

Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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1. Ayush Ministry to set up an Academic Chair in Ayurvedic Science at Western Sydney University, Australia (Nov. 22, 2022)

Ayush Ministry to set up an Academic Chair

The Union ministry of Ayush announced the setting up of an Ayurveda Academic Chair based at Western Sydney University's **NICM Health Research Institute**, with tenure for a period of **three years**.

Dr. Rajagopala S., Associate Professor & Head (Department of Kaumarabhritya) All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi has been selected for the post of Academic Chair in Ayurvedic Science at Western Sydney University, Australia.

In order to promote Ayurveda and Yoga the Ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 16 foreign countries for the setting up of Ayush Chair.

The Academic Chair will undertake academic and collaborative research activities in Ayurveda, including herbal medicine and yoga, as well as design academic standards and short-term/medium-term courses and educational guidelines. It will provide academic leadership in demonstrating and fostering excellence in teaching, research and policy development related to Ayurveda.

Union Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy)

- The Ministry of AYUSH was set up on the 9th of November 2014 to revive the knowledge of traditional Indian systems of medicine.
- It focuses on education and research in the fields of Ayurveda, Yoga Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy.
- Minister of AYUSH: **Sarbananda Sonowal**

2. Canada's Brampton city gets first turbaned Sikh Harkirat Singh as deputy mayor (Nov. 22, 2022)

Canada's Brampton city

Brampton city in the [Canadian](#) province of Ontario got its first turbaned Sikh deputy mayor with the appointment of **Harkirat Singh**. A release by the Brampton City Council said that Harkirat Singh, who represents wards 9 and 10, has been appointed deputy mayor from 2022-26. The deputy mayor presides at council and other committee meetings and assumes ceremonial and civic event duties on behalf of the mayor if the mayor is absent or unavailable.

Prior to his role as councillor, he served a four-year term as school trustee at the Peel District School Board.

In the present Canadian Parliament there are **18 Sikhs members**. Currently **Harjit Sajjan, Bardish Chagger** are the two Sikhs who are ministers in the **Justin Trudeau** government in Canada.

3. Over 60 people dead in the Indonesian earthquake (Nov. 21, 2022)

A 5.6-magnitude earthquake killed more than 60 people and injured hundreds in Indonesia's West Java province on 21 November 2022. However the death toll is likely to rise further as many are still trapped under the rubbles.

The **epicentre** was near the town of Cianjur in West Java, about 75 km (45 miles) southeast of the capital, Jakarta.

Indonesia lies across the "Pacific Ring of Fire", a highly seismically active zone, where different plates on the Earth's crust meet and create a large number of earthquakes and volcanoes.

In 2004, a 9.1 magnitude quake off Sumatra Island in northern Indonesia triggered a **tsunami** that struck 14 countries, killing 226,000 people along the Indian Ocean coastline, more than half of them in Indonesia.

Earthquake

Earthquakes happen when the plates of the earth collide with each other. The earth's lithosphere consists of **7 major plates** and they float over the molten surface of the upper mantle. When they collide energy waves are released which causes vibration on the surface of the Earth known as Earthquake.

The location below the earth's surface where the earthquake starts is called the **hypocenter**, and the location directly above it on the surface of the earth is called the **epicenter**.

Earthquakes are recorded by instruments called **seismographs**. The recording they make is called a seismogram.

The scale for measuring earthquakes is called the **Richter scale**. It is a mathematical scale used to measure the **intensity of earthquake waves**. It ranges from 0 to 9. However it can be more than 9.

4. New Zealand Supreme Court rules voting age of 18 is discriminatory in the country (Nov. 21, 2022)

New Zealand Supreme Court rules

The Supreme Court of New Zealand has in a decision delivered on 21 November 2022 ruled that the country's current voting age of 18 was discriminatory. The Supreme Court found that the current voting age of 18 was inconsistent with the country's Bill of Rights, which gives people a right to be free from age discrimination when they have reached **16**.

The case which was filed by the advocacy group Make It 16 in 2020 welcomed the ruling of the court and termed it historic.

