



The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

CURRENT AFFAIR BOOSTER

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DAILY

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QUIZ



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1. Ayodhya railway station renamed before Ram temple inauguration



The redeveloped Ayodhya railway station has been renamed "Ayodhya Dham" ahead of the Ram Lalla Pran Pratistha ceremony in the Uttar Pradesh city, the Indian Railway Conference Association announced in a statement issued on Wednesday. , This railway station will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 30 December. The initial phase of Ayodhya railway station, which boasts of "world-class facilities", has been completed within a budget of ₹240 crore after construction began in November 2018. Spread over 10,000 square metres, the station has three platforms and is maintained by the Rail India Technical and Economics Service (RITES), a branch of the central government. Apart from the primary structure, the station offers parking spaces, staff accommodation and facilities such as lifts, escalators, an air-conditioned waiting lounge, a food plaza and separate dormitories for both men and women. The main building of the station resembles the Ram Temple, with two pinnacles and four pyramid-like structures. Pink Bansi Paharpur stone sourced from Rajasthan, similar to the material used in the construction of the Ram temple, has been used in the construction of the building. A budget of Rs 480 crore has been allocated for the development of the upcoming second phase of construction. Prime Minister Narendra Modi may also inaugurate the Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram International Airport in Ayodhya on December 30.

2. India-New Zealand will open an embassy in Auckland, the proposal was approved in the Union Cabinet meeting.



India will soon open a Consulate General in Auckland, New Zealand. A large number of non-resident Indians live in New Zealand. This proposal was approved in the Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Consulate General is expected to be opened and fully operational within 12 months. India currently has a Consulate in Auckland. The opening of the Consulate General will pave the way for the appointment of the Consul General. Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers are usually appointed to this post. Opening of the Indian Consulate General in Auckland will help in promoting India's strategic and commercial interests and providing better services to the people of Indian origin in Auckland. Officials said that about 2.5 lakh people of Indian origin live in New Zealand. Of these, 1.7 lakh people live in Auckland. The India-New Zealand Business Council is also in Auckland. The Indian High Commission in New Zealand is in Wellington. Information given about the agreement of Prasar Bharati with Radio Television Malaysia The Union Cabinet was informed on Wednesday about the agreement signed by Prasar Bharati with the public broadcaster of Malaysia to promote cooperation in the field of radio and television. Prasar Bharati had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Radio Television Malaysia on November 7. Prasar Bharati has now signed such agreements with 46 countries. Cabinet approves Migration Agreement with Italy The Union Cabinet approved the Migration and Mobility Agreement with Italy. The agreement allows Indian students to have temporary residence in the European nation for up to one year after their studies to gain professional experience.

3. Migration and movement agreement between India and Italy approved

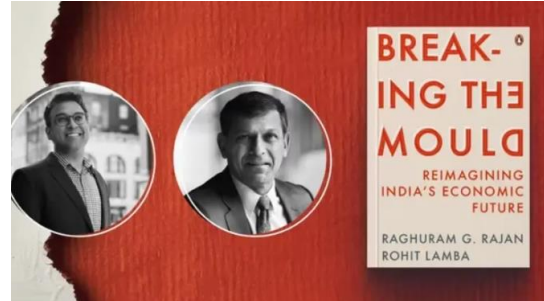
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The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal for signing of Migration and Movement Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Italy on December 27, 2023. This agreement was signed on behalf of India on November 2, 2023 by Foreign Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Antonio Tajani, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on behalf of Italy. This agreement will increase people-to-people contacts and promote movement of students, skilled workers, businessmen and professionals. This will strengthen cooperation between the two countries on issues related to irregular migration. This agreement complements the current Italian visa regime including mechanisms for post-study opportunities, internships, professional training that assure benefits to India under the existing labor mobility routes under the Flow Decree. Indian students wishing to gain initial professional experience after completing academic/vocational training in Italy will be permitted temporary residence in Italy for up to 12 months. Italy makes extensive provisions relating to vocational training, extra-curricular internships and curricular internships, which will provide Indian students/trainees the opportunity to gain exposure to skills/training standards in Italy. Italy has reserved quotas of 5000, 6000 and 7000 non-seasonal (or non-seasonal) Indian workers for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 under the Flow Decree for Italy (the total reserved quota for non-seasonal workers is 12000). Additionally, Italy has reserved quotas of 3000, 4000 and 5000 seasonal Indian workers for 2023, 2024 and 2025 under the Flow Decree (the total reserved quota for seasonal workers is 8000). Under the Flow Decree, Italy has offered incremental reserve quotas for both seasonal and non-seasonal workers from 2023-2025. Additionally, the agreement facilitates recruitment of Indian

professionals in the mobility, healthcare and medical services sectors.

