



# The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

## CURRENT AFFAIRS BOOSTER

14-03-22

MONDAY



LANGUAGE - ENGLISH



68th  
BPSC

Batch Starting From  
▶▶▶ 1st March ◀◀◀

Admission Open



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## 1. 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Challenge' launched by Minister Hardeep Singh



Under the Ministry's Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launched the 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge.' This comes after the Hon'ble Prime Minister's ceremonial launch of AMRUT 2.0 on October 1, 2021, stakeholder discussions in Lucknow (during MoHUA's Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav festivities), and Cabinet approval of the Mission on October 12, 2021.

### KEY POINTS:

- Technology Sub-mission to engage startups as 'Technology Partners' has been approved by Cabinet under AMRUT 2.0, in keeping with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.
- The Mission's goal is to help startups in the water/used-water sector thrive via innovation and design, resulting in long-term economic growth and job creation.
- The Ministry will select 100 start-ups to get Rs.20 lakhs in cash and mentorship as part of this project.

At India Habitat Centre, MoHUA hosted the 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Conclave,' a first-of-its-kind networking platform for entrepreneurs, young innovators,

industry partners, incubators, and states/cities. During the conclave, Union Minister HUA announced a startup challenge on the MyGov platform.

## 2. India's first medical city 'Indrayani Medicity' to set up in Maharashtra



The state government of Maharashtra has announced to set up the country's first medical city named as 'Indrayani Medicity' in Pune, to provide all kinds of specialised treatment under one roof. It will come up in 300-acre of land area in Khed taluka of Pune. The project is estimated to attract investment worth over Rs. 10,000 crore.

Indrayani Medicity will have hospitals, centres for medical research, pharmaceutical manufacturing, wellness and physiotherapy, and will be the first-of-its-kind city in the country to have all the treatments available at one place.

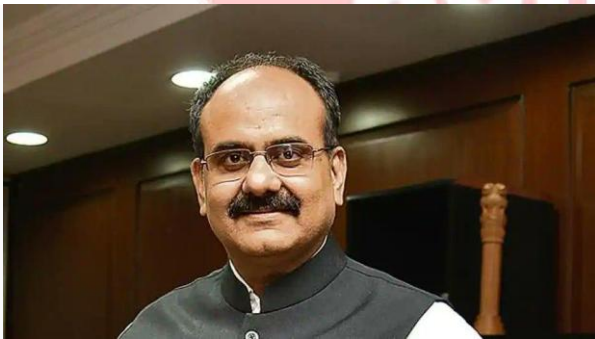
### Key points:

- The Medicity will have about 24 separate hospital buildings, each housing one department. The Medicity will not only benefit Pune but will also be useful for people from neighbouring districts who come to the city for better treatment.

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- There will be medical education and research institutes, and treatment will be provided at affordable rates to citizens.
- The proposed Medicity will have separate departments for trauma critical, heart disease, kidney, brain disease, dentistry, paediatrics, ophthalmology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, urology, haematology, organ transplantation, gynaecology, cardiology and psychiatry and separate super-speciality hospitals will be set up for all departments such as cancer, AYUSH etc.
- The Medicity will be set up by the Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA). The entire facility is likely to have over 10,000 to 15,000 beds.

### 3. Ajay Bhushan Pandey appointed as chairman of the NFRA



Ajay Bhushan Pandey has been appointed as the chairman of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) for a period of 3 years. Pandey, a 1984-batch Maharashtra cadre IAS officer, retired as revenue secretary in February last year.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of former revenue secretary ABP Pandey as the

chairperson of NFRA for a period of three years from the date of assumption of charge or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years.

#### About the NFRA:

The NFRA acts as an independent regulator for the auditing profession. The body has powers to review the financial statement of companies, can seek explanations and probe irregularities with respect to accounting and auditing issues. The setting up of the NFRA, envisaged under the Companies Act, 2013, was approved by the Cabinet in May 2018.

### 4. India's 1st ever GI-tagged Kashmir carpets flagged off to Germany



The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has launched quick response (QR) code for its GI-tagged Kashmiri carpet, to preserve the authenticity and genuineness of the hand-knotted carpets. The main objective of this QR Code attached to the GI tag is to help in reviving the sheen and glory of the Kashmiri carpet industry.

#### Key points:

- The QR code will contain relevant information of the artisans, manufacturer, weaver, district, raw material used etc.

