



# The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

## CURRENT AFFAIR BOOSTER

15 - 09 - 2023

Friday



### THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

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THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY



# DAILY

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

# &

# QUIZ



UPSC / BPSC

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# THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

## 1. Haryana government appointed actress Mita Vashishtha as chairperson of Entertainment Policy Council



The Haryana government has appointed film actress Mita Vashishtha as the chairperson of the Governing Council to monitor the implementation of the Haryana Film and Entertainment Policy (HFEP). This post was vacant after the death of director and producer Satish Kaushik. He was appointed as the first Chairman by the Haryana Government. Mita Vashishtha has 43 years of experience in films, television serials and theater productions. She has served as visiting faculty in prestigious institutions like National School of Drama (NSD), National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), National Institute of Design (NID), Whistling Woods International (WWI). She has also held the position of head of the acting department in the Film and Television Institute (FTII). According to Haryana Government spokesperson Meeta Vashishtha Information, Public Relations, The Administrative Secretary of the Language and Culture Department will also be the Co-Chairman of the Governing Council and the Director General of the Information, Public Relations, Language and Culture Department will also be the Member Secretary. Other members of the Governing Council include Administrative Secretary, Tourism Department, Administrative Secretary, Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs, Vice-Chancellor, State University of Performing and Visual Arts, Rohtak or their representatives, Media Advisor to the Chief Minister, Haryana and seven non-officials nominated by the State Government.

## 2. Najma Akhtar honored with Lifetime Achievement Award in the field of education



Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) Vice-Chancellor and distinguished Padma Shri recipient Professor Najma Akhtar has been honored with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award-Academia'. Prestigious Padma Vibhushan awardee Dr. Raghunath Anant Mashelkar presented the award to Professor Akhtar in a glittering ceremony held here. The honor was part of the grand conference and awards ceremony titled "Making India Employable" organized by TeamLease EdTech. A panel of academicians and industry experts was convened to select Professor Akhtar for this honor in recognition of his outstanding contribution towards bridging the gap between education and employment. His tireless efforts to link academic activities with the practical demands of the workforce have had a significant impact on education in India. 'Making India Employable Awards' Education, is a tribute to individual excellence, innovation and concrete results in the field of employability and skill development. These awards celebrate individuals who have made exemplary contributions towards the common objective of increasing employability in India. TeamLease EdTech, the driving force behind this initiative, is committed to establishing an ecosystem that empowers every learner with the skills and knowledge required to succeed in the job market. Professor Najma Akhtar's Lifetime Achievement Award not only recognizes her tireless dedication to advancing education, But also underlines the importance of connecting educational institutions with the growing needs of the workforce. His work serves as an inspiration to teachers and leaders who

# THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

strive to empower individuals with the necessary skills to excel in their careers and contribute to the development of the country.

### 3. ITI Limited launches its branded laptop and micro PC 'SMAASH'



Government telecom company ITI Limited has developed and launched laptops and micro PCs in the market as per international standards. Both the products launched under the 'Smash' brand have already reached the market. ITI has also won many tenders, leaving behind giant companies like Acer, HP, Dell and Lenovo. After this news, the company's shares closed at Rs 149.40 with an upper circuit of 20 percent. At this time a year ago, this share was at Rs 86. ITI has developed laptops and micro personal computers (PC) in collaboration with Intel Corporation. ITI claims that its small-sized PC is capable of performing calculations like any other personal computer and also contributes to the reduction of carbon emissions. It has more than 12,000 PCs already working successfully. ITI Chairman and Managing Director Rajesh Rai on Monday said the Smash brand is receiving good response from customers and is helping it win deals in a highly competitive market. The company has recently won two tenders from Kerala Infra and Technology for Education, under which 9,000 laptops are to be manufactured and given to schools in Kerala. The government's focus on 'Make in India' and 'self-reliance' is evident in the achievements of ITI Limited. They have received purchase order from BSNL for planning, engineering, supply, installation, commissioning, and AMC of 4G mobile network for 23,633 locations in the Western

Region of BSNL's network. ITI Limited plans to manufacture 4G RAN equipment for both 4G and 5G networks, highlighting the nation's commitment to import substitution and promoting innovative indigenous solutions in the telecom market.

