



The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

CURRENT AFFAIR BOOSTER

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Monday



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DAILY

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QUIZ



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1. Sri Lanka again gets assistance from IMF, will give 337 million dollars to stabilize the economy



Sri Lanka has been facing challenges on many fronts for the last few years. Due to the economic crisis in the country, there is shortage of food, electricity and fuel. Last year, Sri Lanka defaulted on its debt repayment obligations, due to which it had to enter into a bailout deal of three billion euros with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Now once again the country has looked towards the IMF for help. In this regard, the Executive Board of the IMF has completed the first review under the 48-month extended fund facility with Sri Lanka. It has also been decided that assistance of about \$337 million will be provided to the country facing cash crunch to restore macroeconomic and credit stability. Peter Breuer, Sri Lanka's senior mission chief, said the debt restructuring deal with China was carried out on a highly confidential basis to conclude the first review of the IMF's \$2.9 billion release. Sri Lanka has taken a lot of loan from China. It has to give 52 percent of its total debt to China. China, India and Japan rank among the top three bilateral lenders to Sri Lanka. While significant debt comes from these countries, a large portion raised through International Sovereign Bonds (ISBs) is owed to private lenders. The IMF has urged Sri Lanka to reach a solution with both official creditors and external private creditors on comparable terms for a comprehensive debt restructuring. The IMF acknowledges Sri Lanka's commendable progress in restoring debt sustainability, increasing revenues, rebuilding reserve buffers, reducing inflation, and safeguarding financial stability. However, the IMF underlines the critical importance of improving governance and a strong commitment to protecting the poor and vulnerable in the face of ongoing austerity measures.

2. Plastic surgeon Dr. Atul Shah received the 'Game-Changing Innovator' award at COP28.



Making India proud at the COP28 Climate Conference held in Dubai, plastic surgeon Dr. Atul Shah was honored with the prestigious "Game-Changing Innovator" award for his innovative work. The award not only recognized Dr. Shah's tireless efforts, but also underlined his contribution to the lives of patients affected by leprosy. Three decades ago, Dr. Shah realized that the physical deformities of patients suffering from leprosy could be cured even without special equipment. With this thinking, he developed "Gujarat Model", which is a simple and effective method of surgery for deformed limbs due to leprosy without any expensive equipment. This innovation was also adopted by other states in the country, and recently Dr. Shah was honored with the "Game-Changing Innovator" award by REACH (Recognizing Excellence Around Champions of Health) for his contribution. Dr. Shah was selected by the jury from over 800 applications and 15 finalists. He said, "This award is a recognition of my efforts in the field of leprosy. This award gives me the resolve to do more and bring positive change in the lives of people affected by leprosy." The basic principle of Dr. Shah's success is based on ingenuity and creativity. Their technology is low-cost, easy to learn and can be implemented even in rural areas. This saves leprosy patients from expensive treatment and traveling to cities, and also increases their self-confidence and social acceptance. Dr. Shah's innovation is not just a medical achievement, but also an inspiring example of social change. He has proved that even with limited resources, big change can be brought about. His work is an inspiration to the global health sector and shows that even seemingly impossible

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challenges can be overcome with creative thinking and determination.

3. UN peacekeeping mission in Mali officially ends after 10 years



The United Nations has officially ended its decade-long peacekeeping mission in Mali after 10 years because the force was inadequate to address the growing threat of violent extremism. The United Nations has officially ended its decade-long peacekeeping mission in Mali after 10 years, responding to government claims that the force was inadequate to address the growing threat of violent extremism. The move marks the end of the deadliest peacekeeping mission globally, with more than 300 personnel casualties. The withdrawal comes as Mali continues to grapple with challenges from an Islamic extremist insurgency since 2012. Mali, a landlocked West African country, faces significant challenges in containing the Islamic extremist insurgency that emerged in 2012. Despite a French-led military campaign that drove extremist rebels from northern cities in 2013, rebels regrouped in the desert and resumed attacks on the Malian army and its allies, including UN peacekeeping forces. In June, Mali's junta requested the UN mission leave, arguing that it did not adequately address the country's security needs. The French army had left last year under pressure from the junta. The decision reflects growing concerns about the effectiveness of international peacekeeping efforts and their reception in regions facing security crises. The UN mission in Mali has suffered heavy losses, with more than 300 personnel losing their lives during the peacekeeping operation. The challenging terrain and persistent threat of violent extremism have contributed to the mission's high casualty rate, making it the world's deadliest peacekeeping mission.

4. Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Mann launched the scheme for doorstep services



Aam Aadmi Party national convenor Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann launched the 'Mann Sarkar, Tuhade Dwar' scheme from Ludhiana on Sunday. Both the leaders flagged off the doorstep operators. Under this scheme, about 4000 operators have been recruited across the state. Under this scheme, the people of Punjab will get the benefit of 43 types of government services sitting at home. People will just have to call number 1076. Now people will not have to visit government offices. Under the scheme, people will get the benefit of many services including birth-death, marriage, income, residence, caste, rural area, border area and other certificates sitting at home. However, facilities like arms license, Aadhar card and stamp paper will not be included in it. Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann said that after Delhi, this scheme has been started in Punjab. Now 43 types of services will knock at your door. Addressing a rally, Chief Minister Mann emphasized that this initiative will restore the pride and dignity of the common man in the state. He envisioned a future where the inconvenience of going to government offices would be eliminated. The toll-free number 1076 will act as a catalyst for efficient service delivery, ensuring that government services reach the doorsteps of citizens within a specified time frame. Mann stressed that the 92 AAP MLAs, including him, will actively monitor the scheme to prevent exploitation and benefit the common man. Regular inspections and commitment to the welfare of citizens are intended to distinguish this government from its predecessors, who were accused of plundering the people rather than facilitating them.

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5. India and Oman negotiate fast-track free trade agreement to boost economic ties



India's commerce department officials are actively negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA) with Oman in Muscat, aiming to seal a deal by the end of the month. A team of officials from India's commerce department is currently in Muscat, engaged in negotiations for a comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA) with Oman. The department has set an internal deadline of the end of the month to finalize the deal. This development assumes significance as talks between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have faced hurdles, especially with Saudi Arabia, delaying progress by more than a year. If successful, Oman will become the second GCC member after the UAE to sign an FTA with India. Sources suggest that the FTA with Oman is expected to follow the template of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed between India and the UAE in February 2022. This approach is seen as a strategic move to strengthen economic ties with West Asia. Oman is currently India's 29th largest trading partner, with bilateral trade seeing strong growth. From \$3.15 billion in FY2012, trade grew to \$4.48 billion during FY2013, showing a substantial growth of 42% year-on-year. In the last fiscal year, petroleum products, especially motor gasoline, accounted for almost half of India's exports to Oman. A report by Delhi-based Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) suggests that the FTA could significantly increase India's exports to Oman. More than 80% of India's goods currently attract 5% import duty in Oman, totaling \$3.7 billion. The FTA aims to eliminate these duties, which would benefit key exports such as gasoline engines, iron and steel, electronics, machinery and textiles.

6. After controversy over Protem Speaker, Congress MLA Gaddam Prasad becomes Speaker of Telangana Assembly



Congress leader Gaddam Prasad Kumar took charge as Assembly Speaker in Telangana. Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) and the Left unanimously elected him as the new speaker. Earlier, BJP MLAs had refused to take oath under Protem Speaker Akbaruddin Owaisi, brother of AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi. He had also submitted a memorandum to the Governor in this regard. After which, the new Assembly Speaker administered the oath to the BJP MLAs. Congress MLA Gaddam Prasad Kumar filed his nomination for the post of Speaker along with CM Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu, other cabinet ministers, former minister and BRS working president KT Rama Rao and other MLAs. . Gaddam Prasad Kumar contested the assembly elections for the first time in 2009. He contested the election on Congress ticket and won from Vikarabad assembly constituency by a huge margin. In 2012, she was inducted into the state cabinet led by then CM N Kiran Kumar Reddy as the Minister of Handlooms and Textiles in undivided Andhra Pradesh. In 2014, after the bifurcation of the state, Gaddam lost to Telangana Rashtra Samithi (later renamed Bharat Rashtra Samithi) candidate B Sanjeeva Rao. In the 2018 elections also, he had to face defeat from BRS's M Anand. After being elected MLA, Akbaruddin Owaisi was elected Protem Speaker of the House. He administered the oath of office to the newly elected MLAs on 9 December. However, all eight BJP MLAs refused to read the oath. He said that the appointment of Akbaruddin Owaisi as Protem Speaker is a violation of the rules.

