



The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

CURRENT AFFAIR BOOSTER

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Friday



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DAILY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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QUIZ

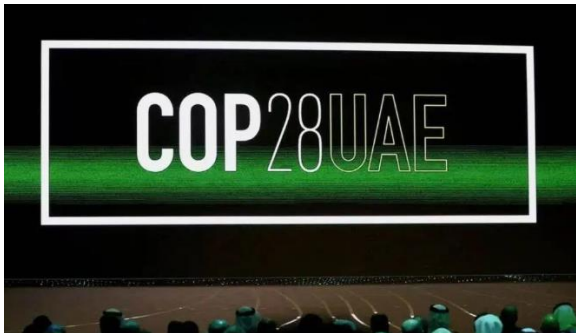


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1. Non-signing of COP28 health and climate declaration a cause for India's concerns



India has chosen not to sign the COP28 declaration on climate and health, expressing apprehension about the feasibility of reducing greenhouse gas emissions for cooling its healthcare sector. India, a notable absentee from the list of signatories at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), abstained from supporting the COP28 declaration on climate and health. The primary point of contention arises from India's apprehensions about the practicality and realization of reducing greenhouse gas emissions for cooling within its healthcare infrastructure. Despite India's overall support for the ministerial event organized by the COP28 Presidency, the World Health Organization and the UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention, the Health Day saw no participation of the Indian Health Ministry delegation. The COP28 declaration on climate and health, signed by 124 countries, underlines the imperative for immediate and substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. It outlines various measures to achieve health benefits through climate action, such as just change, reduced air pollution, active mobility and sustainable healthy dietary changes. India, facing significant health care challenges, has made a commitment towards the reduction of greenhouse gases for cooling applications within its health care facilities. The representative of Kenya highlighted India's concern that such measures could hamper its ability to meet increasing demands for medical services, particularly in remote and underserved areas. Resilient health was previously prioritized in India's G-20 declaration, which focused on

promoting international cooperation to build stronger health care systems, improve access to medical counter-measures, and share digital goods .

2. India's economic growth forecast in 2023-2025



Financial institutions are optimistic about India's economic growth. Goldman Sachs raised its 2023 forecast to 6.7%, Morgan Stanley revised fiscal 2024 down to 6.9%. Various financial institutions have revised India's growth forecasts. Goldman Sachs raised its 2023 forecast to 6.7% but kept 2024 at 6.2%. Morgan Stanley raised its FY2024 forecast to 6.9%, while Citi cited investment for a 6.7% forecast. SBI Research and DBS see growth rising, and IDFC First Bank has raised its GDP forecast to 6.7%. Bank of Baroda expects growth in FY21 citing government support and festive stimulus. Goldman Sachs has raised India's growth forecast for calendar year 2023 by 20 basis points, now at an impressive 6.7% year-on-year. However, their optimism is cautious as the forecast for 2024 remains unchanged at 6.2%. Morgan Stanley, adopting a bullish stance, has increased its growth forecast for fiscal year 2024 to 6.9% from the previous 6.4%. While optimism remains, the forecast for fiscal year 2025 remains stable at 6.5%. Citi attributes the significant increase in investment activity to the growth in GDP forecast for fiscal year 2024, now at 6.7% (an increase of 50 basis points). This underlines the importance of economic drivers in shaping the growth path. Axis Capital has joined the positive group, raising its estimate to 6.7% with identified upside risks. In contrast, Nuwama Institutional Equities has maintained a conservative

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stance, maintaining its GDP growth forecast at 6.5%, reflecting the diversity of views among financial institutions.

3. Manufacturing sector lifted Indian economy in Q2 as GDP growth beat all estimates



After slow growth in consecutive quarters, the manufacturing sector has managed to become the highlight of India's GDP data in the July to September quarter. India's GDP growth in the second quarter stood at 7.6 percent, which is higher than the 6.2 percent recorded in the same period last year. Among all components, it was the manufacturing sector that recorded the highest growth of 13.9 per cent in the second quarter, beating all estimates. A surge in industrial activity managed to lift the Indian economy in a quarter that saw hampered rural demand due to El Nino conditions. Economists did not expect a massive positive increase in GDP growth this quarter. However, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said that the growth figures would be a surprise. "Given the pace of economic activity and many of the early data points and indicators that have emerged, I can say with confidence that the second-quarter GDP figures, expected to be released in late November, will in all likelihood Will surprise. Das said at the Business Standard Conclave. The central bank itself had estimated 6.5 percent growth in the second quarter. Rating agencies had also predicted a slowdown in growth in the last quarter. However, the growth numbers have highlighted some interesting trends. In Q1 FY24, manufacturing witnessed

a slow growth of 4.7 per cent. The GDP growth of 7.8 per cent in the first quarter was driven by the services sector which managed to register good figures in high frequency indicators.

