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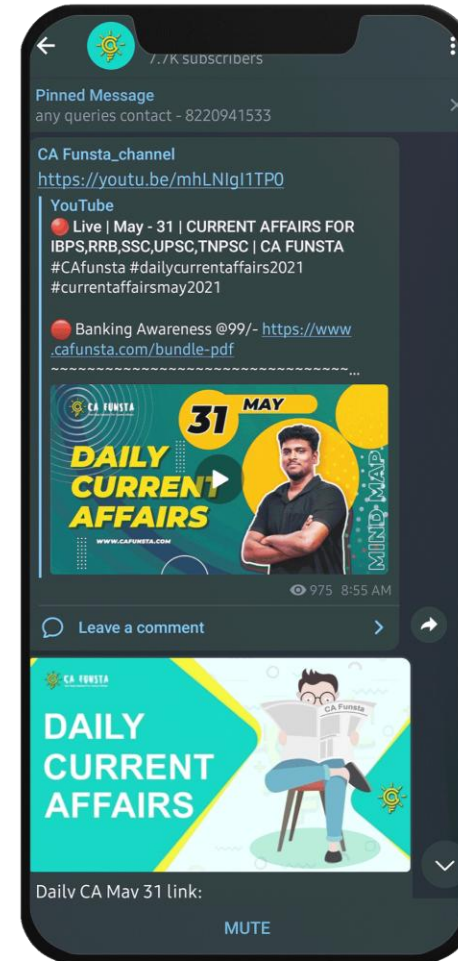
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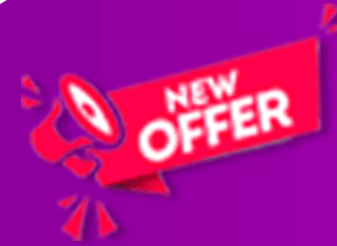
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Important Days



➤ What is the significance of March 15?

- A) International Women's Day
- B) World Health Day
- C) World Water Day
- D) World Consumer Rights Day
- E) World Environment Day

Answer

D) World Consumer Rights Day

WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY
15th March

Protecting your rights through

- 'Jago Grahak Jago' campaign for Consumer Awareness
- National Consumer Helpline Number (24/7 available)
- E-daakhil, Lok Adalat & Mediations for quicker resolution of cases
- Guidelines against misleading advertisements
- Standards National Action Plan 2022-27 to ensure the quality of products

Make your **rights** count



Important Days



Explanation

- **World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated every year on March 15;** this year's theme is clean energy transition.
- Awareness of rights helps us seek remedies when we are not satisfied with a purchased product or service. These rights also protect consumers against cheating.
- This year the theme is "**Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions.**"



SPORTS



➤ Which countries are joining together for a bid to host the 2030 FIFA World Cup?

- A) Morocco and Spain
- B) Morocco, Spain, and Portugal
- C) Spain and Portugal
- D) Portugal and Morocco
- E) Israel, UAE

Answer

B) Morocco, Spain, and Portugal.



Explanation

- **King Mohammed VI of Morocco announced his country's decision to present a joint bid together with Spain and Portugal to host the 2030 FIFA World Cup**
- This is Morocco's sixth bid to host the FIFA World Cup after unsuccessful attempts on 1994, 1998, 2006, 2010 and 2026 editions.
- In June 2021, **Spain and Portugal confirmed they would make a joint bid to host the 2030 FIFA World Cup**



RANKING



➤ According to the 'World Air Quality' report released by IQAir, which spot did India hold in terms of being the most polluted country in 2022?

- A) 1st
- B) 3rd
- C) 5th
- D) 8th
- E) 10th

Answer
D) 8th



RANKING



Explanation

- The **Swiss firm IQAir** released the **'World Air Quality'** report which says that **India is the world's eighth most polluted country in 2022, dropping from the fifth spot the previous year.**
- The PM2.5 level of most polluted Indian cities stands at 53.3, according to the data.
- Lahore in Pakistan jumped more than 10 places to become the city with the worst air in the world in 2022.
- The two Indian cities in the ranking of the world's most polluted city are---**Bhiwadi, on Delhi's outskirts, which had pollution levels at 92.7, and Delhi followed close behind at 92.6**
- Pakistan, which had two of the five cities with the worst air in 2022, stood third in the country-wide ranking at 70.9, followed by Bahrain at 66.6.
- The report also stated that Chad in central Africa had replaced Bangladesh as the country with the most polluted air last year. While Chad had an average level of 89.7, Iraq, which had the second most polluted air for a country, averaged 80.1.
- The US Pacific territory Guam had cleaner air than any country, with a PM2.5 concentration of 1.3, while Canberra had the cleanest air for a capital city, with 2.8.



