



The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

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LANGUAGE - ENGLISH



WORKSHOP ON... GEOGRAPHY FOR 68th BPSC PT



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1. A new book titled 'The India Story' by Bimal Jalan



The India Story

Former RBI governor Bimal Jalan writes a new book titled 'The India Story'. The book focuses on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for the future of India's political economy.

He traces India's economic policies from 1991 to 2019 to offer insights on learning from the past, before moving 'Beyond the Metrics of Economy' to talk about the role of governance in implementing these policies. He also authored the books 'India Then and Now', 'India Ahead'.

2. Indian novel 'Tomb of Sand' wins International Booker Prize



Indian writer Geetanjali Shree and American translator Daisy Rockwell won the International Booker Prize for "Tomb of Sand,". Originally written in Hindi, it's the first book in any Indian language to win the high-profile award, which recognizes fiction from around the world that has been translated into English. The 50,000-pound (\$63,000) prize money will be split between New Delhi-based Shree and Rockwell, who lives in Vermont.

"Tomb of Sand" is published in Britain by a small publisher Tilted Axis Press. It was founded by translator Deborah Smith, who won the 2016 International Booker for translating Han Kang's "The Vegetarian" to publish books from Asia.

The essence of the book:

The book tells the story of an octogenarian widow who dares to cast off convention and confront the ghosts of her experiences during the subcontinent's tumultuous 1947 partition into India and Pakistan. Shree's book beat five other finalists including Polish Nobel literature laureate Olga Tokarczuk, Claudia Piñeiro of Argentina and South Korean author Bora Chung to be awarded the prize at a ceremony in London.

About the International Booker Prize:

The International Booker Prize is awarded every year to a translated work of fiction published in the U.K. or Ireland. It is run alongside the Booker Prize for English-language fiction. The prize was set up to boost the profile of fiction in other languages, which accounts for only a small share of books published in Britain and to salute the often unacknowledged work of literary translators.

3. India beats Indonesia 16-0 in Asia Cup 2022 hockey tournament



Indian men's team slammed six goals in the final quarter to record a 16-0 win over Indonesia in a thrilling Pool A game of the Asia Cup 2022 to qualify for the Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup. India joined Japan, Malaysia, and South Korea in the

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Super 4 round of the Asia Cup. India needed to win the contest by at least a 15-0 margin to qualify and the young side thrived under pressure.

Both India and Pakistan finished on four points each in Pool A behind Japan but the holders qualified for the Super 4s on the basis of a better goal difference (1). Pakistan had lost 2-3 to Japan earlier in the day. This was India's first win in the ongoing edition of the Asia Cup as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Pakistan before suffering a 2-5 defeat at the hands of Japan, who finished first in Pool A. Japan won all of their three matches in the pool.

4. 26-year-old Abhilasha Barak becomes the Indian Army's first woman combat aviator



Abhilasha Barak

Haryana's Captain Abhilasha Barak has become the first woman officer to join the Army Aviation Corps as a combat aviator after successfully completing her training. She was awarded the coveted wings along with 36 other army pilots by the DG and Colonel Commandant of Army Aviation in Nashik. She has been assigned to the second flight of the 2072 Army Aviation Squadron. She was commissioned into the Indian Army from the Officers Training Academy, Chennai in 2018.

Career of Captain Abhilasha Barak:

- Captain Barak is an alumna of The Lawrence School, Sanawar. She completed her graduation with B-Tech in Electronics and Communication

Engineering from Delhi Technological University in 2016 and was placed at Deloitte, USA.

- During her attachment with the Corps of Army Air Defence, she was selected as a Contingent Commander for Presentation of Colours to Army Air Defence by President Ram Nath Kovind.

- She attained an 'A' grading in the Army Air Defence Young officers course, 75.70 per cent in Air Traffic Management and Air Laws course and passed the promotional exam, Part B, in her first attempt.

5. IBA Women's World Boxing Championships: Turkey topped medal tally of 2022



The 12th edition of the 2022 International Boxing Association (IBA) Women's World Boxing Championship (WWBC) was held at Başakşehir Youth and Sports Facility, Istanbul, Turkey. The event saw the participation of 310 Boxers from 73 nations. Belarusian and Russian boxers were not allowed to compete at the event after a ban as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Key points:

- India for the first time in the past four years, had won a total medal tally of 3, which includes one Gold and two Bronze.

- The India Boxer Nikhat Zareen(from Nizamabad, Telangana) won the gold in the flyweight (52kg) division with 5-0 points against Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas. With this win, she became the fifth Indian women boxer to win the World Championship.

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•The other two Indian women boxers Manisha Moun (from Haryana) and Parveen Hooda(from Haryana) had won the bronze medals in the 57kg and 63kg categories respectively.

6. Prime Minister Modi chaired the 40th PRAGATI Interaction



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has urged infrastructure agencies to map their projects with the water bodies being constructed under the Amrit Sarovar. Mr Modi stated that this would be a win-win situation because the material needed for the Amrit Sarovars could be used by the agencies for public works. The Prime Minister presided over the 40th edition of PRAGATI, an ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation that brings together the Centre and State governments.

