



The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

CURRENT AFFAIR BOOSTER

27 - 10 - 2023

Friday



THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

Patliputra Colony, Near Tennis Court; Patna, Contact : 8434931877, 7250667974

THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY



DAILY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

&

QUIZ



UPSC / BPSC

www.achieversiaspatna.co.in

THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

1. RBI directs private banks to have minimum two full - time directors



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked private banks and wholly-owned subsidiaries of foreign banks to ensure the presence of at least two whole-time directors, including a managing director (MD) and a chief executive officer (CEO), on their boards of directors. Is. RBI said that in view of the increasing complexity of the banking sector, it becomes essential for banks to form an effective senior management team to deal with the current and emerging challenges, so that any upcoming challenges can be successfully dealt with. Also, the Central Bank considered it necessary to find a successor. A circular has also been issued for this. The circular said that setting up such a team could help in the bank's succession planning. This is all the more important in the backdrop of regulatory stipulations relating to tenure and upper age limit for MD and CEO posts. The Reserve Bank asked banks to ensure that they have at least two whole-time directors, including the MD and CEO, on their boards to address issues and challenges. However, the Board of Directors of the bank should decide the number of whole-time directors keeping in mind the operational size, business complexity and other relevant aspects. According to the circular, in the context of these instructions, banks which currently do not fulfill the minimum conditions are advised to submit proposals for appointment of whole-time directors within four months. It said that banks whose organization rules do not have provisions related to the appointment of whole-time directors can first seek early approval from the RBI.

2. IRCTC partners with Zomato for pre-booked food delivery



Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has partnered with Zomato to offer wider food options to railway passengers through its e-Catering segment. As part of this collaboration, IRCTC has launched Proof of Concept (POC) at five major railway stations: New Delhi, Prayagraj, Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi. Under this POC, passengers can easily order and receive pre-ordered food through the IRCTC e-Catering portal with the help of Zomato. "It is informed that with a view to enhance the range of options available to railway passengers for ordering food of their choice under the e-Catering segment of IRCTC, IRCTC has introduced a new platform for supply and delivery of pre-ordered food. has signed an agreement with M/s Zomato Ltd. IRCTC's e-Catering portal will be launched as Proof of Concept (POC) in five railway stations i.e. New Delhi, Prayagraj, Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi in the first phase, the company said in a release. This strategic alliance is set to provide rail passengers more choice and convenience in terms of their culinary preferences, making their travel experience more enjoyable and comfortable.

3. Sri Lanka provided free tourist visa to India



Sri Lanka approved free tourist visas for visitors from six other countries including India. Sri Lanka waived visa fees for tourists on 24 October 2023 to boost tourism and boost foreign exchange reserves in efforts to boost tourist arrivals and help rebuild the economy. India is traditionally Sri Lanka's top inbound tourist market.

THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

More than 2 lakh Indian tourists (which is 20% of total tourist arrivals) have visited Sri Lanka by September 2023. The Sri Lankan Cabinet announced the implementation of a pilot project to issue free tourist visas to tourists from China, India, Russia, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Japan till March 31, 2024. The move is part of 'several new programmes' planned to boost the Sri Lankan tourism industry. Tourism is one of the foreign exchange earning sectors in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's tourism sector has been affected by terrorist attacks in 2019, the COVID pandemic in 2020 and 2021, and the economic crisis in 2022. Indian tourists were charged a fee of \$20 for online visa application. The decision to issue free tourist visas is likely to boost tourist arrivals from other countries including India.

4. EU report recommends 2 % global wealth tax on billionaires to curb theft



The EU Tax Observatory's 'Global Tax Evasion Report 2024' calls for a 2% global wealth tax on billionaires to tackle tax evasion, which would potentially generate \$250 billion from less than 3,000 people. The report emphasizes the urgent need to tackle tax avoidance, which enables some billionaires to effectively pay between 0% and 0.5% of their wealth in taxes. Justifies this proposal by highlighting the modest nature of the tax rate in billionaires' wealth growth, which, adjusted for inflation, has averaged 7% annually since 1995. The report evaluates international efforts to combat tax evasion, citing significant progress in some areas. In particular, the automated exchange of bank information has reduced foreign tax evasion threefold over the past decade. Prior to the implementation of this measure, households held an estimated 10% of world GDP in financial wealth held in offshore tax havens, the majority of which were unknown to tax authorities and

