



The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

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1. Nitin Menon retained in ICC A LEET panel



India's Nitin Menon has retained his spot in the ICC Elite Panel and is set to make his first appearance as a neutral umpire in Sri Lanka later this month. A BCCI official told PTI that Menon has received an extension of one year from the International Cricket Council. The 38-year-old from Indore is the only Indian in the 11-member Elite Panel of Umpires

Menon was promoted to the elite panel in 2020 at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, becoming the third Indian after S Venkataraghavan and S Ravi to enter the club. However, Menon was limited to officiating only in international matches within India, as the ICC allowed local umpires due to travel restrictions.

Other umpires on the panel:

There is no change except for the elite panel and Menon, which includes Aleem Dar of Pakistan, Chris Gaffney of New Zealand, Kumara Dharmasena of Sri Lanka, Marais Erasmus of South Africa, Michael Gough, Richard Illingworth and Richard Kettleborough (all three from England), Australia's Paul Reiffel and Rod Tucker and Joel Wilson from the West Indies.

2. IIT Madras Develops Robot To Clean Septic Tanks



Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has developed a robot to clean septic tanks without human intervention. Ten units named "HomoSEP" are planned to be deployed across Tamil Nadu and researchers are in touch with sanitation workers to identify the locations.

key points:

- According to IIT Madras, Gujarat and Maharashtra are being considered for deployment of robots designed with the goal of eliminating manual scavenging in the future.
- Currently, with the help of the NGO Safai Karamchari Andolan, the first two HomoSEP units have been distributed to self-help groups led by Nagamma and Ruth Mary, whose husbands tragically died during the cleaning work.
- According to Rajagopal, HomoSEP can homogenize stubborn sludge in septic tanks using a custom-developed rotating blade mechanism and pump the slurry to the tank using an integrated suction mechanism.

3. Japan will attend NATO summit for the first time



Japan's Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida will attend this month's NATO summit in Madrid, becoming the country's first leader to attend the top meeting of the transatlantic alliance. Four months into Russia's war in Ukraine, the 28–30 June gathering is seen as a critical moment for the 30 North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies.

Japan, a major US ally and not a NATO member, has supplied defensive supplies to Ukraine and, along with the other Group of Seven countries,

THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

imposed tough sanctions on Russia. Sweden and Finland, which have applied to join NATO, are sending delegations to the summit, and the new President of South Korea, Yoon Suk-yol, will also be the first leaders of their countries to participate.

4. Since the 1980s, the world's central banks began their strictest operation



Central bankers around the world are tightening monetary policy in the most dramatic way since the 1980s, risking a recession and upsetting financial markets as they try to cope with an unexpected spike in inflation. Huh. The week began with a surprise move on Wall Street, with the Federal Reserve raising the rate by 75 basis points. This is the biggest move by the US central bank since 1994, when Chairman Jerome Powell declared himself fully committed to bringing inflation back down.

key points:

- Switzerland also surprisingly raised rates, while the Bank of England raised rates for the fifth time, this time by 25 basis points, indicating that the rate would soon be doubled.
- The bond market's reaction to the coordinated removal of stimulus was so brutal that the European Central Bank called an emergency meeting on Wednesday to address rising yields in some euro-zone countries.
- Among those planning further course of action, rising borrowing costs in emerging markets from Brazil to Taiwan to Hungary, along with Australia, South Korea, India, New Zealand and Canada.

- Only the Bank of Japan defied the trend, maintaining its ultra-easy monetary policy despite intense market pressure to jump on board the global bandwagon.
- The United States has also increased expectations of higher inflation by 75 basis points. The Federal Reserve is also raising interest rates.
- China is an exception, but traders around the world are gearing up for a series of rate hikes that many have never seen before in their lives.
- The Federal Reserve expects its benchmark rate to rise to 3.8 percent by the end of 2023, up from 1.5 percent last week to 2%, and several Wall Street firms predict an even higher peak.

One reason that prompts policymakers to intervene is because they have failed to recognize the persistence of inflation climbing to decades-high levels. Even when he realized that the price pressures were not "temporary", he was hesitant to react. The year 2022 began with interest rates in the United States hovering around zero and the Federal Reserve taking over Treasury and mortgage-backed assets.

5. Hamza Abdi Barre appointed as the new Prime Minister of Somalia



Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamed has appointed Hamza Abdi Barre, former chairman of the Jubilee State Election Commission, as prime minister. Hamza Abdi Barre, 48, of the semi-autonomous state of Jubaland, replaced Mohamed Hussein Roble. He has served in a number of public and political roles and from 2011 to 2017 he was general secretary of the Peace and Development

THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

Party (PDP), which is now the forerunner of the Union for Peace and Development (UDP) led by Mohamed.

Mohamed won the presidency for a second time in May, having previously served from 2012 to 2017, after a long-delayed election that took place against the backdrop of the worst drought in 40 years and a bloody armed rebellion.

