

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurates Geo Smart India 2022 Summit in Hyderabad ( Nov. 18, 2022 )**

Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurates Geo Smart

Union Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** inaugurated the **Geo Smart India 2022 Summit in Hyderabad** on 15 November, 2022.

#### **Important facts**

- He said the country is leading the way in socio-economic prosperity driven by state-of-the-art technology and innovation.
- He said the country is moving towards an era of sustainable development from the grassroots level and aims to eradicate poverty, combat climate change and improve business and living standards.
- He said that the government has issued guidelines to pave the way for the use of geospatial data in various sectors of the economy.
- He said that the country is facing a severe water crisis which is becoming an important issue and the government has taken several steps to solve the issue.
- The three-day summit was attended by around 2500 delegates from around 500 government, private, organisations working on geospatial technology and so on.

#### **About Geo Smart India Summit**

- GeoSmart India is the largest conference of Geospatial experts across the globe.
- It is an interactive and collaborative platform that reflects the collective and shared vision of the Indian geospatial community.
- The conference showcases how geospatial and emerging technologies can have a disruptive impact on Indian businesses.
- It also serves as a meeting place for global businesses to understand the ease of doing business in India by connecting with relevant authorities and potential business partners across sectors.

### **2. A two day 4th Indian Chemicals Council Sustainability Conclave is being held at New Delhi ( Nov. 17, 2022 )**

A two-day (17-18 November) **4th edition of Indian Chemicals Council Sustainability Conclave** being held at **New Delhi** was inaugurated by the Secretary Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals **Arun Baroka** on 17 November 2022 .

The conclave has been organised jointly by the **United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)** and **International Council of Chemical Associations**. The conference is being

supported by the Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

The **Theme** of the 4th edition of Indian Chemicals Council (ICC) Sustainability Conclave: **Boardrooms to Community-ESG, Carbon Neutrality, Operational Safety, Greener Solutions**'.

The two-day event promotes sustainability in the management of the entire life cycle of chemicals.

### **3. First Global Media Congress held in Abu Dhabi; Apurva Chandra represents India ( Nov. 16, 2022 )**

first World media Congress

The three day (15-17 November) first World media Congress opened on 15 November 2022 at **Abu Dhabi**, United Arab Emirates. The conference-cum-exhibition Congress is organised by ADNEC Group in partnership with Emirates News Agency (WAM).

Theme of the World Media Congress: **Shaping the Future of the Media Industry**

Over 10,000 delegates and media-related companies are participating in the launch edition of the Global Media Congress.

India was represented by the **Secretary, Ministry of Information Broadcasting Apurva Chandra**. Addressing the Global Media Congress Apurva Chandra said that India is a country with a traditional media comprising 897 television channels, of which over 350 were news channels, and over 80 thousand newspapers coming out in various languages.

### **United Arab Emirate (UAE)**

It is a federation of seven Emirates of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Khaimah, Ajmain, Fujairah, and Umm -Al-Quwain. It is an Arabian country.

- Abu Dhabi is the largest of the emirates and is the centre of UAE oil business.
- It is situated in the West Asia /Middle East region of the world in the Arabian Peninsula.
- UAE in its present form came into existence in 1971.

Capital of UAE: **Abu Dhabi**

Currency: **Emirati Dirham**

President of UAE: **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**. He is the king of Abu Dhabi and the supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

### **4. Indonesian President Joko Widodo handed over the G-20 presidency to Modi as the G 20 summit concludes in Bali ( Nov. 16, 2022 )**

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The Indonesian President **Joko Widodo** formally handed over the G-20 presidency to Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on 16 November 2022 at the conclusion of the two-day (15-16 November) **17th G-20 Summit in Bali**.

Prime Minister Modi said that India's presidency will be inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented. He said that the country is taking the charge at a time when the world is grappling with geopolitical tensions, economic slowdown and rising food and energy prices.

India will officially assume the **G-20 Presidency from 1 December 2022**.

The **18th G-20 Leaders' Summit** at the level of heads of state/government is scheduled to be held on September 9-10, 2023 in **New Delhi**.