4. Survey ship of Indian Navy, will become hospital in war



Four special survey vessels are being built for the Indian Navy. The first of these ships, 'Sandhyak' (Yard 3025), was handed over to the Indian Navy on 4 December. In their secondary role, these ships will provide limited security and act as hospitals during war and emergencies. The primary role of this vessel is to conduct complete coastal and deep-water hydrographic survey of port access routes. Also, it is the function of the ship to determine navigation channels or routes. According to the Defense Ministry, its operational area includes EEZ, maritime boundaries up to the Extended Continental Shelf. These vessels will also collect oceanographic and geophysical data for defense and civil applications. The ship has a displacement of approximately 3,400 tonnes and is 110 meters long. 'Sandhyak' is fitted with state-of-the-art hydrographic equipment such as data acquisition and processing system, autonomous underwater vehicle, remote piloted vehicle, DGPS Long Range Positioning System, digital side scan sonar. Powered by two diesel engines, the vessel is capable of achieving a speed of more than 18 knots. According to the Defense Ministry, the process of construction of this ship started on 12 March 2019. This ship was launched on 5 December 2021. The ship has undergone extensive trials in port and at sea. After this, it was handed over to the Indian Navy on 4

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December 2023. In terms of cost, Sandhyak has more than 80 percent indigenous content. The Defense Ministry says that the delivery of Sandhyak is a confirmation of the encouragement being given by the Government of India and the Indian Navy towards 'self-reliant India'. The induction of Sandhyak, despite COVID and other geopolitical challenges during construction, is the result of collaborative efforts of a large number of stakeholders, MSMEs and Indian industry towards enhancing the nation's maritime power in the Indian Ocean region.

5. Indian-origin Novelist Meira Chand receives Singapore's most prestigious art award



Indian-origin novelist Meira Chand has been awarded the Cultural Medallion, Singapore's most prestigious arts award, in support of her artistic activities. Chand, 81, born to Swiss-Indian parents, is the first English-language female writer to be awarded the medallion since Ho Minphong in 1997, according to a report. She was presented the awards by President Tharman Shanmugaratnam along with fellow novelist Suchen Christine Lim and Malay dance legend Osman Abdul Hamid at a ceremony held at the Istana on Tuesday. The award was started on the initiative of the late President and then Minister of Culture Ong Teng Cheong. Each recipient is given a grant of 80 thousand Singapore dollars. Tharman Shanmugaratnam said in a statement, 'Each of our 3 new Cultural Medallion recipients are being honored for their explorations through life and for inspiring many others, not least the next generation of artists. As an award-winning novelist, Chand is known

for his portrayal of multicultural societies. His book, *The Painted Cage*, was longlisted for the Booker Prize. Born in London to a Swiss mother and Indian father, Meera was educated in Britain. Her writing career began in India where she lived for five years and described it as a 'life-changing experience'. Chand writes on her website about her experience in India: 'For the first time in my life, I met the half of myself I never knew. There was no way for me to understand that experience except through writing.' According to his website, his novels, *House of the Sun*, *A Far Horizon* and *The Pink White and Blue Universe*, are based on his stay in India and the country's influence on him. Are a reflection of indelible impact. Since its inception in 1979, the Cultural Medallion Award has been given to 135 artists.

