



The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

CURRENT AFFAIR BOOSTER

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DAILY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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QUIZ



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1. China's strategic move: Extension of China-Myanmar Economic Corridor to Sri Lanka



China strategically prioritizes extending the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) to Sri Lanka while enhancing the influence of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China, in a strategic move, is actively pursuing the extension of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) to Sri Lanka. This development signals China's intention to increase its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) influence in South Asia. During a courtesy call, China's Special Envoy and State Councilor, Shen Yiqin, informed Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe about China's priority to extend CMEC to Sri Lanka. Both sides expressed mutual commitment to accelerate the implementation of the China-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement, indicating emphasis on enhancing economic ties. The China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) has emerged as the newest of the six land corridors under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Its prominence has increased. Sri Lanka, a partner in the BRI, sees the expansion of CMEC as an opportunity to enhance economic cooperation, making a significant contribution to the second phase of the initiative. President Wickremesinghe's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing reaffirmed Sri Lanka's active participation in the Belt and Road Initiative. A joint statement highlighted Sri Lanka's commitment to the BRI proposed by China. Expressing gratitude, President Wickremesinghe acknowledged China's support to Sri Lanka's debt restructuring programme, stressing the importance of bilateral cooperation. Sri Lanka is in the process of finalizing a debt treatment plan with official creditors to receive the second tranche of the International Monetary Fund's nearly \$3 billion package for economic recovery. China has remained an observer in discussions with official creditors, opting to stay out of the official lenders' forum, demonstrating a nuanced approach in its economic negotiations.

2. PwC India will cross the revenue mark of Rs 9 thousand crore with strong growth.



PwC India expects gross revenues to exceed Rs 9,000 crore in the financial year, thanks to strong growth in assurance, tax and advisory services. PwC India is looking forward to achieving a historic milestone, with gross revenues expected to exceed Rs 9,000 crore in the current financial year. Chairperson Sanjeev Krishna expresses confidence in achieving this remarkable feat and attributes this to strong growth across all business segments. PwC India's assurance, tax and advisory services are individually experiencing growth rates of over 20%, with the advisory segment leading the way. This reflects the success of the 'New Equalization Strategy' set in August 2021. Originally aiming to reach \$1 billion in revenue and expand the PwC family by 25,000 people, the company has now exceeded these goals. With a current workforce of 27,000, PwC India is on track to achieve its revenue target by the end of the financial year. Facing increasing competition and growing corporate demand for technology-driven services, PwC India has focused on four key areas, four platforms, five competencies (including cloud, digital and cyber), and global competence centers (GCCs) and managed services. A strategy has been developed focusing on In response to client feedback and the emerging post-Covid landscape, PwC India has adapted its market approach to include fostering greater collaboration within an ecosystem, an emphasis on high-priority clients, a sector-based approach and involves targeting captive opportunities with a more structured strategy. The acquisition of Venerate Solutions as well as PwC India's alliance with Oracle and SAP have proven significant in the technology-driven services space. The company highlights growth in the transformation business and risk service line by riding the wave of digital transformation.

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3. SATHI program under Department of Science and Technology canceled



The recent cancellation of the SATHI program by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has become a matter of concern for researchers and academicians. The recent cancellation of the SATHI (Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Support Institute) program under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has spread a wave of apprehension among researchers and academicians. The move has raised concerns about its potential impact on research funding, particularly in the context of the anticipated launch of the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the potential influence of the private sector in shaping the research landscape. The SATHI programme, launched in 2020, aims to establish centers equipped with advanced analytical tools, promote collaboration and resource-sharing between institutions. With the recent cancellation of the call for proposals under SATHI, educational institutions, especially in Kerala, are worried about the future of their research initiatives. Within the academic community, there is speculation that the cancellation of SATHI could mark the beginning of the National Research Foundation (NRF). The recently passed Research NRF Bill, 2023, envisions a centralized body for research funding with significant reliance on private sector investment. The NRF Bill estimates an allocation of ₹50,000 crore over the next five years, of which about ₹36,000 crore is expected to come from the private sector. This substantial participation of the private sector in research funding has raised concerns about potential changes in research priorities. Researchers fear that as private sector involvement increases, market forces will begin to dictate research priorities. There is growing concern that this may compromise the autonomy of academic institutions, swaying their research agenda towards projects with commercial feasibility rather than a focus on fundamental research.

