



# The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

## CURRENT AFFAIR BOOSTER

25 - 12 - 2023

Monday



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# DAILY

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

# &

# QUIZ



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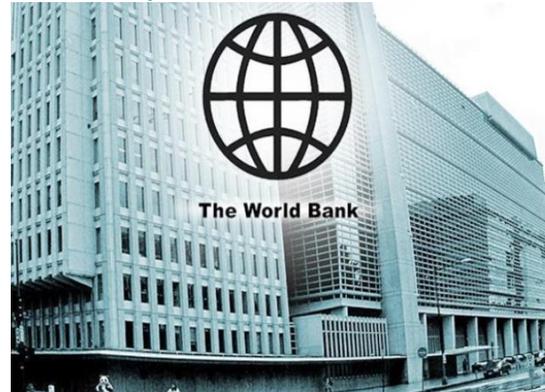
# THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

## 1. Textile Ministry unveils “Paat-Mitro” application for the convenience of jute farmers



Ministry of Textiles, in its continuous efforts to support and empower jute farmers, has launched “Paat-Mitro” mobile application. Developed by Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI), this application is an important step towards providing essential information about Minimum Support Price (MSP) and agronomy to jute farmers. The launch took place during the ‘Jute Seminar’, where Smt. Rachna Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, inaugurated the application, which is available in six languages. The primary objective of the Paat-Mitro application is to empower jute farmers by providing important information about Minimum Support Price (MSP) and agronomic practices. The application is available in six languages, ensuring accessibility for a diverse group of users. All the functionalities of the application are provided free of cost to the users, making it easily accessible to jute farmers. Apart from MSP and agronomic practices, the application also includes features like jute gradation parameters, farmer-centric schemes like 'Jute-ICARE', Contains information on weather forecast, locations of JCI procurement centers and procurement policies. Farmers can track payment status of raw jute sold to JCI under MSP operation. Incorporating the latest technology, the application includes a chatbot to address farmers' queries and provide real-time assistance. JCI was established in 1971 as an official agency by the Government of India with the specific objective of providing Minimum Support Price (MSP) to jute cultivators. JCI acts as the implementing agency for various projects undertaken by the Government of India to increase the cultivation of jute crop and improve the lives of jute growers.

## 2. World Bank provides \$300 million loan to Tamil Nadu to help 21 urban local bodies



The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a new program to support Tamil Nadu and provide more and better access to water and sewerage services to nearly 2 million people in the cities. The \$300 million Tamil Nadu Climate Resilient Urban Development Program will help 21 urban local bodies (ULBs) update their distribution systems and provide quality and efficient water supply and sewerage services to consumers, a World Bank release said. The \$300 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) will use the blended financing instrument of Programs-for-Results (PfOR) with Investment Project Financing (IPF) to directly link the distribution of funds to the achievement of results. Could. technical support. The program loan has a maturity period of 32 years and a grace period of 7 years. Tamil Nadu is one of the most urbanized states of India and is facing increasing impacts of climate-related shocks such as floods and droughts. For its rapidly growing population, access to services like water and sanitation is essential for more climate-resilient cities. "By 2030, about 70 percent of India's new jobs will be created in cities and more than 18 million people will move to cities," said Auguste Tano Koume, World Bank Country Director for India. "As hubs for economic growth, it is important to strengthen their capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change and ensure continuity in basic service delivery." Apart from helping households gain better access to water supply, the program will assist ULBs in increasing the areas designated for green spaces and parks.

## 3. India's foreign exchange reserves reach 20-month high

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India's foreign exchange reserves hit a 20-month high of \$616 billion in the week ended December 15. Recent data from the Reserve Bank of India shows that this is the highest level since March 25, 2022. Reserves increased by \$9 billion during the week, which is the second largest weekly increase in the current financial year. Total reserves increased due to increase in foreign currency assets. It increased by \$8 billion during the week. Indranil Pan, Chief Economist at Yes Bank, said, 'The main reason for the increase in foreign exchange reserves could be the fall in the dollar index.' The rupee strengthened by 0.4 percent due to the fall in the dollar index after the results of the US Federal Reserve meeting. Due to this, the hope of increasing the rates has ended and there is a possibility of reduction in interest rates thrice in the next year i.e. 2024. America decided to maintain key rates at 5.25 to 5.50 percent for the third consecutive time. According to the Reserve Bank, the value of gold reserves increased by \$ 446 million to \$ 47.577 billion. Special Drawing Rights (SDR) increased by \$ 135 million to \$ 18.323 billion. Total reserves stood at \$607 billion in the week ending December 8. One of the major reasons for the increase in foreign exchange reserves is the increase in foreign investment. There has been an increase in foreign portfolio investment in the country after the Federal Reserve's decision not to increase interest rates and indications of cutting interest rates in the year 2024. There is a possibility that there may be further increase in foreign investment in the new year. In October 2021, foreign exchange reserves had reached the level of \$645 billion, after which there was a big decline. Now foreign exchange reserves are \$30 billion away from their old high. Due to the surge in dollar inflow, the rupee has strengthened against the dollar in the currency market. On December 22, the rupee

