



# The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

## CURRENT AFFAIR BOOSTER

15 - 12 - 2023

Friday



### THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

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# DAILY

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

# &

# QUIZ



UPSC / BPSC

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## 1. Reliance partners with DBS Bank for biogas initiative



Reliance Industries has formed a strategic partnership with DBS Bank India to set up a financing program targeted at farmers and aggregators. The primary objective of this collaboration is to effectively manage crop residue and utilize it in the production of Compressed Biogas (CBG). Reliance Industries, a conglomerate at the forefront of aggressively pursuing opportunities in non-fossil fuels, is actively engaged in the production of CBG. This innovative approach positions CBG as a viable alternative to conventional fuels such as compressed natural gas (CNG) and other fossil fuels. Farmers often resort to burning agricultural residues due to the lack of tools, infrastructure and logistics required for proper processing. Reliance Industries has identified this challenge and has enlisted DBS Bank India as its finance partner to address the financial aspects of sustainable waste management. DBS Bank India in a statement stressed the need to involve farmers from different states to realize the full potential of CBG. The bank sees CBG not only as an alternative fuel to meet growing domestic gas demand, but also as a way to benefit the local agricultural economy by providing farmers with an additional revenue stream and helping them avoid penalties associated with residue burning. Also seen as a means. Reliance Industries is actively pursuing its green energy commitment, launching a nationwide program for biogas facilities. The initial facility in Barabanki, UP is estimated to reduce carbon emissions by 40,000 tonnes annually. With plans to set up 100 CBG plants in five years, the initiative aims to utilize over 5.5 million tonnes of agricultural residues, contributing to an annual reduction of 2 million tonnes of carbon emissions.

## 2. Arjun Award to Mohammed Shami, Satwik-Chirag pair nominated for Khel Ratna Award



Fast bowler Mohammed Shami, who performed brilliantly in the ODI World Cup, has been nominated for the Arjuna Award, while badminton men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have been nominated for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award. Thirty-three-year-old fast bowler Shami had performed brilliantly in the ODI World Cup. India lost to Australia in the final of this tournament. According to Sports Ministry sources, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) made a special request to include Shami's name in the list. Earlier his name was not included in the list of players nominated for the country's second highest sports award. Shami took the most wickets in the ODI World Cup. He had taken 24 wickets in only seven matches. After being out of the first four matches, when Shami got a chance, he took full advantage of it. He can now play in the upcoming two-Test series against South Africa. Apart from Shami, 16 other players have also been nominated for the Arjuna Award. These include men's hockey players Krishna Bahadur Pathak and Sushila Chanu, archers Ojas Praveen Deotale and Aditi Gopichand Swamy, boxer Mohammad Hussamuddin, chess player R Vaishali, golfer Diksha Dagar, shooter Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar, wrestler Anant Panghal and table tennis player Ayhika Mukherjee. Ganesh Prabhakaran (Mallakhamb), Mahavir Saini (Para Athletics), Lalit Kumar (Wrestling), RB Ramesh (Chess) and Shivendra Singh (Hockey) have been nominated for the Dronacharya Award for coaches. Kavita (Kabaddi), Manjusha Kanwar (Badminton) and Vineet Kumar Sharma (Hockey) have been nominated for the Dhyan Chand Lifetime Award. The Sports Ministry has constituted a 12-member

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committee to decide this year's Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award and Arjuna Award.

### 3. Statue of Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar inaugurated in France



The statue of Tamil poet and philosopher Thiruvalluvar was unveiled in Sergi, France on December 10, 2023. Thiruvalluvar was a great saint of South India. He is also called Kabir of South India. Thiruvalluvar had composed 'Tirukkural' or 'Kural' in Sangam literature. Thirukkural has been compared to the great books of the world's major religions. Saint Thiruvalluvar was born in the first century BC. He is considered a symbol of intelligence and knowledge. His writings inspire millions of people around the world. People of all religions including Shaiva, Vaishnav, Buddhist and Jain believed in Thiruvalluvar. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised the unveiling of the statue of Tamil poet and philosopher Thiruvalluvar in Sergi, France. In a social media post, Mr Modi said the statue is a living testimony of the shared cultural ties between India and France. He said Thiruvalluvar is revered as an epitome of wisdom and knowledge and his writings inspire millions of people across the world. Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made an announcement in this regard during his visit to Paris for Bastille Day in July and the unveiling of the statue is its implementation. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that this statue will inspire thousands of people to follow the noble thoughts of Thiruvalluvar. It is another symbol of the long-standing cultural ties between the two countries. This will send a message to the world that India and France are true friends. Let us tell you the place of Tulsji, Surdas, Kabir and Raskhan in North India. The same is of the saint and famous poet