### **Modi also listed India's priorities for the G-20.**

- Over the next one year, India will strive to ensure that the G-20 acts as a global prime mover to envision new ideas and accelerate collective action,"
- The sense of ownership over natural resources is giving rise to conflict today, and has become the main cause of the plight of the environment. For the safe future of the planet, the sense of trusteeship is the solution.
- Modi noted that [LiFE that is a 'Lifestyle for Environment'](#) campaign can make a big contribution to this. "Its purpose is to make sustainable lifestyles a mass movement." The prime minister emphasised that the benefits of development are universal and all-inclusive.
- Modi said the G-20 has to convey a strong message in favour of peace and harmony.
- "All these priorities are fully embodied in the [theme of India's G-20 Chairmanship](#) -- 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'," he said.

During the G-20 summit meeting the Prime Minister held meetings with various world leaders like British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, French President Macron, the American president Joe Biden and had a brief interaction with the Chinese President **Xi Jinping**. It was the first face to face between the Indian and Chinese leaders after the Galwan clash in June 2020 which led to the death of 20 Indian soldiers and many Chinese soldiers.

### **Issue of Russia and Ukraine and call for "This Era is not of War"**

Russian President Vladimir Putin did not attend the meeting where the issue of Russia-Ukraine conflict divided the member countries of G-20. Western countries want an outright condemnation of Russia while others notably India and China are not in favour of condemning Russia.

However the final G-20 document which was issued later condemned "in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine" and demanded "its complete and unconditional withdrawal" from Ukrainian territory.

It also used the phrase "This Era is not of War" and called for an end to the war. This phrase was used by Prime Minister Modi while meeting Vladimir Putin during the SCO meeting in Uzbekistan in September 2022. The statement was well received in Europe, which regards India as a close strategic partner of Russia.

### **G-20 Group**

- Group of 20 or G-20 is a multilateral organisation which was set up in 1999.
- It consists of the world's major developed and developing countries.

- It consists of 19 countries and the European Union. The member countries are **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United States.**
- Italy was the President of the G-20 in 2021. Indonesia is the President for 2022 and India will be the President in 2023.
- The first Summit meeting of the leaders of the G-20 was held in 2008 at Washington, United States.
- The G20 has no permanent secretariat.
- G-20 members constitute **60% of the world population, 80% of the World economy** and **75% of world trade.**

## **5. India hosts LeadIT Summit with Sweden at COP27, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt ( Nov. 15, 2022 )**

India hosts LeadIT Summit

**India** and **Sweden** hosted the **LeadIT (Leadership for Industry Transition) Summit**, on 15 November 2022 on the side-lines of [Conference of Parties \(COP\) 27](#) being held in **Sharm El Sheikh**, Egypt from 6-18 November 2022. The initiative focuses on low carbon transition of the industrial sector which is a major source of carbon emission in the world.

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, [Bhupender Yadav](#) co-hosted the summit with the Swedish Minister for Climate and the Environment **Ms. Romina Pourmokhtari**.

### **Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)**

The Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) was launched by the governments of Sweden and India at the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 at New York City, United States of America.

It brings together countries and companies that are committed to action to achieve the 2016 Paris Agreement on reduction of carbon emission.

The LeadIT members are committed to achieving a net [zero carbon emission](#).

## **6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Indonesia to attend the 17th G20 Summit in Bali ( Nov. 13, 2022 )**

### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Indonesia**

The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a three day (14-16 November) visit to Indonesia to attend the **17th G20 Summit** in **Bali**. He will leave India on 14th November 2022 .The 17th G-20 Summit will be held in Bali on 15 and 16 November 2022.

Giving the information the **Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra** said during the G-20 summit the leaders will deliberate extensively upon key issues of global concern under the Summit theme of '**Recover Together, Recover Stronger**'.

Three **working sessions** will be held as part of the G20 Summit Agenda. These are **food and energy security, health, and digital transformation**.

