### **Why the need for Green steel?**

Steel is one of the most used metals in the modern Industrial sectors. It is used to make household items, cars, defence equipment etc. The Steel Industry is one of the major contributors to global warming. Around 75 per cent of steel globally is made in coal-fired blast furnaces, which releases large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere contributing to global warming.

To reduce the carbon emission the government is encouraging the steel companies to use hydrogen or low carbon energy sources for production of steel.

### **Green Steel and India**

The iron ore and steel industry globally accounts for around **8 percent of total CO2 emissions** on an annual basis, whereas in India, it contributes **12 percent to the total CO2 emissions**.

India has committed itself to achieve net zero carbon emission by [2070](#) and if India has to achieve that target then the Indian steel industry needs to reduce its emissions to net-zero by 2070.

Anil Agarwal-owned **Vedanta company** has signed an agreement with **IIT-Bombay** to develop technology for producing green steel using hydrogen.

**Jindal Steel & Power Ltd (JSPL)** plans to develop its Odisha plant into the largest and greenest facility in the world. The company claims to be the first steelmaker in the world to build coal gasification to produce steel using clean coal technologies.

## **5. Millets- Smart Nutritious Food Conclave held in New Delhi ( Dec. 5, 2022 )**

Millets- Smart Nutritious Food Conclave

To promote the **export of millets**, a one-day '**Millets-Smart Nutritive Food' conclave** was organised by the government on 5th December in **New Delhi**.

### **Important facts**

- Union Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** was the chief guest of the conclave.
- It was organised by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** through its apex agricultural export promotion body, **[Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority \(APEDA\)](#)**.
- Its purpose is to promote the export of millets.
- This is the first conclave to be held in the pre-launch program of the **[International Year of Millets - 2023 \(IYOM - 2023\)](#)**.

- In the Conclave, Farmer Producer Organisations, startups, exporters, producers of millets based value added products participated.
- In the conclave, exhibition and B2B meetings were also organized to showcase Indian millets and millet based products.
- Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry **Anupriya Patel** was the **guest of honour** at the conclave.
- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** announced on March 5, 2021 that 2023 will be observed as the International Year of Millets (IYOM).
- The government is currently organising IYOM-2023 at domestic and international level to popularise Indian millets and its value added products across the world and make it a mass movement.

## **6. Dr Jitendra Singh led the Indian delegation at the Abu Dhabi Space Debate ( Dec. 5, 2022 )**

Dr Jitendra Singh led the Indian delegation at the Abu Dhabi Space Debate

**Dr Jitendra Singh**, Minister of State for Atomic Energy and Space, led the Indian delegation to the **Abu Dhabi Space Debate**, which began in the United Arab Emirates on 5 December. He addressed the inaugural session along with Israeli **President Isaac Herzog**.

### **Important facts**

- In this two-day international meeting, Dr. Jitendra Singh participated in the Ministerial level meeting on '**Role of Foreign Policy in Enabling Space Diplomacy and International Cooperation**'.
- He also discussed ways to strengthen bilateral space cooperation with **Sarah Al Amiri**, UAE Minister of State for Advanced Technology and Chairperson of the UAE Space Agency.
- During the conversation, Dr. Singh also discussed the **joint startup venture** between India and UAE on cutting edge and emerging space technology.
- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the UAE Space Agency (UAESA) signed an MoU in 2016 regarding cooperation in the exploration and **uses of outer space for peaceful purposes**.
- UAE's first nanosatellite- 'Nayif-1' was launched by PSLV from Sriharikota to collect environmental space data.

### **UAE's achievements in the space sector**

- The UAE is an emerging space power and has made rapid progress in the last 25 years of its space journey.
- In July 2020, the UAE sent its **Mars mission** into space named '**Hope Probe**', which entered Mars orbit in February 2021.

- The UAE is the **first Arab country** and the **sixth country in the world** to achieve this feat.
- UAE is planning to launch **Rasheed Rover or Emirates Lunar Mission** soon.
- In September 2019, **Hanzala Al Mansoori** from the United Arab Emirates became the **first astronaut** to go into space when he went to the International Space Station (ISS) for eight days via a Russian spacecraft from **Kazakhstan**.
- This year, another astronaut from the United Arab Emirates was selected to travel to the ISS aboard NASA's crew rotation flight, **SpaceX Crew-6**, for a period of six months.