Thiruvalluvar in South India. In the South, his written texts and collections are read like Ramcharitmanas. Research chairs based on Saint Thiruvalluvar exist in many universities. He was born in the first century BC. From then till today, Thiruvalluvar's texts are present in every home in the four states of South India.

### 4. IPL 2024: Brand value of IPL crosses 10 billion dollars



The total combined brand value of the Indian Premier League (IPL) has crossed the \$10 billion mark. As of now, the brand value of IPL is \$10.7 billion, while in 2022 it was \$8.4 billion, thus registering a growth of 28%. A report by brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance said the overall brand value of the IPL has increased by 433 per cent since its launch in 2008. It said the IPL's significant growth is attributed to factors including the \$6.2 billion (Rs 48,390 crore) media rights deal, the increase in the central pool of IPL revenue, the inclusion of two franchise teams, and Covid-19. Full stadium attendance to return in 2023 after pandemic. Five-time champions Mumbai Indians have emerged as the most valuable IPL brand with \$87 million, followed by five-time winners Chennai Super Kings (CSK), who are now the second most valuable brand with \$81 million. Other franchises in the top five list include two-time winners Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) with \$78.6 million and \$69.8 million respectively. IPL 2022 winners Gujarat Titans (GT) witnessed a massive rise in their brand value ranking with a 38 per cent increase to the fifth position, a huge jump from the eighth position last year. Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) is ranked eighth with a brand value of \$47 million and is now the fastest growing IPL brand with a growth of 48 per cent. The report said that despite starting from a relatively low base, LSG has made substantial progress in the valuation landscape.

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## 5. Golden Globe Awards Nominations 2024



The glitz and glamor of Hollywood took center stage as the nominees for the 81st annual Golden Globe Awards were announced, setting the tone for the highly anticipated 2024 awards season. The unveiling not only showcased the industry's top talent, but also marked a significant moment in the history of the Golden Globes, a ceremony that has undergone significant changes in recent times. "Barbie" and Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" emerged as the frontrunners, both garnering critical attention with 10 and 8 nominations, respectively. The rare confluence of these blockbuster films in the same weekend led to memes and Halloween costumes, which contributed to a turbocharged box office haul. In the television categories, HBO's "Succession" remained on top with nine nominations for its final season. "The Bear" and "Only Murders in the Building" received five nods each. The article highlights the competitive races in both the drama and comedy categories. Netflix emerged as the leading media company with 28 nominations, showcasing its diverse lineup of series and films, including "Maestro," "The Crown" and "The Diplomat." Warner Bros. Discovery follows closely behind with 27 nominations, buoyed by recognition for "Barbie," "Succession" and "Barry." Despite earning rave reviews, Ava DuVernay's "Origins" and Michael Mann's "Ferrari" were notably absent from the nominations. "The Color Purple" failed to take home the best musical or comedy award and the "Frasier" reboot also took home no honors. There are notable changes at this year's Golden Globes, including six nominees per category instead of five. Two new awards have been introduced to celebrate box office achievements and stand-up comedy performances, recognizing films like "John

Wick: Chapter 4" and stand-up specials from Trevor Noah, Amy Schumer and Ricky Gervais Is.

## 6. IPL 2024: Kolkata Knight Riders again handed over captaincy to Shreyas Iyer



Preparations for the Indian Premier League 2024 are going on at a very fast pace. The auction for this season will be held in Dubai on 19th December. Just before IPL 2024, Kolkata Knight Riders have taken an important decision. The team has made Shreyas Iyer the captain again. Iyer could not play last season due to injury. In his absence, Nitish Rana was made the captain. KKR has shared information with fans through social media posts. The team has again made Iyer the captain in place of Nitish Rana. Iyer could not play last season due to injury. Because of this, Nitish captained the entire season. Now with the return of Iyer, he has been handed over the captaincy. Nitish has been made the vice captain. Iyer is an experienced player and has performed brilliantly for the team on many occasions. Shreyas Iyer reacted after becoming the captain. He also praised Nitish Rana. Iyer said, "Last season was very challenging for us. Nitish fulfilled his responsibility very well. Along with filling my place, he also captained well. I am happy that KKR has made him vice captain. There is no doubt that because of him the strength of the team will increase. Let us tell you that KKR was at number 7 in the points table of IPL 2023. He played 14 matches and won 4. KKR also had to face defeat in 8 matches. Rinku Singh had scored the maximum runs for the team. Rinku had scored 474 runs in 14 matches. During this period he scored 4 half-centuries. Rinku's best score was 67 runs not out.

