



# The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

## CURRENT AFFAIR BOOSTER

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Tuesday



### THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

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THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY



# DAILY

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

# &

# QUIZ



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## 1. Finance Minister inaugurates State Bank of India branch in Sri Lanka



Finance Minister Nirmla Sitharaman visited Sri Lanka's eastern port city of Trincomalee where she launched a branch of the State Bank of India and praised its role in helping companies in international trade. Sitharaman, who is on a three-day visit to Sri Lanka, visited the main Hindu temple in the multi-ethnic city before inaugurating the State Bank of India branch in Trincomalee. Eastern Province Governor Senthil Thondaman, India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay and SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara were also present at the inauguration. After inaugurating the branch, Sitharaman appreciated that SBI, with its significant presence of 159 years, is the oldest bank in Sri Lanka and is expanding its business in the country and abroad. During the Sri Lankan economic crisis, SBI's presence in Sri Lanka paved the way for the smooth extension of a USD 1 billion line of credit by India to Sri Lanka. Furthermore, SBI Sri Lanka is playing an important role by supporting corporates in international trade. In addition to SBI in-branch operations in Sri Lanka, SBI Sri Lanka continues to grow remittances through a robust digital platform through the YONO app and online banking. Sitharaman later also visited the Lanka Indian Oil Company complex in the port city. Along with Sitharaman's visit to Sri Lanka, the two countries also discussed the 12th round of the Economic and Technological Cooperation Agreement (ETCA), which was stalled since 2018. The talks took place from October 30 to November 1 following the visit of Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe to Delhi in late July. Both Wickremesinghe and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had agreed to increase bilateral trade and investment. The 12th round covered a range of topics including goods, services, rules of origin, trade

treatment, customs procedures and trade facilitation, technical barriers to trade and more, a press release said. The 19-member Indian official delegation was led by Anant Swarup, chief negotiator and joint secretary of the Department of Commerce and Industry of India.

## 2. Kerala to launch multilingual microsite to promote religious tourism



Kerala Tourism is all set to take a significant step forward in its endeavor to promote pilgrimage tourism by launching a series of microsites. These microsites are designed to not only highlight the rich heritage of the state but also showcase the profound significance of its major religious sites. One of these microsites is particularly noteworthy – it focuses on the famous Sabarimala temple and is geared to cater to a diverse audience by offering content in multiple languages, including Hindi, English, Kannada, Tamil, and Telugu. Located in the Pathanamthitta district, this microsite dedicated to the hill-temple strives to be a complete resource for the pilgrims who make all the efforts to travel and reach the Ayyappa temple every year. Its primary objective is to enhance the overall pilgrimage experience and facilitate a smoother, more organized journey for these pilgrims. The revised microsite, apart from providing comprehensive information about travel routes, will also provide valuable insights into the transport options and accommodation facilities available near the temples. Furthermore, it will be a valuable source for the latest updates on Sabarimala darshan, providing more information about the unique geographical features of the hill-temple and its deeply rooted cultural traditions. This will be particularly beneficial for potential pilgrims, allowing them to easily plan their itineraries. The Kerala Tourism Department,

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after obtaining necessary approvals from the concerned working group, has allocated a substantial amount of Rs 61.36 lakh for the development and maintenance of the Sabarimala microsite. Additionally, Kerala Tourism is preparing to launch another microsite with a unique focus on the state's Islamic traditions, festivals, art forms and places of worship. The initiative is part of a larger digital project that comes with a budget of Rs 93.81 lakh. The objective of the department here is to contribute to the promotion and support of pilgrimage tourism within the state.

### 3. Workshop on India - AU cooperation organized by NITI Aayog



NITI Aayog and Observer Research Foundation organized a workshop in New Delhi focusing on India-AU cooperation in line with the New Delhi Leaders Declaration. NITI Aayog, in partnership with Observer Research Foundation (ORF), organized a workshop in New Delhi focused on implementing the commitments of the New Delhi Leaders Declaration (NDLD) signed at the recent G-20 Summit. The objective of the workshop is to strengthen cooperation between India and the African Union (AU) in three key areas – inclusive growth, sustainable infrastructure and migration management. Dr. Saraswat stressed the potential for exchange of knowledge, skills and resources between India and AU. He called for concrete proposals in the areas of inclusive growth, sustainable infrastructure and migration management. Pro. Chand highlighted the importance of agricultural development and mutual learning opportunities between India and AU. They stressed cooperation in agricultural research, technology transfer and market access. Mr Ravi stressed the importance of cooperation in trade, investment and development between India and the AU. Advisor Sinha

