

Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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1. NSIC Signs MoU with Phillips Machine Tools India Pvt Ltd (Oct. 21, 2022)

NSIC Signs MoU

A MoU signed between the **National Small Industries Corporation Ltd (NSIC)** and **Phillips Machine Tools India Pvt Ltd** for Skill Development Training in Additive Technologies on October 18, 2022 in New Delhi.

Important facts

- B B Swain, Secretary (MSME), Gaurang Dixit, CMD, NSIC and Mercy Epao, Joint Secretary (SME) were also present on the occasion.
- The MoU was signed by Navin Chopra, CGM-SG (Tech), NSIC.
- This MoU will be a significant step for preparing skilled manpower in additive technologies which is the future of manufacturing.

National Small Industries Corporation

- It is an ISO certified Government of India Enterprise under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- NSIC is working to promote, assist and promote the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the country.
- NSIC works through a countrywide network of offices and technical centres in the country.

2. Liz Truss becomes the shortest serving Britain's Prime Minister as she announces resignation (Oct. 20, 2022)

Liz Truss resigns

Elizabeth Truss popularly known as [Liz Truss](#) announced on 20 October 2022 that she would resign as British Prime Minister, just six weeks after being sworn in as the Prime Minister on 6 September 2022. She became the **shortest-serving Prime Minister (44 days)** in the British history.

She lost the support of her party and the people over her economic plans that led to the sharp fall in the value of the British pound, crashed the bond market, pushed up cost of living for voters and angered her own party members.

Speaking outside the door of her Number 10 Downing Street office, Truss accepted that she had lost the faith of her party and said she would step down next week. **Number 10 Downing Street is the official residence of the British prime Minister.**

The ruling Conservative Party which has a comfortable majority in the Parliament will elect a new leader by 28 October 2022.

The former finance minister Rishi Sunak is likely to contest the election. But many people are supporting former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who was ousted in July when his ministers resigned en masse to force him out of power.

3. 10th Heads of Missions Conference starts in Kevadia, Gujarat (Oct. 20, 2022)

10th Heads of Missions Conference

The Ministry of External Affairs is organizing its 10th Heads of Missions Conference in **Kevadia**, Gujarat, from 20-22 October 2022. The Conference will bring together 118 Heads of Indian Missions (Ambassadors and High Commissioners) from all over the world.

The conference is always presided over by the Union External affairs Minister and this year **S.Jaishankar** presided over the meeting.

The event is a platform for the government to brief the country's top diplomats on ways to promote India's interests abroad.

This year [Prime Minister Modi](#) who was on a two day (19-20) Visit to Gujarat also participated in the meeting.

Difference between Ambassador and High Commissioner

Every country appoints a senior diplomat to a foreign country to represent the government in that country. The senior diplomat is called Ambassador or High Commissioner.

High Commissioner

If the country is a member of the Commonwealth and sends its diplomat to a fellow Commonwealth country then the senior diplomat will be called as High Commissioner. For eg. India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, as both the countries are members of the Commonwealth.

Ambassador

If the senior diplomat is appointed to a non-commonwealth country then he/she is called as Ambassador. For eg. India's ambassador to Russia, United States of America, and France etc. These countries are not members of the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth of Nations

Commonwealth is an association of Independent countries who were once part of the British Empire. However there are some countries like Rwanda, Mozambique, Gabon and Togo who were never part of the British Empire but still are the members of the Commonwealth.

At present **56 countries** are its members and the monarch of Britain is the head of the Commonwealth.

4. 41.5 Crore Indian lifted out of Poverty says the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index report 2022 (Oct. 20, 2022)

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index report 2022

According to the 4th Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2022 report, India has successfully lifted 41.5 crore people out of poverty between 2005-06 and 2019-20. The report is jointly brought out by the **UNDP's Human Development Report Office** and the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)**. The first report was released in 2019 and it is released annually.

The report ranks 111 developing countries in the world on its Multidimensional Poverty index.

Main Points of the report

Poverty in the world

- According to the report 1.2 billion people in the world are multidimensionally poor.
- The highest number of poor people are in **Sub Saharan Africa** (579 million), followed by South Asia (385 million). The two regions together are home to 83% of poor people.

