



The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

CURRENT AFFAIR BOOSTER

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Thursday



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

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1. USISPF Global Leadership Award for Philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility to Nita Ambani



Reliance Foundation Founder and Chairperson Nita Ambani was honored with the 2023 USISPF Global Leadership Award for philanthropy and corporate social responsibility. The award was presented by USISPF President John Chambers at a reception in New Delhi attended by key USISPF leaders, Indian business leaders and Indian government officials. Nita Ambani, an acclaimed philanthropist and businesswoman, has impacted the lives of millions of people in India through Reliance Foundation's initiatives in education, arts, sports and healthcare. She champions the interests of women and children, making significant contributions to eliminating the gender divide and enhancing the role of women in India's economy. Nita Ambani became the first Indian honorary trustee on the board of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, acknowledging her significant contribution to art and culture. The Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Center (NMACC) in Mumbai has received widespread praise for promoting world-class performing and visual arts and nurturing Indian talent. As the representative of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Nita Ambani successfully led the Indian delegation that won the bid to host the 141st IOC session in India after four decades. She promotes sports at the grassroots level, supports young athletes across India and advocates the inclusion of cricket in the Olympics at the Los Angeles 2028 Games. USISPF President John Chambers praised Nita Ambani's exemplary work in social responsibility, arts, sports, culture and education, highlighting the importance of giving back to the society. Dr. Mukesh Aghi, President and CEO of USISPF, emphasized Ambani's tireless efforts to enrich the lives of Indians, highlighting his impact on soft power and nation building.

2. Geeta Press Gorakhpur trustee Bajinath passes away at the age of 90



Bajinath Aggarwal, trustee of Geeta Press Gorakhpur, passed away at the age of 90. He joined Geeta Press Trust in the year 1950. Former President Ramnath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also honored him as a trustee. Geeta Press has been awarded the Gandhi Peace Prize in the year 2021 by the Ministry of Culture. Bajinath Aggarwal, a native of Bhiwani, Haryana, born in the year 1933, started his work as an ordinary employee of Geeta Press in 1950 at the age of just 17. In view of his deep faith in religion and his desire to promote culture, he was made the trustee of Geeta Press in 1983. From then till the age of 80, he has discharged his responsibilities very well, during this period, many of his decisions, including the books published in Geeta Press and the use of new technologies and the publication of books in different languages, have shaped the life of Geeta today. Work has been done to take the reputation of the press higher. Geeta Press has been awarded the Gandhi Peace Prize in the year 2021 by the Ministry of Culture. The Gandhi Peace Prize carries a citation with an amount of Rs 1 crore. The Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award, instituted by the government in 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi to honor the ideals propounded by Gandhi. Geeta Press was started in 1923. Its founder was the great Geeta connoisseur Shri Jaidayal Goyandaka. It is one of the world's largest publishers, having published 41.7 crore books in 14 languages, including 16.21 crore copies of Srimad Bhagavad Gita.

3. MobiKwik 's Zaakpay gets RBI in - principle approval to operate as a payment aggregator

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The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted in-principle authorization to MobiKwik's payment gateway Zaakpay to act as an online payment aggregator. This will enable Jackpay to onboard new merchants onto its platform thereby facilitating quick and easy processing of online payments. MobiKwik's payment gateway works with multiple brands across different sectors like e-commerce, mobility and bill payments. It offers over 100 different payment methods across UPI, debit and credit cards, net banking and mobile wallet options. Upasana Taku, Chairperson, Co-Founder and COO, MobiKwik, said, "The digital sector provides an opportunity for small to medium businesses to participate in the digital marketplace and reach consumers across the country even sitting in the most remote areas." Security measures include adherence to security standards such as PCI DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard), PA DSS (Payment Application Data Security Standard), tokenization and security standards issued by regulators and network operators. Strong security measures provide peace of mind to both businesses and customers, thereby increasing trust/confidence in the platform. Zaakpay acts as a catalyst for businesses, enabling them to participate in digital marketplaces and reach consumers across the country, even those sitting in the most remote areas. This is a significant benefit, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and businesses looking to expand their reach into the digital sphere. The ease of onboarding and abundance of payment methods offered by Zaakpay make it an attractive option for businesses looking to reach the huge and growing digital consumer base in India.