4. Agreement between Israel and Hamas, 50 hostages will be released



The Israeli cabinet has approved an agreement with Hamas for the release of dozens of hostages from Gaza. Earlier quoting the report of The Times of Israel, it was said that in 4-5 days Hamas will free about 50 children, their mother and other hostage women. The Israeli government has said that it is bound to return all the hostages home soon. Tonight, the government has approved the outline of the first phase of this goal, according to which about 50 hostages, including women and children, will be released within four days, during which there will be a ceasefire. There will be a one-day ceasefire in exchange for the release of 10 hostages. The Israeli government and security services will continue the war to ensure the return of all hostages, the complete destruction of Hamas, and to ensure that Gaza poses no new threat to Israel. The Hamas terrorist group attacked on October 7 and took about 240 Israeli people hostage, including about 40 children, elderly people and dozens of Thai and Nepali citizens. The Times of Israel, citing Channel 12, said that the deal for the release of hostages would also include the release of about 150 to 300 Palestinian prisoners, including women and minor prisoners. Channel 12 has been quoted as saying that the release of the hostages could begin on Thursday or Friday. According to reports, the ceasefire may be extended to allow the release of more hostages after the initial 50 hostages. Now news has come out that the moratorium on fighting will continue for 4 days. Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Galant said that his country has to make a "difficult decision" in the case of people held hostage by the Hamas terrorist group in the Gaza Strip. Will need to take. On November 19, the Washington Post reported that under a temporary agreement between Israel, America and Hamas for the release of dozens of hostages, the fighting in Gaza will remain closed for the next five days (Israel Gaza War). But after some time, PM Benjamin Netanyahu put an

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end to the news of ceasefire. The Washington Post report said that under this deal a six-page deal was signed. Under this agreement, both sides will stop fighting for the next five days and release 50 or more hostages every 24 hours. But after this news, PM Benjamin Netanyahu had said that till now no ceasefire agreement has been reached in exchange for the release of hostages. But according to AFP report, now the agreement for the release of the hostages has been sealed.

5. Ben Stokes will not be a part of IPL 2024



Chennai Super Kings (CSK) announced that England all-rounder Ben Stokes has withdrawn his name from the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 keeping in mind his workload and fitness. Ben Stokes, who was a part of CSK during the successful IPL 2023 season. He has opted out of the upcoming edition keeping in mind England's international schedule and his fitness. England's Test captain and star all-rounder Ben Stokes has decided to withdraw from IPL 2024 to manage his workload and fitness. 32-year-old Stokes became a part of the Super Kings ahead of the successful IPL 2023. He recently participated in the ODI World Cup. "Chennai Super Kings management shares Benn's decision to manage his workload with England before the IPL with a 5-Test series in India and then the T20 World Cup in June 2024," a CSK statement read. Supports. Stokes made his IPL debut for Rising Supergiant in 2017 for Rs 14.5 crore, making him the most expensive overseas player at that time. The English cricketer had a stellar debut season, scoring 316 runs in 12 matches at an impressive strike rate of 142.98. In his 45 IPL matches, Stokes has scored 935 runs and also taken 28 wickets. Due to injury, Stokes was able to play only two matches last season. A source close to Chennai Super Kings suggests that Chennai may choose New Zealand all-rounder Daryl Mitchell as Stokes' replacement.

6. Famous Malayalam writer P Valsala passes away at the age of 85



Award-winning Malayalam writer P. Valsala breathed her last in Kozhikode at the age of 85. Ms. Valsala, a pioneer among women writers in Malayalam, has left behind a rich literary legacy marked by accolades and critical acclaim. As P. Valsala's journey comes to an end, the literary community has mourned the loss of a stalwart. His profound influence on Malayalam literature, marked by admiration, empathy and diverse works, ensures that his legacy will continue to inspire and influence readers for generations to come. During his decades-long writing career, P. Valsala has won recognition from prestigious awards, including the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award, Ezhuthachan Puraskaram and Muttathu Varkey Award. His contribution to Malayalam literature was instrumental in breaking barriers and establishing him as a great figure in the field. P. Valsala, born in August 1938, is particularly celebrated for her critically acclaimed work 'Nellu'. This literary work sheds light on the lives of the tribal communities in Wayanad and presents a poignant exploration of their experiences. The novel displays Valsala's deep empathy and understanding of diverse cultures. Ms. Valsala's illustrious career has seen her receive the Sahitya Akademi Award and the Ezhuthachan Puraskaram for her outstanding contribution to Malayalam literature. His work 'Nizalurangunna Vazhikal' also won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award, adding to his impressive list of literary honours. P. Valsala's literary journey extended beyond novels, comprising more than 20 novels, 300 short stories, biographies and travelogues. His versatile writing style demonstrated a keen observation of the human experience and an ability to tell stories that appealed to readers from different walks of life. The demise of P. Valsala marks the end of an era in

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Malayalam literature. Her pioneering role as one of the few acclaimed women writers in the language has paved the way for future generations. The impact of his work on the portrayal of tribal communities and his wide-ranging contribution to the literary landscape will endure as a testament to his lasting influence.