India report

Decline in Poverty over the years

- 41.5 Crore people in the country were lifted out of multidimensional poverty between 2005-06 and 2019-20.
- The data shows that roughly 27.5 crore people exited multidimensional poverty between 2005-6 and 2015-16, which works out to 2.75 crore people a year on an average.
- Between 2015-16 and 2019-20, 14 crore people were lifted from multidimensional poverty, which works out to an average of 2.8 crore people a year.

World's largest poor in India

- **India** has the largest number of poor people worldwide (228.9 million), followed by **Nigeria** (96.7 million projected in 2020)."
- The Index has used 2020 population data of India for this purpose.
- In India "about 4.2 per cent of the population live in severe poverty (meaning their deprivation score is 50 per cent or higher).

Children are the poorest age group

- Poverty is found more amongst the children as compared to the adults.
- Children are still the poorest age group, with more than one in five (21.8 per cent) children being poor, compared to around one in seven adults (13.9 per cent).
- There are around 9.7 crore poor children in India.

More poor in rural areas

- The percentage of people who are poor is **21.2 per cent** in rural areas compared with 5.5 per cent in urban areas
- Rural areas account for nearly **90 percent of poor people** and 205 million of the nearly 229 million poor people live in rural areas

Poverty more in female headed households

- About **19.7 percent** of people living in female-headed households live in poverty compared with 15.9 per cent in male-headed households.

Performance of the States

- Only West Bengal was successful in coming out of the list of 10 poorest state list prepared in 2015/16.
- **The other 9 poorest states of India are** Bihar, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.
- Across states and union territories the fastest reduction of poverty in relative terms was in **Goa**, followed by Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.

What is Multidimensional poverty Index?

- Multidimensional poverty assessments aim to measure the **non-income based** dimensions of poverty, to provide a more comprehensive assessment of the extent of poverty and deprivation.
- The Index measures a person's deprivation across **three dimensions** and **10 indicators: health** (child mortality, nutrition), **education** (years of schooling, enrollment), and **living standards** (water, sanitation, electricity, cooking fuel, and assets).
- It first identifies which of these 10 deprivations each household experiences, then identifies households as poor if they suffer deprivations across one-third or more of the weighted indicators.

The Index reflects deprivations on the following indicators:

1. Adult (under 70 years) or child being malnourished
2. Death of any Child (under age of 18 years) within the household in the last 5 years
3. No household member aged above 6 years has completed at least six years of schooling
4. Disrupted or curtailed schooling (a minimum of years 1-8)
5. Any child of the family who is not attending school upto the age at which he/she would have completed class eight study
6. Lack of access to safe drinking water
7. Lack of access to basic sanitation services
8. Lack of access to clean cooking fuel
9. Lack of basic modern assets (radio, TV, telephone, computer, bike, motorbike, etc.)
10. Lack of access to reliable electricity

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

It was set up by the United Nation General Assembly on 22 November 1965.

It help the countries in developing their own solutions on the issues of;

- Sustainable Development,
- Democratic governance and peace building, and
- Climate and Disaster resilience.

Headquarters: **New York City**, United States

Reports

- It publishes a **Human Development Report** every year.
- It also publishes the **Multidimensional Poverty Index** with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative.
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5. Inauguration of Waste to Energy Plant at Tughlakabad, Delhi (Oct. 20, 2022)

Inauguration of Waste to Energy Plant

Home Minister **Amit Shah** on 20 October, 2022 inaugurated **MCD's Tehkhand Waste to Energy Plant** at **Tughlakabad** in New Delhi.

Important facts

- This plant will treat **2000 metric tonnes** of waste in the national capital per day.
- Along with this **5 megawatts of green energy** will also be produced by this plant.
- It is a multifunctional, multi-purpose plant that will clean the capital Delhi and fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Swachh Bharat Mission.
- This plant has been built in collaboration with **Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Jindal Group**.
- Electricity will be generated from the waste in the plant, along with the work of making manure from the waste will also be done.

What is Waste to Energy?

- It is the process of generating energy in the form of electricity or heat from the primary treatment of waste into a fuel source.
- These plants convert municipal and industrial solid waste into electricity and heat for industrial processing.
- The plant works by burning waste at high temperatures and using the heat to make steam.