## 7. iPhone maker Foxconn will make big investment in Karnataka

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Taiwan-based giant Foxconn, responsible for assembling about 70% of iPhones globally, will invest an additional 139.11 billion rupees (\$1.67 billion) in Karnataka state. In a significant move, Taiwan-based giant Foxconn, responsible for assembling about 70% of iPhones globally, is set to invest an additional Rs 139.11 billion (\$1.67 billion) in the state of Karnataka. The decision highlights Foxconn's ongoing efforts to diversify production away from China, driven by disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions. Foxconn, the world's largest contract manufacturing company, has been expanding rapidly in India in the last one year. Notably, in the face of uncertainties and disruptions, the decision to diversify production is in line with global trends of companies seeking to reduce dependence on a single manufacturing facility. In August, Foxconn had already announced a major investment of \$600 million in two projects within Karnataka. These projects are aimed at manufacturing casing components for iPhones and chip-making equipment, demonstrating the company's commitment to establishing a strong manufacturing ecosystem in the southern state. One of the most notable aspects of Foxconn's expansion plans is its intention to start iPhone manufacturing in Karnataka by April 2024. This ambitious project is likely to create approximately 50,000 jobs in the region, which will contribute significantly to employment opportunities.

## 8. Debt of 12 Indian states likely to exceed 35% of GSDP by FY 2024



Twelve Indian states, including Punjab and West Bengal, are estimated to have debt exceeding 35% of GSDP by FY2024, prompting a warning from the RBI. In India's fiscal outlook, a worrying trend has emerged as the debt of twelve states is projected to exceed 35% of their Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by the end of fiscal year 2023-24. This revelation, detailed in the latest annual publication of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), points to possible fiscal mismanagement and raises concerns about the fragile fiscal position of these states. The states that have attracted RBI's attention for fiscal mismanagement include Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal. The central bank's annual publication cautions against additional allocations for non-qualifying goods, services, subsidies, transfers and guarantees, as such moves could jeopardize the hard-won fiscal consolidation achieved over the past two years. Can. These twelve states have collectively estimated their fiscal deficit in the current financial year to exceed 4% of their respective GSDP, indicating a challenging fiscal scenario. The RBI has emphasized the potential disruptions it may cause and urged caution in managing fiscal policies. Interestingly, none of the Union Territories, including Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi and Puducherry, have estimated their debt to be more than 35% of GSDP.

## QUIZ

1. When has Universal Health Coverage Day been observed recently?

- (a) 10 December
- (b) 11 December
- (c) 12 December

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(d) 9 December

Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day) is observed every year on 12 December. It aims to celebrate progress towards health for all and raise awareness on the need for strong and resilient health systems to achieve universal health coverage. This year, UHC Day presents an opportunity to renew commitments towards accelerating UHC as countries recover from the devastating economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries in the Western Pacific region have made significant progress on the UHC Service Coverage Index, which measures population coverage of essential health services based on tracer interventions including reproductive, maternal, child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and Access included. ,

**2. Donald Tusk has recently been elected as the new Prime Minister of which country?**

- (a) Norway
- (b) Poland
- (c) Sweden
- (d) none

Poland's parliament elected centrist party leader Donald Tusk as prime minister. With this, the way was paved for a new pro-EU government after eight years of national conservative rule. Tusk was elected prime minister about two months after national elections, according to Poland's online news portal The Warsaw Voice. This is a victory for parties ranging from leftist to liberal conservative parties. According to this portal, in the voting held after Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki lost the confidence vote in Parliament, 248 votes were in favor of Tusk. 201 MPs voted against him. A coalition of opposition parties won the general elections held on October 15 in Poland.