➤ Which companies have collaborated to launch an industry-first co-branded credit card?

- A) Flipkart and Amazon
- B) HDFC Bank and Amazon
- C) HDFC Bank and Flipkart Wholesale
- D) HDFC Bank and Walmart
- E) ICICI Bank and Walmart

Answer

C) HDFC Bank and Flipkart Wholesale



Explanation

- **HDFC Bank and Flipkart Wholesale, the omnichannel B2B platform with an extensive online and offline presence, of India's homegrown Flipkart Group, launched an industry-first co-branded credit card exclusively for Flipkart Wholesale members.**
- The credit card will run on the Diners Club International network, part of the Discover Global Network and can be used in more than 200 countries around the world where Diners Club cards are accepted.
- As part of this collaboration, **registered members of Flipkart Wholesale will be able to avail of 5% cashback** – an industry-first offer, on Flipkart Wholesale online spends. Other benefits include INR 1,500 worth of activation cashback, with zero joining fee, along with additional cashback on utility bills and other expenses.



Titbits

HDFC Bank Limited

- Formed : **August 1994**
- Headquarters : **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- CEO : **Sashidhar Jagdishan**



➤ Which company has signed a corporate agency agreement with Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank)?

- A) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
- B) New India Assurance
- C) Oriental Insurance Company
- D) United India Insurance Company
- E) HDFC Life Insurance Company



Answer

A) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)



Explanation

- **Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) has signed a corporate agency agreement with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).**
- The bank will service and solicit LIC's life insurance products through its branch network.
- The said agreement will be operational/effective from April 1, 2023, the Bank said in a regulatory filing.
- As at December-end 2023, **J&K Bank had 989 branches across the country. Of this, 83 per cent of the branches were in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.**



Titbits

Life Insurance Corporation of India

- Founded : **1 September 1956**
- Headquarters : **Mumbai, India**
- Chairperson : **M R Kumar**



BANKING AND FINANCE



➤ **Canara Bank has collaborated with which organization to launch the Rupay Credit Card through UPI using the BHIM app?**

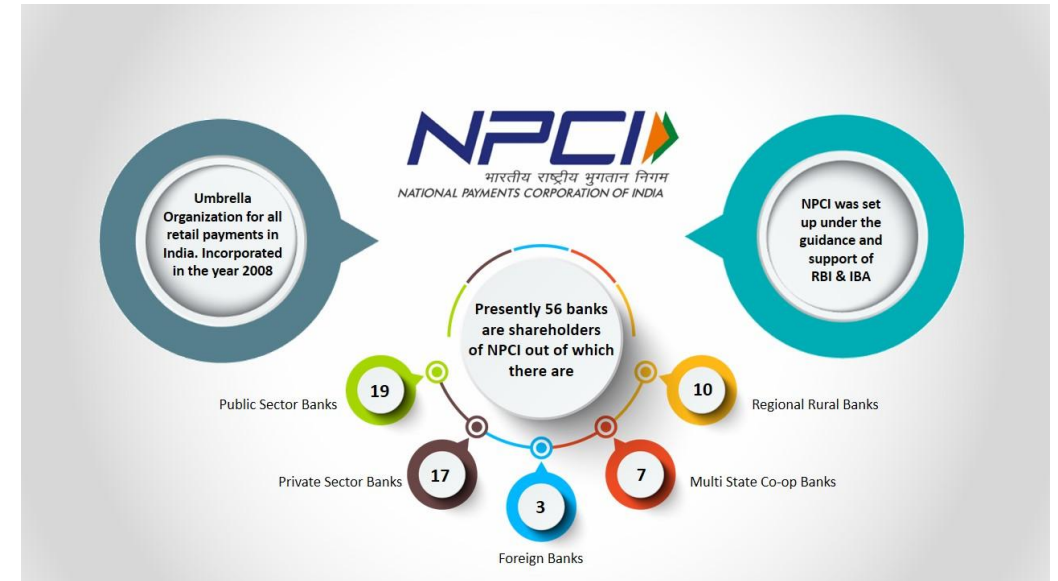
- A) RBI
- B) NPCI
- C) SEBI
- D) IRDAI
- E) UIDAI