belonged to high net worth individuals. Today, despite offshore domestic financial wealth still accounting for 10% of world GDP, only 25% of it escapes taxation, marking substantial progress in combating tax evasion. Some offshore financial institutions do not comply with the requirement of automatic exchange of bank information, often due to concerns of losing their customer base. Furthermore, these institutions generally do not face any major threats or penalties from foreign tax authorities for their non-compliance. Wealthy individuals who previously hid financial assets in offshore banks have shifted their holdings to asset classes not covered under the automatic exchange of bank information, with a particular focus on real estate. The report calls for expanding the types of assets subject to automatic exchange of information to address this issue.

5. Mumbai second most polluted major global city due to poor air quality

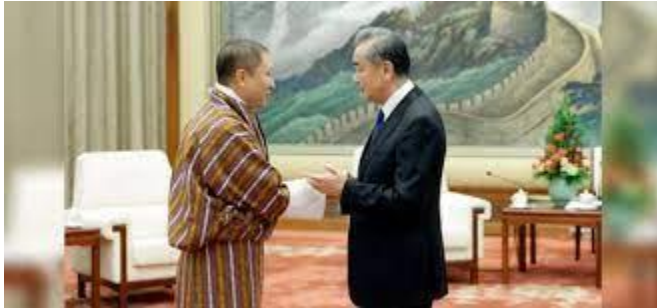


It was the second most polluted city out of 109 locations tracked by IQAir, a Swiss technology company that measures air quality in real time. Delhi was the sixth most polluted city. Beijing was on top. The AQI score is based on the American system where a score between 0-50 is good, a score between 51-100 is moderate, a score between 101-150 is unhealthy for sensitive groups, a score between 151-200 is unhealthy. That is, a score between 201-300 is very unhealthy and more than 301 is dangerous. The concentration of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in Mumbai was 14.7 times more than the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline of five micrograms per cubic metre. In Delhi it was 9.8 times more than the guideline value. As of 5 pm on October 23, the air quality index (AQI) in Mumbai was 160, with Ahmedabad also recording the same index value. Delhi was further behind with an index value of 135. India lost billions of rupees due to air

THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

pollution in 2019. Of this, \$28.8 billion was from premature deaths and \$8 billion was from morbidity. "The economic loss due to lost output from premature deaths and morbidity due to air pollution was 1.36 per cent of India's GDP in 2019." Among states, Uttar Pradesh suffered the highest economic loss at \$5.1 billion. It was followed by Maharashtra with a loss of \$4 billion, followed by Gujarat (\$2.9 billion), Karnataka (\$2.7 billion) and Tamil Nadu (\$2.5 billion).

6. Sino - Bhutan agreement to resolve border dispute



China and Bhutan are working towards resolving their long-standing border disputes. Bhutan's foreign minister visited Beijing for talks with his Chinese counterpart, a sign of progress in the dialogue process. China has disputes with only two of its 14 neighboring countries – India and Bhutan. There have been border disputes between Bhutan and China since the 1980s, particularly in areas such as Jakarlung, Passamlung and Doklam. Despite being a small nation, Bhutan strongly adheres to the principle of equality in international relations. Bhutan adheres to the 'One-China' policy and is willing to resolve border issues to pursue diplomatic relations with China. Doklam is the place where the borders of India, China and Bhutan meet. For India, Doklam holds strategic importance as it connects the Indian mainland to the northeast. Any Chinese control over Doklam could threaten India's Siliguri Corridor, which is crucial for India's connectivity. Bhutan says that discussions regarding tri-junction points (involving India, China and Bhutan) can take place only if India and China resolve their border issues.

7. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh launches Project 'Udbhav' to promote "Indianization"



The Indian Army's latest initiative, named "Udbhav", was officially launched by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh. The project aims to combine India's ancient strategic knowledge with modern military practices to address contemporary security challenges and prepare for future conflicts. According to sources, the move is in line with the government's directive to "Indianize" the armed forces and eliminate vestiges of the colonial era, a TOI report said. Project Udhav has faced criticism from some serving military officers and veterans, who question its relevance in today's digital battlefields featuring drones, smart bombs, space and cyber warfare, ballistic missiles, and supersonic/hypersonic weapons. A senior officer, speaking anonymously, argued that China poses a clear and present strategic threat, so the Army should prioritize modernization and training. The Defense Ministry and the Army are excited about Project Udbhav. During the inauguration of the Military Heritage Mahotsav, Singh and General Manoj Pandey expressed their support for the initiative. Deputy Chief (Strategy) Lieutenant General Tarun Kumar Aich said the project symbolizes the Indian Army's sincere effort to rethink the foundations of India's military thought. It aims to integrate ancient knowledge with contemporary military practices, creating a comprehensive approach to address modern security challenges. For example, the ancient text Arthashastra emphasizes the importance of strategic alliances and diplomacy, which aligns with modern military practices such as international cooperation and soft power projection. Similarly, Thirukkural, a classical Tamil text, advocates ethical conduct in all endeavors, including war, aligning with modern military ethics codes and the principles of the Geneva Conventions. The Army also believes that it is important to study key leaders and battles of the past.

THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

8. NCERT will replace 'India' with 'Bharat' in upcoming books



Amidst the discussion of writing 'Bharat' instead of 'India' in the books, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has said that no such decision has been taken at present. A committee of social sciences constituted by NCERT has given such suggestions to bring changes in the school syllabus. He has also said that victory stories of Hindu warriors should also be included in the syllabus. However, NCERT has made it clear that it is too early to comment on these suggestions. No decisions have been taken on these yet. The committee headed by C I Isaac also suggested inclusion of "Classical History" instead of "Ancient History" in the school curriculum and inclusion of Indian knowledge systems in the curriculum of all subjects. NCERT Chairman Dinesh Saklani said that no decision has been taken yet. Isaac, who has been associated with Sangh Parivar organizations for the past several decades, supported the use of the word Bharat, saying, "Bharat is an age-old name. The name Bharat is used in ancient texts such as the Vishnu Purana, which is 7,000 years old. The word "India" officially came into existence during the G20 summit when the government changed the name from "President of India" to "President of Bharat". "Sent a dinner invitation letter to dignitaries in the name of Bharat. During the summit, Bharat was written instead of India on the nameplate of PM Narendra Modi. Some opposition parties reacted strongly to the panel's recommendations. Congress general secretary KC Venugopal said, "They are suggesting a lot of things. You can see how they are distorting the history of India through textbooks and other things. For us, Bharat and India are the same.

QUIZ

1. When is United Nations World Development Information Day celebrated annually ?

- (a) 24 October
- (b) 25 October
- (c) 26 October
- (d) 27 October

World Development Information Day, celebrated by the United Nations on 24 October each year, serves as a platform to draw attention to critical global development issues and the critical need for increased international cooperation to address them. Established in 1972, the day is dedicated to promoting effective dissemination of information to promote greater awareness of development challenges and to mobilize public opinion, especially among the youth. The occasion has historical significance coinciding with United Nations Day, which commemorates the beginning of the United Nations in 1945.

2. Which country has recently granted free tourist visa to India ?

- (a) Maldives
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Thailand
- (d) Indonesia

Sri Lanka has approved free tourist visas for visitors from six other countries including India. Sri Lanka waived visa fees for tourists on 24 October 2023 to boost tourism and increase foreign exchange reserves in an effort to boost tourist arrivals and help rebuild the economy. India has traditionally been Sri Lanka's top inbound tourist market. By September 2023, more than 2 lakh Indian tourists from India (which is 20 % of total tourist arrivals) have visited Sri Lanka. Tourism is one of the foreign exchange earning sectors in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's tourism sector has been affected by terrorist attacks in 2019, the covid epidemic in 2020 and 2021 and the financial crisis in 2022.

