

UPSC / BPSC

# ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

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# CURRENT AFFAIR BOOSTER

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### THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

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ACHIEVERS

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

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**1.** India and America will launch joint microwave satellite



India and the US will jointly launch the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite for comprehensive Earth observations in the first quarter of next year. India and the United States are set to take their space cooperation to new heights with the upcoming joint launch of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh recently announced the launch schedule for the first quarter of next year in a meeting with a high level delegation from NASA led by Administrator Shri Bill Nelson. NISAR, to be launched on India's GSLV, is a microwave remote sensing satellite designed for comprehensive Earth observations. The satellite's data will be helpful in studying various aspects including land ecosystems, solid Earth deformation, mountain and polar cryosphere dynamics, sea ice behavior and coastal ocean phenomena at both regional and global scales. The integration process of NISAR is well underway, with ISRO's S-band SAR seamlessly integrated with NASA's Lband SAR at JPL/NASA. Currently undergoing testing at URSC, Bangalore, with active participation of NASA/JPL officials, the integrated L&S band SAR promises stateof-the-art capabilities for Earth observations. The collaboration between ISRO and NASA extends beyond satellite launches. A Joint Working Group (JWG) on Human Spaceflight Collaboration has been formed, which is exploring various dimensions such as radiation impact studies, micrometeoroid and orbital debris shield studies, and space health and medical aspects.

The 8th meeting of the India-US Joint Working Group (CSJWG) on Civil Space Cooperation in January 2023 is an important step in this direction.

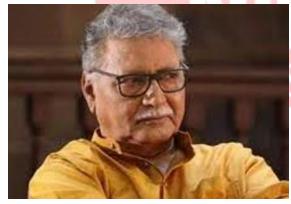
2. NATPOLREX-IX: Ninth National Level Pollution Response Exercise in Gujarat



The ninth 'National Level Pollution Response Exercise' (NATPOLREX-IX) was conducted by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at Vadinagar, Gujarat. Director General (DG) of Coast Guard Rakesh Pal and Chairman, National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) took stock of the preparedness of all agencies during the exercise. The exercise was participated by various Ministries of Central and Departments of Coastal State Governments, representatives of ports and other stakeholders. More than 31 foreign observers and 80 delegates participated in the exercise. The exercise tested the level of preparedness and coordination among various agencies to respond to oil spills while implementing the provisions of the NOSDCP. The Indian Coast Guard used various platforms including Pollution Response Vessels (PRVs), Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III and Dornier aircraft configured for marine pollution response. The event highlighted India's industrial capabilities under the 'Make in India' initiative, in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The Indian Coast Guard took over the responsibility of protecting the marine environment in India's maritime areas on March 7, 1986, with these duties transferred from the Ministry of Shipping. Subsequently, the Coast Guard developed

the NOSDCP to deal with oil spill disasters at sea, which was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in 1993. Pollution response centers have been set up in Mumbai, Chennai, Port Blair and Vadinar. A strong national system for oil spill response is critical to India's preparedness to face oil spill disasters in its waters, given that 75 percent of the country's energy requirements are met by imported oil transported by sea. The inherent risks of oil transportation demand preventive measures from both shipowners and the facilities receiving oil within ports. However, the omnipresent threat of oil pollution remains through maritime accidents and the unpredictable dangers of the ocean. The Indian Coast Guard plays the important role of being the central coordinating authority to respond to oil spills in Indian waters, monitoring and coordinating efforts to mitigate the environmental impact of such incidents.

### **3.** A road in Mumbai will be named in memory of actor Vikram Gokhale



The Maharashtra government has decided to name a road in Andheri West in honor of late National Awardwinning actor-director Vikram Chandrakant Gokhale on his first death anniversary. Gokhale, who died last year at the age of 77, was the former president of CINTAA (2017-2022). He had made a huge contribution to the welfare of CINTAA artists. Even donated one acre of land to the Premier Association. Last month, on the occasion of Vijayadashami, the tower of Cine and TV Artists Association (CINTAA), an organization of film industry artists, was inaugurated by yesteryear actress Asha Parekh. Vikram Gokhale was the President of CINTAA from 2017 to 2022. During this period, he also took many important decisions for the welfare of CINTAA artists. Late actor Vikram Gokhale had also donated one acre of land to CINTAA. He also donated one acre of land for the Marathi film industry. Vikram Gokhale has a very close relationship with CINTAA, hence the officials of CINTAA together offered to the Maharashtra government to name the road leading to CINTAA Tower as Natashreshtha Vikram Gokhale Marg. Vikram Gokhale worked in 97 films and theater plays. He also worked in 70 Marathi films. He was last seen in the 2022 film Nikamma. Apart from this, he was also seen in the web series Ambedkar - The Legend. In 2011, Vikram Gokhale was honored with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his work in theatre. In 2013, he was also awarded the National Film Award for the Marathi film Aishma.

