

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

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### **1. Union Cabinet approves MoU between India and Denmark on water resource development and management ( Nov. 2, 2022 )**

Union Cabinet approves

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and **Denmark** on cooperation in the field of **Water Resources Development and Management** on 2 November 2022.

According to the Cabinet the MoU will strengthen cooperation in the field of water resources development and management; rural water supply; and sewage/wastewater treatment through direct collaboration between officials, academics, water sectors and industry in the areas under scope of cooperation.

#### **India Denmark Cooperation on Water resource management**

In September 2020, the Prime Minister of Denmark **Mette Frederiksen** and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched a Joint Statement on establishment of Green Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

The joint statement, envisions co-operation in the field of environment/water, circular economy and sustainable urban development including smart cities.

As a follow up of the joint statement on Green Strategic Partnership, the Prime Minister made the declaration for the establishment of centre of excellence for smart water resources management and establishment of a lab for clean rivers in **Varanasi** on the lines of smart city lab in **Panaji**.

A letter of intent was signed between the Ministry of Jal Shakti, and Ministry of Environment, Govt. of Denmark on 3 May 2022 during visit of Prime Minister Modi to Denmark.

Basic purpose of the proposed cooperation is to ensure safe and secure water to meet present & future demands through holistic and sustainable approach.

#### **Kingdom of Denmark**

It is a country of Europe. Denmark, Norway and Sweden constitute the **Scandinavian** countries in Europe.

The world's largest island **Greenland** is part of Denmark.

Capital: **Copenhagen**

Currency: **Danish Krone**

Prime Minister: **Ms. Mette Frederiksen**.

### **2. International book fair at Expo Centre UAE ( Nov. 2, 2022 )**

International book fair

The **41st international book fair**, being organised by the **Sharjah Book Authority (SBA)**, will be held from November 2-13, 2022 at **Expo Centre Sharjah**.

**Important facts**

- The book fair will host several award winning authors, intellectuals and other literary figures from across the world.
- This year's theme of the fair is '**Spread the Word**'.
- The Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India is participating in the Sharjah International Book Fair.
- The Publications Division will offer readers and book lovers a wide variety of books on the history of the Indian freedom struggle and freedom fighters.
- Readers will get a chance to read more than 100 books and magazines in various Indian languages on various subjects.

**About Publications Division**

- Established in the year **1941**, the Publications Division is a **premier publishing house** of the Government of India.
- The Directorate of Publications Division is a repository of various types of books and magazines.
- These books highlight topics of national importance and the rich cultural heritage of India.
- It offers books and magazines in various languages on diverse subjects like Indian history, culture, literature, biography, science, technology, environment and employment.
- Its textual content is renowned for its authenticity as well as for the reasonable price of the publications.
- Its major publications include popular monthly magazines such as **Yojna, Kurukshetra, Bal Bharati and Aajkal** as well as the weekly employment newspaper Employment News.
- Apart from this, it also publishes the prestigious reference annuity '**India Year Book**' of the government.

**3. Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina confers 'Friends of Liberation War' honour on Edward M Kennedy ( Nov. 1, 2022 )**

'Friends of Liberation War'

Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** posthumously awarded the prestigious '**Friends of Liberation War**' honour to former US Senator **Edward M Kennedy in Dhaka** on 31 October for his contribution to the liberation of Bangladesh.

**Important facts**

- The honour was handed over to his son **Edward M. Ted Kennedy Jr.**

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina remembered with gratitude the contribution of Edward Kennedy Sr.
- He said Kennedy Sr. took a bold step against the genocide committed by Pakistan on innocent Bengali people despite the role of the US government during the 1971 Liberation War.
- She said Kennedy Sr. had worked hard to suspend military and economic aid to Pakistan until the end of the war.