strengthened by 14 paise and closed at 83.14 against one dollar.

#### 4. Rabindranath Tagore Literary Award to Sukrita Paul Kumar for 'Salt and Pepper: Selected Poems'



The renowned Rabindranath Tagore Literary Award has named poet-critic Sukrita Paul Kumar as the sixth awardee for her book "Salt and Pepper: Selected Poems". This prestigious award recognizes outstanding literary works from around the world that promote world peace, literature, art, education and human rights. At the awards ceremony, Kumar received a cash prize of US\$5,000, a Tagore statuette and a certificate acknowledging his significant contribution to literature. Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee was awarded the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Award for Social Achievement for his extraordinary contribution to social welfare. This means the award's dedication to highlighting both artistic and social impact. Banerjee expressed her gratitude for the honour, saying, "This recognition underlines the importance of addressing social issues and the impact of collective efforts in shaping a better world." Established in 2018 by US-based publisher Peter Bundalo, the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Award has established itself as a valuable platform to celebrate literary excellence and advocate for human rights and world peace. The award's commitment to both artistic and social impact makes it truly unique and impressive. Last year, the award was presented to acclaimed journalist-author Raj Kamal Jha for his novel "The City and the Sea". This legacy of recognizing distinguished literary voices continues with Sukrita Paul Kumar's well-deserved win, and one can hope that the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Award will continue to play an important role in the years to come.

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## 5. Kerala is the most preferred state to work in India



India Skills Report-2024 has been published recently. In which it has been revealed that two cities of Kerala, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram have emerged as the most preferred places to work among the youth in India. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Association of Indian Universities (AIU) According to the report published by talent assessment agency Wheebox in collaboration with Google and Tagged, Kerala is the second state with the highest employment resources among the 18-21 age group. The report surveyed 3.88 lakh youth through the National Employability Test conducted across the country. The report shows that employability in India has improved as 51.25 percent of the youth surveyed are employable with the required skills. Among cities where men and women prefer to work equally regardless of age, Kochi ranks second and Thiruvananthapuram fourth in the country. Kochi is the first city among the top 10 cities where most women prefer to work. Kerala, known for its emphasis on education and skill development, has ranked second in overall employability among the 18-21 age group. The report underlines Kerala's excellence in promoting computer skills, with Thiruvananthapuram securing the first position and Kerala securing the third position in this area. Kerala is known for its balanced approach towards education, which includes future skills, general knowledge and practical learning. The Advanced Comprehensive Course has been appreciated by the Kerala Additional Skill Acquisition Program (ASAP Kerala) of the Higher Education Department for its role in enhancing employability and skill development among the youth of the state. The report highlights Kerala's dominance in IT, computer science and engineering job skills.

## 6. Bengaluru Airport T2 named among 'world's most beautiful airports'



In the recent announcement of UNESCO's Prix Versailles 2023, Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) Terminal 2 (T2) managed to stand out, and has been recognized as one of the 'Most Beautiful Airports in the World'. The world judging panel, chaired by renowned fashion designer Elie Saab, bestowed the honor on T2, making it the only Indian airport to receive such an esteemed recognition. The airport was awarded the prestigious 'Special Award for Interior' in recognition of its outstanding design. This global recognition highlights the airport's commitment to exceptional design and architectural talent on an international scale. Praise for Terminal 2 extends far beyond this recent recognition; It had earlier achieved the prestigious IGBC Platinum certification from the Indian Green Building Council. Designed to accommodate 25 million passengers annually in Phase 1, T2 is in line with its vision of blending functionality with aesthetic appeal. The terminal guarantees passengers a visually pleasing experience by integrating carefully selected art and decor elements as part of its recently launched art programme, ensuring a memorable journey throughout the terminal. The sustainable design of Terminal 2, which is also the world's largest terminal pre-certified with a platinum LEED rating by the US Green Building Council before the start of operations, reflects the airport's commitment to environmental responsibility.