6. Madagascar Court selects Andrey Rajoelina for the post of President



The Constitutional Court of Madagascar confirms the re-election of President Andres Rajoelina to his third term. The court declared Rajoelina the winner with 59% of the votes. The Constitutional Court of Madagascar recently confirmed the re-election of President Andrés Rajoelina, his third term in office. The court declared Rajoelina the winner with 59% of the votes. The election was fraught with significant challenges, including the withdrawal of ten of the thirteen presidential contenders. Despite their withdrawal, their names remained on the ballot, adding a layer of complexity to an already controversial electoral process. Opposition parties criticizing Rajoelina's candidacy for a third term urged his

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supporters to abstain from voting, resulting in a historically low turnout of 46%. The head of the Constitutional Court, Florent Rakotoarisoa, declared Rajoelina's victory and confirmed that he had been elected president for a third term. The court's decision further escalated the controversy surrounding the election, particularly given concerns over electoral fairness and opposition calls for its annulment. The opposition raised various concerns, including doubts over the legitimacy of Rajoelina's candidacy due to his dual French nationality. Additionally, allegations of unfair electoral conditions were made, with Rajoelina accused of creating an environment that favored his re-election. Despite these claims, the Constitutional Court rejected the opposition's bid to void Rajoelina's candidacy, setting the stage for a controversial outcome.

7. FDI scenario: ₹1 lakh crore proposals from India's border neighbors



Since April 2020, India has attracted a total of ₹1 lakh crore FDI offers from countries sharing its land borders, including China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and Afghanistan. A significant development occurred in April 2020 when the government made prior approval mandatory for such investments to protect domestic firms amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The government takes a nuanced approach, evaluating proposals based on their potential to increase manufacturing capabilities. The emphasis is on whether the applications add substantial value to India's industrial landscape. An inter-ministerial committee has

been set up to thoroughly examine FDI proposals. Sectors attracting the most interest include manufacturing (heavy machinery, automobiles, auto components), computer software and hardware, trading, e-commerce and light engineering/electrical manufacturing. Other nations: Varying amounts were received, including US\$0.08 million from Bangladesh, US\$4.51 million from Nepal, US\$9 million from Myanmar, and US\$2.57 million from Afghanistan. China's SAIC Motor recently formed a joint venture with JSW Group to boost MG Motor's growth in India and address its capital challenges. In this venture, JSW Group holds 35% stake in the Indian joint venture operations.

8. Kolkata becomes the safest city for the third consecutive year: NCRB



According to a recent National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, Kolkata, formerly known as Calcutta, has secured its position as India's safest city for the third consecutive year. In a recent report published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Kolkata has emerged as the safest city in India for the third consecutive year. The city recorded the lowest number of cognizable crimes per lakh population among metros, marking a remarkable achievement in ensuring public safety. NCRB data showed that Kolkata recorded 86.5 cases of cognizable crime per lakh people in 2022. This is a significant decline from 103.4 cases last year, showing a steady decline. In 2020, this number was

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higher at 129.5, indicating a positive trend in crime reduction. Kolkata was followed in the ranking by Pune with 280.7 cases of cognizable crime per lakh population and Hyderabad with 299.2 cases. The report released the rankings after comparing 19 cities with a population of more than 20 lakh, emphasizing Kolkata's significant achievement in maintaining its position as the safest city. While Kolkata excelled in overall safety, the report highlighted a rise in crimes against women. The number of cases increased from 1,783 in 2021 to 1,890 in 2022. Kolkata recorded a crime rate against women of 27.1 per lakh population, surpassing the figures of Coimbatore (12.9) and Chennai (17.1). Despite the increase in crimes against women, Kolkata saw a decline in violent crimes. The city recorded 34 murder cases in 2022, down from 45 last year. Additionally, the number of reported rapes remained stable at 11 cases in both 2021 and 2022.

QUIZ

1. Who has recently taken charge as the Executive Director of IBBI?

- (a) Rajesh Unni
- (b) Jitesh John
- (c) Puneet Vidyarthi
- (d) none

Shri Jitesh John took charge as the Executive Director of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) in New Delhi. Immediately before joining, he was serving as Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Power. Shri Jitesh John is a 2001 batch Indian Economic Service officer. He has served for more than 21 years in various positions in the Government of India. He has experience of working in the financial sector, energy sector, infrastructure sector and small and medium enterprises sector. He has a master's degree in economics.