7. INS Sumedha deployed in Maputo, Mozambique to strengthen diplomatic relations



Mozambique and India have traditionally enjoyed warm and friendly bilateral relations, sharing common values of democracy, development and secularism. There have been regular high-level exchanges and interactions between the two countries in many areas. Indigenously built Indian Naval Ship Sumedha arrived at Maputo, Mozambique on 21 November as a part of extended operational deployment to Africa. The port call is aimed at strengthening long-standing diplomatic relations, strengthening maritime cooperation and promoting interoperability between the two navies. Mozambique and India have traditionally enjoyed warm and friendly bilateral relations, sharing common values of democracy, development and secularism. There have been regular high-level exchanges and interactions between the two countries in many areas. Bilateral defense cooperation is also being taken forward through regular Joint Defense Working Group (JDWG) meetings. Indian Naval ships are regularly deployed overseas as part of the Indian Navy's mission to build 'Mitra Bridges' and strengthen international cooperation with friendly countries. Business interactions, cross deck visits, planning conferences and joint EEZ monitoring are scheduled during the visit from 23 to 25 November. The port call included courtesy calls by the Commanding Officer to various Mozambican dignitaries and government officials, including the Naval Commandant, the Mozambican Navy and the Mayor of Maputo City.

8. Fatima Beevi, the first woman judge of the Supreme Court, dies at the age of 96.



The first woman judge of the Supreme Court and former Governor of Tamil Nadu, Fathima Biwi passed away at the age of 96. Fatima Beevi was born in April 1927 in Pathanamthitta district of Kerala. He completed his schooling from 'Catholic High School' and then obtained B.Sc. degree from 'University College', Thiruvananthapuram. After this, he took a law degree from the Law College, Thiruvananthapuram and registered as a lawyer in 1950. After this he was appointed as Munsif in Kerala Subordinate Judicial Services in 1958. She was promoted as Subordinate Judge in 1968 and became Chief Judicial Magistrate in 1972. Biwi became District and Sessions Judge in 1974 and was appointed as a judicial member of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal in 1980. She was elevated to the Kerala High Court in 1983 and became a permanent judge there the very next year. She became the first woman judge of the Supreme Court in 1989 and retired from there in 1992. After retirement, the wife worked as a member of the National Human Rights Commission. She became the Governor of Tamil Nadu in 1997. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressed condolences on the death of his wife. He recalled his wife's journey from overcoming the educational challenges faced by girls to becoming the first woman judge of the Supreme Court after starting her career in the legal field. Beevi was the first woman from the Muslim community to become a part of the higher judiciary and faced all the adverse aspects of social conditions considering them as a challenge. State Health Minister Veena George condoled the demise of Justice Fathima Beevi, saying she left her mark as the first woman judge of the Supreme Court and Governor of Tamil Nadu.

QUIZ

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1. In which country will the ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup 2024 be organized?

- (a) India
- (b) South Africa
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Australia



The ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup 2024 will be held in South Africa in January, as Sri Lanka will be replaced as hosts, as the ICC Board confirmed at its meeting today. Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) was recently suspended by the ICC for breaching its obligations as a member, namely failing to manage its affairs autonomously and without government interference. Following the board meeting it was revealed that Sri Lanka could continue to compete internationally in both bilateral cricket and ICC competitions, however the funding SLC received would be controlled by the ICC and as a result, the U19 competition was moved to the same country. which hosted the Women's U19 T20 World Cup earlier this year.

2. Saffron of which district of Jammu and Kashmir has been given the tag of Geographical Indication?

- (a) Kishtwar
- (b) Samba
- (c) Bandipora
- (d) Kulgam



Kishtwar Saffron, grown and cultivated in the Kishtwar region of Jammu and Kashmir, has been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry. Kishtwar Saffron, a prized spice cultivated and grown in the Kishtwar region of Jammu and Kashmir, has recently been awarded the coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry. This recognition reinforces the unique identity and quality of saffron produced in the Kishtwar region of Jammu, complementing its already renowned reputation.