Answer
B) NPCI



Explanation

- **Canara Bank, in collaboration with NPCI, has launched the Rupay Credit Card through UPI using the BHIM app.**
- All the customers of the bank can link their active Rupay credit card to UPI and make merchant payments without the physical use of a card, similar to account-based UPI transactions, said the company in a press release.
- **This will enable small merchants to increase sales turnover and business at a low cost.**
- Presently, customers with Canara Bank Rupay credit card variants - **Rupay Classic, Rupay Platinum and Rupay Select**) can link their cards to UPI.



Titbits

National Payments Corporation of India

- Founded : **2008**
- Headquarters : **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- MD & CEO : **Dilip Asbe**



BANKING AND FINANCE



➤ **What is the loan assistance amount provided by the World Bank for the Green National Highway Corridors Project?**

- A) US \$ 100 million
- B) US \$ 200 million
- C) US \$ 300 million
- D) US \$ 400 million
- E) US \$ 500 million

Answer

E) US \$ 500 million



Explanation

- The **Government of India and the World Bank** have signed an agreement for the construction of **Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP)** in an aggregate length of **781 km** in the states of **Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh**, with loan assistance of **US \$ 500 million** against total project cost of **US \$ 1288.24 million (Rs. 7,662.47 crore)**.
- The objective of the GNHCP is to demonstrate safe and green highway keeping in view climate resilience and use of green technologies by incorporating the provisions of conservation of natural resources using cement treated sub base/reclaimed asphalt pavement, use of local/marginal material such as lime, fly ash, waste plastic, bio-engineering measures for slope protection such as hydroseeding, coco/jute fibre etc., which will enhance the ability of Ministry to bring Green technologies into the mainstream.



APPOINTMENTS



➤ Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA)?

- A) Deepak Mohanty
- B) Raghuram Rajan
- C) Urjit Patel
- D) Shaktikanta Das
- E) Nirmala Sitharaman

Answer

A) Deepak Mohanty

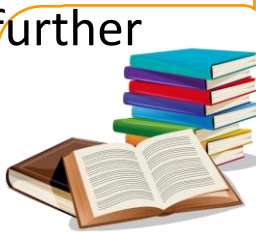


APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Deepak Mohanty has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA).**
- Earlier, he was an Executive Director at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) overseeing areas of enforcement of banking regulation, risk management, internal audit and inspection, financial stability, monetary policy, economic research, and statistics.
- Prior to that, he had worked as Senior Adviser at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- He also held various positions in economic research and was Head of the Monetary Policy Department in the RBI.
- **PFRDA Chairperson holds office for five years or till the age of 65 years.**
- **Meanwhile, the Centre has also appointed Mamta Shankar, IES (1993), Senior Economic Advisor in the Department of Food and Public Distribution to the post of Whole-Time Member (economics) in PFRDA.**
- Her appointment is valid for a period of three years or till she attains the age of 62 years or until further orders, whichever is the earliest, according to a DFS executive order. The post of Member (law) continues to be vacant at PFRDA.



AWARDS



➤ Who has been awarded the Governor of the Year award by Central Banking?