### **Liberation War of 1971**

- In the **1950s**, Pakistan was ruled by a military-bureaucratic rule that ruled the entire country (East and West Pakistan) in an undemocratic manner.
- The Bengalites had no political representation in this system of governance.
- This dominance of West Pakistan was challenged by the Bengalis during the general elections of 1970.
- In the general election of 1970, the Awami League of East Pakistan's **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** got a clear majority.
- West Pakistan was not ready for any leader of East Pakistan to rule the country.
- On **March 26, 1971**, West Pakistan launched **Operation Searchlight** in East Pakistan.
- As a result, lakhs of Bangladeshis had to take refuge in India.
- The Pakistani army had to face defeat due to the bravery of the '**Muktiwahini Sena**' and Indian soldiers who fought for the independence of Bangladesh.
- On **6 December 1971**, a new nation Bangladesh was born out of 13 days of war with the intervention of India.

### **4. S Jaishankar participated in the virtual meeting of the Heads of Government of the SCO ( Nov. 1, 2022 )**

S Jaishankar participated

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar represented India at a virtual meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** on 1 November 2022.

#### **Important facts**

- The **21st Meeting** of SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) is being held on 1 November 2022 in the virtual format.
- The meeting was attended by SCO Member States, Observer States, Secretary General of the SCO, Executive Director of the SCO **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)**, **Turkmenistan** and other invited guests.

- India remains actively engaged in various SCO activities and dialogue mechanisms in the region as well as other multilateral cooperation within the SCO framework.
- The leaders of the SCO member states met for the summit meeting in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan** on 16 September 2022.
- The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Samarkand Declaration was adopted.
- Member countries also called for the improvement of SCO activities and the development of efficient transport corridors for interconnectivity.

### **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**

- It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.
- It was founded in **2001**.
- The SCO Charter was signed in **2002**, and came into force in 2003.
- It is a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation.
- Its aim is to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- China, Russia and four Central Asian states – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan – were founding members of the SCO.
- Official Languages - **Russian and Chinese**
- Chairmanship - On the basis of rotation for a year by Member States
- The Council of Heads of Governments (CHG) is the second-highest council in the organization.

### **5. Union Minister Hardeep Puri attends the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition & Conference ( Oct. 31, 2022 )**

Union Minister Hardeep Puri

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs **Hardeep Singh Puri** attended the Opening Ceremony of the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition & Conference (ADIPEC-2022) on 31 October 2022 at **Abu Dhabi**, United Arab Emirates.

Hosted by ADNOC (Abu Dhabi National Oil Company), ADIPEC is one of the world's leading events of the energy industry and aims to provide insights on the latest trends affecting an evolving global energy system including the global economy, energy supply as well as next generation of energy solutions.

Mr Singh who was on a day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) held bilateral discussion with his counterparts from UAE, **Suhail Mohamed Faraj Al Mazrouei**, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, and **Dr. Sultan Ahmad Al Jaber**, Minister of Industry & Advanced Technology, MD & Group CEO, ADNOC, to strengthen energy cooperation within the overall framework of India-UAE Strategic Partnership.

The Minister also inaugurated the India Pavilion, set up jointly by Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

### **India- UAE Trade Relations**

- UAE is an important trade partner of India with which India has a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement to promote free trade in goods and services.
- UAE is the third largest trading partner of India after China and the United States.
- UAE is the second largest export market for India after the United States.
- UAE was the second largest source of imports for India after China. The US is the third largest source of imports.
- India ranks as the UAE's number one trading partner for non-oil exports, accounting for nearly 14 percent of the UAE's total non-oil exports globally.

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

- It is a federation of seven Emirates of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Khaimah, Ajmain, Fujairah, 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 Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan**. He is the king of Abu Dhabi.

### **6. Brazilian Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva wins 3rd term as the President of Brazil ( Oct. 31, 2022 )**

The leftist leader **Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva** of the **Worker Party** won his **third term** as the President of Brazil after narrowly defeating the incumbent President Jair Bolsonaro in a runoff election. Declaring the result on 30 October 2022 the Supreme Electoral Court of Brazil, declared Lula as the next President. Lula secured 50.9% of votes against 49.1% for Bolsonaro and he received more than 60 million votes, the most in Brazilian history.

The 77-year-old Lula's will take oath of his office on 1 January 2023 for **another 4 year term**.