**3. Who is the only Indian cricketer in the list of Google's top 10 trending athletes in the year 2023?**

- (a) Virat Kohli
- (b) Rohit Sharma
- (c) Shubman Gill
- (d) Mohammed Shami

The list of Google's top trending athletes of the year 2023 has been released. If we talk about cricketers, New Zealand cricket player of Indian origin Rachin Ravindra is on top. Whereas India's young opening

batsman Shubman Gill is the only Indian cricketer to make it to the top 10. Gill, popularly known as 'Prince of Cricket', played his first ODI World Cup tournament in 2023.

**4. Which TMC MP was suspended from Rajya Sabha for the remaining period of the winter session of Parliament?**

- (a) Nusrat Jahan Roohi
- (b) Derek O'Brien
- (c) Abhishek Banerjee
- (d) Prasun Banerjee

TMC MP Derek O'Brien has been suspended from the Rajya Sabha for the remaining period of the winter session of Parliament for his unruly behaviour. Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar suspended O'Brien for disobeying the instructions to sit in the House. In the Rajya Sabha, House leader Piyush Goyal had presented a proposal to suspend him from the House.

**5. Which player has Kolkata Knight Riders appointed as their captain for the next season?**

- (a) Nitish Rana
- (b) Shreyas Iyer
- (c) Kuldeep Yadav
- (d) Andre Russell

Kolkata Knight Riders have appointed experienced Indian batsman Shreyas Iyer as their captain for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL). Nitish Rana has been made the vice-captain. However, he was injured before the 2023 season, after which Nitish Rana was made the captain. KKR was at number 7 in the points table of IPL 2023. He played 14 matches and won 4. KKR also had to face defeat in 8 matches. Rinku Singh had scored the maximum runs for the team. Rinku had scored 474 runs in 14 matches. During this period he scored 4 half-centuries. Rinku's best score was 67 runs not out.

**6. Which British Indian composer has been included in the 2024 Booker Prize judging panel?**

- (a) Amitabh Ghosh
- (b) Kiran Desai
- (c) Salman Rushdie
- (d) Nitin Sahni

British-Indian composer Nitin Sawhney has been announced as a member of the 2024 Booker Prize

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judging panel. He is best known for the screen adaptation of Salman Rushdie's 1981 Booker Prize-winning *Midnight's Children*. The International Booker Prize is an international literary award held in the United Kingdom.

7. For which cricketer has 'Arjun Award' been recommended by BCCI?

- (a) Shubman Gill
- (b) Suryakumar Yadav
- (c) Shreyas Iyer
- (d) Mohammed Shami

BCCI has nominated Indian fast bowler Mohammed Shami for the Arjuna Award. BCCI has recommended Shami's name to the Sports Ministry. Shami performed brilliantly in the ODI World Cup 2023 and became the bowler taking the highest wicket. After Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, Arjun Award is India's second highest award in the field of sports.

8. In which country was a statue dedicated to 'Thiruvalluvar' recently unveiled?

- (a) Germany
- (b) France
- (c) USA
- (d) Brazil

A statue dedicated to Thiruvalluvar, a cultural icon revered among Tamilians, was unveiled in the French city of Cergy. This initiative is being considered an important cultural achievement. Thiruvalluvar was a famous Indian poet and philosopher, the author of 'Thirukkusanga' (Thirukkural). He is commonly known as 'Valluvar'.

## ONE LINER

Who is the only Indian cricketer in the list of Google's top 10 trending athletes in the year 2023 - **Shubman Gill**

How many Delhi Police personnel have been suspended for security breach in Parliament - **eight**

Who was recently awarded the "Champions of Change Award (Karnataka)" by the Interactive Forum on Indian Economy (IFIE)- **Bipin Chandra**

When has Universal Health Coverage Day been celebrated recently - **12 December**

Recently Donald Tusk has been elected the new Prime Minister of which country - **Poland**

Which British Indian musician has been included in the 2024 Booker Prize judging panel - **Nitin Sawhney**

Which player has Kolkata Knight Riders appointed as its captain for the next season- **Shreyas Iyer**

Which TMC MP was suspended from Rajya Sabha for the remaining period of the winter session of Parliament - **Derek O'Brien**

Recently in which country was a statue dedicated to 'Thiruvalluvar' unveiled - **France**

Which cricketer has been recommended by BCCI for 'Arjun Award' - **Mohammed Shami**