



Career Strategists IAS

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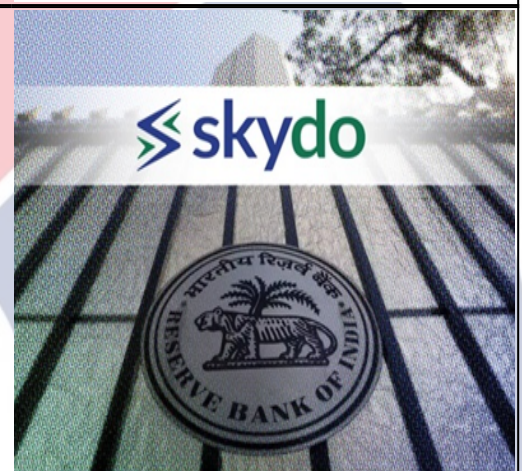
1. India's oldest book fair 'Boi Mela'.

The 48th International Kolkata Book Fair will be held in Salt Lake City, Kolkata from 28 January to 9 February 2025. The fair is India's oldest book fair, which promotes Bengali culture, reading tradition and intellectual dialogue. It is a major event for literature and art lovers, attracting thousands of visitors every year. Germany is the theme country in 2025, which has been chosen inspired by the Frankfurt Book Fair.



2. Skydo gets approval as cross-border payment aggregator.

Recently, Bengaluru-based fintech company Skydo has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a cross-border payment aggregator. The platform facilitates financial transactions between different countries and is primarily useful for e-commerce businesses, freelancers, and companies dealing with international clients.



3. Second Meeting of BIMSTEC Expert Group.

On 21 January 2025, the National Security Council Secretariat held the second meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cyber Security Cooperation in New Delhi. Earlier, the first meeting was held in New Delhi in 2022. The objective of this meeting was to prepare an action plan to promote coordination and cooperation among BIMSTEC member countries.



4. Michael Martin became the Prime Minister of Ireland for the second time.

On 23 January 2025, Michael Martin was elected as the Prime Minister (Taoiseach) of the Republic of Ireland for the second time. Earlier, he had been the Prime Minister from 2020 to 2022. Fianna Fail party leader Michael Martin got 95 votes in the Dail, the lower house of the Irish Parliament, while the opposition got 76 votes.



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5. Odisha tops Niti Aayog's first Fiscal Health Index.

Niti Aayog on 24 January 2025 ranked Odisha at the top in the inaugural edition of its Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025. The report was released in New Delhi by Dr. Arvind Panagariya, Chairman, 16th Finance Commission in the presence of NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Beri and CEO BVR Subrahmanyam. The report evaluates the fiscal health of 18 major states of India on the basis of the financial year 2022-23, with an attempt to identify areas of improvement and promote best practices.



6. Mohan Yadav's government in Madhya Pradesh bans sale of liquor in 17 religious cities.

The BJP government led by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav in Madhya Pradesh took an important decision on 24 January 2025, under which the sale of liquor was banned in 17 religious cities of the state. The decision was taken in the state cabinet meeting, which was held in Maheshwar city, and Maheshwar is known as the city of Goddess Ahilyabai.



7. Sindhu and Lakshya to lead India in Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship.

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) has announced a 14-member Indian team for the 4th Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship to be held in Qingdao city of China from February 11-19, 2025. The team will be led by 2024 Paris Olympics semi-finalist Lakshya Sen and two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu. India has so far won the only medal in this championship, a bronze, in Dubai in 2023.



8. Jitendra Pal Singh appointed as India's new Ambassador to Israel.

The Government of India announced the appointment of Jitendra Pal Singh as India's next Ambassador to Israel on 24 January 2025. Singh, a 2002 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, is currently serving in the office of the Minister of External Affairs. He has headed the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran Division since 2020.



1. Which is the theme country of the 48th International Kolkata Book Fair?

- A - USA
- C - Italy

- B - Japan
- D - Germany

The 48th International Kolkata Book Fair will be held from 28 January to 9 February 2025 in Salt Lake City, Kolkata. It is India's oldest book fair, promoting Bengali culture and intellectual dialogue. Germany is the theme country in 2025, which has been chosen inspired by the Frankfurt Book Fair.



