



# THE ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

## 1. UP: The country's first AI city will be built in Lucknow.



The scope of Artificial Intelligence is gradually increasing. Now an initiative has been taken to establish India's first Artificial Intelligence city in the country. The Uttar Pradesh government has approved to develop the state capital Lucknow as an AI city. Lucknow, known as the 'City of Nawabs', will now be known as AI City. The Yogi government of UP has taken this decision with the aim of making progress in the field of Artificial Intelligence. Previous governments of the state had also taken notable steps to develop Lucknow city as an IT hub, which the Yogi government is taking forward. The UP government has set a target of becoming a 1 trillion dollar economy in the next 5 years. In such a situation, the development of IT as the main sector becomes very important so that big IT investors in the state will be attracted to invest in the state. It is noteworthy that UP is at sixth position in terms of IT ecosystem. Noida has already emerged as an IT hub, on the same lines now Tier 2 cities like Lucknow are also being developed as IT hubs. The Uttar Pradesh government is trying to take the state further in this field by using Artificial Intelligence. This remarkable step has been taken in this regard. The country's largest state is now on its way to developing India's first AI city. According to a report by Grand View Research, the size of the global AI market was estimated at \$ 137 billion in the year 2022. Also, it is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 37.3 percent in the year 2023. UP Electronics Corporation Limited has issued an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the development of an AI city which envisages developing the city by integrating cutting-edge technology, research centers and educational institutions. The nodal agency of the project is inviting a

real estate developer to develop and operate the AI city.

## 2. Virat Kohli became the Indian batsman who scored the most runs in the World Test Championship.



Veteran Indian batsman and former captain of the Indian team, Virat Kohli has made a new record in his name in the World Test Championship (WTC). Virat has become the Indian batsman who has scored the most runs in the history of WTC. This new record was achieved in the first match of the ongoing Test series against the South African cricket team. In this matter he left behind Indian captain and opening batsman Rohit Sharma. Rohit has so far scored 2,097 runs in 42 innings of 26 Tests in the WTC. King Kohli has joined the list of top 10 batsmen in the world in terms of scoring most runs in the World Test Championship (WTC). Virat has so far scored 2101 runs in 57 innings of 35 test matches. He has scored four centuries and 9 half-centuries in the WTC so far. England's legendary batsman Joe Root is on top in terms of scoring most runs in the World Test Championship. Root has 3987 runs in his name in this Test Championship. Joe Root has made almost four thousand runs in 86 innings of 47 matches in the span of 2019-2023. Root has 12 centuries and 16 half-centuries in his name. Marnus Labuschagne is at second place in this list who has scored 3641 runs so far. Australia's Steve Smith (3,223) is at third place, Ben Stokes (2,710) is at fourth place and Babar Azam (2,570) is at 5th place.

## 3. Six lane bridge to be built on river Ganga between Digha and Sonpur in Bihar, MSP approved for coconut



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The Union Cabinet has approved many important decisions. The Cabinet has approved the construction of a six-lane bridge on river Ganga between Digha and Sonpur in Bihar. Along with this, the proposal related to connecting North Tripura and South Tripura has also got the green signal from the Cabinet. The Union Cabinet has also given its approval to increase the MSP on coconut. The Cabinet has approved the construction of a 4.56 km long, 6-lane bridge over river Ganga connecting Digha and Sonpur in Bihar. A total of Rs 3,064.45 crore will be spent on the project to build a six-lane bridge on river Ganga in Bihar. Large water vessels will also be able to pass under the six-lane bridge being built on the Ganga river. This will also give a boost to the government's vision of increasing the waterways of rivers in the country. The Union Cabinet has approved the scheme for improvement and widening of 135 km stretch between Khowai-Harina road in Tripura. An investment of Rs 2,486.78 crore will be made in this project. For which a loan of Rs 1,511.70 crore will be taken. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Copra for the 2023 season. This approval has been done on the basis of the recommendations of the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission and the demands of major coconut producing states. For the 2023 season, the MSP has been fixed at Rs 10860/- per quintal for fair average quality of milled copra (dried coconut shell) and Rs 11750/- per quintal for ball copra. Compared to last season, it has been increased by Rs 270/- per quintal for milling copra and Rs 750/- per quintal for ball copra.