2. In which country will the Men's Volleyball Club World Championship 2023 be organized?

- (a) India

(b) Singapore

(c) France

(d) UK

Men's Volleyball Club World Championship 2023 will be held at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium in Bengaluru (India). This is the first time that this prestigious tournament will be organized in India. Top six teams are participating in this tournament. The Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) is the international governing body for all forms of volleyball. Its headquarters is located in Lausanne, Switzerland.

3. Which Indian-origin novelist was honored with Singapore's highest art honour?

- (a) Alka Singh
- (b) Meera Chand
- (c) Asha Lata
- (d) Preeti Desai

Singapore-based Indian-origin writer Meera Chand, 81, was honored with the Cultural Medallion, the country's most prestigious art honour, for her artistic excellence and her contribution to enriching the country's art and culture landscape. President Tharman Shanmugaratnam presented the award to Chand along with fellow novelist Suchen Christine Lim and Malay dance legend Osman Abdul Hamid.

4. Who is the title sponsor of 'Patna Pirates' team of Pro Kabaddi League?

- (a) Dream 11
- (b) Steel Authority of India
- (c) Bihar Government
- (d) Vivo

Bihar government will sponsor 'Patna Pirates' team of Pro Kabaddi League. Bihar Government will be the title sponsor of "Patna Pirates" team of Pro Kabaddi League. Patna Pirates players will play wearing jerseys with 'Anandmay Bihar' written on them. Bihar is becoming a sponsor of any sport for the first time. Sandeep Kumar of Patna has been selected for the first

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time in the team of Patna Pirates from Bihar in Pro Kabaddi League.

5. Who has taken charge as the Executive Director of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India?

- (a) Jitesh John
- (b) Ajay Kapoor
- (c) Anand Kishore Mathur
- (d) Arvind Sinha

2001 batch Indian Economic Service officer Jitesh John has taken charge as the Executive Director of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). In October this year, Sandeep Garg was made a full-time member of IBBI. IBBI is a major body enforcing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

6. Which Mahaparinirvan day of Bharat Ratna Dr. BR Ambedkar was celebrated?

- (a) 85th
- (b) 86th
- (c) 87th
- (d) 88th

The nation is paying tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar on his 68th Mahaparinirvan Day. President Draupadi Murmu paid floral tributes to Babasaheb Ambedkar in the Parliament complex in New Delhi. He was born on April 14, 1891 in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh. He was the chairman of the drafting committee of the Constituent Assembly and is also known as the father of the Indian Constitution. In the year 1947, Dr. Ambedkar became the Law Minister in the first cabinet of independent India.

7. Which Union Minister launched a nationwide public awareness campaign on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)?

- (a) Anurag Thakur
- (b) Piyush Goyal
- (c) Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
- (d) RK Sinha

Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched a nationwide public awareness campaign on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) awareness program run by NBEMS. This is the first CPR awareness program in the country, which has been conducted at the national level.

8. The first survey ship (large) 'Sandhyak' was handed over to the Indian Navy, who built it?

- (a) Cochin Shipyard Limited
 - (b) Tebma Shipyard Limited
 - (c) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
 - (d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers
- Sandhyak (Yard 3025), the first of four Survey Vessels (Large) being built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, was delivered to the Indian Navy. The contract for these four survey vessels was signed on 30 October 2018. Its construction started on 12 March 2019. More than 80 percent indigenous ingredients have been used in preparing 'Sandhyak'.

ONE LINER

Who has received international honor for renewable efforts in recent COP-28 - **Bihar**

Who has become the first woman medical officer of the Indian Army to be deployed in Siachen - **Geetika Kaul**

Who has recently taken charge as the Executive Director of IBBI – **Jitesh John**

Which Mahaparinirvan day of Bharat Ratna Dr. BR Ambedkar was celebrated - **86th**

Which Union Minister launched the nationwide public awareness campaign on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) - **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**

The first Survey Ship (Large) 'Sandhyaak' was handed over to the Indian Navy, built by - **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers**

In which country will the Men's Volleyball Club World Championship 2023 be organized - **India**

Which Indian-origin novelist was honored with Singapore's highest art honor - **Meera Chand**

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Who is the title sponsor of 'Patna Pirates' team of Pro Kabaddi League - **Government of Bihar**

Where is the state of Haryana in terms of sexual exploitation in India - **4**