3. Whom has Kolkata Knight Riders appointed as their new 'mentor'? Is appointed as?

- (a) Rahul Dravid
- (b) Ajay Jadeja
- (c) Yuvraj Singh
- (d) Gautam Gambhir



Former India opener Gautam Gambhir has been appointed as his new 'mentor' by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). Has been appointed as. Former KKR captain Gambhir will work closely with head coach Chandrakant Pandit. Gambhir was a member of KKR from 2011 to 2017 and also led the team to titles in 2012 and 2014. Besides, his team was also the runner-up in the Champions League T20 in 2014.

4. Which state has recently launched 'Safe City Project' for the safety of women? is introduced?

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Haryana

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Uttar Pradesh government recently launched 'Safe City Project' for the safety of women. is introduced. Under this, it has been decided to monitor the entry and exit points of 17 municipal corporations of Gautam Buddha Nagar through CCTV. Along with this, government and non-government schools, colleges, madrassas and universities in the city will be monitored through CCTV.

5. The world's largest single-site solar power plant has been inaugurated in which country?

- (a) United Arab Emirates
- (b) Qatar
- (c) India
- (d) USA



The United Arab Emirates recently inaugurated the world's largest single-site solar power plant. This is being seen as a big step before the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28). The 2-GW Al Dhafra Solar Photovoltaic Independent Power Project (IPP) is located 35 kilometers from Abu Dhabi city and will generate enough electricity to power approximately 200,000 homes.

6. In which city the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh has established 'Vidya Samiksha Kendra' inaugurated?

- (a) Shimla
- (b) Manali
- (c) Dharamshala

(d) Solan



Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhinder Singh Sukhu inaugurated 'Vidya Samiksha Kendra' in Shimla. (Vidhya Samiksha Kendra), which is a data repository that will contain data of all the schemes run by the Ministry of Education (MOE). The Education Department of Himachal Pradesh has joined hands with ed-tech company Convegenius to set up Vidya Samiksha Kendra in the state.

7. Who was the first woman judge of the Supreme Court who passed away recently?

- (a) Ruma Pal
- (b) Sujata Manohar
- (c) Fatima Biwi
- (d) R Bhanumathi



Justice Fathima Beevi, the first woman judge of the Supreme Court, died in Kollam at the age of 96. She was also the first Muslim woman to be appointed to the higher judiciary of the country. She started her career as a lawyer in Kerala and became a District and Sessions Judge in 1974. She created history by becoming the first woman judge appointed to the Supreme Court in 1989.

8. Who has been appointed as the Additional Director of South Indian Bank?

- (a) Srinivasan Narayan
- (b) Lakshmi Ramakrishna Srinivas

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- (c) Megha Kapoor
(d) Ajay Sinha



Lakshmi Ramakrishna Srinivas, associated with the banking sector, has been appointed as Additional Director of South Indian Bank. He has been appointed as non-executive independent director of the bank for a period of three years with effect from November 20, 2023. Lakshmi has 38 years of experience in the banking sector. Before this she was the Chief General Manager of State Bank of India.

ONE LINER

Who has Kolkata Knight Riders appointed as their new 'mentor' - **Gautam Gambhir**

England's Test captain and all-rounder Ben Stokes has decided not to play IPL 2024, which team is he associated with in IPL - **Chennai Super Kings**

Who has Gujarat Giants appointed as the captain before Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 10 – **Fazel Atrachali**

In which state has President Draupadi Murmu launched the National Education Campaign named "New Education for New India" – **Odisha**

Saffron from which district of Jammu and Kashmir has been given the tag of Geographical Indication - **Kishtwar**

Who has become the fourth Indian to be honored with Pakistan's highest civilian award - **Dr. Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin**

In which country has the world's largest single-site solar power plant been inaugurated- **United Arab Emirates**

In which city did the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh inaugurate the 'Vidya Samiksha Kendra' - **Shimla**

Which state has recently started 'Safe City Project' for the safety of women- **Uttar Pradesh**

Who was the first woman judge of the Supreme Court who passed away recently- **Fatima Beevi**

Who has been appointed as the Additional Director of South Indian Bank- **Srinivasan Narayan**