#### 4. The country's new warship INS Imphal joins the Indian Navy.



The country's new warship INS Imphal joined the Indian Navy on 26 December 2023. During this time Defense Minister Rajnath Singh was also present. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Manipur Chief Minister R Biren Singh were also present. The commissioning ceremony took place at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai. This is the third guided missile destroyer of Visakhapatnam class. Imphal is the first warship to be named after a city in the North East. It will be handed over to the Western Naval Command. That means it will defeat the enemies in the Arabian Sea. The keel of Imphal was laid on 19 May 2017. The ship was launched on 20 April 2019. The ship departed for its first sea trials on 28 April 2023. It has undergone an extensive program of trials in port and at sea, resulting in its delivery to the Army on 20 October 2023 within a record time-frame of six months. In November 2023, the extended range supersonic BrahMos missile was tested from this warship. This was the first time that BrahMos missile had been tested from a warship which had not even been inducted into the Navy. The BrahMos missile fired from this warship rotates 90 degrees and attacks the enemy. With its inclusion, the strength of the Indian Navy will increase manifold. Be it Pakistan in the west or China in the east. This warship is fully prepared to face the threats coming from both. It is named in memory of the martyrs of the Battle of Imphal during World War II. This is the first warship which has been named after a city in the North-East. Warship Imphal has the unique distinction of being the largest and most advanced destroyer ever named after any city in the north-eastern region of the country. It is a true tribute to the sacrifice and contribution of Manipur in India's freedom struggle. Be it the Anglo-Manipur war of 1891. Or the first hoisting of the INA flag by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Moirang on 14 April 1944.

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5. David Warner broke Steve Waugh's big record, became the second Australian batsman after Ricky Ponting to do so.



David Warner has become the second highest run scorer for Australia in all formats. He has 8689 runs in Test, 6932 runs in ODI and 2894 runs in T20. Ricky Ponting is on top of the list. The second match of the three-match Test series between Australia and Pakistan is going on in Melbourne. In this Test match, the host team's opener David Warner has joined the legendary list of former captain Ricky Ponting after scoring 22 runs. In fact, Warner has now become the second batsman to score the most runs for Australia across all formats. In this list he has defeated former captain Steve Waugh. Warner was out on a personal score of 38 in the ongoing Boxing Day Test in Melbourne, Agha Salman showed him the way to the pavilion. On the basis of this inning of 38 runs, Warner has scored a total of 18515 runs for Australia. This star opener has 8689 runs in Test, 6932 in ODI and 2894 runs in T20. Ricky Ponting holds the record for scoring the most runs in all formats for Australia. Ponting scored 27368 runs with an average of 45.84 in a total of 559 matches played in his career. At present there is no player in the list to break this record. Talking about the match, Pakistan captain Shan Masood has decided to bowl first after winning the toss in this match. The opening pair of David Warner and Usman Khawaja gave a steady start to Australia. Both the players completed half-century partnership in the first 17 overs. Agha Salman gave the first blow to the Kangaroos by dismissing David Warner on the score of 90. Warner could not take much advantage of his life and returned to the pavilion on a personal score of 38. Warner was caught by Abdullah Shafiq on his personal score of 2.

6. Disinvestment set to miss FY 2024 target, increase by more than Rs 4 trillion in a decade



The government's cautious approach and staying away from complete privatization is likely to result in missing the target for the financial year. As the threat of imminent general elections looms, the government's privatization efforts have slowed, and caution is being exercised in view of possible accusations of selling off national assets. The ambitious disinvestment target for the current financial year is likely to be missed with key plans including those of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) and Concor being put on hold. Analysts suggest that actual privatization may resume only after the April/May elections. Major privatization plans for entities like Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) and CONCOR have been put on hold. Analysts estimate that meaningful privatization activities may resume only after the upcoming general elections in April/May. Of the budgeted amount of Rs 51,000 crore for the current financial year, only 20% (Rs 10,049 crore) has been collected through minority stake sale through IPO and OFS. Major privatizations including SCI, NMDC Steel Ltd, BEML, HLL Lifecare and IDBI Bank are facing delays due to ongoing due diligence processes and demerger complications. Strategic sales of CPSEs, including IDBI Bank, are likely to increase in the next financial year due to delays in security clearance and 'fit and proper' approval. Opposition from employee unions poses a challenge to the strategic sale of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL). Despite successfully privatizing Air India and Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) in 2022, the government faces hurdles in achieving further CPSE disinvestment in 2023.