4. Global growth rate will decline to 2.9% in 2024: IMF



The International Monetary Fund estimates global growth to be 3 percent in 2023, falling further to 2.9 percent in 2024. This is one of the lowest growth rates in decades. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently revealed its latest economic projections, which show that global growth is expected to slow to 3 percent in 2023 and decline to 2.9 percent in 2024, the lowest growth rate in decades. Is one of. In its "Navigating Global Divergence" report for October 2023, the IMF outlines the key factors contributing to this weak outlook and highlights the key challenges facing the global economy. The IMF's baseline forecast projects a slowdown in global growth from 3.5 percent in 2022 to 3 percent in 2023 and 2.9 percent in 2024. This trajectory falls below the historical average of 3.8 percent recorded between 2000 and 2019. Advanced economies are also expected to experience a decline, with growth rates falling from 2.6 percent in 2022 to 1.5 percent in 2023 and 1.4 percent in 2024. Emerging markets and developing economies may see a slight deceleration in growth, from 4.1 percent in 2022 to 4 percent in both 2023 and 2024. The report suggests that global inflation is expected to gradually decline, from 8.7 percent in 2022 to 6.9 percent in 2023 and 5.8 percent in 2024. The decline was influenced by tight monetary policies and low international commodity prices. However, core inflation is projected to decline at a slower pace, with a return to target inflation not expected until 2025 in most cases. The IMF emphasizes the importance of monetary policy actions and frameworks to manage inflation expectations and effective communication strategies to manage inflation expectations among various stakeholders.

5. Famous 'climate expert' Salimul Haq passes away

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Salimul Haq, a world-renowned climate adaptation science expert and a major voice representing the developing world, passed away in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. He was 71 years old. Haq is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter. Christy Eby, a climate and health scientist at the University of Washington, said Salimul Haq always focused on the poor and the marginalized to ensure that climate change impacts people, their lives, their health and livelihoods. Salimul Haq was born on October 2, 1952 in Karachi, Pakistan. He grew up in Europe, Asia and Africa due to his parents' diplomatic postings, and moved to Britain in the 1970s to study at Imperial College London, where he earned a doctorate in botany in 1978. Salimul Haq helped establish the International Center for Climate Change and Development in Dhaka. He has also been a Senior Assistant and Program Founder at the International Institute for Environment and Development in London and has taught at universities in England and Bangladesh. Queen Elizabeth II honored Haq with the Order of the British Empire, her highest civilian honour, in 2022 for his efforts. Haq published hundreds of scientific and popular articles. In 2022, he was included in the list of top 10 scientists of the world in the science magazine 'Nature'. Salimul Haq was a Bangladeshi-British scientist and director of the International Center for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and a key member of the COP 28 Advisory Committee. He was the lead author of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He also advised the Least Developed Countries group at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

6. India gives 'letter of request' to France to buy 26 Rafale-M fighter aircraft for the Navy



Top defense sources told ANI that the letter of request has been submitted to the French government a few days ago and they are expected to take a decision on the Indian request and respond in the near future. LOR is like a tender document in which the Government of India has specified all its requirements and capabilities that it wants to have in the Rafale maritime aircraft to be purchased. In a significant development, India has submitted a letter of request to the French government for the purchase of 26 Rafale maritime fighter aircraft for the Indian Navy under a government-to-government deal. Top defense sources told ANI that the letter of request has been submitted to the French government a few days ago and they are expected to take a decision on the Indian request and respond in the near future. He said, the LOR is like a tender document in which the Government of India has specified all its requirements and capabilities that it wants to have in the Rafale maritime aircraft to be procured for the aircraft carriers INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya. The Indian Navy and the Government of India are working in fast-track mode to ensure that the acquisition contract is signed as soon as possible and Indian carriers operate highly capable aircraft to ensure an edge for New Delhi in the Indian Ocean region. Can. The Defense Acquisition Council had approved the aircraft deal worth about 5.5 billion euros just ahead of the Indian Prime Minister's visit to France as the state guest for the Bastille Day Parade in July this year.

