



# The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

## CURRENT AFFAIR BOOSTER

15 - 11 - 2023

Wednesday



### THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

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# DAILY

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

# &

# QUIZ

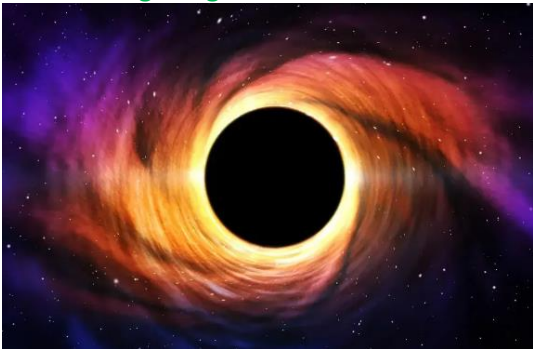


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## 1. The oldest black hole discovered 470 million years after the Big Bang



In an unprecedented discovery, researchers have identified the oldest black hole ever discovered, which came into existence just 470 million years after the birth of the universe during the Big Bang. In an unprecedented discovery that stunned the scientific community, researchers have identified the most ancient black hole ever discovered. This celestial behemoth came into existence during the Big Bang, a mere 470 million years after the birth of the universe. The discovery was made possible by the combined efforts of NASA's James Webb Space Telescope and the Chandra X-ray Observatory, which teamed up last year to unveil this cosmic wonder. Given that the universe is approximately 13.7 billion years old, this black hole is estimated to be 13.2 billion years old. The newly discovered black hole is an absolute supermassive black hole, ten times larger than the existing black hole at the center of our own galaxy. The mass of this ancient black hole is believed to be 10% to 100% of the combined mass of all the stars in its host galaxy. This mass ratio is incomparable to the tiny ratios observed in black holes within our Galaxy and nearby galaxies, which are typically a mere 0.1% of the mass of their respective galaxy. Scientists speculate that this singular black hole was formed by the collapse of giant clouds of gas within a galaxy located near another galaxy containing stars. These two galaxies eventually merged, and the newly discovered black hole eventually took the central position. The collaborative efforts of the Webb and Chandra space telescopes have unveiled an unprecedented view of the universe's distant past. They used a technique called gravitational lensing to magnify the region of space containing the galaxy UHz-1 and its associated black hole. The telescopes used light coming from a cluster of galaxies relatively close to Earth, located just 3.2 billion light years away. This

amplification effect allowed them to observe UHz-1 and its supermassive black hole, located far away in the cosmic background. The James Webb Space Telescope, launched in 2021 and deployed to a point a million miles away from Earth, is positioned as the most comprehensive and powerful astronomical observatory ever deployed in space. This state-of-the-art instrument observes the universe in the infrared spectrum, making it possible to discover celestial objects with unmatched accuracy. Webb's primary mirror consists of 18 hexagonal mirror segments constructed from beryllium with a gold-plated finish. Collectively, these segments form a mirror with a substantial diameter of 6.5 meters (21 ft), a significant upgrade from Hubble's 2.4 meters (7 ft 10 in).

## 2. G7 foreign ministers meeting in Japan



This week's meetings of Group of Seven (G7) foreign ministers have focused on addressing the Israel-Hamas conflict and the upcoming humanitarian crisis in Gaza. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken stressed the importance of member states speaking with "one clear voice" in response to these critical issues. The timing of these meetings is significant given the growing calls for humanitarian intervention in the Gaza war. US Secretary of State Blinken attended bilateral talks with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa. Japan also expressed hope for the early release of hostages held by Hamas, some of whom are US citizens. Kamikawa praised the diplomatic efforts made by the United States to address the Israel-Palestine situation and promised Japan's maximum support. Additionally, Kamikawa stressed the importance of close unity between Japan and America. Secretary Blinken reiterated the spirit of unity within the G7, stressing the need for all member states to come together and speak with a clear voice regarding the Gaza crisis. Japan has called on all direct parties

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involved in the conflict to abide by international law and advocated de-escalation. Additionally, Japan has committed funds to help alleviate critical humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip. French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna repeated calls for an “immediate humanitarian ceasefire” in Gaza. He stressed that this ceasefire should ultimately lead to a ceasefire. The United States also supports a humanitarian pause in Gaza, but has rejected a full ceasefire. US officials argue that the ceasefire could give Hamas militants an opportunity to regroup and plan future attacks. The possibility of a strategic pause in the Israeli offensive was discussed, with the aim of ensuring the safe withdrawal of civilians from targeted areas. However, Netanyahu has said there will be no ceasefire until people held hostage by Hamas are released.