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The complex nature of strategic sales involving multiple stakeholders contributes to longer timelines.

## 7. India will open Consulate General in Auckland, New Zealand, Cabinet approved



India will soon open a Consulate General in Auckland, New Zealand. A large number of non-resident Indians live in New Zealand. The Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal to open the Consulate General of India in Auckland, an official statement said. He said the Consulate General is expected to be opened and fully operational within 12 months. India currently has a Consulate in Auckland. The opening of the Consulate General will pave the way for the appointment of the Consul General. Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers are usually appointed to this post. The statement said that opening of the Indian Consulate General in Auckland will help in expanding the diplomatic network of the country. It said, "This will promote India's strategic and commercial interests and provide better services to the people of Indian origin in Auckland." Officials said that about 2.5 lakh people of Indian origin live in New Zealand. Of these, 1.7 lakh people live in Auckland. The India-New Zealand Business Council is also based in Auckland. The Indian High Commission in New Zealand is in Wellington.

## 8. SAANS campaign 2023-24 launched in Manipur for prevention of pneumonia



In a significant step aimed at tackling childhood pneumonia, Manipur State Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh recently inaugurated the SAANS Campaign 2023-24 in Imphal. Also, the Minister also dedicated the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS) as the State Neonatal Resource Centre, emphasizing the state's commitment to child health care. SAANS, which stands for Social Awareness and Action to Neutralize Pneumonia, is an annual campaign implemented across states and union territories. The primary objective of SAANS is to accelerate action against childhood pneumonia, a leading cause of child death. The SAANS mission aims to reduce child mortality due to pneumonia, which accounts for approximately 15% of all deaths in children under five years of age annually. SAANS will launch a public awareness campaign to educate communities about effective pneumonia prevention strategies. This includes promoting practices such as breastfeeding, age-appropriate complementary feeding and vaccination. Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) workers will play a vital role in the treatment of children suffering from pneumonia by administering pre-referral doses of the antibiotic amoxicillin. The health and wellness center will use pulse oximeters, devices that monitor oxygen saturation, to detect low oxygen levels in the child's blood. This proactive approach ensures early identification and intervention in cases of pneumonia.

### QUIZ

1. In which state SAANS campaign 2023-24 was launched for the prevention of pneumonia?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Manipur
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Uttarakhand

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## 2. Who will preside over the third National Conference of Chief Secretaries?

- (a) Amit Shah
- (b) Rajnath Singh
- (c) S Jaishankar
- (d) Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will preside over the third National Conference of Chief Secretaries in Delhi on 28 and 29 December 2023. The first conference of Chief Secretaries was held in Dharamshala in June 2022 and the second in Delhi in January 2023. The main focus of this three-day national conference will be 'Ease of Living'. It was told that the main areas of discussion were land, electricity, drinking water, health and school education. Apart from this, special sessions will also be organized on cyber security, district programs, rationalization of schemes and new age technology.

## 3. Who has become the Indian batsman who has scored the most runs in the World Test Championship?

- (a) Rohit Sharma
- (b) K L Rahul
- (c) Virat Kohli
- (d) Ajinkya Rahane

India's legendary batsman and former captain of the Indian team, Virat Kohli has become the Indian batsman who has scored the most runs in the World Test Championship (WTC). This new record was achieved in the first match of the ongoing Test series against the South African cricket team. He left Indian captain Rohit Sharma behind. Rohit has so far scored 2,097 runs in 42 innings of 26 Tests in the WTC. Virat

has so far scored 2101 runs in 57 innings of 35 test matches.