6. COAI names Pramod K Mittal as new chairperson for 2022-23



Industry body Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has named Reliance Jio Infocomm chairman Pramod K Mittal as the new chairperson of the association for 2022-23. Mittal was earlier the vice-chairman of COAI, whose members include Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea (VIL). Mittal will replace Ajay Puri as the chairman of COAI. Mittal has a rich experience of 42 years in Telecom. Before joining India's leading telecom operator, the chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm has served in the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for over 37 years.

Other appointments:

- Vodafone Idea's (VIL) chief regulatory and corporate affairs officer P Balaji will be the association's vice-president for 2022-23.
- Balaji is also the President of ASSOCHAM National Digital Communications Council and a member of the National Council of apex industry chambers of CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM and All India Management Association.

7. Biden nominates Radha Iyengar to top Pentagon post



Radha Iyengar Plumb, an Indian-American serving as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of Defense. US President Joe Biden has nominated Radha Iyengar Plumb to the top post of the Pentagon. Ms Plumb, who is currently the Deputy Defense Secretary's Chief of Staff, was on Wednesday nominated to the post of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.

About Radha Iyengar Plumb:

- Plumb began his career as an assistant professor at the London School of Economics and completed his postdoctoral studies at Harvard University.
- He holds a BS in Economics and a PhD in Economics from Princeton University.
- Plumb was previously Director of Research and Insights for Trust and Safety at Google, where she led cross-functional teams focused on business analytics, data science and technical research.
- She previously served as Global Head of Policy Analysis at Facebook, where she was responsible for high-risk/high-harm security and critical international security concerns.
- Plumb formerly worked as a senior economist at the RAND Corporation, where he focused on strengthening the measurement and evaluation of preparedness and security activities in the Department of Defense.
- He has also served on the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and the White House National Security Council as a senior staff member on national security issues.

THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

8. Amara Raja to Build Green Hydrogen Fueling Station for NTPC in Leh



In Leh, Ladakh, Amara Raja Power Systems will build the country's first green hydrogen fueling station for the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). According to the Amara Raja company, the pilot project will generate at least 80 kg of 99.97 percent pure hydrogen every day, which will be compressed, stored and delivered. The contract has been awarded to NTPC, which expects to operate five hydrogen fuel cell buses in the region.

key points:

- If successfully completed, the project will usher in an era of emission-free transport in and around Leh, and India will join the club of select countries moving towards green mobility.
- Mara Raja will run and maintain the fueling station for three years at a cost of Rs 41 crore. According to trade sources, the fuel prices cannot be discussed at the moment.
- Green hydrogen will be produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using an electrolysis process fueled by renewable energy sources. The hydrogen produced in this way would have no imprint of carbon.
- The project will be set up in Leh's severe conditions, including temperatures ranging from minus 14 to +20 °C at an altitude of 3,600 meters above sea level.
- It will be an important tool for the analysis and deployment of fuel stations across the country as part of the National Hydrogen Energy Mission

along with the large-scale Green Hydrogen Mobility and Storage Initiative.

ONE LINER

- ICC established: **15 June 1909;**
- ICC President: **Greg Barkley;**
- ICC CEO: **Geoff Allardye;**
- ICC Headquarters: **Dubai, United Arab Emirates.**
- NATO formation: **4 April 1949;**
- NATO Headquarters: **Brussels, Belgium;**
- NATO Secretary General: **Jens Stoltenberg;**
- NATO total members: **30;**
- NATO Last member of NATO: **Macedonia**
- Somalia Capital: **Mogadishu;**
- Somalia Currency: **Somali Shilling;**
- President of Somalia: **Hassan Sheikh Mohamed**

QUIZ

1. According to the latest report released by the United Nations, which country has become India's largest recipient of FDI in the world in 2020?

- a. first
- b. third
- c. Fifth
- d. fourth

2. Recently the central government has announced to sell 51 percent stake in which two public sector banks?

- a. Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank
- b. Dena Bank and UCO Bank
- c. Punjab National Bank and Axis Bank
- d. none of these

3. World Music Day is celebrated on which of the following days?

- a. 10 January
- b. March 12
- c. 28 August
- d. June 21

4. India and which country has recently launched 'Hydrogen Task Force'?

- a. America
- b. Nepal
- c. Japan
- d. China

THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

5. Which app has been launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of International Yoga Day?

- a. Joint-Yoga b. M-Yoga
c. Health-Yoga d. none of these

6. Which city has been named as India's most livable city in the Ease of Living Index 2020 released by the Center for Science and Environment (CSE)?

- a. Delhi b. Patna
c. Bangalore d. Lucknow

7. Which state government has recently announced to start a one-year course 'Yoga Vigyan'?

- a. Bihar b. Jharkhand
c. Punjab d. Delhi

8. Which country has been declared the world's most peace-loving country in the list of 163 countries in the 15th edition of the Global Peace Index?

- a. Nepal b. Iceland
c. India d. China