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7. British Indian composer on the jury of the 2024 Booker Prize



Renowned British-Indian composer Nitin Sawhney, who has composed music for over 70 films including Warner Bros.'s *Mowgli* and *Midnight's Children*, has been announced as one of the 2024 Booker Prize judges. Artist and writer Edmond de Waal has been named chairman of the jury. Apart from Sawhney, 59, other members will also include novelist Sarah Collins, Guardian fiction editor Justin Jordan and author and professor Yiyun Lee. Applications for the prestigious literary award have opened. The five-member jury will look for the best works of long-form fiction by authors of any nationality, written in English and published in the UK and/or Ireland between 1 October 2023 and 30 September 2024. Sawhney, a recipient of the Ivor Novello 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award, has recorded several albums and over 70 film and TV scores. These include adaptations of 1981 Booker Prize winner Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* and Booker-shortlisted novelist Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*, as well as *Mowgli: Legend of the Jungle*, *Human Planet*. The music prodigy holds eight honorary doctorates from UK universities and is on the board of several charities, including Complicit. For the past four years he has been Chairman of the PRS Foundation, the UK's funding body for new music and talent development. He is also a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts and the Grammy Awards. A regular cultural and political commentator, Sawhney has written articles for all the major UK broadsheets and is due to release an anthology of his written work next year. His latest album for Warner Music, *Identity*, was released in October 2023. The Booker Dozen of 12 or 13 books shortlisted for the Booker Prize will be announced in

July 2024, with six books being shortlisted in September. The winner of the Booker Prize 2024 will be announced in November. The winner will receive 50 thousand British pounds and also 2,500 British pounds will be given to each of the six shortlisted writers.

8. KS Reddy appointed as the new Police Commissioner of Hyderabad City



In an important step towards ensuring clean governance, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has appointed experienced police officers to lead the Hyderabad and Cyberabad police commissionerates. The appointments of Kothakota Srinivas Reddy and Avinash Mohanty mark a strategic change in leadership to maintain integrity and transparency in law enforcement. Kothakota Srinivas Reddy, a distinguished officer with a track record of effective leadership, is set to take over the role of Hyderabad Police Commissioner. Having served as the Superintendent of Police of Mahabubnagar district and later leading the elite anti-Maoist force Greyhounds, Srinivas Reddy has played a key role in redefining the training module and intensifying search operations. Veteran 2005 batch officer Avinash Mohanty has been appointed as Cyberabad Police Commissioner. With a background in administration and a previous role as Joint Commissioner of Police, Administration in Cyberabad, Mohanty brings a wealth of experience to his new position. Mohanty's track record is remarkable, he has served as DCP Traffic, Cyberabad and then as DCP, Central Crime Station, Hyderabad. G.Sudhir Babu, a 2001 IPS officer, is the new Rachakonda Police Commissioner replacing D.S.Chauhan. With experience as Additional Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Hyderabad and roles in Warangal, Sudhir Babu has a

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proven record of raising policing standards, exemplified by his impressive tenure as DCP Task Force in Hyderabad City.

QUIZ

1. How many countries participated in the Admiral Cup Sailing Regatta 2023?

A- 21 countries

B- 20 countries

C-08 countries

D- 19 countries

This edition of Admiral Cup Sailing Regatta 2023 saw participation from 20 countries and Indian teams from Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala and National Defense Academy, Khadakwasla. The 12th edition of 'Admiral's Cup' Sailing Regatta concluded with a grand reception at the Ettikulam Beach of the Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala. The Italian team led by Midshipman Avalon Antonio and Midshipman Creati Carlo Leonardo captured the Admiral Cup 2023. The Indian team was the runner-up of this competition. Team India, represented by Midshipman PPK Reddy and Cadet GY Reddy, performed brilliantly. The British team was commanded by British Naval Officer Cadet Lucy Bell and Midshipman Aaron Middleton and the German team was led by Cadet Beckman Karl and Cadet Heinz Anton of Germany.

2. When was 'National Energy Conservation Day' celebrated recently?

A- 12th December

B- 11th December

C- 10th December

D- 14th December

National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated every year on 14 December in the country. The objective of National Energy Conservation Day is to spread the importance of energy conservation and showcase the country's achievements in energy efficiency and conservation. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency under the aegis of the Ministry of Power presents these awards. This bureau regulates and increases energy efficiency and promotes energy conservation in the country. National Energy Conservation Day is being celebrated since 1991 to increase awareness about energy conservation. The Indian Energy Conservation Act was enacted by the Parliament.

3. Recently India and which country have started talks on free trade agreement?

A-Oman

B-Sweden

C-Norway

D-none

India's commerce department officials are actively negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA) with Oman in Muscat, aiming to seal a deal by the end of the month. A team of officials from India's commerce department is currently in Muscat, engaged in negotiations for a comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA) with Oman. The department has set an internal deadline of the end of the month to finalize the deal. This development assumes significance as talks between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have faced hurdles, especially with Saudi Arabia, delaying progress by more than a year. If successful, Oman will become the second GCC member after the UAE to sign an FTA with India.

