



The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

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CURRENT AFFAIR BOOSTER

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

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QUIZ



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1. Stock market rules will change, plan to start same day trade settlement



SEBI will implement same-day settlement of trades by March 2024, and also plans to introduce an optional parallel system for instantaneous settlement. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has unveiled an ambitious plan to revolutionize the settlement process in the country's financial markets. In a recent announcement, SEBI chief Madhavi Puri revealed that the regulatory body is actively working on a roadmap to implement same-day settlement of trades by March 2024. Additionally, there are also plans to introduce an alternative parallel system for instant settlement. During a press conference held in Mumbai after the SEBI board meeting, Madhavi Puri highlighted the collective sentiment of both the market infrastructure and brokers. He stressed the critical need for a robust technical pathway that facilitates immediate settlement. Puri underlined the importance of avoiding any interim steps such as a one-hour delay and advocated a direct transition from the existing T+0 settlement system to the instantaneous settlement system. Madhavi Puri outlined the proposed timeline for implementation of the new settlement framework. According to him, market participants have pointed out the need to start the process at T+0 and then move towards immediate settlement. The regulatory body aims to achieve same-day settlement by the end of March 2024, a significant jump from the current T+0 settlement cycle. The move towards same-day settlement and eventually instantaneous settlement is driven by the recognition of the benefits to market participants. Instant settlement reduces counterparty risk, increases liquidity and reduces capital requirements for market participants. By eliminating the waiting period associated with T+1 or T+2

settlement cycles, the market becomes more efficient, transparent and attractive to investors.

2. Indian Immunologicals unveils measles and rubella vaccine for children



Indian immunologists released the vaccine 'Mabella' to protect children from measles and rubella. The vaccine, developed in partnership with Polyvac Institute of Vietnam, was released in Ooty, Tamil Nadu as part of the 25th celebrations of the IIL Division Human Biological Institute. IIL said that this vaccine has been proven safe and effective through extensive human clinical trials. There was an urgent need to release this vaccine to control the deadly measles and rubella. The introduction of Mabela comes after rigorous human clinical trials, which have established its safety and efficacy. The launch of the vaccine addresses the urgent need to control these infectious diseases, which kill nearly a million children worldwide. The significance of Mabela goes beyond its immediate impact on public health, marking an important advance in continuing efforts to combat preventable diseases. Established in 1998, HBI has been at the forefront of vaccine development in India. In the same year, the institute achieved a major milestone with the indigenous development of the country's "first safe vero-cell rabies vaccine" named Abhayrab. This achievement was instrumental in phasing out the use of traumatic nerve tissue vaccine for rabies in India. Today, Abhayrab stands as the best-selling anti-rabies vaccine globally, reflecting the institute's commitment towards innovation and public health. Building on the success of Abhayrab, HBI has introduced a series of vaccines targeted at children. These include DPT, pentavalent vaccine, TT (tetanus toxoid), hepatitis B, MR (measles and rubella), and TD (tetanus and diphtheria). This diverse portfolio emphasizes the Institute's dedication

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to tackling the various health challenges facing children and significantly contributing to the national immunization efforts.

3. India's fiscal deficit reaches 45% of FY20 target in 7 months



India's fiscal deficit for the period between April and October in the current financial year (FY24) has reached 45% of the government's ambitious target of Rs 17.87 trillion. In the first seven months of fiscal year 2023-24, India's fiscal deficit has reached a significant milestone, amounting to 45% of the annual target of Rs 17.87 trillion. The analysis highlights key data and trends shaping the financial health of the country. During the April to October period, the fiscal deficit stood at Rs 8.04 trillion, marking a significant increase from Rs 7.57 trillion in the same time frame of the previous fiscal year. The current fiscal deficit of 45% largely aligns with the same period last year, where the deficit stood at 45.6% of the budget estimate for 2022-23. Government fiscal planning remains important in managing economic stability. Fiscal deficit, representing the disparity between the government's expenditure and revenues, serves as an important metric in assessing economic management and policy effectiveness. By the end of October, the fiscal deficit had reached 39.3% of the full-year target, indicating a dynamic fiscal outlook. This interim assessment provides insight into the trajectory for the remaining months. In the Union Budget, the government underlined its commitment to reduce the fiscal deficit to 5.9% of gross domestic product (GDP) for the 2023-24 financial year. This target marks a strategic step towards fiscal prudence.