### **Indonesia to hand over the Presidency to India**

According to Kwatra at the closing session of the Summit, the Indonesia President will symbolically hand over the G20 Presidency to Prime Minister Modi. India will formally assume the G20 Presidency from **1st December** this year. India will host the next G20 summit in **September** next year.

During the G20 Presidency, **India-Indonesia-Brazil** would be the troika. This would be the first time in G20 that the troika would consist of three developing countries and emerging economies in a row.

The G20 Summit programme also includes a **Leaders' visit to a mangrove forest in Bali on the 16th of this month**.

The Foreign Secretary said that on the sidelines of the Summit, Prime Minister Modi will have several bilateral interactions with the G20 leaders.

**G-20 is a group** of 19 leading developed and developing countries and the European Union. It has emerged as an influential group to deliberate on pressing world issues. G20 members represent around 85 percent of the global GDP, over 75 percent of the global trade and about two thirds of the world's population.

## **7. Vice President Dhankhar calls for free and open Indo-Pacific region at the 17th East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh ( Nov. 13, 2022 )**

Vice President Dhankhar calls for free and open Indo-Pacific

Vice President **Jagdeep Dhankhar** speaking at the 17th East Asia Summit meeting being held in the Cambodian capital of **Phnom Penh** on 13 November 2022 highlighted India's concern on food and security and emphasized the role of the East Asia Summit (EAS) in promoting free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific with freedom of navigation and overflight.

The 17th EAS is being hosted by the current ASEAN (Association of SouthEast Asian Nations) chairman Cambodia.

Earlier speaking in the summit the American President **Joe Biden** and the Japanese Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida** also highlighted the aggressive behaviour of China in the South China Sea and called for peace in the Taiwan Strait and ensuring freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar also called upon the EAS members' full contribution to the **International Year of Millets in 2023**.

### **Vice President visit to Cambodia**

The Vice President was on a three day (11-13 November) visit to Cambodia to attend the **19th India-ASEAN summit** meeting which has been designated as the commemorative summit, to mark the 30 years of Indian ASEAN relationship.

This year is also being celebrated as ASEAN-India Friendship Year.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is accompanying Vice-President Dhankhar on this visit.

### **Observer Research Foundation signs Mou with AVI**

On the sideline of the summit meeting **Observer Research Foundation** (ORF) of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a leading Cambodian think tank **AVI**.

The two institutions engaged in the realm of public policy will endeavour to cooperate more closely to enhance their mutual understanding on a range of issues from geopolitics and international relations to sustainable development and cultural engagement.

### **East Asia Summit**

- The East Asia summit group consists of 18 countries.
- The concept of an East Asia Grouping was first promoted in 1991 by the then Malaysian Prime Minister, **Mahathir bin Mohamad**.
- It was set up in **2005** as a forum to promote strategic dialogue and cooperation on political, security and economic issues of common regional concern in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Initially it consisted of ASEAN members (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam) and China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.
- The United States of America and Russia were included in 2011.

## **8. ASEAN agrees to admit Timor- Leste as its 11th member ( Nov. 13, 2022 )**

ASEAN agrees to admit Timor-

The 10 nations group Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has agreed in principle to admit **Timor- Leste** as its 11th member. This was declared by the ASEAN after its summit meeting held in the Cambodian capital of **Phnom Penh** on 11 November 2022 Timor- Leste applied for membership of the ASEAN in 2011.

The other members of ASEAN are **Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam**.

Timor- Leste will be initially granted an **observer status** at a high level ASEAN meeting and it will take years before it becomes a full member of the ASEAN group.

The country would be the first new member of the regional grouping in more than two decades, since **Cambodia** was admitted in 1999.

Timor- Leste President **Jose Ramos-Horta** welcomed the decision, saying a membership would strengthen wider diplomatic relations with ASEAN's partners and will help attract more foreign direct investment in the country.

### **Timor- Leste**

It was earlier called **East Timor** and was a Portuguese colony till 1975 .After the Portuguese left it was occupied by Indonesia. The people of Timor- Leste waged a freedom struggle to gain Independence from Indonesia.