New Zealand Prime Minister **Jacinda Ardern** said the government would draft legislation to reduce the age to 16, which could then be put to a vote in parliament.

Voting age in the world

Maximum country in the world allow voting rights to citizens after completion of 18 years. However there are certain countries in the world which allows 16 years to vote. They are: **Brazil, Ecuador, Austria, Cuba, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Malta, Nicaragua and Scotland.**

Voting age in India

The voting age in India was 21 years since the promulgation of the constituting in 1950. However by **61st constitution amendment act 1988** the voting age was reduced to 18 years.

New Zealand

It is an island country in South Pacific Ocean. The indigenous people of New Zealand are called **Maoris**.

The island was discovered by Dutch explorer **Abel Janszoon Tasman** in 1642.

New Zealand is famous for its flightless bird **Kiwi**.

Its economy is dominated by agriculture (sheep raising).

It is a constitutional monarchy with the King of Britain being its Head of the State.

Prime Minister: **Jacinda Ardern**

Currency: **New Zealand Dollar**

Capital: **Wellington**

5. India emerges as a top investment destination for Sovereign investors (Nov. 21, 2022)

India emerges as a top investment

According to a report of the American Asset Management company **Invesco**, India has emerged as the **second most preferred** investment market after the United States for sovereign wealth funds and public pension's funds in 2022.

The Invesco **Global Sovereign Asset Management Study** is based on the opinion of 139 Chief investment officers of the sovereign wealth funds and public pension's funds.

According to Invesco, the **United States remained the top destination** for the sovereign wealth funds and public pension's funds but to balance the risk many fund manager wants to invest in the emerging markets. The most beneficiaries of this shift to the emerging market is India.

Among emerging markets India has overtaken China as the most **popular emerging market**. This year China has been ranked at 6th place.

One main reason has been that many funds are reducing their exposure in China and they are attracted to India due to its positive economic reforms and strong demographic profile.

According to the report Sovereign investors manage some \$33 trillion in assets. Average annual returns for sovereign investors over the past decade stood at 6.5%. However, 2022 could prove to be a turning point with higher inflation and tighter monetary policy hitting long-term expected returns.

Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF)

Sovereign means Government of a country. Thus sovereign wealth fund (SWF) is a fund owned by a Government of a country. It is normally a surplus money which a government has and it is used to invest in the stock or debt market of other countries for a better return on investment.

It is managed either by a company set up by the government or it is managed by the central bank of the country.

There has been proposal to set up an SWF in India but till date no such fund has been set up.

SWF are considered as long term investors.

Some of the famous and largest SWF are:

Norway Government Pension Fund Global, China Investment Corporation, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

6. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan re-elected as President (Nov. 21, 2022)

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan re-elected

President **Kassym-Jomart Tokayev** of [Kazakhstan](#) has been re-elected as the President of Kazakhstan. According to the Kazakhstan Election Commission he has won 81.31% of the votes polled in the Presidential election held on 20 November 2022.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev became the President of Kazakhstan on 29 March 2019 after the resignation of the first President of Kazakhstan **Nur Sultan Nazarbayev**.

On 6 September 2022 the Kazakhstan constitution was amended and the term of the President was extended to 7 years from 5 years and a person can become the president of Kazakhstan only once. Since the constitutional amendment is being considered a new constitution, Tokayev became eligible to contest the Presidential election held on 20 November 2022. His earlier term as President is not being counted.

Kazakhstan was part of the Soviet Union which gained Independence on 16 December 1991, after the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

It lies in Central Asia. It is the largest country in central Asia and 9th largest country in the world.

Capital: **Astana**

Currency : **Tenge**

7. India launches official website of SCO 2023 with a theme of 'For a SECURE SCO' (Nov. 19, 2022)

India launches official website of SCO 2023

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has launched the official website of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) with the theme of a SECURE SCO. The website will highlight the events that will be undertaken under the chairmanship of India next year.

During the [22nd Head of State summit meeting 2022](#) of the SCO at Samarkand, Uzbekistan in September, India formally received the SCO rotating presidency. India will hold the presidency of the grouping for a year until September 2023.