### 4. NPCI and Cashfree Payments jointly launch 'Autopay on QR'



Cashfree Payments, a leading player in the payments and API banking solutions sector, has joined hands with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to unveil a groundbreaking solution called 'Autopay on QR'. This innovative offering is set to empower subscription-based businesses, boosting their customer acquisition, retention and overall growth prospects. A special feature of Cashfree Payments' Autopay on QR is its ability to simplify the process of creating mandates for subscription services. This two-click solution not only enhances user convenience, but also promises to significantly improve the return on investment (ROI) for businesses investing in advertising campaigns. Subscription-based enterprises can integrate their subscription QR codes into a variety of marketing channels, including online ads, newspapers, websites, TV, and product packaging. This integration increases the effectiveness of promotional campaigns, ultimately driving more value for businesses. Traditionally, subscribing to services like investing, content publishing, or OTT platforms involves a multi-step process that includes downloading the app, setting up an account, selecting a plan, choosing a payment service provider (PSP) app, and subscribing. Reaching

# THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

out was included. This cumbersome onboarding experience is now transformed into a faster two-step workflow with Cashfree Payments' Autopay on QR. This eliminates the need to download an app or register on a website and directly activates a unique subscription for each customer.

## 5. Bank of Baroda opens four new savings accounts



Bank of Baroda has opened four new savings accounts under this festive offer. Customers are now offered mortgage loans, car loans, education loans and personal loans at very affordable interest rates and multiple benefits. Additionally, the bank has partnered with leading electronics, travel and grocery brands to offer discounts on debit and credit cards to customers during the festive season. During the holiday season, Bank of Baroda is offering home loans to its customers at an annual interest rate of 8.40%. At the same time, car loan can be taken at an annual interest rate of 8.70%. No fee will be charged from the customer in this case. The bank offers education loans at an annual interest rate of 8.55%. In such a situation, customers get a discount of 60 points. The bank also offers personal loans to its customers during the Christmas season at an annual interest rate of 10.10%. In such a situation, you will not have to pay any processing fee. Bank of Baroda has partnered with leading brands across various categories including electronics, consumer durables, travel, food, fashion, entertainment, lifestyle, grocery and health to provide exclusive offers and discounts to its debit and credit cardholders. The initiative aims to enhance the festive shopping experience while

promoting financial prudence. Apart from the new savings accounts, Bank of Baroda has introduced BoB SDP (Systematic Deposit Plan), a recurring deposit plan that allows customers to build their savings systematically over time. This plan provides a structured approach to savings while ensuring financial security for the future.

## 6. Agreement between Indian Navy and Uber, Naval personnel and their families will get special facilities



An agreement has been signed between the Indian Navy and Uber. This will benefit not only the Naval personnel but also their families and additional members. The Indian Navy is making strong efforts to propel itself towards an era of change so that it can reshape its operational processes and capabilities. This agreement is said to be in line with CNS's vision of 'Happy Personnel' under 'Ship First' which is the first such effort in the Armed Forces. It will serve to advance the Government of India's 'Digital India' vision of harnessing technology for transformational change. The objective of this agreement is to provide reliable, convenient, To provide safe and affordable vehicle facility. Therefore it is being said that it has been customized only for the Navy. Under this MoU, special categories have been created for the Navy which will provide special benefits in premium business support and other services which are not provided in everyday Uber services. This MoU is for one year. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar, NWWA President Kala Hari Kumar and Abhinav Mittu, Senior Country Manager, Uber Business in India, South Asia and Egypt were also present on the occasion.

# THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

## 7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor plan during the G20 summit



In a significant announcement during the G20 summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor plan, an unprecedented initiative that promises to reshape global trade and connectivity. This corridor, involving India, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, Italy, Germany and the United States, is poised to be a historic venture that will surpass even the famous silk and spice routes of the past. The India-Middle East-Europe Mega Economic Corridor project aims to promote trade among the participating countries with a special focus on facilitating the exchange of energy-related goods. The initiative could serve as a significant response to China's broader infrastructure initiative, which aims to enhance global connectivity with the Chinese economy.

This corridor is not just a conventional transport but a comprehensive infrastructure network consisting of various elements:

**Rail Link:** The corridor will have a modern rail link, which will facilitate the movement of goods and people among the participating countries.

**Power cable:** A power cable will be laid to enhance energy cooperation and stability, ensuring reliable and efficient power supply.

**Hydrogen Pipeline:** The project includes a hydrogen pipeline, reflecting a commitment to clean energy sources and low carbon emissions.

**High-speed data cable:** A high-speed data cable will enable seamless digital connectivity, promoting innovation and economic growth.

## 8. Punjab Health Minister Balbir Singh launches 'Mission Intensive Indradhanush' 5.0 in Mohali



Punjab Health Minister Balbir Singh launched “Mission Intensive Indradhanush” 5.0 from Dr. BR Ambedkar Medical College, Mohali. Health Secretary and Mission Director Abhinav Trikha and other officials were also present on this occasion. Earlier it was planned for August along with the rest of the country. But it got delayed due to the flood situation in the state. Mission Indradhanush provides vaccination against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases-VPDs-ie diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, meningitis and pneumonia, Haemophilus influenzae. The mission aims to cover pregnant women who have received partial vaccination or who have not been vaccinated. Additionally, it attempts to reach children aged 0-5 years who have missed their vaccinations. During the mission, A total of 6156 vaccination sessions will be conducted across the state of Punjab. Vaccination teams will focus their efforts on reaching remote areas, especially brick kilns and places where migrant laborers live. Identification and vaccination of individuals in these areas will be the top priority.

### QUIZ

1. When is National Hindi Day celebrated every year?

- (a) 12 September
- (b) 13 September

# THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

(c) 14 September

(d) 15 September

National Hindi Day (Hindi Diwas) is celebrated every year on 14 September. Hindi is the fourth most spoken language in the world. More than 80 crore people all over the world speak and understand Hindi language. Hindi was adopted as the official language by the Constituent Assembly of India in the year 1949. National Hindi Day was celebrated for the first time in the year 1953.

**2. Recently Ian Wilmut passed away. Who was he?**

(a) writer

(b) scientist

(c) Journalist

(d) none

World famous scientist Ian Willmott has passed away. He was 79 years old. Wilmut was a famous embryologist and was a resident of Britain. That means they worked on cloning. This is the same Wilmut who gave the world the first Dolly the sheep. The special thing is that this sheep was completely prepared by cloning. Dolly the sheep was developed from adult cells of sheep. The scientist who created this sheep was Ian Willmott. The development of Dolly the sheep was described as the biggest scientific event of the 20th century. Willmott and his team created Dolly the sheep in 1996. Campbell, a teammate of Willamette, died in 2012. According to the AP report, the method by which Wilmut created Dolly the sheep was the first incident in the world of cloning in which a mature adult cell was prepared from a newly fertilized embryo.

**3. Where have researchers recently developed approaches to destroy cancer cells?**

(a) IIT Delhi

(b) IIT Kanpur

(c) IIT Madras

(d) IISc Bangalore

Bengaluru-based IISc said in a statement that early detection and treatment is crucial in the fight against cancer. Earlier, copper sulphide nanoparticles had attracted attention for their use in cancer diagnosis, while gold nanoparticles have shown anti-cancer effects. These gold nanoparticles can be chemically modified to target cancer cells. The IISc team decided to combine both copper sulphide and gold nanoparticles into hybrid nanoparticles in the current study.