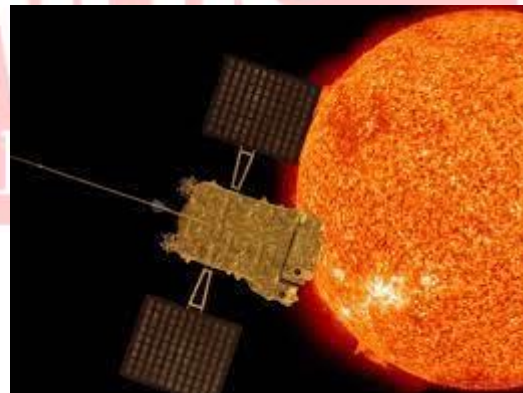
### 3. Establishment of the first international campus of IIT Madras on Zanzibar Island, Tanzania



The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has become the first Indian Institute of Technology to set up an international campus by opening its doors on an island in East Africa, Tanzania. IIT Madras has become the first Indian Institute of Technology to set up an international campus on the picturesque Zanzibar island in East Africa. Inaugurated by the President of Zanzibar, Hussein Ali Mwinyi, this historic initiative symbolizes a bright educational future, facilitated by an MoU between India and Tanzania, ushering in a new era of global education and collaboration. The establishment of the IIT Madras Zanzibar Campus represents a remarkable achievement for both India and Tanzania. This endeavor reflects the commitment of the Government of India to spread the excellence of India's education system internationally. While the initial campus is located in the Bwelio district, about 15 kilometers south of Zanzibar City, there are plans to jointly develop a permanent campus by the

Government of Zanzibar and the Government of India. To commence its operations, IIT Madras Zanzibar Campus is offering Bachelor of Science (BS) and Master of Technology (MTech) programs with a focus on Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (AI). These programs are designed to meet the growing demand for skills in data-driven technologies and are expected to pave the way for more academic offerings in the near future. Notably, the first batch of students admitted to IITM Zanzibar includes individuals from diverse backgrounds including Zanzibar, mainland Tanzania, Nepal and India, with women representing 40 percent. IIT Madras Zanzibar Campus boasts of modern and extensive facilities to meet the needs of its students. Well-furnished dormitory accommodation is available, ensuring a comfortable stay. The campus has fully equipped offices, state-of-the-art classrooms and an impressive auditorium to facilitate a conducive learning environment. Dining facilities, a dispensary and planned sports facilities ensure that students receive a holistic campus experience.

### 4. Aditya-L1 shares first high-energy X-ray glimpse of solar flares



India's solar mission Aditya-L1 has achieved another milestone in its journey. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) said that Aditya L1's payload HEL1OS has captured the first high energy X-ray glimpse of solar flares. "During its first observation period from approximately 12:00 to 22:00 UT on October 29, 2023, the High Energy L1 Orbiting The impulsive phase of the flares has been recorded." ISRO said, "The recorded data is based on X-ray light curves (X -ray Light Curves). ISRO said that HEL1OS, commissioned on October 27, 2023, is currently undergoing fine-tuning of threshold and calibration operations. The instrument is set to

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monitor the Sun's high-energy X-ray activity with fast timing and high-resolution spectra. "The data provided by HELIOS enables researchers to study the explosive energy release and electron acceleration during the impulsive phases of solar flares," ISRO said. HELIOS is being monitored by ISRO's Bengaluru-based UR Rao satellite. It was developed by the Space Astronomy Group of the Centre. Let us tell you that Aditya-L1 was launched on September 2 from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh through Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C57). It is expected to reach L1 (Lagrange Point 1) in approximately four months from the date of launch.

## 5. Union Finance Minister inaugurated 12 GST Service Centers in Gujarat



Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated 12 GST Seva Kendras at Gyan Dham School in Vapi, Gujarat. On this occasion, the Union Finance Minister also gave awards to six persons. In which a cash amount of Rs 10 lakh was also included in the prizes given to the people participating in the Mera Bill Mera Adhikar scheme. After making the complete purchase, the winners uploaded their valid bills, GST challan on the app. The Government of India has set up GST Seva Kendra as a special service facility to help taxpayers facing GST (Goods and Services Tax) related concerns. 12 GST Seva Centers will be set up in Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Godhra, Vapi, Mehsana, Palanpur, Gandhinagar, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Junagadh and Gandhidham. My Bill My Right (MBMA) is a scheme launched by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on September 1, 2023. It aims to promote the practice of generating bills/invoices during sales and purchases. My Bill Mera Adhikar scheme encourages customers to ask for GST-compliant bills. To participate in this contest, users or buyers have to

upload bills issued by Goods and Services Tax (GST) registered sellers on the website or app. Consumers can win incentives in three different categories of ₹1 crore, ₹10 lakh and ₹10,000. These awards are presented monthly and quarterly with a transparent process. All bills issued to customers in different states and union territories will be eligible to participate in the scheme.