4. Recently Gaddam Prasad has been elected as the new Assembly Speaker of which state?

A- Mizoram

B-Chhattisgarh

C- Telangana

D-Rajasthan

Congress leader Gaddam Prasad Kumar took charge as Assembly Speaker in Telangana. Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) and the Left unanimously elected him as the new speaker. Earlier, BJP MLAs had refused to take oath under Protem Speaker Akbaruddin Owaisi, brother of AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi. He had also submitted a memorandum to the Governor in this regard. After which, the new Assembly Speaker administered the oath to the BJP MLAs.

5. Which British Indian musician has been included in the 2024 Booker Prize judging panel?

A- Veer Das

B- Nitin Sahni

C- Deepak Dhar

D-none

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Renowned British-Indian composer Nitin Sawhney, who has composed music for over 70 films including Warner Bros.'s Mowgli and Midnight's Children, has been announced as one of the 2024 Booker Prize judges. Artist and writer Edmond de Waal has been named chairman of the jury. Apart from Sawhney, 59, other members will also include novelist Sarah Collins, Guardian fiction editor Justin Jordan and author and professor Yiyun Lee. Applications for the prestigious literary award have opened. The five-member jury will look for the best works of long-form fiction by authors of any nationality, written in English and published in the UK and/or Ireland between 1 October 2023 and 30 September 2024.

6. Who has recently been appointed as the new Police Commissioner of Hyderabad City?

- A- Dr. Atul Shah
- B- Abbas Zaidi
- C- KS Reddy
- D-all

In an important step towards ensuring clean governance, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has appointed experienced police officers to lead the Hyderabad and Cyberabad police commissionerates. The appointments of Kothakota Srinivas Reddy and Avinash Mohanty mark a strategic change in leadership to maintain integrity and transparency in law enforcement. Kothakota Srinivas Reddy, a distinguished officer with a track record of effective leadership, is set to take over the role of Hyderabad Police Commissioner. Having served as the Superintendent of Police of Mahabubnagar district and later leading the elite anti-Maoist force Greyhounds, Srinivas Reddy has played a key role in redefining the training module and intensifying search operations.

7. Recently IMF will provide 337 million dollars to which country to improve the economy?

- A-Bangladesh
- B- Sri Lanka
- C- Pakistan
- D-all

Sri Lanka has been facing challenges on many fronts for the last few years. Due to the economic crisis in the country, there is shortage of food, electricity and fuel. Last year, Sri Lanka defaulted on its debt repayment

obligations, due to which it had to enter into a bailout deal of three billion euros with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Now once again the country has looked towards the IMF for help. In this regard, the Executive Board of the IMF has completed the first review under the 48-month extended fund facility with Sri Lanka. It has also been decided that assistance of about \$337 million will be provided to the country facing cash crunch to restore macroeconomic and credit stability.

8. Recently, where has the United Nations officially ended the peacekeeping mission in 10 years?

- A- Sudan
- B-Ukraine
- C- Mali
- D-none

The United Nations has officially ended its decade-long peacekeeping mission in Mali after 10 years because the force was inadequate to address the growing threat of violent extremism. The United Nations has officially ended its decade-long peacekeeping mission in Mali after 10 years, responding to government claims that the force was inadequate to address the growing threat of violent extremism. The move marks the end of the deadliest peacekeeping mission globally, with more than 300 personnel casualties. The withdrawal comes as Mali continues to grapple with challenges from an Islamic extremist insurgency since 2012. Mali, a landlocked West African country, faces significant challenges in containing the Islamic extremist insurgency that emerged in 2012. Despite a French-led military campaign that drove extremist rebels from northern cities in 2013, rebels regrouped in the desert and resumed attacks on the Malian army and its allies, including UN peacekeeping forces.

ONE LINER

Recently the United Nations has officially ended the peacekeeping mission in 10 years – **Mali**

To which country IMF will provide 337 million dollars to improve the economy - **Sri Lanka**

Who has recently been appointed as the new Police Commissioner of Hyderabad City - **KS Reddy**

Which British Indian musician has been included in the 2024 Booker Award judging panel - **Nitin Sawhney**

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Where has Prime Minister Modi launched the AI Summit - **New Delhi**

Who has been on top in the country as FDI recipient recently - **Maharashtra**

Where has the annual Shar Amartal Togarya Mahotsav been celebrated recently? - **Arunachal Pradesh**

Gaddam Prasad has been elected the new Assembly Speaker of which state – **Telangana**

How many countries participated in the Admiral Cup Sailing Regatta 2023 - **20 countries**

When was 'National Energy Conservation Day' celebrated recently - **14 December**

Recently India and which country have started talks on free trade agreement – **Oman**