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** had floated the concept of SECURE at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in China in 2018. Explaining the **SECURE** concept, the Prime Minister said '**S**' for security for citizens, '**E**' for economic development, '**C**' for connectivity in the region, '**U**' for unity, '**R**' for respect of sovereignty and integrity, and '**E**' for environment protection.

The **Shanghai Cooperation Organization** is a regional group of 8 countries of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan .

8. India participates in '4th meeting of Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan' held in Russia (Nov. 18, 2022)

'4th meeting of Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan'

India participated in the fourth meeting of the Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan held in **Moscow** on 16 November 2022. Special Envoys and Senior Officials from **Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan** also participated in the meeting.

According to the External Affairs Ministry, the participants discussed issues related to Afghanistan. These include the current humanitarian situation and the ongoing efforts of various stakeholders to provide assistance, intra-Afghan talks, formation of an inclusive and representative government, efforts to counter threats of terrorism and ensuring regional security.

Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan

The Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan, **launched in 2017**, is a regional platform on Afghanistan involving the special envoys of Russia, Afghanistan, India, Iran, China, and Pakistan.

Its mandate is to facilitate political reconciliation between the then-internationally backed Kabul government and the Taliban, establish peace, and ensure regional security.

9. Russia and Ukraine agree to further extend the Black Sea grain deal by four months (Nov. 18, 2022)

Russia and Ukraine agree to further extend

Russia and Ukraine have agreed to extend the Black sea grain deal brokered by the **United Nations** and **Turkiye** by another **120 days**. The agreement which was originally signed on 22 July 2022 was set to expire on 19 November 2022. The deal allows grain exports from the designated Ukrainian Black Sea port through a safe corridor in the Black Sea.

The agreement was reached between Russia, Ukraine, Turkiye and the United Nations at **Istanbul, Turkiye**.

The deal faced its first major crisis when Russia announced that it was suspending the agreement on [29 October 2022](#) after Ukraine attacked the Russian Black Sea Fleet near Sevastopol. However later Russia agreed to continue the deal.

The deal will continue with the existing provisions. Ships will carry grain from three Ukrainian ports of **Chornomorsk, Odesa** and **Yuzhny** .They will travel through the humanitarian corridor set up in the Black Sea and stop in Istanbul for inspection before continuing to the final destination.

The grain deal is vital for many African countries as they face crop failure due to weather extremes and internal conflicts. The nations that will benefit from the deal include Egypt , Djibouti, Somalia and Sudan Senegal, Rwanda, Congo, Libya, Tanzania and Namibia.

10. Indians no longer need police clearance for Saudi Arabia visas (Nov. 18, 2022)

Indians no longer need police clearance for Saudi Arabia visas

The Saudi Arabian embassy in India has announced that it will exempt Indian nationals from submitting a **police clearance certificate** (PCC) while applying to travel to the country. Over two million Indian citizens live in Saudi Arabia. The new rule would make visa application processing faster and easier for the Indians visiting Saudi Arabia.

According to the Saudi embassy this decision was taken as a part of the efforts of the two countries to further strengthen their relations.

A police clearance certificate is a document that Indian nationals willing to go abroad for employment, residential status, or long-term visa need to apply for if required by the visa of the destination country. The document helps in knowing the criminal record of the person.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is a West Asian kingdom founded by Ibn Saud in 1923. The country is known for its oil and Islam.

- According to the BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2020, Saudi Arabia has the world's **2nd largest oil reserves** in the world after Venezuela.
- At present it is the **world's largest exporter** of crude oil.
- It has two of the holiest shrine of Islam, Mecca and Medina mosque
- The world's **largest mosque Al-Haram** or forbidden mosques is in Mecca.
- The world's second largest mosque, Mosque of the Prophet, or **Masjid al-Nabawi** is in Medina.

- The Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) headquarters is also in **Jeddah**, Saudi Arabia.
- The world's largest sand area, the **Rub al-Khali** ("Empty Quarter") which is spread around 647,500 square km, is also in Saudi Arabia.

Capital of Saudi Arabia: **Riyadh**

Currency: **Saudi Riyal**

King of Saudi Arabia: **King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**

Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia: **Mohammed bin Salman**