## 6. IPS V Chandrashekhar becomes Joint Director of CBI, appointed for five years



The Center has appointed 2000 batch Gujarat-cadre Indian Police Service (IPS) officer V. Chandrashekhar as joint director in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for five years. Chandrashekhar has worked in CBI before also. Chandrashekhar, known as a sharp officer, has worked as Surat Range IG. Recently, the investigation of Kadodara kidnapping case of Surat was completed under his leadership. The kidnappers had killed the teenager when he did not receive the ransom. Before appointment as Joint Director in CBI, Chandrashekhar had worked in CBI as Superintendent of Police and Deputy Inspector General. In the order issued by the Personnel Ministry, it has been said that his appointment will be approved for five years. V Chandrasekhar, originally from Tamil Nadu, has obtained a PG degree in Agriculture. He has previously worked in many districts of Gujarat. Before assuming the command of Surat Range IG, he had also worked as Ahmedabad Range IG for some time.

## 7. IBM partners with AWS to launch new innovation lab in India

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IBM and Amazon Web Services (AWS) have announced the launch of an Innovation Lab located at the IBM Client Experience Center in Bengaluru, India. This marks a significant expansion of their collaborative services with a focus on empowering mutual customers through the capabilities of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI). The newly established Innovation Lab is a testament to IBM and AWS's commitment to facilitating experimentation with cutting-edge cloud-enabled technologies, including generative AI. Open to customers around the world, the Lab encourages the discovery of joint solutions, testing prototypes and validating proofs of value with the aim of accelerating innovation in various industries. IBM and AWS have identified key industries for targeted collaboration, including banking and financial services, automotive, manufacturing, energy and utilities, travel and transportation, and healthcare. The intention is to leverage the power of generative AI to bring about transformational change in these sectors. The Innovation Lab is structured into experience zones, each focusing on different technology areas supported by generic AI and machine learning. These areas showcase cloud modernization, SAP transformation, industry innovation, data and technology transformation, and cybersecurity. The segmentation allows customers to explore and understand specific applications of these technologies. According to the tech company's release, the lab not only serves as a space for innovation but also promotes knowledge-sharing among customers. Clients have the opportunity to learn best practices through the exchange of global case studies, fostering a collaborative environment for industry advancement.

8. The central government has appointed IAS Hitesh Kumar S Makwana as the Surveyor General of India in a major bureaucratic reshuffle.



The central government has appointed IAS Hitesh Kumar S Makwana as the Surveyor General of India in a major bureaucratic reshuffle. Makwana, a 1995 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, is currently Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry. According to the order issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Makwana has been appointed Surveyor General of the Survey of India under the Department of Science and Technology in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary, deferring the recruitment rules for the post for some time. Abhishek Singh, Chief Executive Officer, National e-Governance Division, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has now been appointed Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs. At the same time, 1994 batch IAS officer Neeraj Verma of Assam Meghalaya cadre has been made the Administrator of Universal Service Obligation Fund in the Department of Telecommunications. Ritwik Ranjanam Pandey, a 1998 batch IAS officer of Karnataka cadre, has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty for the 16th Finance Commission, Advance Cell, Department of Economic Affairs. Senior IAS officer Anurag Aggarwal has been appointed Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor in the Ministry of External Affairs. Pallavi Jain Govil, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, will be the Director General of Hydrocarbons in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Rupinder Brar will be Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Coal, Dipti Gaur Mukherjee has been appointed Additional Secretary in the Department of Health and Family Welfare. Sudeep Jain has been made Additional Secretary in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Amit Kumar Ghosh has been made Additional

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Secretary in the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. Shakeel P Ahmed has been appointed Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor in the Ministry of Textiles. Gitanjali Gupta will be Additional Secretary in NITI Aayog, Carlin Khongwar Deshmukh has been made Additional Secretary in the Department of Rural Development and Rajeev Kumar Mittal has been made Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor in the Department of Atomic Energy. Apart from this, Shrikant Nagulapalli has been made Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Power, Rahul Sharma has been made Additional Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat and Manmeet Kaur Nanda has been made Joint Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat.