4. Significant growth in India's engineering exports in October



In October, India's engineering exports recorded significant growth to key markets such as the United States, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). After facing a challenging first half of the year, India's engineering exports recorded notable positive growth during October to key markets such as the US, Saudi Arabia and UAE. However, a contrary scenario emerged due to decline in exports to various European Union (EU) countries, China and Southeast Asia,

according to government data. Engineering exports to the US rose 2.2% year-on-year to \$1.39 billion in October. Shipments to the UAE saw a 2.9% increase, totaling \$348.6 million. Despite a 1.6% contraction in cumulative growth during the first seven months of the current financial year (2023-24), October marked the third consecutive month of positive year-on-year growth for India's engineering exports, with a strong growth of 7.2%. Was recorded. Arun Kumar Garodiya, Chairman, Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) of India, highlighted the challenges arising from lack of demand in developed countries, especially the European Union. Barriers to market access imposed by the European Union and North American countries have further worsened the situation for Indian metal exporters. Engineering products cover a diverse range, including iron and steel products, electrical and industrial machinery, automobiles and airport-related items. These products constitute about a quarter of India's total outbound shipments.

#### 5. First auction of critical mineral blocks begins



The Ministry of Mines has announced the launch of the first tranche of auction of critical and strategic minerals, an important milestone for India's economic growth and national security. The Ministry of Mines has announced the commencement of auction of the first tranche of important and strategic minerals. This much-awaited event will be inaugurated by Union Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi, which will prove to be an important milestone in India's economic development

and national security strategy. In a statement, the ministry stressed the unprecedented nature of the initiative, saying it will play a vital role in boosting the country's economy, enhancing national security and supporting the transition to a clean energy future. The auction includes twenty blocks of critical and strategic minerals strategically located across the country. The Ministry underlined the important role of critical minerals in the economic development and national security of the country. This highlighted potential vulnerabilities in the supply chain due to lack of availability of extraction and processing in some countries. Key minerals such as lithium, graphite, cobalt, titanium and rare earth elements (REEs) have been described as essential for the future global economy. India is committed to achieve 50% cumulative electricity installed capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030. This ambitious plan for the energy transition is likely to increase demand for electric cars, wind and solar power projects and battery storage systems, which will result in increased demand for critical minerals.

6. Sonu Sood becomes brand ambassador of Sparsh CCTV



Sparsh CCTV has appointed Bollywood star and philanthropist Sonu Sood as its brand ambassador. Sonu will be involved in Sparsh's first national campaign, which gives a strong, positive and optimistic message to the people of India. In this role, Sonu will play a key role in the brand's promotion and marketing activities. A

legacy brand that manufactured the first Made in India CCTV cameras in the year 2008, it has been a key contributor to the country's largest surveillance solutions in the most critical sectors like Railways, Roadways, Airports, Homeland Security, Industry 4.0, 5G Telecom and Defence. Actor Sonu Sood said, "This partnership is an extension of my dedication and love for my country. I have always recognized and supported brands made in India. I am thrilled to be associated with Sparsh CCTV Cameras, providing great products to the country, ensuring everyone's safety." Sanjeev Sehgal, Founder and Managing Director (MD), Sparsh, said, "We are very excited to partner with Sonu Sood as the face of Sparsh. Sonu's versatility and dedication towards his art and social work cements his status as a superstar.

