



The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

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CURRENT AFFAIR BOOSTER

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DAILY

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QUIZ



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1. Defense Secretary inaugurates new design and testing center related to aero engines at HAL



Defense Secretary Giridhar Aramane inaugurated a new design and test facility at the Aero Engine Research and Development Center (AERDC) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bengaluru, Karnataka. AERDC is currently involved in design and development activities. Several new engines including two strategic engines – Hindustan Turbo Fan Engine (HTFE) of 25 kN thrust to enhance capability for trainers, UAVs, twin engine small combat aircraft or regional jets and 1200 kN to power light and medium aircraft. Thrust's Hindustan Turbo Shaft Engine (HTSE) is used on heavy duty helicopters (3.5 to 6.5 tonnes in single/twin engine configuration). The new state-of-the-art facility spread over 10,000 square meters has specialized machines, advanced setup leveraging computational tools, in-house fabrication facility and two test beds for testing of HTFe-25 and one test bed each for testing of HTFe-1200. Are present. And the upcoming JV engine for IMRH will be co-developed by Safran, France and HAL. Additionally, the newly developed facility will have set-ups for testing Jaguar's air generators, Gas Turbine Starter Unit (GTSU) - 110 M2 and 127E of Light Combat Aircraft, Indian Multi-Role Helicopter and Auxiliary Power Units of Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft. Are. Gas Turbine Electrical Generator (GTEG)-60 for An-32 aircraft. Set-ups to conduct various critical tests for engine components and Line Replacement Units (LRUs) have also been installed within the new facility.

2. Tata Power secures Rajasthan transmission project



Tata Power, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) set up by PFC Consulting, a subsidiary of Power Finance Corporation, has emerged victorious in the bidding for the Bikaner-III Neemrana-II transmission project. The estimated cost of the project is ₹1,544 crore. Tata Power won the project through a tariff-based competitive bidding process, and received a letter of intent as the successful bidder. The transmission initiative will be implemented on a build-own-operate-transfer (BOOT) basis and is designed to facilitate the extraction of 7.7 GW of renewable energy from the Bikaner complex in Rajasthan. The project involves construction of a 340 km long transmission corridor, connecting Bikaner-III pooling station to Neemrana II substation. Tata Power is ready to operate and maintain the transmission project for a long period of 35 years. Upon successful commissioning, the project is set to play a key role in realizing the ambitious 2022 roadmap of the Ministry of Power. The roadmap aims to integrate more than 500 GW of renewable energy capacity into the national grid by 2030, in line with India's commitment to sustainable energy development.

3. Government allocated Rs 1,170 crore for Ladakh roads: Gadkari



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In a significant step towards enhancing infrastructure in Ladakh, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that the government has approved Rs 1,170.16 crore for 29 road projects in the region. The development aims to address the connectivity challenges faced by Ladakh, the largest Union Territory in terms of area and the second least populous in the country. Gadkari shared details of the allocation in a post on social media platform X, stating that the approved funds cover a number of projects including state highways and other major roads. Additionally, as part of the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) scheme for the financial year 2023-24, an additional Rs 181.71 crore has been earmarked for the construction of eight bridges, especially in Ladakh. A primary objective of these initiatives is to improve connectivity to remote villages in Ladakh. Gadkari emphasized that the sanctioned projects are expected to bring transformational change by connecting different sectors, thereby promoting socio-economic development in the region. Investment of funds in road projects is expected to stimulate economic activities with a special focus on sectors such as agriculture and tourism. Ladakh, known for its breathtaking landscapes and unique culture, will benefit from increased accessibility, potentially attracting more tourists. The improved road network is also set to facilitate transportation of agricultural products, providing a significant boost to the local economy. Underlining the broader implications of the road projects, Gadkari said the increased connectivity will significantly contribute to the overall infrastructural development of Ladakh. The government's commitment to invest in roads and bridges reflects its strategic vision to strengthen the connectivity of the region and bring it at par with other developed regions of the country.