- A) Shaktikanta Das
- B) Narendra Modi
- C) Raghuram Rajan
- D) Urjit Patel
- E) Manmohan Singh



Answer

A) Shaktikanta Das



AWARDS



Explanation

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das** has been awarded the **Governor of the Year award by Central Banking**.
- Das has helped maneuver the ship as it faced multiple obstacles since his appointment, the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war being the two major tests
- RBI's former governor Raghuram Rajan was conferred the title back in 2015.
- Central Banking Publications is a financial publisher specialising in public policy and financial markets, with an emphasis on central banks, and international financial institutions



DEFENCE



➤ **Where did the 13th edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra take place and which armies participated in it?**

- A) Chennai Military Station, Indian Army
- B) Jodhpur Military Station, Singapore Army and Indian Army
- C) New Delhi Military Station, Australian Army and Indian Army
- D) Mumbai Military Station, Pakistani Army and Indian Army
- E) Chennai Military Station, Pakistani Army and Indian Army



Answer

B) Jodhpur Military Station, Singapore Army and Indian Army



Explanation

- The **Singapore Army and Indian Army participated in the 13th edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra, a bilateral armour exercise from 6 to 13 March at Jodhpur Military Station, India.**
- For the first time in the exercise series, both armies participated in a command post Exercise, which involved Battalion and Brigade level planning elements and computer wargaming.
- **Hosted by the Indian Army, the exercise involved soldiers from the 42nd Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment and an Armoured Brigade of the Indian Army.**
- Exercise Bold Kurukshetra is conducted under the ambit of the bilateral arrangement for the joint Army Training and exercises between the Singapore Army and the Indian Army.
- First conducted in 2005, **this exercise underscores the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between both countries and enhances cooperation between the two armies**



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



➤ Where were the two consecutive successful flight tests of VSHORADS missiles conducted by DRDO?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Odisha
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Karnataka
- E) Andhra Pradesh

Answer
B) Odisha.

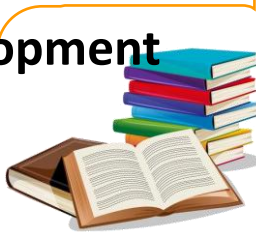


NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Explanation

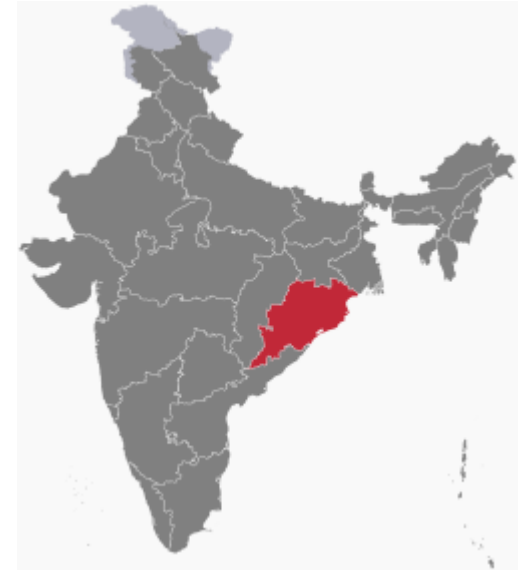
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted two consecutive successful flight tests of Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.**
- VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) meant for neutralising low-altitude aerial threats at short ranges.
- It has been designed and developed indigenously by Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners.
- The missile incorporates many novel technologies including Dual-band IIR Seeker, a miniaturised Reaction Control System and integrated avionics.
- The propulsion is provided by a dual-thrust solid motor.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted a maiden flight-test of the Power Take off (PTO) Shaft on Light Combat Aircraft (LCA Tejas) Limited Series Production (LSP) -3 aircraft in Bengaluru.**
- The PTO shaft is indigenously designed and developed by the Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), Chennai of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).



Titbits

Odisha

- Capital: **Bhubaneshwar**
- CM: **Naveen Patnaik**
- Governor: **Ganeshi Lal**
- Language: **Odia**
- National Park: **Bhitarkanika National Park**
- Wildlife Sanctuary: **Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary**
- Ramsar Site: **Bhitarkanika Magroves, Chilka Lake**
- Tiger Reserve: **Satkosia Tiger Reserve**
- Power Station: **Odisha Power Generation Corporation Limited**
- Dams: **Indravati (RIVER: Indravati)**
- RRB: **Odisha Gramya Bank (IOB), Utkal Grameen Bank (SBI)**
- UNESCO Site: **Sun Temple Konark**



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



➤ Where is the 2nd Education Working Group meeting being hosted by the Ministry of Education?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Mumbai
- C) Kolkata
- D) Chennai
- E) Amritsar