#### 7. Italy won Davis Cup title for the first time in 47 years



Italy has won Davis Cup-2023 after 47 years. The team defeated 28-time champion Australia 2-0 in Malaga, Spain. Italy has become champion for the second time in this 123 year old tournament. Earlier, the team had won the Davis Cup in 1976 by defeating Chile 4-1. During this period, the team has faced defeat in 6 title matches. Yannick Sinner confirmed Italy's 2-0 victory by defeating Alex Di Minor 6-3, 6-0 in the second singles match of the final. Matteo Arnoldi gave Italy a 1-0 lead by defeating Alexei Popyrin 7-5, 2-6, 6-4 in the first singles match. Earlier, in the semi-finals against Serbia, 22-year-old world number four Kassiner had defeated world number one player Novok Djokovic in both singles and doubles matches. Málaga will once again get

the chance to host the last eight stage of the Davis Cup Finals next year. India was the runner-up in the Davis Cup in 1966. Was runner up in 1974 also. Apart from this, India had also reached the final in 1987. Then we lost against Sweden. This tournament was started four years after the start of the Olympic Games, i.e. in 1900. So far 16 teams have become champions. America has won the maximum 32 titles.

#### 8. Booker Prize 2023: Irish writer Paul Lynch receives Booker Prize



The winner of the prestigious Booker Prize – 2023 has been announced. Irish author Paul Lynch has been awarded the Booker Prize- 2023 for his book 'Prophet Song', Lynch has defeated Indian-origin writer Chetna Maru. Maru's debut novel was nominated for a Western Lane Award. 'Prophet Song' is the story of a family grappling with a terrifying new world. Winner Lynch says I was trying to show modern anarchy. My book focuses on many problems. This includes many issues including the Syrian problem, explosions, refugee crisis and unrest in western countries. Let us tell you, Paul has now become the fifth Irish writer to win the Booker Prize. Iris Murdoch, John Banville, Roddy Doyle and Anne Enright have previously won the prestigious award. According to media reports, the awards ceremony was held at Old Billingsgate in London. Booker Prize-2022 winner Shehan Karunathilaka presented the trophy to 2023 winner Paul Lynch. Let us tell you, Karunathilaka is a Sri Lankan writer, who was awarded the Booker Prize last year for 'The Seven

Moons of Mali Almeida'. Esi Edugyan, President of the Booker Prize 2023, said that the Prophet's Song is like the first knock on the door that pulls us out of complacency. In the story, we follow the life of an Irish woman who is trying to protect her family in the terrible plight of the country. The woman is continuously moving forward. She is venturing into dictatorial politics.

#### QUIZ

**1.** Which country has recently allowed visa free entry for Indian citizens?

A- France

**B- Japan** 

C-Malaysia

#### D- Italy

Malaysia said it will allow 30 days visa-free travel for visitors from India from December 1. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said that the same rule is applicable for Chinese citizens also. Chinese and Indian citizens can stay visa-free in Malaysia for up to 30 days. Malaysia is the third Asian country after Sri Lanka and Thailand to allow visa-free travel for Indian citizens. Currently, travelers from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Iran, Turkey and Jordan enjoy visa exemption into the country. However, the Prime Minister said that visa exemption for Indian and Chinese nationals will be subject to security clearance. He said people with criminal records and risk of violence would not get visas.

2. Who has recently won the Davis Cup 2023 title after 47 years?

- A- Italy
- B- Japan
- C- Australia
- D-none

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won the Davis Cup in 1976 by defeating Chile 4-1. During this period, the team has faced defeat in 6 title matches. Yannick Sinner confirmed Italy's 2-0 victory by defeating Alex Di Minor 6-3, 6-0 in the second singles match of the final. Matteo Arnoldi gave Italy a 1-0 lead by defeating Alexei Popyrin 7-5, 2-6, 6-4 in the first singles match.

- 3. Who has recently been made the brand ambassador of Sparsh CCTV brand?
- A- Akshay Kumar B-Sonu Sood

C-Sonu Nigam

D- Ranbir Kapoor

Sparsh CCTV has appointed Bollywood star and philanthropist Sonu Sood as its brand ambassador. Sonu will be involved in Sparsh's first national campaign, which gives a strong, positive and optimistic message to the people of India. In this role, Sonu will play a key role in the brand's promotion and marketing activities. A legacy brand that manufactured the first Made in India CCTV cameras in the year 2008, it has been a key contributor to the country's largest surveillance solutions in the most critical sectors like Railways, Roadways, Airports, Homeland Security, Industry 4.0, 5G Telecom and Defence.