7. Fincare SFB to merge with AU Small Finance Bank

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The merger with Fincare Small Finance Bank will help AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) foray into micro lending sector and also increase its presence in South India. Two well-known small finance banks of the country have merged. These are AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) and Fincare Small Finance Bank (Fincare SFB). The boards of directors of both the banks have approved the all-stock merger (AU-Fincare Merger) on October 29. Under Section 44A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the merger plan will require approval from the shareholders of both the banks, RBI and the Competition Commission of India. Upon receipt of necessary approvals, Fincare SFB will be merged into AU SFB. Shareholders of Fincare SFB will receive shares of AU SFB in exchange for their shares in Fincare SFB at the approved share swap ratio. All employees of Fincare SFB will become part of the AU SFB family. As per the terms of the merger, Fincare Business Services Limited (FBSL), the promoter of Fincare SSB, will invest Rs 700 crore in Fincare SFB before the completion of the merger. The share exchange ratio has been recommended by Bansi S Mehta Valuers LLP and RBSA Valuation Advisors LLP, independent valuers appointed by AU SFB and Fincare SFB. This has been accepted by the concerned board. JM Financial Ltd. provided fairness opinion to AU SFB on share exchange ratio and IIFL Securities Ltd. provided fairness opinion to Fincare SFB.

8. RBI will regulate cross border payment transactions, issued guidelines



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced its decision to directly regulate all entities facilitating cross border payment transactions related to import and export of goods and services. In a recent circular, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced its decision to directly regulate all entities facilitating cross border payment transactions related to import and export of goods and services. The objective of this directive is to ensure transparency, security and compliance with financial rules in these cross border transactions. RBI in its circular introduced a new category called Payment Aggregator-Cross Border (PA-CB) to include all entities involved in facilitating cross border payments. The move comes in response to the emerging landscape of cross border payments, which has seen significant growth and change in recent years. RBI now wants to bring these entities under its direct regulatory ambit to maintain the stability and integrity of the financial system. To strengthen the regulatory framework, RBI clarified the minimum net worth criteria for non-bank entities providing PA-CB services. According to the circular, entities applying for authorization to operate as PA-CBs must have a minimum net worth of ₹15 crore at the time of application. Additionally, they are required to maintain a minimum net worth of ₹25 crore as of March 31, 2026, demonstrating their financial stability and commitment to the industry. The circular issued by RBI also outlines the procedures for handling online transactions by payment aggregator-cross border entities. These processes are designed to ensure that transactions are conducted in a secure and compliant manner while protecting the interests of both merchants and customers. This is an important step to prevent fraudulent activities and maintain the integrity of the cross border payments ecosystem.

QUIZ

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1. Whose book *Scindia and 1857* was recently launched ?

- (a) Pratik Sen
- (b) Rajendra Mittal
- (c) Rakesh Pathak
- (d) all

The book "" *Scindia and 1857*"" written by senior journalist Dr Rakesh Pathak was launched at Palash Hotel in Bhopal . The program was attended by historian Dr Ram Puniyani was the chief guest . The launch function was presided over by Padma Shri awardee Vijay Dutt Sridhar . Senior journalist Anandvardhan Singh , renowned historian Ashok Kumar Pandey , journalist Sheeba Aslam Fahmi and All India Peace Mission President Sardar Daya Singh were present as distinguished guests .

2. Which country has recently allowed Indians to travel without visas ?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Israel
- (d) Thailand

Southeast Asian country Thailand has recently provided the facility to Indians to travel without visa. Indians can travel to Thailand without a visa during the period from November 10, 2023 to May 10, 2024. Thailand has taken this decision with the aim of promoting tourism in the country. After Malaysia, China and South Korea, about 12 lakh tourists have visited Thailand so far this year.

3. Which drone company has recently received certification from DGCA ?

- (a) Garuda Aerospace
- (b) Paras Defense and Space Technologies
- (c) Throttle Aerospace Systems
- (d) Aero 360

RatanIndia Enterprises - owned drone company Throttle Aerospace Systems has received type - certification from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to manufacture drones . Throttle Aerospace was the first company in India to receive a drone license certificate from the DGCA which was eligible for the Product Linked Scheme of the Government of India .