underlined the shared goals of India and the AU in achieving the objectives outlined in the NDLD. The workshop was attended by over 50 experts, including representatives from national and international think tanks, academicians and diplomats from India and the African Union (AU). The participants actively discussed three key topics, providing valuable inputs. NITI Aayog intends to use the valuable insights and inputs gained from the workshop to prepare an action plan. This plan will facilitate the implementation of the commitments outlined in the NDLD, ultimately strengthening cooperation between India and the AU for a more inclusive and resilient world.

### 4. India 's first international cruise liner ' Costa Serena ' departs from Mumbai



The Ministry is very focused on putting India on the maritime map of the world. At the recently concluded Global Maritime India Summit 2023 by the ministry, the discussion revolved around reaching the target of 50 million cruise passengers in India by 2047. It has huge potential in India. Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal will launch the domestic sailing of 'Costa Serena', the first international cruise liner in India, in Mumbai. At the recently concluded Global Maritime India Summit 2023 by the Ministry, discussions were held on reaching the target of 50 million cruise passengers in India by 2047. Costa Cruises is expected to carry approximately 45,000 passengers on voyages over the next 2 months. Such cruise initiatives are part of 'Dekho Apna Desh', which was launched on the Prime Minister's appeal to the middle class to prioritize domestic tourism over international tourism. The Ministry is very focused on putting India on the maritime map of the world. At the recently concluded Global Maritime India Summit 2023 by the ministry, the discussion revolved around

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reaching the target of 50 million cruise passengers in India by 2047. It has huge potential in India. Costa Cruises is expected to carry approximately 45,000 passengers on voyages over the next 2 months. These passengers must have made bookings from international destinations. The biggest benefit for Indians is the experience of international sea travel in Indian waters.

## 5. EESL launches ' National Skilled Cooking Programme ' to transform cooking practices in India



EESL unveiled two ground-breaking initiatives, National Efficient Cooking Program (NECP) and Energy Efficient Fans Program (EEFP), which aims to bring unprecedented change in cooking practices in India. Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a Joint Venture of Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Power, unveiled two unprecedented initiatives, National Efficient Cooking Program (NECP) and Energy Efficient Fan Program (EEFP) in New Delhi. These initiatives were launched by the Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy, Shri R. Of. Singh did it. These programs aim to bring about change in cooking practices in India and highlight the importance of energy-efficient fans. EESL's commitment towards these initiatives includes the distribution of 1 crore efficient BLDC fans and 20 lakh energy-efficient induction cook stoves across the country. NECP is set to transform cooking practices in India by introducing induction-based cook stoves, which offer a cost advantage of 25-30% compared to conventional cooking methods. The initiative promises both energy savings and cost-effective cooking solutions, making it an attractive option for Indian families. By deploying 20 lakh induction cook stoves across the country, EESL aims to reduce the environmental impact of cooking methods, ensure clean air and better health for citizens.

To facilitate this large-scale deployment, EESL has partnered with Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS), which is expected to accelerate the acceptance and widespread adoption of modern electric cooking appliances in Indian kitchens. EEFP focuses on installation of energy-efficient BLDC fans with a target of distributing 1 crore ceiling fans across the country. These initiatives not only reduce energy consumption and environmental impact but also increase consumer convenience while reducing electricity bills. The program was launched during the G-20 Energy Transition Working Group in Goa in July 2023. As a continuation of this effort, EESL is inviting the first tender of 20 lakh fans under EEFP.