4. Release of Raghuram Rajan's new book 'Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future'



Raghuram Rajan, along with economist Rohit Lamba, has released a ground-breaking book titled 'Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future'. Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Raghuram Rajan, along with economist Rohit Lamba, has released a ground-breaking book titled 'Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future'. This latest addition to Rajan's literary output marks a significant exploration into the possibilities and challenges of India's economic trajectory. Known for his profound insights into the global and Indian economy, Raghuram Rajan has written influential books such as 'Fault Lines: How Hidden Fractures Still Threaten the World Economy', which won the Financial Times Business Book of the Year award. His other notable works include 'I Do What I Do: On Reform, Rhetoric and Resolve' and 'Saving Capitalism from the Capitalists', co-authored with Luigi Zingales. These books shed light on the intricacies of economic policies and the challenges facing global capitalism. 'The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind' provides a thought-provoking exploration of the role of communities in shaping economic and social structures. Collaborating with Rohit Lamba, Assistant Professor of Economics at Pennsylvania State University, and Rohit Lamba, Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics at New York University Abu Dhabi, Rajan brings a mix of experience and academic rigor to 'Breaking the Mould'. 'Breaking the Mould' seeks to articulate strategies to accelerate India's economic growth. The authors propose to invest in human capital, expand opportunities in high-skilled services and innovative manufacturing, and transform India into a hub of ideas and creativity.

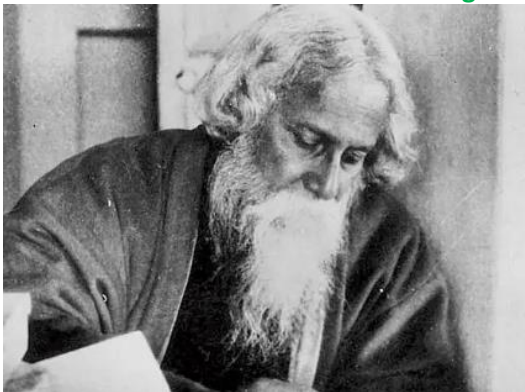
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5. President Murmu will attend the golden jubilee celebrations of Karbi Youth Festival 2024 on January 17



President Draupadi Murmu is set to attend the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Karbi Youth Festival 2024 as the Chief Guest at Tarlangso, Diphu on January 17, 2024. Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) chief executive member Tuliram Ronghang confirmed this. The event will also be attended by many dignitaries including Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, Meghalaya Governor Fagu Chauhan, Nagaland Governor L Ganeshan, Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, Nagaland Chief Minister Nephew Rio and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma. . The festival will be held from January 12-19, 2024 at Karbi People's Hall, Taralangs, Diphu. Everyone is invited! Cardome. The festival, a major attraction for the Karbi youth, will take place at the Karbi People's Hall in Taralangs, Diphu from January 12 to January 19, 2024.

6. Researchers at Visva-Bharati University discovered bacteria named after Rabindranath Tagore.



A team of researchers from the Department of Botany, Visva-Bharati University has made an unprecedented

discovery that has the potential to revolutionize agricultural practices. They have identified a new bacteria strain capable of promoting plant growth and named it 'Pantoea tagori' in honor of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. The lead researcher, Dr. Bomba Dam, an assistant professor in the university's Department of Botany, believes that *Pantoea tagori* has the potential to significantly reduce the need for commercial fertilizers. This can save farmers' costs and increase crop yields. The Association of Microbiologists of India (AMI) has officially recognized the discovery, and the findings have been published in the Indian Journal of Microbiology. Dr. Dam said that the decision to name the bacteria after Tagore was inspired by the poet's visionary agricultural activities. Tagore was a vocal advocate of sustainable agricultural practices and believed in the importance of promoting self-sufficiency in food production. Naming the bacteria *Pantoea tagori* is a way of honoring Tagore's legacy and his contribution to agriculture. *Pantoea tagori* is a plant growth promoting bacteria (PGPB). PGPB are a type of bacteria that live in the soil around the roots of plants and form a symbiotic relationship with plants. They provide plants with essential nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, and help them resist diseases and pests.