## 7. AP CM starts distribution of tabs worth ₹620 crore to 4.34 lakh students

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AP Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy formally launched the distribution of tabs for class VIII students in Chintapalli. The distribution of tabs worth ₹620 crore to 4,34,285 students will be done across the state over the next ten days and MLAs, school teachers and education department officials will monitor the distribution in every mandal. Each tab is priced at ₹33,000, which also includes content worth ₹15,500. Byju's reiterated that investment on education is a productive investment on future human resources. Tabs filled with study material will guide the students as tutors and change their future for good. The tab will have useful applications like AI (Artificial Intelligence)-assisted doubt-solving and foreign language learning apps, they will act like teachers and help students improve their knowledge. This is the second consecutive year that tabs are being distributed to Class 8 students and so far the government has distributed 9,52,925 tabs worth Rs 1306 crore. Digitization of 62097 classes of Class 6 and above will be completed by the end of January and will help students become the best in the world, he said, adding that the face of education and job market will completely change in the next 20 years. ,

## 8. Railways will install panic switches at 117 stations



Central Railway General Manager Ram Karan Yadav has said that panic switches will be installed at 117 railway stations. In his first press conference after taking charge, Yadav said that Central Railways will install these panic switches at 117 stations of its network. The panic switch will alert Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel. In case of any emergency, passengers can press these switches to seek help from RPF. Central Railway has signed an MoU with RailTel for installation of the switches. These will be such switches, when pressed, the RPF control will get an alert. After which CCTV will be checked and help will be sent to the passengers immediately. The process of installing the switches is expected to be completed within a year. At a press conference, Central Railway General Manager Ram Karan Yadav said that an emergency talkback system and CCTV cameras will also be installed on all women coaches in Mumbai local trains by March 2024. As of now, out of 771 women coaches, 512 coaches are already fitted with emergency talkback system and 421 coaches are fitted with CCTV. Central Railway operates around 1850 suburban services, 145 DEMU-MEMU trains and 371 Mail-Express trains in its Mumbai network, including five Vande Bharat Express trains.

## QUIZ

1. Recently the World Bank has approved a \$300 million program in which state?

A- Kerala

B-Tamil Nadu

C-Karnataka

D-all

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a new program to support Tamil Nadu and provide more and better access to water and sewerage services to nearly 2 million people in the cities. The

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\$300 million Tamil Nadu Climate Resilient Urban Development Program will help 21 urban local bodies (ULBs) update their distribution systems and provide quality and efficient water supply and sewerage services to consumers, a World Bank release said. The \$300 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) will use the blended financing instrument of Programs-for-Results (PforR) with Investment Project Financing (IPF) to directly link the distribution of funds to the achievement of results. Could.

**2. When has World Basketball Day been celebrated recently?**

A- 21st December

B- 20th December

C- 19th December

D- 18th December

World Basketball Day is an annual celebration observed on 21 December, commemorating the invention of basketball by Dr. James Naismith in 1891. The sport has become one of the most popular and widely practiced sports globally, uniting people with its athletic ability, joy and excitement. Canadian physical education teacher Dr. James Naismith invented basketball on December 21, 1891, at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts, USA. This game was created to keep students active during the winter months. Recognizing the global impact of the game, the United Nations declared August 25, 2023, as World Basketball Day through resolution A/RES/77/324.

**3. Who has recently won the Tagore Literary Award?**

A-Nitin Pandey

B- Pushpa Bharti

C- Sukrita Paul

D-none

The renowned Rabindranath Tagore Literary Award has named poet-critic Sukrita Paul Kumar as the sixth awardee for her book "Salt and Pepper: Selected Poems". This prestigious award recognizes outstanding literary works from around the world that promote world peace, literature, art, education and human rights. At the awards ceremony, Kumar received a cash prize of US\$5,000, a Tagore statuette and a certificate acknowledging his significant contribution to

literature. Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee was awarded the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Award for Social Achievement for his extraordinary contribution to social welfare. This means the award's dedication to highlighting both artistic and social impact.