4. India takes center stage on QUAD climate initiative at COP28



QUAD's unprecedented focus on climate action at COP28 includes India Pavilion sessions on climate adaptation, Indo-Pacific port resilience and sustainable lifestyles. The upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP28) in the United Arab Emirates will witness an unusual alliance between developed countries like the US and emerging economies like India, uniting under the banner of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD). Despite traditionally being a security-focused alliance, the QUAD, which is currently chaired by India, is making climate action the centerpiece of its agenda. India, which holds the chairmanship of QUAD for 2023, is strategically linking its climate efforts with the goals of the alliance. The QUAD nations – the US, Japan, Australia and India – are set to collaborate on climate adaptation, resilience initiatives and promoting sustainable lifestyles to collectively tackle climate challenges. The Indian pavilion at COP28 is to host key events under the QUAD umbrella, highlighting the alliance's commitment to climate action. Notable sessions included discussions on climate adaptation, resilience for port infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific region and the sustainable lifestyle mantra known as LIFE. On 9 December, the India Pavilion will showcase the achievements of the QUAD Climate Working Group in a session titled 'QUAD Achievements under the Climate Adaptation Pillar'. The session aims to highlight initiatives, address policy challenges and discuss social and governance aspects of achieving resilience. The next day, a session on 'Resilience for Port Infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific Region' will be moderated by India. Expected to include a call to action, the session underlines QUAD's commitment to making port infrastructure resilient to disaster and climate risks. The

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initiative aims to strengthen the port's resilience through short-term, interim and long-term activities.

5. Nepal becomes the first country in South Asia to officially recognize gay marriage.



Nepal has become the first country in South Asia to officially register (recognize) same-sex marriage. Nepal's constitution, adopted in 2015, clearly states that there can be no discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The government on Wednesday formally registered the first case of same-sex marriage, five months after Nepal's Supreme Court legalized it. In such a situation, it became the first South Asian country to do so. According to Blue Diamond Society president Sanjib Gurung (Pinky), 35-year-old trans-woman Maya Gurung and 27-year-old gay Surendra Pandey got legally married and their marriage was registered in Dordi Rural Municipality of Lamjung district in western Nepal. In 2007 itself, the Supreme Court of Nepal had allowed gay marriage on the appeal of an organization working for the rights and welfare of sexual minorities in Nepal. The Constitution of Nepal, adopted in 2015, also clearly states that no one can be discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation. Also on June 27, 2023, the Supreme Court issued an interim order to legalize gay marriage in Nepal in a writ petition filed by several people, including Gurung, but despite the landmark order temporarily registering gay marriage, The Kathmandu District Court had rejected the move four months ago, citing the lack of necessary laws.

6. Government extended the free ration scheme by 5 years, now benefits will be available till December 2028



The government has extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for five more years to provide free ration to 80 crore poor people. Now this scheme will last till December 2028. Union Minister Anurag Thakur said that this will cost the exchequer Rs 11.8 lakh crore. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) was launched in April 2020 to provide assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic for a period of three months. It was done. PMGKAY was later extended. Under this scheme, poor families get 5 kg of grains. PMGKAY was integrated with the National Food Security Act (NFSA). NFSA has 2 categories which include 75% rural and 50% urban population. Under this scheme, extremely poor families get five kg of grain under NFSA at a subsidized ration of between Rs 2-3 per kg. The scheme mainly caters to the families covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH). Apart from this, widows, terminally ill persons, disabled persons or people aged 60 years or more can also avail the benefits of this scheme. Apart from this, tribal families, landless agricultural labourers, rural artisans and persons earning livelihood in the informal sector, including slum dwellers, rickshaw pullers, porters and others in both rural and urban areas. Are eligible for assistance. Families of people living below the poverty line and affected by HIV also benefit from this scheme.