#### **Runoff Election**

Under the Brazilian constitution a candidate has to win more than half of the votes polled and if none of the candidates secure the required votes then there is another round of voting called run off polls.

In the runoff polls the top two candidates who secures the maximum votes can contest again for the post.

In the first round of voting held on 2 October 2022 neither Lula nor Bolsonaro got the required votes. Hence the runoff election was conducted on 30 October 2022.

## **Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva**

Lula first became the President of Brazil after he won the 2002 election and he was re-elected again in the 2006 election. However he was convicted in a case of corruption in 2017 and was sentenced to 9 and half years to prison. Later he was released from prison after the Federal Supreme Court overturned his conviction.

## **Pink Tide in Latin America**

Lula's election marks the continuation of the Pink tide in the Latin American politics where the leftist leaders are coming back to power. His victory over far-right president Jair Bolsonaro leaves Brazil joining Colombia, Mexico, Argentina, Chile and Peru in a growing leftist bloc.

## **Brazil**

It is the fifth largest country in the world area wise after Russia, Canada, China, and the United States.

It covers almost half of the South American Continent.

60% of the Amazon rainforest which is considered the lung of the earth lies in Brazil.

Capital: **Brasilia**

Currency: **Brazilian Real**

**President:** Jair Bolsonaro

## **7. South Korea declares national mourning after Halloween stampede kills 151 people ( Oct. 30, 2022 )**

South Korea

South Korea's President **Yoon Suk-yeol** declared a period of national mourning on 30 October 2022 after a Halloween stampede killed 151 people in a packed nightlife area in the South Korean capital city of Seoul.

At least 151 people, mostly teenagers including foreigners from China, Iran, Uzbekistan and Norway have been killed in one of South Korea's worst disasters and the world's worst stampedes in decades. The local authorities expect the death toll to rise.

It was the first Halloween event in Seoul in three years to be virtually free of COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing. The stampede happened in an alley near a nightclub in the Itaewon district of Seoul which was packed with people .

## **Halloween festival**

Halloween is based on the Celtic festival Samhain, a celebration in ancient Britain and Ireland that marked the end of summer and the beginning of the New Year on 1<sup>st</sup> November. Halloween is observed every year on **31 October**.

It is believed that during Samhain the souls of those who had died that year travelled to the other world and that other souls would return to visit their homes.

People wear costumes to hide themselves from these wandering souls. Another tradition is the carving of demonic faces on pumpkins.

## **Republic of Korea (South Korea)**

It lies in the Korean peninsula in East Asia.

The Korean peninsula was divided into communist Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and Republic of Korea (South Korea) after the Korean War in 1953.

Capital: **Seoul**

Currency: **South Korean Won**

## **8. Number of TB patients increases worldwide after 20 years: WHO ( Oct. 28, 2022 )**

TB patients increases worldwide

According to a World Health Organisation (WHO) report "**Global Tuberculosis Report 2022**" released on 27 October 2022, the incidence of Tuberculosis (TB) patients worldwide has shown an increasing trend reversing a 20 year trend of decline due to covid pandemic.

According to the WHO a total of **16 lakh people died** from TB in 2021 which is an increase of 14% as compared to 2019. In 2019 14 lakh people died due to TB while in 2020 it was 15 lakhs.

The WHO says that due to the ongoing war in different parts of the world, the global energy crisis and the food crisis, the situation of TB may worsen in the coming times. "The first priority should be to restore patient access to TB related services so that the detection and treatment of TB cases can be brought back to 2019 levels," the report says.

### **Main Highlights of the WHO Report**

- TB is the 13th leading cause of death and the **second leading infectious killer after COVID-19.**
- About 10 million people became ill with TB in 2021, which is 4.5 percent more than in 2020.
- An estimated 66 million lives were saved through TB diagnosis and treatment between 2000 and 2020.
- Globally, TB incidence is falling at about 2% per year and between 2015 and 2020 the cumulative reduction was 11%.
- Ending the **TB epidemic by 2030** is among the health targets of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- In 2021, the largest number of new TB cases occurred in the **South-East Asian Region**, with 46% of new cases, followed by the WHO African Region, with 23% of new cases and the WHO Western Pacific with 18%.

