



# The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

## CURRENT AFFAIR BOOSTER

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MONDAY



### THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

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# DAILY

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

# &

# QUIZ



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## 1. TCS partners with BankID BankAxept to strengthen Norway's financial infrastructure



In a strategic move, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a major player in the IT industry, has joined hands with Norway's national payments and electronic identification system, BankID BankAxept. The collaboration is set to strengthen Norway's financial infrastructure, focusing on flexibility, security and availability. Norway's national payments system, Bankaccept, stands at the core of the country's payments ecosystem. Notably, 80% of card payments in Norway are processed through BankAccept cards. BankID is an electronic identity verification solution in Norway. More than 90% of Norway's population, financial institutions, public entities and commercial enterprises rely on BankID for secure identity verification. TCS is committed to setting up a state-of-the-art operations command center in Oslo, Norway. The center is prepared to provide a rapid response to any disruptions in services, security incidents or customer requests related to Norway's national payment and electronic identity verification systems. The new rules mandate BankID to provide a compliant, trusted and secure electronic identity solution. The partnership emphasizes round-the-clock support to ensure the highest standards of reliability. TCS' command center in Oslo will serve the needs of all BankID BankAccept AS users and customers. Its primary purpose is to ensure a rapid response to service disruptions, security concerns or customer inquiries related to Norway's critical payment and electronic identity verification systems.

## 2. Prime Minister Modi invited Biden to be the chief guest of India on Republic Day



US President Biden may once again visit India early next year. He can be the state guest on Republic Day. US Ambassador Eric Garcetti confirmed that Prime Minister Modi has invited US President Joe Biden to the Republic Day celebrations during the bilateral meeting held on the sidelines of the G20 summit. According to sources, India is trying to organize the Quad conference on the occasion of Republic Day next year. India is to host the Quad next year. Apart from India, the heads of states of America, Australia and Japan are members of the organization. India wants to organize this conference in such a way that all three heads of state will also become state guests on the occasion of Republic Day next year. However, in Australia, January 26 is his national day, due to which he may not be able to come. Now efforts are being made to fix such a schedule that the Quad conference should be held on January 25 and Biden should stay as the chief guest on January 26. There is also a general election next year. Earlier in 2015, the then US President Barack Obama had become the state guest on the occasion of Republic Day. However, this program will be finalized only when the heads of state of the three countries give their consent. But according to sources, even if the Quad conference does not take place, Biden can come on Republic Day. It is known that after coming to power in 2014, Prime Minister Modi has also left his diplomatic mark in deciding the guest on Republic Day. If Biden comes on Republic Day next year, it will be the fourth visit of an American President during the term of Modi government. Apart from Obama, Donald Trump has also visited India as President.

## 3. ADB pegs India's growth at 6.3%, India Ratings estimates 6.2%



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The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has cut India's growth forecast for FY24 to 6.3 percent. A change of 10 basis points has been made in this. ADB has reduced its growth projections given the impact on crop production due to uneven monsoon rains this year. India Ratings and Research has revised the growth forecast for FY24 to 30 basis points considering the government's continued capital expenditure, reduced debt balance sheet of companies and the banking sector, possible decline in global commodity prices and new private corporate capital expenditure estimates. The marks have been increased to 6.2 percent. ADB has said in its latest Asian Development Outlook, 'India's outlook is likely to remain better due to strong private consumption and a pick-up in public and private expenditure. The slight downward revision in growth estimates for FY24 is due to uneven rainfall in the monsoon season, which may adversely impact agricultural output in the upcoming harvesting season. However, ADB has maintained the growth forecast for FY24 at 6.7 percent and attributed this to the possible increase in private investment and industrial production. ADB has said this will drive growth. ADB has increased the inflation rate estimate in India for FY 24 to 5.5 percent, whereas earlier it was estimated to be 5 percent.