7. IFFI 2023: 'Endless Borders' wins Golden Peacock

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The 54th International Film Festival of India came to a colorful close amid the beautiful aura of cinematic excellence and picturesque surroundings on the magnificent beach of Panaji in Goa amidst the golden glow of sunset over the Arabian Sea. The festival reached its finale with a spectacular closing ceremony attended by eminent personalities, filmmakers and stalwarts from the world of film and entertainment. Persian film *Endless Borders*, directed by Abbas Amini, received the Golden Peacock Award for Best Film at the 54th IFFI. Bulgarian director Stefan Komanderev was awarded the Silver Peacock as Best Director for his film *Blaga's Lessons*. *Blagaz Lessons* actresses Elli Skorcheva and Rozalya Abgaryan received the award on behalf of Stepan Komanderev. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Turkish director Nuri Ceylan, Australian filmmaker Helen Leak and film actress Esha Gupta presented the prestigious award. French actress Mélanie Thierry has been awarded the Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Female) for her stellar role in the film *Party of Fools*. The jury said that the actress has sincerely portrayed to the audience all the emotions expressed in her character, from hope to despair. Juliette Grandmont of the Institut Français received the award on behalf of Mélanie Thierry from Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, filmmaker Jérôme Paillard and playback singer and film composer Hariharan. Indian filmmaker Rishabh Shetty has received the Special Jury Award for his critically acclaimed film *Kantara*. The jury praised the director's ability to present a very important story. According to the jury, "This film, Rooted in the Forest God's own culture, reaches out to audiences irrespective of culture and social status." The award was presented by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant,

Spanish cinematographer Jose Luis Alcain and French filmmaker and IFFI jury member Catherine Dussart.

8. India's GDP grew by 7.6% in the second quarter



The country's economy has grown at the rate of 7.6 percent between July and September in the second quarter of the current financial year 2023-24 (FY24). During the first quarter of this financial year, from April to June, GDP was 7.8 percent. GDP in the second quarter of the financial year 2022-23 was 6.3 percent. According to the report, official data states that India remains the country with the fastest economic growth rate among the major economies of the world. China's GDP (gross domestic product) growth rate stood at 4.9 percent in this July-September quarter. Let us tell you, GDP means the total value of goods and services produced in the country in a certain period. The substantial growth in GDP was mainly driven by strong performance in key sectors including manufacturing, mining and construction. In particular, government spending played an important role in promoting economic expansion during this period. Real GDP, adjusted for constant prices (2011-12), reached ₹41.74 lakh crore in Q2FY24, showing a significant growth of 7.6% compared to 6.2% in the corresponding quarter last year. Nominal GDP at current prices increased to ₹71.66 lakh crore in Q2 2023-24, showing a growth of 9.1% over the previous year. However, this pace was slightly slower than the remarkable 17.2% expansion seen in the second quarter of 2022-23. Second quarter GDP growth exceeded both market expectations and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) estimates. The RBI had maintained a more conservative outlook, expecting real GDP growth of 6.5% for fiscal year 2023-24.

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QUIZ

1. Which team from the African region has qualified for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024?

- (a) Zimbabwe
- (b) Uganda
- (c) Ghana
- (d) Tanzania

Uganda has qualified from the African region for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. The Ugandan team has ensured its place in the top two in the African zone qualifiers. This is the first time that Uganda has qualified for the T20 World Cup.