In the 1999 United Nations supervised referendum the people of Timor-Leste voted for Independence from Indonesia.

It was officially recognised as an independent country by the United Nations in 2002, making it Asia's **youngest country**.

Capital of Timor- Leste: **Dilli**

Currency: **Dollar**

President: **Jose Ramos-Horta**

## **9. India and ASEAN relations enhanced to comprehensive strategic partnership level ( Nov. 13, 2022 )**

India and ASEAN relations enhanced

According to the Ministry of External Affairs the India - ASEAN (Association of SouthEast Asian Nation) ties have been upgraded to the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership level** from the earlier Strategic Partnership. This upgradation of ties signifies a greater level of trust between the two sides and conveys a sense of mutual value, strategic alignment and positive intent to further strengthen ties.

The upgradation of the ties between the two sides was agreed upon during the visit of the Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar to Cambodia to participate in the **19th India ASEAN** summit held on 12 November 2022. The 19th India ASEAN summit has been designated as the **commemorative summit, to mark the 30 years of Indian ASEAN relationship. Cambodia is currently the chairman of the 10 nations ASEAN group.**

He will also participate in the 17th East Asia Summit to be held in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh.

### **The focus area of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership are as follows;**

- Advanced maritime cooperation in areas of maritime security including maritime security, countering piracy, search and rescue operations and humanitarian assistance and disaster management. The two sides will work to implement the Asean Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.
- Strengthen cooperation in cybersecurity, digital economy and fintech, including the interoperability of digital financial systems.
- Enhanced cooperation in sustainable development with the focus on new and emerging technologies for renewable energy, smart agriculture, healthcare and space.
- Promote the revival of tourism and enhance activities involving youth,
- Work together on regional and international issues of common concern to promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

### **Bilateral meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen**

The Vice President also held a meeting with the Cambodian Prime Minister **Hun Sen**. India and [Cambodia](#) signed 4 memorandums of understanding.

The Indian side announced a grant of **\$426,000** to support Cambodia's efforts to remove mines that were laid from the late 1970s to the 1990s.

### **Background to the India ASEAN meeting**

As per the **Look East foreign policy** of the Narasimha Rao government in 90s, the government of India focussed on increasing trade and investment with East Asia with special focus on ASEAN.

### **Evolution of India -ASEAN relationship**

- India was initially made a **sectoral partner** by ASEAN in 1992. With the increasing depth in the relationships the status was changed to a **Dialogue Partner** in 1996.
- In 2022 the relationship was further upgraded to **Summit level**
- And finally in 2012 it was elevated to **Strategic partnership**.

### **Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN)**

It is considered to be one of the most successful regional groups in the world.

It was set up in 1967 as a group of South-East Asian nations.

At present there are 10 members in the group. They are

**Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.**

The headquarters of ASEAN: **Jakarta, Indonesia.**

### **10. India announces additional contribution of '\$ 5 million' to ASEAN-India science and technology fund ( Nov. 12, 2022 )**

India announces additional contribution of '\$ 5 million

The Vice President [Jagdeep Dhankhar](#) on 12 November 2022 announced an additional contribution of **USD 5 million** to the **ASEAN-India Science and Technology Fund (AISTDF)** to enhance cooperation in sectors of public health, renewable energy and smart agriculture.

The announcement came during the three-day visit of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar to Cambodia for ASEAN-India and East Asia summits.

### **ASEAN India S&T Development Fund (AISTDF)**

ASEAN-India Science & Technology Collaboration formally started in 1996 with the establishment of the ASEAN India S&T working group (AIWGST).

Initially, the collaborative S&T projects and activities between India and ASEAN were supported through ASEAN India Fund (AIF).

In 2008, a dedicated ASEAN India S&T Development Fund (AISTDF) with an equivalent amount of USD 1 million was established jointly by the **Ministry of External Affairs** and

**Department of Science and Technology (DST)** to support Research and Development projects and associated project development activities.

The AISTDF was enhanced to an equivalent amount of USD 5 million through an announcement by the Prime Minister of India on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Summit in Malaysia in November 2015.