4. Telangana CM takes serious note of sale of Praja Palan application forms



Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has taken the sale of application forms seriously to avail the six guarantees. CM has directed officials to take action against those selling application forms. Filled forms are being received from applicants across the state under the 'Praja Palan' program launched on December 28. The Chief Minister reviewed the submission of applications and ground reality in Praja Palan with Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari and other top officials. He took information from the officials about the Gram Sabhas held so far in Praja Palan, details of applications and the process of accepting applications. The Chief Minister asked the officials to provide as many applications as required. Instructions were also given that applicants should not face any difficulty in submitting applications. District Magistrates have been asked to take strict action against those selling application forms. Revanth Reddy also clarified that all existing beneficiaries of Rythubandhu and pension schemes need not worry. Only new beneficiaries need to apply to avail the benefits. Suggested that public representatives should participate in the Praja Palan programme. Officials have been asked to ensure that citizens do not face any difficulty in submitting applications. Officials have also been asked to provide drinking water supply and set up tents for people coming to submit applications at Praja Palan. During the first two days, officials received more than 15 lakh applications across the state. This program will continue till January 6. A common application form has been printed to avail benefits under five of the six guarantees.

5. Cricketer Ambati Rayudu joins YSR Congress

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Famous Indian cricketer Ambati Rayudu joined YSR Congress. Rayudu took membership of the party in the office of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. By including Ambati Rayudu in the party, YSR Congress is considering it a decision to bring the youth of the state into its fold before the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Ambati Rayudu, a member of the Indian cricket team, was formally inducted into the YSR Congress by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. During this, Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Narayana Swamy and MP Peddireddy Mithun Reddy were also present. Let us tell you that Ambati Rayudu has been playing for Chennai Super Kings in IPL. It is noteworthy that Rayudu played his last cricket match on May 29 for Chennai Super Kings in the final of the Indian Premier League. Before joining politics, he visited every corner of his native Guntur district and met people to understand the issues. Rayudu played 55 ODI matches for India. During this period he scored 1694 runs at an average of more than 47. Rayudu scored 3 centuries and 10 half-centuries in ODIs. He has also taken 3 wickets. At the same time, Rayudu represented India in 6 T-20 matches and scored 42 runs at an average of 10.50. Apart from this, Rayudu scored 6151 runs in first class cricket, while 5607 runs in List A.

6. Gujarat is now the “petro capital” of India.



With the world's largest oil refinery at Jamnagar and the OPL petrochemical complex at Dahej in Bharuch district, Gujarat is now recognized as the “Petro Capital” of India. The officials said this. He said Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Jamnagar Refinery is the world's largest and most complex single-site refinery with a processing capacity of 14 lakh barrels per day (MBPS) of crude oil. According to RIL's website, the Jamnagar refinery complex houses some of the largest units in the world, such as fluidized catalytic cracker, coker, alkylation, paraxylene, polypropylene, refinery off-gas cracker and petcoke gasification plant. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel had recently highlighted the impact of the state's petrochemical sector. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) worth Rs 3,000 crore was signed for a bio-refinery in the Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) in Dahej at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGGS) 2019, officials said. MoU worth Rs 7,000 crore signed in 2022 for chemical manufacturing in Dahej. The theme of the 10th edition of VGGGS is ‘Gateway to the Future’. It will be organized in the state capital Gandhinagar between January 10 and 12. Jai Shroff, Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO), UPL Limited, recently praised Gujarat's progressive policies for the significant growth of the sector. He said that due to the support given by Gujarat Government, leading companies of this sector have touched new heights in the global market. These companies started as small units but have now become big companies. As a result of proactive government policies, the state contributes about 75 percent of the total dye and intermediate manufacturing in the country.

7. National Transit Pass System launched across the country by Shri Bhupendra Yadav

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Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Labor & Employment Shri Bhupendra Yadav launched the National Transit Pass System (NTPS) across India. Currently, transit permits for transportation of timber and forest products are issued based on state-specific transit requirements. Two vehicles carrying timber and other forest produce from Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir were flagged off for West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. QR coded transit permits, provided by NTPS, will allow for seamless transportation and validation of permits across multiple state checkpoints. The National Transit Pass System (NTPS) aims to establish a "One Nation-One Pass" system. It aims to ease transportation of timber, bamboo and other forest products across the country. It was recently launched by the Union Environment Ministry. The Union Minister also mentioned several other recent initiatives of the Ministry including the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme and the Trees Outside Forest Initiative. Both desktop-based web portal and mobile application of this system are available. Facility for online registration and submission of Transit Permit (TP) application is also available. No Objection Certificate (NOC) can also be generated online instead of visiting the forest officials. One can apply online for exempted species growing on private land through the Transit Pass system. Driver information can be modified when downloading TP. QR codes can also be used to verify the speed of a vehicle.