7. DMDK leader and Tamil cinema icon 'Captain' Vijayakanth passes away



Tamil superstar and Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) founder Vijayakanth, fondly called 'Captain', died at a private hospital in Chennai after a prolonged illness. He was 71 years old. Vijayakanth's death marks the end of an influential chapter in the political history of Tamil Nadu. Vijayakanth was known

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as Captain because of his military roles on screen. Talking about his political career, the actor became a politician in 2005 and founded his own party Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK). The party's electoral debut was in the 2006 Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly elections and secured 10 percent of the total vote share. In 2011, Vijayakanth formed an alliance with AIADMK in the assembly elections and the Jayalalitha-led block won the elections and the DMDK founder became the leader of the opposition. His verbal duel with Jayalalitha in the Assembly took the state by storm and he appeared all set to seize power and break the hegemony of the Dravidian parties that had dominated the Tamil Nadu political landscape for over half a century. He served as the Leader of the Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 2011–2016. Later, due to differences, the party broke ties with the AIADMK, resulting in a large number of resignations by DMDK MLAs. He served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly twice, representing Virudhachalam and Rishivandiam constituencies.

8. Health Minister unveils 'MedTech Mitra' for advanced health solutions



Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers launched 'MedTech Mitra', which aims to nurture the talent of young innovators in the country. At a virtual launch ceremony, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, launched 'MedTech Mitra', a strategic initiative aimed at nurturing the talent of young innovators in the country. The platform seeks to shape their research, knowledge and reasoning while providing the support

needed to obtain regulatory approval. MedTech Mitra, an unprecedented platform aimed at nurturing the talent of young innovators in the field of medical technology, was officially launched by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers. The strategic initiative is designed to provide comprehensive support to medtech innovators, helping them refine their research, knowledge and logic, as well as facilitate regulatory approval for their healthcare solutions. Dr. Mandaviya emphasized the vital role of the medical device sector in India's healthcare landscape, in line with the vision of a developed India. Acknowledging the sector's import dependence, which stands at 80%, he highlighted significant progress achieved through production linked incentive schemes, investment in medical drug parks and implementation of medtech research policies. The collaborative nature of MedTech Mitra is expected to promote indigenous development of affordable and high-quality medical devices, thereby reducing the country's dependence on imports. Dr. Mandaviya expressed confidence in India's medtech sector and estimated that it will become a \$50 billion industry by 2030. He emphasized on the rapid changes taking place due to advancements in technologies like robotics, artificial intelligence, big data, virtual reality and nanotechnology. Active support is required at the approval stage to move India forward towards the vision of self-reliance and developed India.

QUIZ

1. When was National Consumer Day celebrated recently?

- (a) 21 December
- (b) 22 December
- (c) 23 December
- (d) 24 December

National Consumer Day is celebrated every year on 24 December. On this day in the year 1986, the Consumer Protection Act Bill was passed. The objective of this law is to provide effective safeguards to consumers against various forms of exploitation, such as defective goods, deficiency in services and unfair trade practices. This day was celebrated for the first time in India in the year 2000. The Consumer Protection Act of 1986 marks a structural change in consumer rights. Earlier, there was a lack of special laws for consumers to

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redress their complaints, and consumers had to face more difficulties in getting redressal.

2. In which country did the Union Cabinet recently approve the opening of the Consulate General of India?

- (a) France
- (b) Argentina
- (c) Russia
- (d) New Zealand

The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal to open the Consulate General of India in Auckland, New Zealand. The opening of the Consulate General of India in Auckland will further strengthen the relations between India and New Zealand. This Consulate is likely to be opened and fully operational within a time frame of 12 months.