Answer

E) Amritsar



Explanation

- **The Ministry of Education is all set to host the 2nd Education Working Group meeting at Amritsar in Punjab, March 15.**
- **Twenty-eight G20 member countries, guest countries, and invited organizations (OECD, UNESCO & UNICEF) will be participating in the three-day event consisting of seminars, exhibition, and working group meetings.**
- Also, The 16th meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Youth Council was held in hybrid mode in New Delhi on Tuesday, under the chairship of India. Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the SCO Youth Council meeting.
- **The first international conference of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on Shared Buddhist Heritage has begun in New Delhi with focus on India's civilizational connect with the SCO nations.**
-



Titbits

Ministry of Education

- Union minister : **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** (Madhya Pradesh)



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



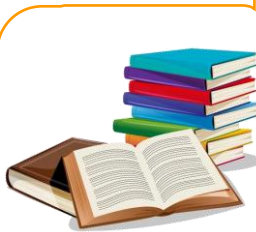
➤ Which organisation launched ATL Sarthi, a comprehensive self-monitoring framework to strengthen the ecosystem of Atal Tinkering Labs?

- A) CII
- B) CCI
- C) NMDC
- D) NTPC
- E) Atal Innovation Mission - NITI Aayog



Answer

E) Atal Innovation Mission - NITI Aayog



Explanation

- **Atal Innovation Mission - NITI Aayog launched ATL Sarthi, a comprehensive self-monitoring framework to strengthen the ecosystem of Atal Tinkering Labs.**
- NITI Aayog has said that Atal Innovation Mission is establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories in schools across the country to foster curiosity, creativity, and imagination in young minds.
- **Atal Tinkering Labs Sarthi is a charioteer and it will enable the Atal Tinkering Labs to be efficient and effective.**



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



- Which Ministry announced that Prussian blue insoluble formulations, a critical drug developed under the Technology Development Fund for radiological and nuclear emergencies, has been granted approval by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)?

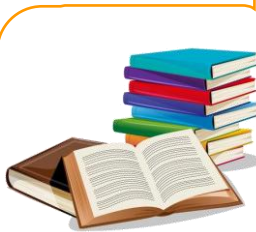
- A) Sports
- B) Environment
- C) Education
- D) Home
- E) Defence



सत्यमेव जयते

रक्षा मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
DEFENCE

Answer
E) Defence



Explanation

- The **Defence Ministry** announced that **Prussian blue insoluble formulations**, a critical drug developed under the **Technology Development Fund** for radiological and nuclear emergencies, has been granted approval by the **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)**.
- The drug — '**prussian blue**' insoluble formulations — was developed by the industry based on the technology of **Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences (INMAS)**, Delhi, a laboratory of **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- It said **the drug will be available under the trade name of Pru-DecorpTM and PruDecorp-MG**.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



- Who addressed the CII partnership summit 2023 on ‘One Health: Integrated, Collaborative and Multisectoral Approach to Optimal Health’?

- A) Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
- B) Dr. Harsh Vardhan
- C) Dr. Randeep Guleria
- D) Dr. Soumya Swaminathan
- E) Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Answer

A) Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya



Explanation

- **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Health Minister addresses CII partnership summit 2023 on ‘One Health: Integrated, Collaborative and Multisectoral Approach to Optimal Health’**
- Dr. Naresh Trehan, CII Healthcare Council, Chairman & Managing Director, Global Health Private Limited, India, Dr. Rajesh Jain, & Managing Director, CII National Committee on Biotechnology, Panacea Biotech Ltd, Dr. Suchitra Ella, Chairperson CII Southern Region and Co-Founder and MD, Bharat Biotech were present as panelists at the event.



