

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 29, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu - has notified the Energy Conservation Building Code for commercial buildings**
- ✓ In this regard, the government has passed a GO dated December 27, adopting the code developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)
- ✓ The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) sets minimum energy performance standards for various components of a building.
- ✓ The state is the last one among the southern States to adopt Tamil Nadu Energy Conservation Building Code (TNECBC) 2022 under the Energy Conservation Act.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Power launched the ECBC in 2007 and a revised version was unveiled in 2017.
- ✓ TNECBC sets energy standards to be followed for the energy-efficient design and construction of buildings in order to reduce the energy consumption, without affecting its functions or welfare of the occupants of the building.
- ✓ The code will be applicable to hospitality, health care, business and education sectors, apart from shopping complexes and all government buildings.
- ✓ The TNECBC Rules, 2022, will be applicable to new commercial buildings with connected load of 100 KW or more or contracted demand of 120 kilovolt ampere (KVA) or more or built-up area of over 2,000 Sq.Mt.
- ✓ The code will take into account the building's envelope, comfort system, lighting and electrical system and renewable energy system to decide how energy efficient a building is.
- ✓ TNECBC compliant buildings are estimated to consume up to 50% less energy when compared to conventional building
 - ✓ However, the costs of such energy efficient construction are expected to be more up to 2%.


NATIONAL

- **On December 28, the Centre - announced it would rank the 4,500 cities and municipal bodies on the basis of their financial performance**

- ✓ This will be the first such ranking that aims to create “healthy competition” among the civic entities.
- ✓ The ranking of cities to evaluate will quality of current financial health will be based on 15 indicators across 3 financial parameters - resource mobilisation, expenditure performance and fiscal governance systems.
- ✓ The Centre has been maintaining that robust finances of urban local bodies (ULBs) are crucial for them to emerge as a viable third tier of government.
- ✓ But, the ULBs in the state has several major concerns like meagre revenue from the municipal bodies own sources such as property tax and user charges, high dependence on funding from the state and central exchequer, poor management of finances and delay in audit of financial reports
- ✓ The housing and urban affairs ministry has released the draft guidelines for “City Finance Rankings 2022” which seeks to pave the way for a new era of municipal governance.
- ✓ Further, the “City Beauty Competition” aims to encourage and recognize efforts taken by the ULBs to transform cities and wards across India and create beautiful, innovative and inclusive public spaces.
- ✓ Union urban affairs secretary Manoj Joshi said the idea to introduce such a ranking was proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he interacted with all chief secretaries from states in Dharamsala.
- ✓ Presently, the own revenues generated by the municipal entities in India are barely 0.15% of the GDP compared to 0.6% in developing countries and 2.1% in developed nations.
- ✓ So, the municipal entities are highly dependent on fund transfers from state and central governments to meet their requirements.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) - comes into force from December 29**

COMES INTO FORCE FROM TODAY				
No. of years duty will become zero*	India's offer		Australia's offer	
	Tariff lines (%)	Value (%)	Tariff lines (%)	Value (%)
0	40	85.3	98.3	96.4
3	1.6	0.01		
5	7.2	3.3	1.7	3.6
7	21.2	0.3		
10	0.2	0.05		
Tariff rate quota	0.04	0.7		
Total offer*	70.3	89.7	100	100
Exclusion	29.7	10.3	0	0

*For India: On 125 tariff lines, duty will be reduced and not eliminated

- ✓ Once the ECTA becomes operational, bilateral trade could nearly triple up to \$70 billion in five years from \$25 billion currently.
- ✓ Exports of textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, furniture, sports goods, jewellery, machinery, railway wagons and select agricultural and marine products are seen to be the top beneficiaries in addition to pharma.
- ✓ Australia has also committed to facilitate India's services in IT, ITeS, business services, health, education and audio-visual, among others.

SPORTS

- **India - will host the 10th edition of the Asian Women's Youth Handball Championship in 2023**
- ✓ This was announced by the International Handball Federation (IHF) on December 28.
- ✓ The Handball Association of India (HAI) will have the exclusive rights to host the championship as the only recognised national body affiliated to the IHF and Asian Handball Federation (AHF)
- ✓ The 10-day long event will be organised in Uttar Pradesh's Noida from July 23 to August 1 next year
- ✓ In this regard, the 'host city' agreement was signed between the IHF and HAI's executive director Anandeshwar Panday, in the presence of AHF's technical director, Mohamed Yusuf Taleb.

RANKINGS

- **Katpadi in Vellore, Tamil Nadu - recorded the highest growth in digital payments, with transactions at seven times of what was recorded last year.**

₹20 MOST COMMON TRANSACTION

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Two of every three new users joining Paytm are from smaller cities ➤ Katpadi in Vellore saw highest growth (7x) in e-payments. Vellore Institute of Technology is located there ➤ One user made the most widespread payments in 106 cities (20 states) during the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Another user booked 358 flights between Mumbai and Delhi using Paytm ➤ Among Paytm merchants, the most common transaction was for ₹20 ➤ With a surge in ₹1,001 transactions, Paytm was widely used by brothers for paying shagun to sisters during Raksha Bandhan
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- ✓ Katpadi is a railway junction, and the Vellore Institute of Technology is located there.
- ✓ Varanasi has seen the highest growth in offline QR transactions, with total payments growing 213% over last year.
- ✓ The national capital region (NCR) is also the country's digital payments capital, according to a recap of transactions made during 2022 by Paytm.

- ✓ Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and Jaipur are the next four on the list of the top five cities in terms of transactions.
- ✓ With over 7 crore monthly transacting users, Paytm is a good indicator of trends in digital payments.
- ✓ Among geographies, Chennai and Trichy in Tamil Nadu have the highest percentage of offline payments on food & beverages, while Amritsar saw the highest spend on health and grooming through Paytm.
- ✓ Noida and Nagpur witnessed the highest spending via Paytm on micro sellers or street vendors.
- ✓ The fastest-growing cities in the northeast for UPI transactions are Lohit in Arunachal Pradesh, south Sikkim and Ranipool, and Assam's Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Kamrup.