3. The Union Cabinet has approved the 'Migration and Movement' agreement with which country?

- (a) USA
- (b) Japan
- (c) Italy
- (d) Malaysia

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the 'Migration and Movement' Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Italy. This agreement will increase interaction between people and will make it easier to resolve issues related to irregular migration. This agreement was signed by both the countries on November 2, 2023.

4. Who has been appointed as the new chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank?

- (a) Rana Kapoor
- (b) Vineet Sinha
- (c) CS Rajan
- (d) S Chandra

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of CS Rajan as part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank. Rajan is currently serving as an independent director of the bank. His appointment is effective from January 1, 2024 and will last for a period of two years. CS Rajan is playing the role of independent director on the board of the bank from October 22, 2022. Rajan held leadership roles for 12

years in sectors including energy, highways, water resources and industry including SSI/MSME. Rajan also worked in agriculture and rural development for 14 years.

5. Who has recently been appointed as Chief Risk Officer by LIC?

- (a) Abhay Maken
- (b) S Sundar Krishnan
- (c) Pratap Chandra Paikarai
- (d) Rekha Swaminathan

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has appointed S Sundar Krishnan as Chief Risk Officer (CRO), replacing Pratap Chandra Paikarai. Sundar Krishnan DSP has experience in services at Merrill Lynch, Credit Lyonnais Bank and Bank International Indonesia. LIC is a central public sector life insurance company headquartered in Mumbai.

6. In which state will Karbi Youth Festival 2024 be organized?

- (a) Meghalaya
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Assam

President Draupadi Murmu will attend the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Karbi Youth Festival 2024 to be held at Taralungso, Diphu in Karbi Anglong district of Assam on January 17. The Golden Jubilee Celebration of Karbi Youth Festival 2024 will be organized on January 12-19, 2024. Karbi Youth Festival is organized annually and thousands of Karbi youth from Assam and other parts of the country participate in it.

7. Who was the founder of 'Desia Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam' (DMDK) who passed away recently?

- (a) Bonda Mani
- (b) Vijaykant
- (c) G Marimuthu
- (d) none of these

Actor-turned-politician and founder of Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) Vijayakanth passed away in Chennai. He was 71 years old. His wife V Premalatha was elected party chief during the DMDK meeting on 14 December. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed grief over his demise and called him a legend of the Tamil film industry. The actor

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became a politician in 2005 and founded his own party Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK). The party's electoral debut was in the 2006 Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly elections and secured 10 percent of the total vote share. In 2011, Vijayakanth formed an alliance with AIADMK in the assembly elections and the Jayalalitha-led block won the elections and the DMDK founder became the leader of the opposition.

8. What has the Indian Railway Conference Association renamed the railway station 'Ayodhya Junction'?

- (a) 'Ayodhya Dham'
- (b) Ramnagari
- (c) Ayodhyapuri
- (d) Shriram Junction

The Indian Railway Conference Association has issued a statement announcing the change of name of the railway station located in Uttar Pradesh from "Ayodhya Junction" to "Ayodhya Dham". This railway station will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 30 December. The previously allotted station code 'AY' has been retained. Spread over 10,000 square metres, the station has three platforms and is maintained by the Rail India Technical and Economics Service (RITES), a branch of the central government. Apart from the primary structure, the station offers parking spaces, staff accommodation and facilities such as lifts, escalators, an air-conditioned waiting lounge, a food plaza and separate dormitories for both men and women.

ONE LINER

When has National Consumer Day been celebrated recently – **24 December**

What has the Indian Railway Conference Association changed the name of the railway station 'Ayodhya Junction' to - '**Ayodhya Dham**'

Punjab National Bank has approved the proposal to raise capital worth how many crores of rupees through QIP or FPO - **7,500 crores.**

In which state Karbi Youth Festival 2024 will be organized – **Assam**

Who was the founder of 'Desia Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam' (DMDK) who passed away recently- **Vijayakanth**

Who has recently been appointed as Chief Risk Officer by LIC- **S Sundar Krishnan**

Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank- **CS Rajan**

The Union Cabinet has approved the 'Migration and Movement' agreement with which country - **Italy**

Who will inaugurate the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Karbi Youth Festival 2024 in Assam – **President Draupadi Murmu**

Recently in which country has the new Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha assumed office - **Sri Lanka**