Titbits

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

- UNION MINISTER : **Mansukh Mandaviya** (Gujarat)



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



➤ **The country's first 100 percent methanol-powered prototype truck was unveiled by Minister for whom in Bengaluru?**

- A) Mansukh Mandaviya
- B) Randeep Guleria
- C) Nitin Gadkari
- D) Narendra Modi
- E) Harsh Vardhan

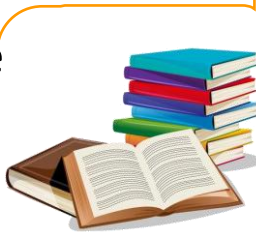
Answer

C) Nitin Gadkari



Explanation

- In an environment-friendly move, **the country's first 100 percent methanol-powered prototype truck was unveiled by Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari in Bengaluru on March 12.**
- Calling the development a giant leap in methanol economy being piloted in BMTC buses and Ashok Leyland trucks, NITI Aayog, in a statement said it is a joint initiative by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Ashok Leyland and Indian Institute of Science (IISc).
- Separately, Gadkari launched 10 MD15 (15 percent blending of methanol with diesel) BMTC buses.
- In 2016, **NITI Aayog prepared a road map for Methanol Economy in India and a committee led by Dr VK Saraswat to assess the total potential of methanol as an alternative fuel to diesel, petrol and LPG.**
- The committee stated that close to 20 percent of replacement of crude as India's energy mix is possible by adopting methanol as a clean, cost effective and a renewable alternative fuel.



Titbits

Ministry of Rural Development

- UNION MINISTER : **Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari** (Nagpur, Maharashtra)



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



➤ Where was the 4th Table Top Exercise organised by the Indian Coast Guard Region (North East) held?

- A) Mumbai
- B) Chennai
- C) Kolkata
- D) Delhi
- E) Hyderabad

Answer
C) Kolkata



Explanation

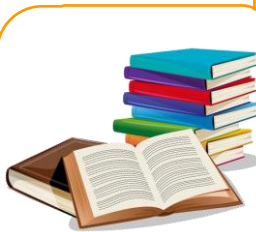
- **Indian Coast Guard Region (North East) is conducting the fourth edition of Table top exercise under the aegis of Colombo Security Conclave in Kolkata from March 14 to 16, 2023.**
- Apart from the Indian Coast Guard, **representatives of member nations of Colombo Security Conclave - Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Mauritius – along with observer countries - Bangladesh and Seychelles - are participating in the exercise.**
- The Colombo Security Conclave was formed in 2011 as a trilateral maritime security grouping of India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.
- The roadmap of activities was later expanded, with Mauritius joining as the fourth member and Bangladesh & Seychelles participating as observer countries.
- The Conclave underlines regional cooperation and shared security objectives concerning all littoral nations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- **It aims to make maritime security, marine pollution response and maritime search & rescue priorities for the region**



QUICK RECALL



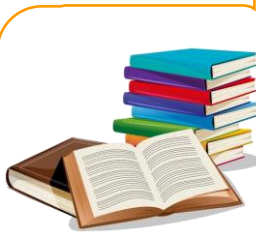
- ❖ World Consumer Rights Day
- ❖ King Mohammed VI of Morocco announced his country's decision to present a joint bid together with Spain and Portugal to host the 2030 FIFA World Cup
- ❖ India is the world's eighth most polluted country in 2022
- ❖ HDFC Bank and Flipkart Wholesale, the omnichannel B2B platform with an extensive online and offline presence
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) has signed a corporate agency agreement with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- ❖ Canara Bank, in collaboration with NPCI, has launched the Rupay Credit Card through UPI using the BHIM app.
- ❖ Government of India and the World Bank have signed an agreement for the construction of Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP) in an aggregate length of 781 km in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh
- ❖ Deepak Mohanty has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority (PFRDA).
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das has been awarded the Governor of the Year award by Central Banking