3. India's first Nano DAP plant has been inaugurated in which state?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Punjab

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the country's first Nano DAP plant in

THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

Gandhinagar, Gujarat. On this occasion, he said that nanotechnology will prove to be a game changer in the agriculture sector in the coming days. Nano Liquid Dapp Plant in Kalol has been set up by IFFCO at a cost of Rs 300 crore. IFFCO was established in 1967. Nano DAP (Liquid) is a ground-breaking product which contains 8 percent Nitrogen and 16 percent Phosphorus. This innovative liquid fertilizer is set to replace the traditional 50 kg bag of DAP, which currently costs farmers Rs 1,350.

4. Who has been announced by Lay's as its new brand ambassador?

- (a) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- (b) Alia Bhatt
- (c) Ranbir Kapoor
- (d) all

Lay's has again announced cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its new brand ambassador. PepsiCo India, the company that owns the Lay's brand, announced here that enhancing the joy of cricket that unites the entire nation, Lay's has once again roped in the best and most loved cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador. Added as. Starting his second innings as brand ambassador, Dhoni has been seen in Lay's new campaign 'No Lay's, No Game '.

5. When and how long is Disarmament Week celebrated every year?

- (a) 1 to 7 October
- (b) 9 to 15 October
- (c) 16 to 22 October
- (d) 24 to 30 October

Disarmament Week is observed from 24 to 30 October every year. One of the major goals of the United Nations is to achieve world peace. To this end, the organization marks October 24 to October 30 every year as Disarmament Week. Disarmament Week is celebrated to promote awareness and better understanding of disarmament issues and their cross-cutting importance. There will be a wide discussion during the week regarding protecting people from the dangers of guns. Countries are celebrating Disarmament Week every year in an effort to create a more safe and secure world. To reduce crises and violent conflicts around the world, the United Nations

has played a vital role in the disarmament of nuclear weapons.

6. With which country has the Union Cabinet approved the MoU for Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership?

- (a) France
- (b) Germany
- (c) Singapore
- (d) Japan

The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Cooperation between India and Japan on Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership. A memorandum of cooperation between the two countries was signed in July. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was apprised of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) signed between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan in July 2023. Japan has become the second Quad partner after the US to sign an agreement with India for joint development of semiconductor ecosystem and maintaining the resilience of its global supply chain.

7. Which country has named the cyclonic storm 'Hphoon' in the Bay of Bengal?

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Iran
- (d) Kuwait

Cyclonic storm 'Hphoon' that arose in the Bay of Bengal hit the south-eastern coast of Bangladesh on 25 October 2023. Tropical cyclones that form in the Indian Ocean are ranked by the 13 member countries. Cyclonic storm 'Hphoon' has been named by Iran. 'Hphoon' is a Persian word that refers to temporary desert lakes and marshlands.

8. Which Indian-American was awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation by the US President?

- (a) Vivek Ramaswamy
- (b) Ashok Gadgil
- (c) Arun Mehra
- (d) Ajay Bagga

THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

Ashok Gadgil, distinguished professor emeritus of civil and environmental engineering at UC Berkeley, was awarded the White House National Medal for Technology and Innovation. Gadgil has dedicated his career to developing cost-effective solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems, particularly in developing regions. Gadgil's work focuses on providing life-sustaining resources to communities around the world. They have developed low-cost technologies to address critical issues such as safe drinking water, energy-efficient stoves and affordable electric lighting.

ONE LINER

When is United Nations World Development Information Day celebrated every year – **24 October**

Which university has recently hosted the International Music and Nitya Utsav - **Chandigarh University**

Which Indian won the gold medal in men's discus throw of Asian Para Games - **Neeraj Yadav**

Which country has recently provided free tourist visa to India - **Sri Lanka**

India's first Nano DAP plant has been inaugurated in which state – **Gujarat**

When is Disarmament Week celebrated every year - **24 to 30 October**

With which country has the Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Cooperation for Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership – **Japan**

Which country has named the cyclonic storm 'Hamun' that arose in the Bay of Bengal - **Iran**

Which Indian-American was awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation by the US President - **Ashok Gadgil**

Which countries are working towards resolving their long-standing border disputes - **China and Bhutan**

Who has become the second most polluted major global city due to poor air quality - **Mumbai**