**4. Which Indian state has recently approved a new policy for the services sector?**

(a) Bihar

(b) Uttar Pradesh

(c) Himachal Pradesh

(d) Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand government has approved the new policy for the service sector. Under the new policy, a target has been set to create 20 lakh employment opportunities in the state and facilitate skill development of 10 lakh workers. This decision was taken in the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. After the approval of this policy, the service sector in the economy of Uttarakhand will get a boost. Excluding tourism, under this policy there is a possibility of increasing the service economy to about 27 billion dollars by the year 2030. Also, it will contribute at least 40 percent to the state's gross domestic product. At present, the government has set a target to attract investment of about Rs 60,000 crore in the service sectors of Uttarakhand before the year 2030. In this sequence, a target of investment of about Rs 45,000 crore has been set before the year 2027.

**5. Who has been appointed by the Haryana Government as the Chairman of the Governing Council of Haryana Film and Entertainment Policy?**

(a) Kangana Ranaut

(b) Sapna Chaudhary

# THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

(c) Mita Vashishtha

(d) Elvish Yadav

The Haryana government has appointed renowned film actress Meeta Vashishtha as the chairperson of the Governing Council set up to oversee the implementation of the Haryana Film and Entertainment Policy. This post had become vacant due to the untimely demise of renowned director, producer and actor Satish Kaushik. The state government had appointed Satish Kaushik as the first chairman of the Governing Council. Mita Vashishtha has 43 years of experience in films, television serials and theater productions. She has served as visiting faculty in prestigious institutes like National School of Drama (NSD), National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), National Institute of Design (NID), Whistling Woods International (WWI).

**6. Madan Lal Regar has been appointed as the new Ambassador of India to which country?**

(a) Kenya

(b) Spain

(c) Thailand

(d) Republic of Congo

The Ministry of External Affairs has appointed Madan Lal Raigar as the next Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Congo. Madan Lal Regar is currently working as a director in the ministry. India launched a diplomatic mission in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo in November 2019. The Republic of Congo is a Central African country, its capital is Brazzaville.

**7. Who has been appointed by the Ministry of External Affairs as the next High Commissioner of India to Australia?**

(a) Surendra Sinha

(b) Gopal Bagle

(c) Nripendra Mishra

(d) Vinod Yadav

Senior diplomat Gopal Baglay has been appointed as the new High Commissioner of India to Australia. Bagle

is a 1992 batch Indian Foreign Service officer. Presently he is the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka. Bagley will succeed Manpreet Vohra as Indian High Commissioner to Australia. Bagle has served in various positions in the Ministry of External Affairs. He has also worked as Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office.

**8. Who has assumed the charge of Director (Finance) of Solar Energy Corporation of India?**

(a) Joshit Ranjan Sikidar

(b) Ajay Maken

(c) PK Sinha

(d) Syed Akbaruddin

Joshit Ranjan Sikidar has assumed the charge of Director (Finance) in Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI). Earlier he was working as Group General Manager (Finance) and Company Secretary of RITES (RITES) Limited. Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited is a Miniratna company under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.

## ONE LINER

When is National Hindi Day celebrated every year – **14 September**

Recently Ian Wilmut passed away. Who was he - **Scientist**

Which state government has recently approved the state's first 'Service Sector Policy' - **Uttarakhand**

FIH has withdrawn the rights to host the Olympic Qualifier from which country – **Pakistan**

Where has the fourth G-20 Sustainable Finance Working Group meeting started recently – **Varanasi**

Who has assumed the charge of Director (Finance) of Solar Energy Corporation of India- **Joshit Ranjan Sikidar**

Who has been appointed by the Ministry of External Affairs as the next High Commissioner of India to Australia- **Gopal Baglay**

# THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

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How many crores of rupees will Oil India Limited invest to achieve the target of net zero carbon emissions by 2040 – **25,000 crores**

Which Indian female cricket player has been included in the 2023 Time 100 Next list – **Harmanpreet Kaur**

Madan Lal Regar has been appointed as the new Ambassador of India to which country – **Republic of Congo**

Who has been appointed by the Haryana Government as the Chairperson of the Governing Council of Haryana Film and Entertainment Policy – **Mita Vashishtha**