## 6. Bhutan King Wangchuk arrives in Delhi , will meet PM Modi



Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck reached Delhi as part of his eight-day visit to India that began on November 3. He was warmly received by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the airport. This underlines the importance India is attaching to his visit. Wangchuk's visit to India comes amid renewed efforts by Bhutan and China for an early resolution of their decades-old border dispute. Wangchuk's visit to India is taking place at a time when Bhutan and China are emphasizing on quickly resolving the decades-old border dispute. India is closely monitoring the talks on the border dispute between Bhutan and China as it may impact India's security interests, especially at the Doklam tri-junction. India is closely monitoring the talks on the border dispute between Bhutan and China. This could have implications for India's security interests, especially in the Doklam area. Wangchuk's eight-day visit to India began from Guwahati on November 3. The Ministry of External Affairs had said on November 2 that

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the visit of the Bhutanese King would provide an opportunity to both sides to review the entire dimension of bilateral cooperation and take forward bilateral partnership in various fields. Last month, Bhutan's Foreign Minister Tandi Dorji held talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing. A statement issued by China after the talks said Bhutan firmly supports the one-China principle and looks forward to working with China for an early resolution of the border issue and carrying forward the political process of establishing diplomatic relations. is ready. China and Bhutan had in August agreed to take rapid steps to implement a three-phase framework to resolve their border dispute.

## 7. IOC acquires Mercator Petroleum for Rs 148 crore



Public sector Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has acquired Mercator Petroleum for about Rs 148 crore in insolvency proceedings. IOC said that the resolution plan of IOC for the acquisition of 100 per cent stake in Mercator Petroleum Limited (MPL) has been approved by the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). MPL has a terrestrial oil and gas exploration block in the Gulf of Khambhat, Gujarat. Block CB-ONN-2005/9 was won by the company in the 7th NELP bid in 2008. It is likely to have 4.55 crore barrels of oil reserves. This block is located at a distance of about 60 kilometers from IOC's Koyali Refinery Block. "The IOC will implement the resolution plan and complete the regulatory process, including obtaining necessary approvals, for the successful implementation of the resolution plan," it said. As per the resolution plan, the company will pay Rs 135 crore to secured financial creditors who had accepted claims of Rs 291 crore. No payment has been made to unsecured financial creditors, who had accepted claims of Rs 118

crore. Additionally, the resolution plan offers Rs 5.40 crore to operational creditors, including vendors, workmen, employees and statutory dues, while their total accepted claims are Rs 73 crore. IOC has also agreed to bear the insolvency proceedings cost of Rs 8.7 crore, demonstrating its commitment to ensure a smooth transition of MPL.

## 8. Indian poet Give Patel passes away at the age of 83



The world of art and literature lost an important figure with the demise of Give Patel at the Palliative Care and Training Centre, Pune. Give Patel, who is battling cancer, was admitted to the Pune center a few weeks ago. He leaves behind a legacy of notable contributions as a playwright, poet, painter and physician. Born on 18 August 1940 in Mumbai, Give Patel belonged to a family deeply involved in the medical profession. His father was a dentist, and his mother was a doctor's daughter. Patel received his early education at St. Xavier's High School and graduated from Grant Medical College, Mumbai. After his medical education, Patel initially took a government job in his native village Nargol in southern Gujarat. Subsequently, he served as a general practitioner in Mumbai until his retirement in 2005. Give Patel was not only a talented artist and poet but also an advocate of the environment. He was part of a group of writers who committed themselves to the green movement dedicated to environmental protection. His poems reflect deep concerns about nature and the consequences of human cruelty towards it. Some of his notable poems include "How Do You Withstand" (1966), "Body" (1976), "Mirrored Mirroring" (1991), and "On Killing a Tree." Apart from his poetic endeavours, Give Patel was a talented playwright. He wrote three plays, each of which highlights different aspects of the human experience. His plays, "Princess" (1971), "Savaxa" (1982), and "Mr. Behram" (1987) provided unique insights into the complexities of human

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relationships and social issues. Patel's artistic explorations were not limited to the written word. He retired from his medical practice in 2005, after which he devoted himself entirely to the world of art. He was celebrated for his contributions to contemporary art, with a focus on the intricacies and beauty of life. His paintings often reflected the social realities of his time, running parallel to the leading painters of the Baroda School.

## QUIZ

Z

**1. When was ' World Jellyfish Day ' celebrated recently ?**

- (a) 01 November
- (b) 03 November
- (c) 02 November
- (d) 04 November

People around the world celebrate World Jellyfish Day on 3 November . This day is celebrated to be aware of the dangers faced by jellyfish . \_\_ Do n't wait to learn more about the background , significance , interesting trivia and other topics . \_\_ Since 2014 , the third day of November serves as the date of World Jellyfish Day . \_ It 's spring in the Southern Hemisphere , and it 's that time of year when jellyfish begin to migrate to Northern Hemisphere coastlines .