## QUIZ

**1. World Radiography Day 2023 has been celebrated ?**

- (a) 7 November
- (b) 9 November
- (c) 8 November
- (d) 6 November

'World Radiography Day' is celebrated every year on 8 November. With the help of radiography, doctors are able to find out about the diseases of the body through X-ray technology. The main objective of celebrating this day is to make people aware. The theme of World Radiography Day 2023 is "Celebrating Patient Safety". This theme highlights the important role played by professionals in maintaining the effectiveness of health care systems and ensuring the well-being of patients which extends beyond the field of radiation protection. Using radiography, doctors detect internal diseases of the patient. With its help, X-ray, MRI and ultrasound are done. With the help of X-ray, dental disease, mammography, orthopedic evaluation, chiropractic examination are done.

**2. Which Indian Coast Guard ship has been decommissioned recently ?**

- (a) Sea power
- (b) Sangram
- (c) strong
- (d) immovable

Recently, Indian Coast Guard's ship Sangram was decommissioned during a program organized at Mormugao Port Authority, Goa. The ship was commissioned at Goa on 14 February 1996 by the then

Prime Minister of India PV Narasimha Rao and was stationed at Mumbai under the operational command of Commander Coast Guard Area ( West ).

**3. In which state did Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launch 12 GST Seva Kendras ?**

- (a) Haryana
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Assam

Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched 12 Goods and Services Tax ( GST ) service centers in Vapi, Gujarat. On this occasion, he also presented a check prize of Rs 10 lakh to 6 customers participating in the ' Mera Bill Mera Adhikar ' scheme. ' Mera Bill Mera Adhikar ' scheme was launched by CBIC on 1 September 2023.

**4. Who has been recently appointed as the Surveyor General of India ?**

- (a) Rajeev Kapoor
- (b) Ajay Singh
- (c) Vinaya Avasthi
- (d) Hitesh Kumar S Makwana

The Central Government has recently appointed senior IAS officer Hitesh Kumar S Makwana as the Surveyor General of India. Makwana, a 1995 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, is currently Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry. The Surveyor General of India heads the Survey of India, a department under the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Government of India.

**5. Which short - range ballistic missile did India successfully test recently ?**

- (a) Trishul
- (b) Pralay
- (c) Naag
- (d) Earth

India recently successfully test-fired its surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) 'Pralaya' from Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast. This missile has been developed by Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO). 'Pralaya' is a short-range, surface-to-surface missile with a range of 350-500 km, with a payload of 500-1,000 kg.

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6. Which state government has recently approved the first export promotion policy of the state to promote exports ?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Assam

To promote exports in the state, the Maharashtra government has approved the state 's first Export Promotion Policy. This policy will be implemented till 2027-28 and will bring about Rs 25 thousand crore in the state. Investment is expected. This policy will benefit about 5000 industries in the state, will also create 40000 employment opportunities and will help in increasing the exports of the state by 14 %.

7. In which city the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development organized the program ' Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi ' ?

- (a) Patna
- (b) Indore
- (c) Varanasi
- (d) Jaipur

National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development organized State Level Master Trainer Training Program on ' Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi ' in Indore ( Madhya Pradesh ). Twenty - nine participants attended the two - day event.

8. Who has been appointed as the Joint Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation.

- (a) Syed Akbaruddin
- (b) Arindam Bagh
- (c) V Chandrashekhar
- (d) T Nageshwar

The Central Government has appointed V Chandrashekhar to the post of Joint Director in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for five years. V Chandrashekhar is a 2000 - batch Gujarat - cadre Indian Police Service officer. He has also worked as Superintendent of Police and Deputy Inspector General in CBI. V Chandrasekhar, originally from Tamil Nadu, has obtained a PG degree in Agriculture. He has previously worked in many districts of Gujarat. Before assuming the command of Surat Range IG, he had also worked as Ahmedabad Range IG for some time.

## ONE LINER

World Radiography Day 2023 is observed on – 8th November

Which ship of the Indian Coast Guard has been decommissioned recently- Sangram

Who has recently been appointed as the Surveyor General of India- Hitesh Kumar S Makwana

In which state did Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launch 12 GST Seva Kendras – Gujarat

Which short-range ballistic missile did India recently successfully test- Pralay

Who has been appointed as Joint Director of Central Bureau of Investigation- V Chandrashekhar

Which state government has recently approved the first export promotion policy of the state to promote exports- Maharashtra

In which city the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development organized the program 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' - Indore

Who has recently been appointed as the new independent director by Dabur - Sushil Chandra

Which country's Klyuchevskaya Sopka volcano has recently erupted - Russia