KEY POINTS:

- Nine agenda items, comprising eight projects and one programme, were reviewed during the meeting.
- The total cost of these eight projects in the 14 states is around 59 thousand 900 million rupees.
- Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Sikkim are among the states involved.

•Prime Minister Modi also discussed the 'National Broadband Mission' programme at the meeting. States and agencies were asked to use the centralised Gati Shakti Sanchar Portal to ensure that Right of Way (RoW) applications were processed quickly.

States may also construct state-level GatiShakti Master Plans based on the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan and establish state-level entities for this purpose, according to the Prime Minister.

7. Fintech startup Mahagram partners with IndusInd Bank to nurture digital payments

IndusInd Bank

Rural NEO Bank Mahagram has tied up with the IndusInd Bank to digitize the nation's payment ecosystem and provide a wider scope to transact for its customers in rural India. Mahagram was launched with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. The partnership between the two aims to boost financial inclusion, encourage socio-economic development, mitigate the risks of a shadow economy, and accelerate the growth of a cashless society.

This association will also ensure the building of an efficient, reliable, and secure payment ecosystem, which will not only promote and encourage the use of e-payments methods but will also help merchants across the country to accept digital payments easily, making it more accessible for everyone.

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8. RBI issued guidelines for certified jewellers' Gold import



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced new guidelines to permit qualified jewellers to import gold through the India International Bullion Exchange IFSC Ltd. (IIBX) or any other exchange. IFSCA and the DGFT, the Government of India, must sanction the other exchanges. All payments by authorised jewellers for gold imports through IIBX must be done using an exchange mechanism recognised by IFSCA in accordance with the IFSC Act and regulations, according to the RBI.

KEY POINTS:

- According to the new recommendations, approved dealers banks may allow Qualified Jewellers to make eleven-day advance payments for gold imports through IIBX in accordance with the existing Foreign Trade Policy and Regulations published under the IFSC Act.
- In accordance with the terms of the sale contract or other document in the nature of an irrevocable purchase order in terms of the IFSC Act and regulations made thereunder by IFSCA, AD banks shall ensure that advance remittance for such import through exchange/s authorised by IFSCA is in accordance with the terms of the sale contract or other document in the nature of an irrevocable purchase order in terms of the IFSC Act and regulations made thereunder by IFSCA.

- Furthermore, licenced dealers banks must perform all due diligence and guarantee that the remittances sent are only for bona fide import transactions through IFSCA-approved exchanges.
- The RBI further noted that advance remittances for gold imports should not be used in any way to import gold worth more than the advance remittance made.
- QJ shall send the Bill of Entry (or any other applicable document issued/approved by Customs Department for evidence of import) issued by Customs Authorities to the AD bank from which advance payment has been made if gold is imported through IIBX.

9. Moody's cuts India's economic growth forecast to 8.8% for 2022



Moody's Investors Service slashed India's economic growth projection to 8.8 per cent for 2022 from 9.1 per cent earlier, citing high inflation. In its update to Global Macro Outlook 2022-23, Moody's said high-frequency data suggest that the growth momentum from December quarter 2021 carried through into the first four months this year. However, the rise in crude oil, food and fertilizer prices will weigh on household finances and spending in the months ahead. Rate hikes to prevent energy and food inflation from becoming more generalized will slow the demand recovery's momentum.

Strong credit growth, a large increase in investment intentions announced by the corporate sector, and

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a high budget allocation to capital spending by the government indicate that the investment cycle is strengthening. For 2022 and 2023, it projected inflation to be around 6.8 per cent and 5.2 per cent, respectively.

10. UNICEF-WHO release the first Global Report on Assistive Technology



World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have released the first Global Report on Assistive Technology (GReAT). The paper, which was created in conjunction with UNICEF's Office of Research – Innocenti, includes 10 important actionable suggestions for enhancing access to assistive technology for all children, as well as evidence-based best practise examples.

KEY POINTS:

- Through a network of academic institutions, researchers, policymakers, donors, and practitioners, UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti is at the forefront of the establishment of a Global Research Agenda and Platform for Children to amplify the voice of children and youth with disabilities.
- With the help of UNICEF's Office of Research – Innocenti, UNICEF and WHO created a series of 11 free-access background papers to accompany the Report.

- Around the world, 2.5 billion people require assistive technology. According to the estimate, by 2050, the population will have grown to 3.5 billion people.
- The gaps between low- and middle-income countries and high-income countries in terms of access to assistive technology are disturbing.
- Access to assistive technology for individuals who need it is as low as 3% in some low- and middle-income nations, whereas it is significantly higher in high-income countries, with up to 90% of people receiving the assistive devices and services they require.
- The worldwide impact of the WHO-UNICEF Global Report on Assistive Technology in this scenario will be unprecedented. Enabling settings and Assistive Technology are recognised in the Global Report as prerequisites for people in need to realise their human rights.

ONE LINER

- IndusInd Bank Founded: **1994;**
- IndusInd Bank Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra;**
- IndusInd Bank MD & CEO: **Sumant Kathpalia;**
- IndusInd Bank Tagline: **We Make You Feel Richer.**
- World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters: **Geneva, Switzerland**
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) headquarters: **New York, United States**