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- Since the QR code label cannot be copied or misused, it will discourage the counterfeit production of carpets.
- Meanwhile, the first-ever consignment of GI-tagged hand-knotted carpets were exported to Germany from New Delhi on March 11, 2022.
- It must be noted that the Kashmiri carpets were granted GI-tag in June 2016 by the Geographical Indication Registry of the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, but the registered carpets were certified from 2022.

## 5. First Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal of Indian Railways commissioned



The Asansol Division of Indian Railways has successfully commissioned private siding of Maithan Power Limited at Thaparnagar, Jharkhand, in accordance with the Prime Minister's vision Gati Shakti and the Ministry of Railways' policy regarding the Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal or also known as GCT, informed the Ministry of Railways.

### KEY POINTS:

- Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board, V K Tripathi, said at the GCT's commissioning that the Maithan Power Project was commenced in

the year 2009, and power generation began in the year 2011.

- The coal needed for the power plant was delivered via road, which is estimated to yield 120 inbound coal rakes every month.
- Somewhere between two to four outward rakes of Fly Ash are expected to be handled from the siding area.
- This will increase the railways' monthly earnings by almost Rs. 11 crores.

## 6. PM Narendra Modi dedicates Rashtriya Raksha University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation a new campus building complex of the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) at Lavad village near Gandhinagar, Gujarat. PM also addressed the first convocation of RRU Gandhinagar as a Chief Guest. The University, which is an Institution of National Importance, commenced its operations from 1st October 2020. RRU offers academic programs from diploma to doctorate level in various areas of policing and internal security such as police science and management, criminal law and justice, cyberpsychology, information technology, artificial intelligence and cyber security, crime investigation, strategic

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languages, internal defence and strategies, physical education and sports, coastal and maritime security. Currently, 822 students from 18 States are enrolled in these programs.

## Key points:

- PM Modi said, Rashtriya Raksha University, National Law University and National Forensic Science University in Gujarat should come together for periodic symposiums, which will help in creating a better security environment and criminal justice system. He said, Gujarat has National Forensic Science University and National Children University- two such universities first in the world.

- The Prime Minister highlighted the role of the first batch of any such institute in taking the vision of the institution forward. He noted the contribution of the old pharmacy college in Gujarat to turn the state into a leader in the pharmaceutical field. Similarly, IIM Ahmedabad led the creation of a robust MBA education system in the country.

## About the University:

- Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) was set up to meet the need for high quality trained manpower in various wings of policing, criminal justice and correctional administration.

- The government set up a national police university named Rashtriya Raksha University by upgrading the Raksha Shakti University which was established by the Government of Gujarat in 2010.

- The University, which is an Institution of National Importance, commenced its operations from 1st October 2020. The

University will develop synergies with the private sector by leveraging knowledge and resources from the industry and would also set up Centres of Excellence in various fields relating to police and security.

## 7. Tamilnadu Petroproducts became world's first LAB manufacturing company to get BIS certification



TPL (Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd.) is the world's first linear alkylbenzene (LAB) manufacturing company to be certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). TPL's 'Superlab' brand is one of the most well-known laboratory brands in the country. TPL's position as the market leader and the only authorised seller of the chemical in India will be bolstered by the certification. LAB can be used to make biodegradable detergent, making it a more sustainable option than conventional detergent formulations.

## KEY POINTS:

- In a notable step, Chennai-based petrochemicals manufacturer Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd (TPL) has been awarded IS12795:2020 certification by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of

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Chemicals & Fertilisers, Government of India for its product linear alkylbenzene (LAB).

- TPL is part of AM International's petrochemicals sector, a diversified, international conglomerate with a federated operating architecture based in Singapore.

- The company is India's leading LAB manufacturer and the only one in the state of Tamil Nadu. LAB is a key component in the production of synthetic detergents and industrial cleansers. TPL's products account for over 40% of all fabric detergents used in Indian homes. Its 'Superlab' brand is one of the most well-known laboratory brands in the country.

- TPL is the only authorised seller of LAB in the Indian market, thanks to the respected Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification. The certificate complies with the Linear Alkyl Benzene (Quality Control) Order 2021's standards.

- Only LAB manufacturers who have received IS 12795 certification are allowed to offer their products in Indian markets, according to the terms of this decree. TPL is now the chosen partner for industries with LAB applications as a result of this progress.

As an industry leader, product quality has been the primary priority at TPL. It will be our constant goal to provide the greatest quality LAB to our segment partners for many years to come, and to proudly contribute to India's AtmaNirbhar Bharat mission."