4. Who has recently been awarded the Booker Prize for 2023?

- A- Anna Burns
- **B- Paul Lynch**
- C- Chetna Maru
- D-all

The winner of the prestigious Booker Prize – 2023 has been announced. Irish author Paul Lynch has been awarded the Booker Prize 2023 for his book 'Prophet Song'. Lynch has defeated Indian-origin writer Chetna Maru. Maru's debut novel was nominated for a Western Lane Award. 'Prophet Song'is the story of a family grappling with a terrifying new world. Winner Lynch says I was trying to show modern anarchy. My

book focuses on many problems. This includes many issues including the Syrian problem, explosions, refugee crisis and unrest in western countries. Let us tell you, Paul has now become the fifth Irish writer to win the Booker Prize.

### 5. When has Guru Parv or Prakash Utsav been celebrated recently?

- A-27 November
- B- 26 November
- C-25 November
- D-29 November

Guru Nanak Jayanti is a very popular festival for the people of Sikh religion, which is celebrated every year on the day of Kartik Purnima. Guru Nanak Saheb is considered the first Guru of the Sikhs. This year Guru Nanak Jayanti is on Monday, 27 November 2023. This year the 554th anniversary of Nanak Dev Ji will be celebrated. Guru Nanak Jayanti is also celebrated as Prakash Parv. On this day people go to Gurudwara and pay obeisance and recite Guru Granth Sahib. Also, on this special day, special programs of bhajan and kirtan are also organized in the Gurudwara.

6. Which female tennis player has recently won her first ITF title?

A- Rashmika Bhamidipati

**B- Anita Panchal** 

C-Jeel Desai

#### D-all

Reigning national champion Rashmika Bhamidipati won her first ITF title by defeating Jeel Desai in the final of the Women's World Tennis Tour here. In the final held between Indian players, Rashmika won 6-0, 4-6, 6-3 and won the prize money of \$ 3935 and 50 WTA points. Jeel Desai won a prize money of \$2107 and 30 WTA points. Rashmika took advantage of Desai's mistakes and won the first set easily 6-0. But Desai made a comeback and broke his opponent's serve in the first game of the second set. But Rashmika was also not going to back down easily, she held serve in the fourth and fifth games and took a 3-2 lead. Desai then made a comeback by winning three consecutive games and took the set 6-4. Desai was trailing 0-3 in the deciding set and was having trouble with her serve in the windy conditions.

### 7. A road in Mumbai will be named in memory of which actor?

- A- Rishi Kapoor
- **B- Javed Khan**
- **C- Vikram Gokhale**

#### D-all

The Maharashtra government has decided to name a road in Andheri West in honor of late National Awardwinning actor-director Vikram Chandrakant Gokhale on his first death anniversary. Gokhale, who died last year at the age of 77, was the former president of CINTAA (2017-2022). He had made a huge contribution to the welfare of CINTAA artists. Even donated one acre of land to the Premier Association. Last month, on the occasion of Vijayadashami, the tower of Cine and TV Artists Association (CINTAA), an organization of film industry artists, was inaugurated by yesteryear actress Asha Parekh.

### 8. India and which country will launch joint microwave satellite? A-Italy

B-Japan

C- Australia

#### **D-America**

India and the US will jointly launch the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite for comprehensive Earth observations in the first quarter of next year. India and the United States are set to take their space cooperation to new heights with the upcoming joint launch of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh recently announced the launch schedule for the first quarter of next year in a meeting with a high level delegation from NASA led by Administrator

Shri Bill Nelson. NISAR, to be launched on India's GSLV, is a microwave remote sensing satellite designed for comprehensive Earth observations.

#### ONE LINER

Which country has recently allowed visa free entry to Indian citizens - Malaysia Who has won the Davis Cup 2023 title after 47 years -Italy When has Guru Parv or Prakash Utsav been celebrated recently- 27 November Which female tennis player has recently won her first ITF title - Rashmika Bhamidipati A road in Mumbai will be named in memory of which actor - Vikram Gokhale India and which country will launch joint microwave satellite - America Who has recently been made the brand ambassador of Sparsh CCTV brand - Sonu Sood Who has recently been awarded the Booker Prize 2023- Paul Lynch Who has recently been sworn in as the Prime Minister of New Zealand - Christopher Luxon Which state has declared 25th November as 'No Non-Veg Day' - Uttar Pradesh Who has unveiled the statue of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar in the Supreme Court - Draupadi Murmu