8. PM Modi accepts invitation to inaugurate Abu Dhabi's Hindu temple



Prime Minister Narendra Modi accepted the invitation extended by Swami Ishwarcharandas and Swami Brahmaviharidas along with the board of directors to inaugurate the BAPS Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi on February 14 next year, the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha said in a press statement. PM Modi and BAPS Swami Ishwar Charandas met at the Prime Minister's Residential Office and PM Modi accepted the invitation, expressing his enthusiastic support for the historic and iconic temple. Swami Ishwar Charandas honored the Prime Minister by garlanding him and draping a saffron shawl over his shoulders, acknowledging his significant contribution to our country and the world. The press statement said the Prime Minister was particularly lauded for the remarkable renovation and development of pilgrimage sites across India, which is an unparalleled achievement in recent centuries. During the meeting, the discussion revolved around the importance of the Abu Dhabi temple for global harmony and Modi's vision for India's spiritual leadership on the global stage. The Prime Minister prayed for the health of Mahant Swami Maharaj while recalling his personal and immortal memories of Pramukh Swami Maharaj and his glorious centenary celebrations. The Prime Minister also acknowledged the efforts of key individuals, volunteers and supporters involved in the BAPS Hindu Temple project in Abu Dhabi, including Chairman Ashok Kotecha, Vice Chairman Yogesh Mehta and Director Chirag Patel, who recognized their contributions. Important source of pride for India.

QUIZ

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1. What is the full form of NTPS which has been recently launched by MoEFCC Minister Shri Bhupendra Yadav?

- A. National Transport Provision System
- B. National Transfer Protocol System
- C. National Timber Route System
- D. National Transit Pass System

Shri Bhupendra Yadav launched the National Transit Pass System (NTPS) – 'One Nation-One Pass' to facilitate transit of forest produce across India. NTPS stands for National Transit Pass System. This system was launched by Shri Bhupendra Yadav, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Labor and Employment. NTPS is a pan-India initiative that aims to facilitate seamless transit of timber, bamboo and other forest produce across the country, acting as a "One Nation-One Pass" arrangement. It streamlines the process of obtaining transit permits to transport forest commodities, which was previously regulated by state-specific rules. The system uses an integrated, online model to help tree growers and farmers involved in agroforestry facilitate ease of doing business.

2. What is India's current global rank in steel production?

- A. First
- B. second
- C. Third
- D. fourth

India has now emerged as the second largest producer of steel in the world. This marks a significant growth in the steel sector of the country. The announcement comes from India's Steel Ministry, which has put the domestic steel production figure at around 90 million tonnes, while domestic steel consumption is not far behind at 87 million tonnes. These figures represent an increase of more than 14% year-on-year compared to last year's figures. Domestic crude steel production has also seen an impressive trajectory, reaching above 94 million tonnes and mirroring the growth pattern seen in overall steel production. Policies such as the Production Linked Incentive Scheme have contributed significantly to the growth of the sector, stimulating

substantial investment and partnerships with many companies.

3. Which space technology startup is set to demonstrate microsatellite subsystem during ISRO's PSLV-C58 XPoSat mission?

- A. Bellatrix Aerospace
- B. TM2Space
- C. Dhruv Space
- D. Skyroot Aerospace

Space tech startups are set to launch payloads on ISRO's PSLV-C58 XPoSat mission on January 1. Dhruv Space, a space technology startup headquartered in Hyderabad, will showcase its microsatellite subsystem during ISRO's upcoming PSLV-C58 XPoSat mission. The startup will showcase its LEAPTD (Launching Expedition for Aspiring Technologies Technology Demonstrator) on the mission. The PSLV-C58 XPoSat mission is an initiative of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), marking its first X-ray polarimeter satellite mission. The planned launch is scheduled for January 1, 2024 from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

4. Who has been appointed as the next Director (HR) of Indian Oil?

- A. Rashmi Govil
- B. Anjali Kumari
- C. Divya Sharma
- D. Abhinav Sahu

In News Rashmi Govil has been recommended for the post of Director (HR) in Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). He is currently the Executive Director (HRD&ER) at IOCL. Govil was selected from a list of 11 candidates interviewed by the PESB selection panel. He holds an MBA in HR from Bundelkhand University and has over 30 years of experience in HR with expertise in HR strategy, talent management and employee relations, among others. Govil has been with Indian Oil for nearly 30 years since he joined it in October 1994. As Director (HR) of Indian Oil, Govil will be a member of the Board of Directors and will report to the Chairman, leading the human resources related functions.