## 4. 'Bharat Electronics Limited' has recently signed a contract worth Rs 445 crore with which state government?

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Assam
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Himachal Pradesh

Navratna DPSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed a contract worth Rs 445 crore with the UP government for the next generation UP Dial 112 project on December 23, 2023, the company announced through an exchange filing. BEL will provide comprehensive and state-of-the-art hardware, AI based software tools and cyber security solutions for the Dial 112 project, which is spread across the entire state of Uttar Pradesh.

## 5. In which state has the Union Cabinet approved the construction of a 4.56 km long new bridge on the river Ganga?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Bihar
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Uttarakhand

The Cabinet has approved the construction of a 4.56 km long, 6-lane bridge over river Ganga connecting Digha and Sonpur in Bihar. A total of Rs 3,064.45 crore will be spent on the project to build a six-lane bridge on river Ganga in Bihar. Large water vessels will also be able to pass under the six-lane bridge being built on the Ganga river. This will also give a boost to the government's vision of increasing the waterways of rivers in the country. The Union Cabinet has approved the scheme for improvement and widening of 135 km stretch between Khowai-Harina road in Tripura. An investment of Rs 2,486.78 crore will be made in this project.

## 6. Which stealth guided-missile destroyer was recently inducted into the Indian Navy?

- (a) INS 'Imphal'
- (b) INS 'Chakra'
- (c) INS 'Dhwaj'
- (d) INS 'Kavaratti'

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The latest stealth guided-missile destroyer 'Imphal' has recently been inducted into the Indian Navy. It was inducted into the Navy in the presence of Defense Minister Rajnath Singh. INS 'Imphal' is the first warship to be named after a city in the north-east. It has been designed by 'Warship Design Bureau' and constructed by Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai. The keel of Imphal was laid on 19 May 2017. The ship was launched on 20 April 2019. The ship departed for its first sea trials on 28 April 2023. It has undergone an extensive program of trials in port and at sea, resulting in its delivery to the Army on 20 October 2023 within a record time-frame of six months.

**7. Who became the second highest run scoring Australian batsman in international cricket?**

- (a) Usman Khwaja
- (b) David Warner
- (c) Steve Smith
- (d) Marnus Labuschagne

Australia cricket team's opening batsman David Warner has become the second highest run-scorer Australian batsman in international cricket. Warner achieved this feat in the ongoing Test series against Pakistan. He has left Steve Waugh behind in this matter. Veteran former cricketer Ricky Ponting is on top in the list of Australian batsmen who have scored the most runs in international cricket, who has scored a total of 27,368 runs.

**8. Which city is being developed as India's first 'AI City'?**

- (a) Lucknow
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Kolkata

Lucknow city, known as the 'City of Nawabs', will be developed as India's first 'AI City'. Noida has already emerged as an IT hub, on the same lines now Tier 2 cities like Lucknow are also being developed as IT hubs. According to a report by Grand View Research, the size of the global AI market was estimated at \$ 137 billion in the year 2022. UP Electronics Corporation Limited has issued Expression of Interest (EOI) for the development of AI City.

Who will preside over the three-day third national conference of Chief Secretaries- **PM Narendra Modi**

Who has become the Indian batsman who has scored the most runs in the World Test Championship - **Virat Kohli**

Who became the second highest run scoring Australian batsman in international cricket - **David Warner**

In which state SAANS campaign 2023-24 was launched for the prevention of pneumonia - **Manipur**

In which country has the Union Cabinet recently approved the opening of India's Consulate General - **Auckland (New Zealand)**

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) formed an ad-hoc committee of how many members to run the daily affairs of the WFI - **three members.**

Which city is being developed as India's first 'AI City' - **Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)**

Which stealth guided-missile destroyer was recently inducted into the Indian Navy - **INS 'Imphal'**

In which state has the Union Cabinet approved the construction of a 4.56 km long new bridge on the river Ganga - **Bihar**

'Bharat Electronics Limited' has recently signed a contract worth Rs 445 crore with which state government - **Uttar Pradesh**

ONE LINER