When making a surface tension-lowering chemical, LAB is created as an intermediate product. The petrochemical is used to make

biodegradable detergent, making it a more environmentally friendly alternative to current detergent formulations. The substance was thoroughly assessed by the European Council Regulation (EC) and deemed to pose no significant environmental or health risks.

## **About Tamilnadu Petroproducts:**

- Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd is a company based in Tamil Nadu, India.

- With its headquarters in Chennai, India, Tamilnadu Petroproducts Limited (TPL), a subsidiary of Singapore-based AM International, is a significant maker of industrial intermediate chemicals.

- The company was founded in 1984 with the goal of establishing a cutting-edge Linear Alkyl Benzene (LAB) manufacturing facility. TPL's product portfolio now includes caustic soda, propylene oxide, and chlorine.

## **About AM international:**

- AM International is a company based in the United States.

- AM International is a federated operating architecture with a diversified worldwide collection of firms. It has been trusted by millions of clients for over six decades and is headquartered in Singapore.

- Many group companies are market leaders today, with operations in Southeast Asia, India, and the United Kingdom.

## **8. Morgan Stanely projects India's GDP for FY23 at 7.9%**

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Rating Agency Morgan Stanley has projected India's GDP growth forecast for 2022-23 (FY23) at 7.9%. This is 50 bps less than its earlier projection due to the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on oil prices. Furthermore, Stanley raised the country's retail inflation estimate to 6%, meanwhile, current account deficits are seen to widen by 3% of GDP.

India is affected through three key channels — higher prices for oil and other commodities; trade, and tighter financial conditions, influencing business/investment sentiment. Analysts at the brokerage also raised their inflation forecast to 6 per cent — the upper end of the tolerance band for the RBI — and flagged stagflation risks because of the ongoing events.

## 9. EPFO lowers interest rate on PF deposits to 8.1% for 2021-22



The retirement fund body, Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has slashed the interest rate on provident fund deposits to 8.10% for 2021-22. This rate is 0.4% lower than the previous year. The interest rate on PF deposits was 8.5% in 2020-21 and 2019-20.

### Key points:

- This is the lowest in more than four decades. EPFO had credited 8.0% as interest rate in 1977-78. Since then, it has been either 8.25% or more.
- The interest rate of 8.1% has been declared based on EPFO's estimated income for the year at Rs 76,768 crore and this will leave the retirement fund body with a surplus of Rs 450 crore.
- The move is expected to hit the earnings of over sixty million EPFO subscribers.

### Previous rates:

- EPFO had provided 8.65 % interest rate to its subscribers in 2016-17 and 8.55 % in 2017-18.
- The rate of interest was slightly higher at 8.8 % in 2015-16.
- It had given 8.75 % rate of interest in 2013-14 as well as 2014-15, higher than 8.5 % for 2012-13.
- The rate of interest was 8.25 % in 2011-12.

## 10. Ex-student protest leader, Gabriel Boric font becomes youngest President of Chile

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Gabriel Boric Font has been appointed as the new and 36th President of Chile. The 36-year-old leftist is the youngest leader to hold the office in Chile's history. He succeeds Sebastián Piñera. Boric will hold the office for the period between 2022-2026.

As a student representative, Boric became one of the leading figures of the 2011–2013 Chilean student protests. Boric was twice elected to the Chamber of Deputies representing the Magallanes and Antarctic district, first as an independent candidate in 2013 and then in 2017 as part of the Broad Front, a left-wing coalition he created with several other parties.

## ONE LINER

- Chile Capital: **Santiago;**
- Chilean Currency: **Chilean Peso**
- Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir: **Manoj Sinha;**
- Jammu and Kashmir Formation (Union Territory): **31 October 2019**
- The country which has been retained in the gray list by the Financial Action Task Force this time too - **Pakistan**
- Jan Aushadhi Diwas is celebrated on **7th March**

- Recently the legendary spinner of Australia has died at the age of 52- **Shane Warne**
- Who has become the CEO of Jet Airways - **Sanjeev Kapoor**
- The new chairman of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) who has been recently appointed- **Justice DN Patel**
- Indian AXA Life Insurance has appointed the actress as its new brand ambassador- **Vidya Balan**
- The player who has become the second Indian bowler to take wickets in Tests, leaving behind former Indian captain Kapil Dev - **R Ashwin**