#### 4. Permission for TrueNat test to deal with Nipah infection



To strengthen Kerala's health system to deal with the Nipah virus infection spread in Kozhikode, the Indian

Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has given permission for TrueNat testing. Under this, testing can be done in some hospitals with mobile, smart chip based and battery operated RT-PCR kits. Kerala Health Minister Veena George said that this approval came after the state strongly put forward a demand in this regard during discussions with ICMR. He said that permission for TrueNat testing has been given only to hospitals equipped with second level biosecurity. In Level II biosafety, strict protocols are followed to prevent the spread of infection from samples. No new case of Nipah has been reported so far. Four persons who tested positive for the virus, including the nine-year-old child of the deceased index case, are undergoing treatment. The child's condition has improved, and he no longer requires oxygen support. The other three patients are also showing signs of recovery. Of the 323 samples tested for Nipah, 317 have tested negative, while six cases have been confirmed positive, resulting in two deaths. Additionally, 980 persons in the contact list are currently in isolation, of which 11 have been kept in isolation at the Kozhikode Medical College Hospital. The health department plans to conduct a serosurveillance study among high-risk contacts to gain further insight into the epidemiology of the disease. The state is also emphasizing on the development of a long-term surveillance strategy for Nipah.

#### 5. Net Zero Climate Action: Britain's new strategy and delay in ban on petrol-diesel cars



In a recent announcement, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has revealed changes to the UK's strategy to achieve its net zero climate action targets. The strategy includes a significant five-year delay in implementing the proposed ban on petrol and diesel cars, pushing the deadline to 2035. Despite the delay, Sunak stressed that the UK remains steadfast in its commitment to reducing carbon emissions and achieving its net zero target by 2050. The core objective remains unchanged, but the approach is evolving to be more practical, proportionate

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and realistic, especially in light of the ongoing cost of living crisis. Net zero in the context of climate action, Refers to the global imperative that reductions in harmful greenhouse gas emissions must be balanced by carbon dioxide removal within a specified time frame. "This country is proud to be a world leader in reaching net zero by 2050," Sunak said. But we will not be able to achieve this unless we change. The new approach seeks to strike a balance between reducing the financial burden on families and promoting the growth of green industries vital to the future. The announcement has drawn mixed reactions, with environmental groups and even parts of Sunak's own Conservative Party expressing concern about the delay. Although, Sunak stressed that this revised approach is necessary to ease the financial strain on already struggling families. He is determined to bring about transformational change and secure a better future for the children of the nation.

## 6. Odisha's Swati Nayak to receive 2023 Norman Borlaug Field Award



Oriya scientist Dr. Swati Nayak has been selected for the Norman E. Borlaug Award 2023 for her unprecedented contribution in the field of agriculture and food production. Dr. Swati Nayak, top scientist of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), has been given this prestigious award for 'Field Research and Application'. She is the first Odia scientist to receive this honor given to scientists below 40 years of age. Nayak is the South Asia Head for 'Seed System and Product Management' at IRRI, New Delhi. This award is given in memory of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, Nobel laureate and leader of the Green Revolution, to those exceptional scientists under the age of 40 who work in the field of food and nutrition security, hunger alleviation. Delhi-based scientist Nayak from Odisha will be honored with this award in Iowa (United States of America) from 22 to 28 October next month. Nayak received his PhD in Competitive Intelligence and Strategic Management for Agricultural Extension Management Strategy at Amity

University. (2017-2022) received. The prize was conceived by Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work in global agriculture. Dr. Norman E. Borlaug is also known as the father of the Green Revolution. The World Food Awards was created in 1986 with the sponsorship of General Foods Corporation. It is also known as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture". Dr. MS Swaminathan, the father of India's Green Revolution, was the first recipient of this award in 1987.

## 7. General elections will be held in Pakistan in the last week of January 2024: Election Commission



The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced that the general elections will be held in the last week of January 2024. The Election Commission said that the work on delimitation of constituencies was reviewed and it was decided that the preliminary list for delimitation of constituencies will be published on September 27. After listening to the objections and suggestions, the final list will be released on November 30. Elections will be held in the last week of January after the completion of the 54-day election campaign program. The announcement came after the ECP said it had scheduled a meeting with political parties next month to discuss the code of conduct for the general elections. According to the ECP, a draft of the code of conduct was shared with political parties for their feedback before finalizing the rules. The draft code states that political parties, contesting candidates and election agents shall not propagate any opinion or act in any way prejudicial to the ideology of Pakistan or the sovereignty, integrity or security or morality or public order or integrity of Pakistan. will not do. The preliminary list of constituencies is set to be made public on September 27. Subsequently, after considering the complaints and feedback on the preliminary lists, the final list of constituencies will be released on November 30. This meticulous process ensures transparency and fairness in the delimitation of constituencies. The elections will be held over a period



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of 54 days, culminating in voting week at the end of January 2024. This extended timeline allows for comprehensive preparations and smooth execution of the electoral process. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakkar has expressed unwavering commitment to maintaining Pakistan's democratic process by ensuring timely conduct of general elections. The Caretaker Government emphasizes its determination to move forward without making any excuses for further delays.