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5. Who has been appointed as the Director General of Fire Services, Civil Defense and Home Guards?

- A.Sanjay Gupta
- B.Vivek Srivastava**
- C.Suresh Kumar
- D.Ajay Singh

Vivek Srivastava (IPS) was appointed as the Director General of Fire Services, Civil Defense and Home Guards. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Vivek Srivastava, a 1989 batch IPS officer of Gujarat cadre, as Director General of Fire Services, Civil Defense and Home Guards. The announcement was made in an order of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on December 28. Srivastava's appointment will be effective from the date he assumes office, and is scheduled to last till June 30, 2025 – his superannuation date – or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Before this appointment, Srivastava was focused on his role as Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau. This key post of Director General of Fire Services, Civil Defense and Home Guards comes under the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

6. On which rocket was the X-37B robotic spacecraft launched for its seventh mission?

- A.Saturn V
- B.Atlas V
- C.Falcon 9
- D.Falcon Heavy**

The US military's secret X-37B robotic spaceplane was launched for the first time atop a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket. This is the seventh mission of the X-37B and the first time it has traveled into orbit on a Falcon Heavy. The launch took place from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida after several weeks of delays due to bad weather and technical problems. The Falcon Heavy, known as the most powerful operational rocket in the world, offers impressive capabilities that potentially allow the X-37B to reach higher orbits than ever before. This collaboration between the U.S. military and the private space industry represents a significant advance in rocket technology. The X-37B, resembling a miniature space shuttle, is a key element

of the US military's exploration of reusable space technology.

7. India's first submarine tourism facility will be launched at which place?

- A.Mumbai, Maharashtra
- B.Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- C.Alleppey, Kerala
- D.Dwarka, Gujarat**

Gujarat government is planning to launch India's first submarine tourism in Dwarka. The Gujarat government has partnered with Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) to explore marine life around Bet Dwarka, a small island near Dwarka city with significant mythological significance in Hinduism. The project is similar to the Titanic submersible expedition and is scheduled to be commissioned before Diwali 2024. Tourists will be able to dive 100 meters below sea level in a submarine and experience the marine life around the island. It is estimated that the submarine will weigh approximately 35 tonnes and can carry 30 passengers. The official announcement regarding this unique project is expected at the upcoming Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit.

8. Where is Prime Minister Narendra Modi going to inaugurate BAPS Hindu Temple?

- A.Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**
- B.Muscat, Oman
- C.Port Louis, Mauritius
- D.Maryland,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the BAPS Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi on 14 February. He was invited by Swami Ishwarcharandas, Swami Brahmaviharidas and the board of directors of the temple. The temple has been portrayed as a representation of global harmony and a symbol of India's spiritual influence across the world. The Prime Minister was decorated with a garland and a saffron shawl to honor his significant contribution to India and the global community. The conversation during the meeting revolved around the role of the Abu Dhabi temple in promoting global unity and in line with PM Modi's vision for India's global spiritual influence. The statement endorsed the Prime Minister's health and

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his impressive global achievements, particularly strengthening ties with the UAE and other Middle Eastern countries.

ONE LINER

What is the full form of NTPS which is recently launched by MoEFCC Minister Shri Bhupendra Yadav – **National Transit Pass System**

Where is Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate BAPS Hindu Temple – **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

Which country's player Dean Elgar has recently retired from international cricket - **South Africa**

Who has recently been selected for the Sahitya Akademi Award - **Khorokhaibam Gambhini**

What is the current global rank of India in steel production - **2nd**

Which space technology startup is set to demonstrate microsatellite subsystem during ISRO's PSLV-C58 XPoSat mission - **Dhruv Space**

Who has been appointed as the next Director (HR) of Indian Oil – **Rashmi Govil**

Who has been appointed as the Director General of Fire Services, Civil Defense and Home Guards – **Vivek Srivastava**

On which rocket was the X-37B robotic spacecraft launched for its seventh mission – **Falcon Heavy**

India's first submarine tourism facility will be launched at which place - **Dwarka, Gujarat**