6. Inauguration of Waste to Energy Plant at Tughlakabad, Delhi (Oct. 20, 2022)

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7. Grant of Rs 1,764 crore released to four states for urban local bodies (Oct. 20, 2022)

Grant of Rs 1,764 crore

The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has released an amount of Rs 1,764 crore to **4 states** on 19 October 2022 for providing grants to **Urban Local Bodies**.

Important facts

- The states to which the grant was released include **Andhra Pradesh** (Rs 136 crore), **Chhattisgarh** (Rs 109 crore), **Maharashtra** (Rs 799 crore) and **Uttar Pradesh** (Rs 720 crore).
- In Uttar Pradesh, this amount has been given for **Agra, Allahabad, Ghaziabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Meerut and Varanasi**.
- Whereas, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Durg, Bhilainagar and Raipur in Chhattisgarh and Aurangabad, Greater Mumbai, Nagpur, Nashik, Pune and Vasai-Virar cities in Maharashtra will spend this amount.
- A total grant of Rs 4,761.8 crore has been released to urban local bodies in the year 2022-23 so far.

Two categories of Urban Local Bodies

- The **15th Finance Commission** in its report for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 has divided the urban local bodies into two categories -

1. Urban agglomeration/cities with population **Million-Plus** (except Delhi and Srinagar)

2. All other cities and towns with **less than one million population** (Non-Million Plus cities).

- The commission had recommended a separate grant for them.
- Of the total grants recommended by the Commission for over one million cities/urban clusters (MPCs/UAs), more than 2/3 are recommended for the solid waste management component and the remaining 1/3 for ambient air quality.

Sanjay Malhotra, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, will take over as the new **Revenue Secretary** on November 30 2022, currently **Tarun Bajaj** is the Revenue Secretary.

Secretary of Finance - **Benjamin E. Diokno**

8. Dharmendra Pradhan launches draft of National Credit Framework for public consultation (Oct. 20, 2022)

National Credit Framework for public consultation

Union Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship **Dharmendra Pradhan** launched the draft of **National Credit Framework** (NCrF) for public consultation on 20 October, 2022.

Important facts

- The government has developed it to enable integration of academic and business domains to ensure flexibility and mobility between them.
- The National Credit Framework is a multi-faceted tool for the next generation under the National Policy on Education, 2020.
- It is an umbrella framework for skilling, re-skilling, up-skilling, accreditation and assessment involving people in educational and skilling institutions and the workforce.
- It will open many options for the progress of the students and will prove to be a game changer in the interrelationship of school and higher education with vocational education and experiential learning.
- It will also enable students who have dropped out of mainstream education and wish to re-enter the education ecosystem.
- This will be an important step towards achieving 100% literacy in the next 2-3 years with knowledge acquisition, practical training and positive social outcomes.

Union Minister of Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship - **Dharmendra Pradhan**

Minister of State for Education - **Annpurna Devi**

Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship - **Rajeev Chandrasekhar**

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10. CCI imposes penalty of over Rs 392 crore on online travel firms (Oct. 20, 2022)

CCI imposes penalty

The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** on 19 October, 2022 slapped penalties totalling more than **Rs 392 crore** on online travel firms **MakeMyTrip, Goibibo and hospitality services** provider OYO for unfair business practices.

Important facts

- A fine of **Rs 223.48 crore** has been slapped on Make My Trip-Goibibo (MMT-Go) and Rs 168.88 crore on OYO.
- MMT-Go was alleged to have enforced price parity in its agreements with hotel partners.

- Under such agreements, hotel partners were not allowed to sell their rooms on any other platform or on their online portal at a price lower than the price at which it was being offered on the platforms of the two other entities.
- It was also alleged that MMT preferred OYO on its platform, thereby denying market access to other players.
- The CCI had ordered a detailed inquiry into the matter in **October 2019**.
- MakeMyTrip (MMT) acquired Ibibo Group Holding in 2017.

Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is the chief national competition regulator in India.
- It was set up under the Competition Act, 2002.
- It comes under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- It promotes healthy market competition and prevents activities that have an adverse effect on competition in India.
- CCI also approves merger and acquisitions of companies in India so that the two merging entities do not dominate the market unfairly
- Headquarter - **New Delhi**
- Current Chairman - **Ashok Kumar Gupta**