## 8. Government unveils AI chatbot for PM-Kisan scheme



Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Kailash Chaudhary launched PM Kisan AI Chatbot. The Ministry of Agriculture has done an important job of resolving the complaints of farmers by taking the initiative to solve their problems through mobile at one place through AI chatbots in different languages. This big step is going to bring a big change in the lives of farmers. The Minister of State for Agriculture said that the country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for promoting the use of technology under good governance and this initiative taken today will prove to be a milestone in that. He said that today the effect of use of technology in agriculture is that farmers are doing farming through drones, due to which the youth are also getting attracted towards agriculture. Due to this, new start-ups are being started in the field of agriculture in the country. Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare appealed to the state officials to provide training to the farmers for the use of AI chatbot and keep proper monitoring and immediately resolve the problems arising in the initial phase of its use. He stressed on linking this initiative with information about weather, crop loss and soil condition, bank payments etc. The Minister of State praised the ministry officials for incorporating the technology in a very short time and said that this will

reduce the workload on agriculture officials at the Center and the states. The AI chatbot, accessible through the PM Kisan Mobile App, has been integrated with Bhashini, providing multilingual support catering to the linguistic and regional diversity of PM Kisan beneficiaries. This integration of advanced technology will not only increase transparency but will also empower farmers to take informed decisions. Currently the chatbot is available in English, Hindi, Bengali, Oriya and Tamil. Within some time it will be available in all 22 languages of the country.

## QUIZ

1. When has World Rhino Day been celebrated recently?

A- 19 September

B- 20 September

C- 21 September

D- 22 September

World Rhino Day is celebrated every year on 22 September. The day provides an opportunity to work towards saving animals, which have been the target of hunters for decades. Rhino horn is in great demand in many south-east Asian countries like China, Vietnam, Malaysia and Korea. The Chinese use it as an aphrodisiac and make traditional medicines with it. More than ever, rhinos need care and protection now. Organizations and non-profit groups around the world engage in anti-poaching measures. India is home to the Indian one-horned rhinoceros, which is commonly found in Assam and neighboring countries Nepal and Bhutan. Rhinos prefer to live in tall grasslands and forests in the Himalayan foothills.

2. Which state government has recently launched instant birth registration for newborns in government health facilities?

A- Uttar Pradesh

B- Chhattisgarh

C- Madhya Pradesh

D- Orissa

A new facility has been started in Uttar Pradesh in which new born babies will be given birth registration certificate immediately. Parents no longer need to go through bureaucracy to get birth certificates for their babies. The state government has used digital technology for this. The government will link MaNTrA (Mother Newborn Tracking) app with the birth registration system. Principal Secretary of Medical Health, Partha Sarathi Sen Sharma, told the media

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regarding this, "The Directorate of Census Operations, Lucknow has partnered with Uttar Pradesh National Health Mission (NHM-UP), UNICEF and the Office of the Registrar General of India."

**3. Where has the world's oldest cedar tree been claimed to be found recently?**

A-Orissa

B-Chhattisgarh

**C- Jammu and Kashmir**

D-Himachal Pradesh

A cedar tree has been found in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir state which is very unique. Actually, the trunk of this tree is 54 feet and the total diameter is 35 feet. The local people are very happy to find such a big cedar tree. Officials have claimed that this is the largest and possibly the oldest cedar tree in the world. As soon as this unique cedar tree with many historical properties was found, the demand for declaring the place where this tree was found, i.e. Chanti Bala, as a heritage site has started rising. Basically Chanti Bala area is known for snake worshippers. This village is surrounded by Vishakalaya cedar trees from all sides.