### **About UAE**

- Capital : **Abu Dhabi**
- Currency: **Emirati Dirham**
- President : **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

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### **8. Indonesia raises volcano warning to highest after Semeru erupts ( Dec. 4, 2022 )**

Indonesia raises volcano warning to highest after Semeru erupts

The Indonesian authorities raised the warning on **Semeru volcano** to the highest level on 4 December 2022 after an eruption spewed a column of ash high into the air.

The eruption in the Semeru volcano located in the East Java province follows a series of earthquakes on the west of the island, including one last month that killed more than 300 people.

The eruption started on 3 December 2022 and the plume from the volcano reached a height of 50,000 feet (15 km).

The Indonesian authorities have started the evacuation of people including children and seniors, living near the volcano.

Mount Semeru last erupted in December 2021, killing at least 69 people. At that time the eruption had left entire streets filled with mud and ash, swallowing homes and vehicles, with nearly 10,000 people seeking refuge.

Indonesia sits on the Pacific Ring of Fire, where the meeting of continental plates causes high volcanic and seismic activity.

Indonesia has around 142 volcanoes and it has the largest population (86 lakh) in the world living within 10 km close range to volcanoes.

### **9. International conference on “J C Bose: A Satyagrahi Scientist” organized in New Delhi ( Dec. 4, 2022 )**

International conference on “J C Bose

The Union Ministry of Culture organised an “International conference on the contributions of J C Bose: A Satyagrahi Scientist” at the Inter-University Accelerator Centre, **New Delhi** on 3 December 2022 on the occasion of 164th birth anniversary of legendary Indian scientist Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose.

The aim of the conference was to acknowledge and popularize the contributions of Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose.

#### **Jagdish Chandra Bose**

JC Bose was born on 30 November 1858 in Mymensingh (Bangladesh) and died on 23 November 1937 at Giridih, Jharkhand.

He was a Plant Physiologist and physicist who invented **the crescograph, a device for measuring the growth of plants**. He for the first time demonstrated that plants have feelings.

He discovered wireless communication and was named the **Father of Radio Science** by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

A crater on the **moon** is named in his honour.

He established Bose Institute in Kolkata in 1917 which is the first **interdisciplinary research centre in Asia**.

### **10. 3 Indian-Origin Women Scientists Among Australia's "Superstars of STEM" ( Dec. 3, 2022 )**

"Superstars of STEM"

**Three Indian-origin women** among **60 scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians** have been selected as Australia's '**STEM Superstars**'.

#### **Important facts**

- It is an initiative aimed at breaking the gendered perceptions of society about scientists.
- In 2022, three Indian-origin women to be recognized as STEM superstars are **Neelima Kadiala, Dr. Ana Baburamani and Dr. Indrani Mukherjee**.
- Apart from Indians, women scientists of **Sri Lankan** origin have also been selected in this.



**About Australia's 'Superstars of STEM'**

- Each year Science and Technology Australia (STA), the country's apex body in this field and representing more than 105,000 scientists and technologists, selects 60 Australian experts working in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

**Neelima Kadiyala**

- Kadiyala is an IT Program Manager at Challenger Limited and has 15 years of experience across multiple industries including Financial Services, Telco and FMCG.
- She moved to Australia in 2003 as an international student to pursue a Master of Business in Information Systems.

**Dr. Ana Baburamani**

- Baburamani is Scientific Adviser in the Department of Defense - Science and Technology Group and has always been fascinated by how the brain develops and functions.
- Baburamani completed her PhD at Monash University and has spent 10 years as a post-doctoral researcher in Europe.

**Dr. Indrani Mukherjee**

- Ms Mukherjee is a geologist at the University of Tasmania and focuses on what drove the biological transition.
- She is working as a postdoctoral researcher in Tasmania, as well as in the areas of public outreach, geoscience communication and diversity initiatives.