2. Which company recently received RBI approval as a cross-border payment aggregator?

- A - Skydo
- C - Flyway

- B - Wing
- D - Moneydo

Recently, Bengaluru-based fintech company Skydo has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India as a cross-border payment aggregator. The company facilitates international transactions and mainly serves e-commerce businesses, freelancers, and Indian exporters. Founded in 2022, Skydo serves over 12,000 exporters and manages export payments of over \$250 million annually.



3. Where was the second meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group held on 21 January 2025?

- A - Dhaka
- C - Thimpu

- B - New Delhi
- D - Bangkok

The second meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group was held in New Delhi on 21 January 2025 with the aim of formulating an action plan to promote cyber security cooperation among member countries. The plan focuses on cyber information exchange, measures to combat cyber crime, security of information infrastructures and cyber incident response.



4. In which country the Prime Minister is called Taoiseach?

- A - Ireland
- C - Finland

- B - New Zealand
- D - England

On 23 January 2025, Micheal Martin was elected for the second time as the Prime Minister (Taoiseach) of the Republic of Ireland. He was previously the Prime Minister from 2020 to 2022. The government was formed after the recent general election, in which no party or coalition received a decisive mandate.



5. Which state has topped Niti Aayog's first Fiscal Health Index 2025?

- A - Odisha
B - Punjab
C - Haryana
D - West Bengal

Niti Aayog on 24 January 2025 ranked Odisha at the top in the inaugural edition of its Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025. The report evaluates the fiscal health of 18 major states of India based on the financial year 2022-23. It includes five key sub-indices such as quality of expenditure, revenue mobilization, and debt sustainability.



6. Which state government has banned the sale of liquor in 11 religious cities of the state?

- A - Madhya Pradesh
B - Rajasthan
C - Gujarat
D - Chhattisgarh

The Madhya Pradesh government decided to ban the sale of liquor in 17 religious cities of the state on January 24, 2025. The decision was taken at a state cabinet meeting in Maheshwar city, where liquor was previously banned for five kilometres along the Narmada river. Under the new decision, the sale of liquor will be completely stopped in the municipalities, municipal councils and panchayats of these 17 cities in the first phase.



7. Who will lead India in the Asia Mixed Team Championship in badminton?

- A - Sania Mirza and Kidambi Srikanth
B - Lakshya Sen and P.V. Sindhu
C - Saina Nehwal and Prakash Padukone
D - None of the above

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8. Which Indian ambassador has recently been appointed as the new ambassador to Israel?

- A - Jitendra Pal Singh
B - Apala Mishra
C - Muskan Jindal
D - Tushar Singhla

The Government of India appointed Jitendra Pal Singh as the next Ambassador of India to Israel on 24 January 2025. Singh, a 2002 batch IFS officer, is currently serving in the office of the External Affairs Minister and has headed the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran Division. He played a key role as Deputy High Commissioner to Pakistan and gained experience in crisis management in Afghanistan.





One Liner

1. Where will the 48th International Book Fair be organized - **In Salt Lake City, Kolkata**
2. Recently, Skydo was approved as a cross-border payment aggregator by whom? - **RBI**
3. When did BIMSTEC come into existence? - **In the year 1997**
4. Michael Martin, who has recently been appointed as the Prime Minister of Ireland, belongs to which political party - **Fianna Fail political party**
5. The CEO of NITI Aayog is - **BVR Subramaniam**
6. Which was the first state of India to impose a complete ban on the sale of liquor in the state? - **Gujarat**
7. Recently, Indian Ambassador Jitendra Pal Singh has been appointed as the ambassador of which country - **Israel**
8. When was the first Asian Badminton Mixed Team Championship held - **2017 in Vietnam**
9. What is the total number of women MPs in the 18th Lok Sabha - **74**
10. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) recently established a new regional office in which city? - **Varanasi**