**2. Which batsman has equaled Sachin 's centuries in ODI cricket ?**

- (a) Virat Kohli
- (b) Ken Williamson
- (c) Steve Smith
- (d) Rohit Sharma

While creating history against South Africa , Virat Kohli has equaled the centuries of the world 's greatest batsman Sachin Tendulkar in ODI cricket . Also , Virat has become the seventh batsman in the world to score a century in ODI on his birthday . Virat has scored his 49 ODI centuries in just 277 innings , whereas Sachin has scored 49 ODI centuries in 451 innings .

**3. Which Indian chess player won the FIDE Women 's Grand Swiss 2023 title ?**

- (a) Harika Dronavalli
- (b) Tania Sachdev
- (c) Divya Deshmukh
- (d) R Vaishali

In chess , R Vaishali has won the FIDE Women 's Grand Swiss 2023 title in Isle of Man , UK . Whereas Vedit Gujarati defeated Alexander Predke of Serbia and achieved the top position in the open section . Along with this , both the players have also qualified for the prestigious Candidates Tournament to be played in Canada in April next year .

**4. Who has been appointed as the ' Chief Information Commissioner ' of India ?**

- (a ) YK Sinha
- (b) Vikram Kumar
- (c) Hiralal Samaria
- (d) Vinay Ojha

Information Commissioner Hiralal Samaria was sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner by President Draupadi Murmu . The top post in the Central Information Commission ( CIC ) had become vacant after the completion of YK Sinha 's tenure on October 3 . Central Information Commission is an important institution for the functioning of democracy and good government in India . CIC was established on 12 October 2005 .

**5. Which country will host the 24th Asian Archery Championship in the year 2025 ?**

- (a) Thailand
- (b) India
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) China

Bangladesh will host the 24th Asian Archery Championship in the year 2025 . This decision was taken at the World Archery Asia Congress held in Bangkok, Thailand . A total of twenty -four member countries of the Asian continent participated in the Congress . Bangladesh and China had bid to organize the 24th Asian Archery Championship .

**6. Where was the seventh edition of ' Ganga Utsav ' organised ?**

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Patna
- (c) Lucknow
- (d) Kolkata

The seventh edition of Ganga Utsav was organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga in New Delhi . On this occasion , the 33rd edition of ' Namami Gange

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Patrika' and the Voyage of Ganga booklet based on Ganga Pustak Parikrama were also released .

**7. In which area has a new species of gecko been discovered recently ?**

- (a) Western Ghats
- (b) Eastern Ghats
- (c) Thar Desert
- (d) none of these

Recently , a new species of gecko has been discovered in the Western Ghats near Rajapalayam , Tamil Nadu .

\_ This is the 94th species of Gecko . Before this , 93 species of gecko have been identified . The new species is also called Rashid 's dwarf gecko , because it is the smallest in the genus .

**8. Who won the title of Women's Hockey Asian Champions Trophy ?**

- (a) Japan
- (b) India
- (c) Malaysia
- (d) Singapore

Indian women 's hockey team has won the title of Women 's Asian Champions Trophy by defeating Japan in Ranchi . Earlier , India had won this title in Singapore in 2016 , while Japan had won this title twice in 2013 and 2021 . Asian Games champion China defeated South Korea 2-1 and secured third place . \_ \_

## ONE LINER

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When was ' World Jellyfish Day' celebrated recently - **03 November**

Which country will host the 24th Asian Archery Championship in the year 2025 – **Bangladesh**

Where was the seventh edition of ' Ganga Utsav' organized - **New Delhi**

In which area has a new species of gecko been discovered recently – **Western Ghats**

Who won the title of Women's Hockey Asian Champions Trophy - **India**

Which batsman has equaled Sachin 's centuries in ODI cricket - **Virat Kohli**

Which Indian chess player won the FIDE Women 's Grand Swiss 2023 title - **R Vaishali**

Who has been appointed as the ' Chief Information Commissioner' of India - **Hiralal Samaria**

Who has recently been made the brand ambassador of Hauser Pen - **Ranveer Kapoor**

Recently the Election Commission has signed an agreement with whom to promote electoral literacy – **Ministry of Education**