QUICK RECALL



- ❖ The Singapore Army and Indian Army participated in the 13th edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra, a bilateral armour exercise from 6 to 13 March at Jodhpur Military Station, India
- ❖ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted two consecutive successful flight tests of Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile
- ❖ The Ministry of Education is all set to host the 2nd Education Working Group meeting at Amritsar in Punjab, March 15
- ❖ Atal Innovation Mission - NITI Aayog launched ATL Sarthi, a comprehensive self-monitoring framework to strengthen the ecosystem of Atal Tinkering Labs.
- ❖ Defence Ministry announced that Prussian blue insoluble formulations, a critical drug developed under the Technology Development Fund for radiological and nuclear emergencies
- ❖ Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Health Minister addresses CII partnership summit 2023
- ❖ the country's first 100 percent methanol-powered prototype truck was unveiled by Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari in Bengaluru on March 12.
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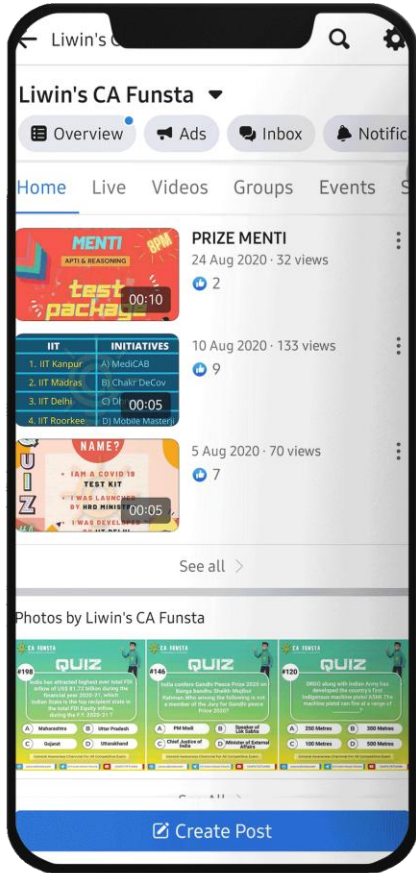
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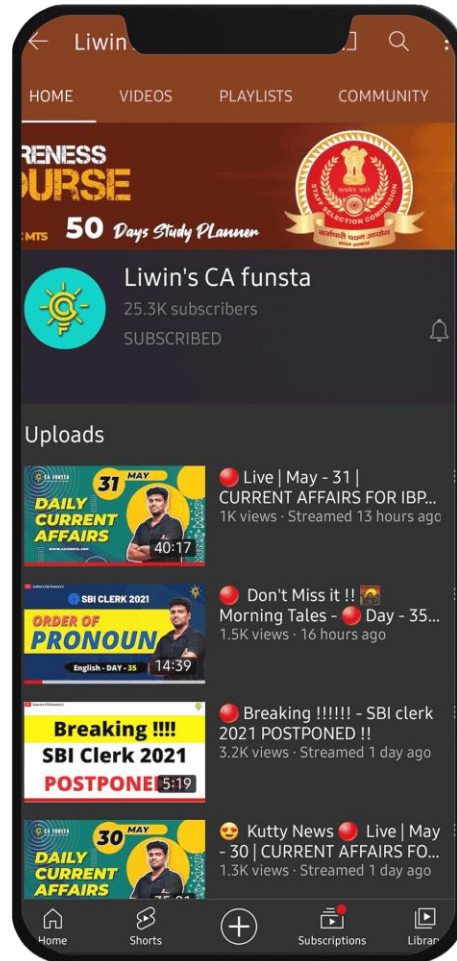
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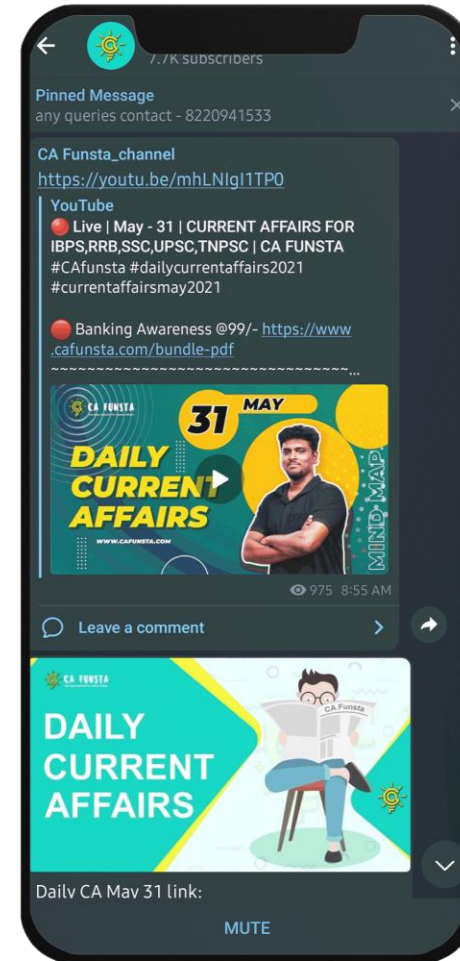
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