4. In which country is the world 's first AI Safety Summit being organized ?

- (a) Britain
- (b) France
- (c) USA
- (d) India

The world's first AI Safety Summit has started in the European country Britain, many countries including India, America, France, Singapore are participating in this conference. Union Minister Rajiv Chandrashekar is representing India at the two-day summit starting on November 1 in Buckinghamshire in southern England. This is the first time that such an AI Safety Summit is being organized.

5. Which England cricketer has announced his retirement from international cricket after the World Cup 2023 ?

- (a) Moeen Ali
- (b) Adil Rashid
- (c) David Willey
- (d) Joe Root

England's left arm fast bowler David Willey surprised everyone in the middle of the World Cup. He has announced his retirement from international cricket before the match against Australia. Willey will retire from international cricket following the ongoing ODI World Cup in India. He got a chance to play in three matches of this tournament. Willey has taken five wickets and scored 12, 14 not out and 16 not out in the three innings respectively. David Willey made his debut for England in 2015. He has taken a total of 145 wickets in 70 ODIs and 43 T20s. The current edition of the World Cup has been one to forget for England. He has won only one match out of six. Willie surprised everyone by retiring. Willey has taken 94 wickets in 70 ODIs and 51 wickets in 43 T20s. Willie never got a chance to play Test cricket.

6. Who will chair the International Jury Panel in ' India International Film Festival ' ?

- (a) Akshay Kumar
- (b) Anurag Thakur
- (c) Shekhar Kapur
- (d) Amitabh Bachchan

In a recent announcement, IFFI revealed the distinguished members of its international jury panel,

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with acclaimed filmmaker Shekhar Kapur leading the team. The 54th edition of the prestigious International Film Festival of India (IFFI), an annual cinematic festival, is scheduled to be held in Goa from November 20 to November 28, 2023. As one of the largest festivals of global cinema in South Asia, IFFI is a hub of artistic talent, attracting thousands of cinema lovers and top talent from the international film industry.

7. In which dictionary has the word 'Baseball' related to cricket been added recently ?

- (a) Oxford
- (b) Collins
- (c) Webster
- (d) none of these

Recently the word 'Bazball' related to cricket has been included in the prestigious Collins Dictionary. This word is used to adopt an aggressive approach in the game of cricket. This term was first used by Andrew Miller. This word came into discussion when Brendon McCullum was made the captain of England's Test team.

8. Who is the fastest bowler to take 100 wickets in ODI cricket ?

- (a) Rashid Khan
- (b) Shaheen Afridi
- (c) Jasprit Bumrah
- (d) Kuldeep Yadav

Pakistan's fast bowler Shaheen Afridi has become the fastest bowler to take 100 wickets in ODI cricket. He achieved this feat in a match played against Bangladesh in the World Cup. He achieved his 100 ODI wickets in his 51st ODI match. Earlier this record was in the name of Mitchell Starc of Australia who had achieved this feat in his 52nd match.

ONE LINER

Recently the book Scindia and 1857 written by whom was released - **Rakesh Pathak**

In which dictionary has the word 'Baseball' related to cricket been added recently - **Collins**

Which drone company has recently received certification from DGCA- **Throttle Aerospace Systems**

Who has become the fastest bowler to take 100 wickets in ODI cricket - **Shaheen Afridi**

Which England cricketer has announced his retirement from international cricket after the World Cup 2023 - **David Willey**

Who will chair the International Jury Panel in 'India International Film Festival' - **Shekhar Kapur**

In which country is the world's first AI Safety Summit being organized - **Britain**

Which country has recently given the facility to Indians to travel without visa – **Thailand**

Who is representing India in the world's first AI Safety Summit- **Rajeev Chandrashekar**

Which state recently became the first state to have hall marking centers in all its districts – **Kerala**

Where was South West Asia's largest beverage plant inaugurated recently in Uttar Pradesh - **Amethi**