**4. Recently, where will Prime Minister Modi inaugurate the International Lawyers Conference 2023?**

A-Mumbai

**B- New Delhi**

C-Kolkata

D-none

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'International Lawyers Conference 2023' at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The objective of the conference is to serve as a platform for meaningful dialogue and discussion on various legal topics of national and international importance, to promote exchange of ideas and experiences and to strengthen international cooperation and understanding on legal issues. Highlighting the presence of Lord Chancellor of England, Shri Alex Chalk and representatives of the Bar Association of England, representatives of Commonwealth and African countries and people from across the country, the Prime Minister said that the International Lawyers Conference 2023 embodies the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' Become.

**5. Recently Adani Group has got the contract to install smart meters in which state?**

A- Haryana

B-Rajasthan

**C-Maharashtra**

D-all

Gautam Adani Group has got the contract to install smart meters in Maharashtra. It has received two contracts for installation of smart meters worth Rs 13,888 crore from the public sector electricity distribution company. According to the statement, Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) allotted a total of six contracts for installation of smart meters. Adani Group got two of these. The two areas where Adani Group has got the contract to install smart meters are Bhandup, Kalyan and Konkan and Baramati and Pune. Of these, 63.44 lakh meters and 52.45 lakh meters will be installed respectively.

**6. Who has recently been honored with the prestigious Ekalavya Award?**

**A- Palak Sharma**

B- Ajit Sharma

C- Deepak Mishra

D-none

Diver Palak Sharma, a resident of Indore, Madhya Pradesh, who started learning diving at the age of just 8, has become famous across the country due to her sports talent at the age of 16. Recently, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan honored him with the Madhya Pradesh Eklavya Award. This is a state level award of Madhya Pradesh with which the state governments keep honoring the players from time to time. Recently Madhya Pradesh Sports Awards were announced in which various sports competitors were honoured. Various categories of awards are given in it like Eklavya Award, Vikram Award, Vishwamitra Award, Late Prabhash Joshi Award, and Life Time Achievement Award.

**7. In September 2023, who has climbed the world's 8th highest mountain peak?**

**A- Sunil Kumar**

B- Bachandari Pal

C- Narendra Dhar Jayal

D- Mohan Singh Gunjyal

Sunil Kumar, a resident of Haryana, reached the peak of Mount Manaslu, which is 8,163 meters above sea level, at 5.25 am local time. A 32-year-old Indian banker successfully climbed Mount Manaslu in Nepal, achieving the feat of being the first Indian mountaineer to scale the world's eighth highest mountain peak this season. Sunil Kumar, a resident of

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Haryana, reached the peak of Mount Manaslu, which is 8,163 meters above sea level, at 5.25 am local time. According to the expedition organizer, he was accompanied by another Nepalese climber, Sangeeta Kumari Rokaya, and two mountain guides. Mountain guides Lakpa Gyaljen Sherpa and Changba Sherpa also reached the summit at the same time, around 5.25 am local time.

**8. Where was the recent meeting between India and Pakistan on the Indus water dispute?**

A- New Delhi

B-Vienna

C- Karachi

D-none

Delegations from India and Pakistan participated in a special meeting called in Vienna. This meeting was called by a neutral expert, the purpose of which was to resolve the dispute between India and Pakistan over Kishanganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects. This meeting was part of the action being taken to resolve this dispute. It has been revealed in the information given by the Ministry of External Affairs that the Indian delegation has participated in this meeting held in Vienna on 20-21 September.

## ONE LINER

Recently the Governor of which state has unveiled the logo of Kala Kranti Mission - **West Bengal**

For which country has America recently announced new security assistance - **Ukraine**

Who will host the International Congress on Cement Chemicals in 2027 - **India**

Joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2023' will be organized between India and which country - **America**

Which scientist has been selected as the recipient of Borlaug Field Award 2023 – **Swati Nayak**

Recently, where has the world's oldest cedar tree been claimed to be found - **Jammu and Kashmir**

Where was the recent meeting between India and Pakistan on Indus water dispute – **Vienna**

Pollution-control vessel 'Samudra Prahari ' has participated in the 'Pollution Response Table-Top ' exercise organized here - **Bangkok**

Researchers at Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) have named a new species of marine tardigrade after – **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**

Who has recently been honored with the prestigious Ekalavya Award - **Palak Sharma**

Which day will the Multiplex Association of India celebrate as National Cinema Day - **13 October**

Which state government has banned hookah tobacco products for people below 21 years of age - **Karnataka**