**4 According to the recently released India Skills Reports 2024, which has become the most preferred state to work in India?**

A-Maharashtra

B- Kerala

C-Karnataka

D- Chhattisgarh

Kerala has become the most preferred state to work in India. India Skills Report-2024 has been published recently. In which it has been revealed that two cities of Kerala, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram have emerged as the most preferred places to work among the youth in India. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Association of Indian Universities (AIU) According to the report published by talent assessment agency Wheebox in collaboration with Google and Tagged, Kerala is the second state with the highest employment resources among the 18-21 age group. The report surveyed 3.88 lakh youth through the National Employability Test conducted across the country.

**5. Terminal 2 of which airport has recently been recognized as the top beautiful airport globally?**

A- Bengaluru Airport

B- Jaipur Airport

C- New Delhi Airport

D-none

In the recent announcement of UNESCO's Prix Versailles 2023, Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) Terminal 2 (T2) managed to stand out, and has been recognized as one of the 'Most Beautiful Airports in the World'. The world judging panel, chaired by renowned fashion designer Elie Saab, bestowed the honor on T2, making it the only Indian airport to receive such an esteemed recognition. The airport was awarded the prestigious 'Special Award for Interior' in recognition of its outstanding design. This global recognition highlights

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the airport's commitment to exceptional design and architectural talent on an international scale.

**6. Where will the VGGs 2024 Pre Summit Seminar on Chemicals be held recently?**

A-Gujarat

B-Orissa

C- Haryana

D-all

Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Pankaj Joshi, announced the launch of the Pre-Vibrant Seminar on Chemicals and Petrochemicals, an important component of the upcoming 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGs) 2024. The seminar titled 'FutureChem Gujarat: Shaping Tomorrow's Chemicals and Petrochemicals Industry' held in Bharuch is set to become an important platform for global policy makers, practitioners, academicians and industry experts. The objective of the event is to prepare a roadmap for the sustainable development of the chemical and petrochemical industry. Pankaj Joshi highlighted that the world's chemical industry is valued at approximately US\$5 trillion, while India's chemical industry is currently valued at US\$200 billion. The country is projected to reach US\$1 trillion by 2040. India ranks sixth globally and fourth in Asia in chemicals and petrochemicals production, ranking eleventh as the largest exporter of chemicals.

**7. Recently the Chief Minister of which state has started tab distribution to class 8 students?**

A-Punjab

B-Orissa

C- Kerala

D- Andhra Pradesh

Recently, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has started the distribution of tabs to the students of class 8. AP Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy formally launched the distribution of tabs for class VIII students in Chintapalli. The distribution of tabs worth ₹620 crore to 4,34,285 students will be done across the state over the next ten days and MLAs, school teachers and education department officials will monitor the distribution in every mandal. Each tab is priced at ₹33,000, which also includes content worth ₹15,500. Byju's reiterated that investment on education is a productive investment on future human resources.

Tabs filled with study material will guide the students as tutors and change their future for good. The tab will have useful applications like AI (Artificial Intelligence)-assisted doubt-solving and foreign language learning apps,

**8. Recently, the President of which country has been invited for the Republic Day celebrations of India in 2024?**

A- Italy

B-France

C- Russia

D- Japan

Every year on the occasion of Republic Day, some leader or the other is invited as the chief guest. This year, French President Emmanuel Macron has been invited to attend the Republic Day celebrations as the chief guest. Earlier, French President Macron had invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the Bastille Day Parade held in Paris on July 14 as a special guest. Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the second Prime Minister of India to be the guest of honor at the Bastille Day Parade. Earlier in 2009, the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had attended the parade as a guest.

## ONE LINER

When has World Basketball Day been celebrated recently - **21 December**

Terminal 2 of which airport has been recognized as the top beautiful airport globally - **Bengaluru Airport**

Where will VGGs 2024 Pre Summit Seminar on Chemicals be held - **Gujarat**

The Chief Minister of which state has started tab distribution to class 8 students - **Andhra Pradesh**

Which country's President has been invited for India's Republic Day celebrations in 2024 - **France**

Where has UNESCO awarded Rambagh Gate and Rampart - **Amritsar**

Recently the World Bank has approved a \$300 million program in which state - **Tamil Nadu**

Who has recently won the Tagore Literary Award - **Sukrita Paul**

According to India Skills Reports 2024, which has become the most preferred state to work in India - **Kerala**

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Who has been recently appointed as NHSRCL – **Pramod Sharma**

G7 countries have planned to stop the entry of diamonds from which country into their markets - **Russia**