2. Who has been re-appointed as the CEO of OpenAI?

- (a) Brett Taylor
- (b) Meera Murati
- (c) Greg Brockman
- (d) Sam Altman

Artificial intelligence based company OpenAI has officially again appointed Sam Altman as the CEO of the company. Recently he had resigned from his post. Company co-founder Greg Brockman has again been named as the President of OpenAI.

3. When has International Jaguar Day been celebrated recently?

- (a) 28 November
- (b) 27 November
- (c) 29 November
- (d) 30 November

International Jaguar Day is celebrated to raise awareness of the growing threats facing the jaguar and the vital conservation efforts that ensure its survival from Mexico to Argentina. International Jaguar Day is celebrated every year on 29 November as an important species for biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and a symbol of the centuries-old cultural heritage of Central and South America. It is the largest wild cat in America. The jaguar is the largest carnivore and only big cat in Latin America, found in 18 countries from Mexico to Argentina. Its scientific name is Panthera onca. The jaguar has experienced a loss of more than 50% in its natural habitat range. Jaguars are often confused with leopards, but they can be distinguished by the spots on their bodies. The day aims to draw attention to the

need to conserve jaguar corridors and their habitats as part of efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

4. Union Cabinet approves 'Poor Welfare Foodgrain Programme' For how many years has it been extended?

- (a) 2 years
- (b) 3 years
- (c) 4 years
- (d) 5 years

Union Cabinet approves 'Poor Welfare Foodgrain Programme' It has been approved to be extended for additional five years. Under this, the government will continue to provide free grains to eligible citizens through the scheme. This central scheme was officially launched as Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Where is the 40th Coast Guard Commanders' Conference being held?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Jaipur
- (d) Chennai

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 40th Coast Guard Commanders' Conference in New Delhi. The objective of this three-day conference is to solve the current maritime challenges and strengthen the coastal surveillance system of the country. The Indian Coast Guard was established in 1978 and is working under the Ministry of Defence.

6. In which city will the Expo 2030 World Fair be organized?

- (a) Dubai
- (b) Doha
- (c) Muscat
- (d) Riyadh

Riyadh, the capital of the Gulf country Saudi Arabia, has won the right to host the Expo 2030 world fair. This will be a big event to be held in the Gulf countries after the Football World Cup in Qatar last year. This expo will be organized in Riyadh between October 2030 and March 2031.

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7. India's first 'Telecom Center of Excellence' In which state will it be launched?

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

Uttar Pradesh Government has launched India's first 'Telecom Center of Excellence'. (Telecom Center of Excellence) has been announced. Under this, Rs 30 crore will be spent on 5G-AI research and 6G launch. The UP government has announced the creation of India's first Center of Excellence in Telecom at IIT Roorkee. Under this centre, contribution will also be made in the development of 5G and 6G technology.

8. Which Hollywood actor has been awarded 'Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement'? Awarded?

- (a) Istvan Szabo
- (b) Michael Douglas
- (c) Martin Scorsese
- (d) Carlos Saura

Hollywood actor Michael Douglas received the 'Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement' award at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Has been awarded the award. The 54th IFFI is being organized in Goa. The Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award is an international award instituted by the International Film Festival of India, first presented in 1999.

ONE LINER

At what percent rate has the country's economy grown between July and September, the second quarter of the current financial year 2023-24 (FY24) - **7.6 percent**

India's first 'Telecom Center of Excellence' In which state will it be started – **Uttar Pradesh**

Who has been re-appointed as the CEO of OpenAI- **Sam Altman**

Union Cabinet approves 'Poor Welfare Foodgrain Programme' For how many years has it been extended – **5 years**

Who has recently been named as the President of OpenAI- **Greg Brockman**

When has International Jaguar Day been celebrated recently – **29 November**

In which city will the Expo 2030 World Fair be organized – **Riyadh**

Which Hollywood actor has been awarded 'Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement'? The award has been awarded to – **Michael Douglas**

Where is the 40th Coast Guard Commanders' Conference being held - **New Delhi**

Which team from the African region has qualified for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024- **Uganda**