### **India leads the New TB cases**

According to the WHO, in 2020, 87% of new TB cases occurred in the 30 high TB burden countries. Eight countries accounted for more than two thirds of the global total.

Maximum new cases were reported from **India** and followed by, Indonesia, China, the Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

### **TB related Deaths**

**India** ranks first among the four countries that have the highest number of TB related deaths. It is followed by Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines.

The report says that it is possible that TB will once again be the number one cause of death in the world. Last year it was covid -19.

### **What is TB?**

Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by **bacteria (Mycobacterium tuberculosis)** that most often affect the lungs. Tuberculosis is curable and preventable.

TB is spread from person to person through the air. When people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air. A person needs to inhale only a few of these germs to become infected.

### **India and TB**

The government has set a target to eliminate TB from [India](#) **by 2025**.

Every year **March 24** is observed as World Tuberculosis Day in the world.

### **World Health Organisation (WHO)**

- The World Health Organisation is a specialised agency of the United Nations which was founded on 7 April, 1948.
- Headquarters of WHO : **Geneva, Switzerland**
- Members : **194 countries**
- Director General of WHO: **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** of Ethiopia .

## **9. Elon Musk finally acquires the micro blogging site Twitter ( Oct. 28, 2022 )**

micro blogging site Twitter

South African born American billionaire Elon Musk on 28 October 2022 completed the acquisition of the microblogging site Twitter for \$44 billion.

As part of the agreement, the world's richest man will pay \$54.20 per share to common shareholders and will consequently operate the social media giant as a private entity henceforth.

Billionaire and Chief Executive officer (CEO) of Tesla Elon Musk is now the new owner of Twitter and has fired the social media company's four top executives, including Indian-origin CEO **Parag Agrawal** and legal executive Vijaya Gadde.

The 51-year-old has promised to transform Twitter by loosening the service's content moderation rules, making its algorithm more transparent and nurturing subscription businesses, as well as laying off employees.

### **Background to the deal**

On 14 April 2022 Twitter revealed in a securities filing that Musk has offered to buy the company outright for about \$44 billion.

On July 8, Musk says he will abandon his offer to buy Twitter after the company failed to provide enough information on the number of fake accounts.



Twitter sued Musk on July 12 to force him to complete the deal.

A court in Delaware, United States asked Musk to close the deal by 28 October 2022.

### **Twitter Company**

The microblogging site was founded in 2006 in California, United States by **Jack Dorsey, Evans Williams, Biz Stone and Noah Glass.**

The social site provides an online microblogging service that distributes short messages of no more than 280 characters—called tweets.

Headquarters of Twitter: **San Francisco, California, United States**

## **10. Cyclone Sitrang ( Oct. 27, 2022 )**

Cyclone Sitrang

**Bangladesh** has been devastated by **Cyclone Sitarang**, where densely populated, low-lying areas have been badly affected.

### **Important facts**

- This cyclone named by **Thailand** is the first **tropical cyclone** of the post-monsoon season of 2022.
- The India Meteorological Department has predicted that a low pressure area is likely to form over southeast and adjoining east-central Bay of Bengal.
- Due to this, the low pressure area may turn into a cyclonic storm which may affect Odisha, West Bengal, northern part of Andhra Pradesh and adjoining areas.

### **About Cyclone Sitrang**

- A tropical cyclone is an intense circular storm that originates from warm tropical oceans, characterised by low atmospheric pressure, high winds and heavy rainfall.
- The name of this cyclone is given by **Thailand.**
- Cyclone Sitarang comes after Cyclone **Asani**, which developed in the Bay of Bengal in early May this year.
- This will be the **second cyclonic storm** of 2022.
- Cyclones forming in the North Indian Ocean including the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal are named by the IMD.
- **Thirteen countries** – Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen – have been warned of tropical cyclones and storm surge by the IMD.

### **Common names of Cyclone**

- **Hurricanes** – In the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific

- **Typhoons** - In Southeast Asia
- **Cyclone** - In the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific around Australia