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Important Days



When is National Panchayati Raj Day observed in India?

- A) April 22
- B) April 23
- C) April 24
- D) April 25
- E) April 26

Answer
C) April 24



Important Days



Explanation

- National Panchayati Raj Day is observed in India on **April 24 every year** to mark the constitutional amendment that created the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India.
- The day marks the establishment of the first Panchayati Raj system in India on **April 24, 1993**.
- **Edition:** 14th

Important Days



Explanation

History

- The **Panchayati Raj system** has a historical significance in India, dating back to ancient times. It originated from the Sanskrit words '**panch**' (meaning five) and '**ayat**' (meaning assembly).
- The system was prevalent in India during the **Mauryan period**, around 300 BCE, when local self-government was the norm, and the administration was decentralised.
- In modern India, the Panchayati Raj system was first introduced in 1959 by the government led by Jawaharlal Nehru.
- However, it wasn't until **1993** that the system was given constitutional status through the 73rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution. The amendment mandated the establishment of a three-tier system of PRIs at the village, block, and district levels.

Theme

- The theme for the National Panchayati Raj Day 2023 is '**Sustainable Panchayat: Building Healthy, Water Sufficient, Clean & Green Villages.**'

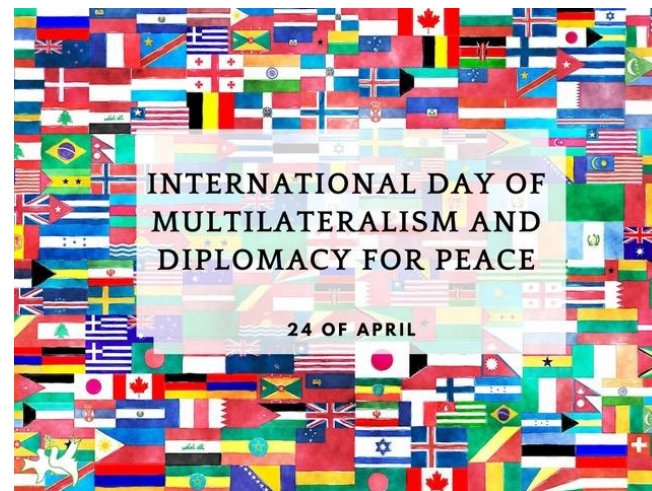


Important Days



International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace

- The **International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace** is being observed **April 24**.
- The Day acknowledges the use of multilateral decision-making and diplomacy in achieving peaceful resolutions to conflicts among nations.
- It was established on the **12th of December 2018** through resolution A/RES/73/127 and was first observed on the **24th of April 2019**.
- Since then it is observed annually on the **24th of April**.



Important Days



Manipur observes Khongjom Day

- It observed on **23 April**.
- The **Khongjom Day** remembering the battle fought in 1891 Anglo Manipuri War at Khongjom in Thoubal district of Manipur.
- **Edition:** 132nd.

OBITUARY



Who has recently passed away, known as the founder of Gemini Circus and a pioneer of Indian circus?

- A) Gemini Sankaran
- B) Ramanathan Krishnan
- C) Narinder Batra
- D) Gurbachan Singh Randhawa
- E) Gemini Ganesh

Answer

A) Gemini Sankaran



OBITUARY



Explanation

- **Gemini Sankaran**, the founder of **Gemini Circus** and **a pioneer of Indian circus**, has died.
- Sankaran, who was born in 1924, trained under noted circus artist **Keeleri Kunhikannan** for three years and later joined the military and retired after the Second World War.
- After working with various circus groups across the country, he purchased **Vijaya Circus Company in 1951 and renamed it as Gemini Circus**. Later, he started his second company, **Jumbo Circus**.
- He was honored by the Union government with a **lifetime achievement award** considering his overall contribution to circus in the country.



OBITUARY



Arun Singh Barhat passed away. He was related to which sports?

- A) Table Tennis
- B) Tennis
- C) Hockey
- D) Volleyball
- E) Football

Answer

A) Table Tennis

OBITUARY



Explanation

- **Arun Singh Barhat**, a bronze medal winner at the 2023 World Veterans Championships, died after reaching here for the **29th Masters' National Table Tennis Championships**.
- Arun Singh was a passionate table tennis player and represented the institution in several tournaments at the national level. Besides, he was a regular at the National Veterans Championships and won several medals.
- Arun Singh also won the **men's doubles gold** at the **Srinagar Nationals** in **2022**.



Which companies have announced a partnership to offer insurance to enterprises and their business partner ecosystem?

- A) Bajaj Auto and Allianz SE
- B) Bajaj Finserv and Allianz Global Investors
- C) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and actyv.ai
- D) Bajaj Finance and Allianz Partners
- E) Bajaj Electricals and Allianz Care



Answer

C) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and actyv.ai



Explanation

- **actyv.ai**, the Singapore-headquartered enterprise SaaS platform with embedded B2B BNPL and insurance, a licensed corporate agency under IRDAI, has announced a partnership with **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** to offer insurance products through their technology platform to enterprises and the partner ecosystem across the Supply chain.
- With this collaboration, Bajaj Allianz will offer bite-sized commercial insurance products like Fire, Burglary, in addition to group health products like Personal Accident, Hospital Cash, Credit Linked Health Plan, and Group Health Plans.
- **Bajaj Allianz** is a joint venture between **Bajaj Finserv Limited**, India's most diversified non-bank financial institution, and **Allianz SE**, the world's leading insurer and largest asset manager.
- The Company began its operations in **2001**.
- **actyv.ai** is an AI-powered enterprise SaaS platform with embedded **B2B Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL)** and insurance, transforming the global B2B supply chain by making business transactions faster and easier.

Titbits

Bajaj allianz general insurance

Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra

MD & CEO: Tapan Singhel

actyv.ai

Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka

Founder and CEO: Raghu Subramanian

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



What percentage of the paid-up capital of L&T Technology Services Ltd did Life Insurance Corporation of India increase its shareholding to?

- A) 4.988%
- B) 5.008%
- C) 6.002%
- D) 3.997%
- E) 7.012%

Answer
B) 5.008%



भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA



ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



Explanation

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India** announced that its shareholding in **L&T Technology Services Ltd** from **4.988 percent to 5.008 percent** of the paid-up capital, it said in a regulatory filing.
- As per the LIC statement, its shareholding in L&T Tech rose from 52,68,029 to 52,89,396 equity shares.

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



Titbits

Life Insurance Corporation of India

Founded: 1 September 1956

Headquarters: Mumbai

Chairperson: Siddharth Mohanty

L&T Technology Services Ltd

Headquarters: Vadodara, Gujarat

Founded: 14 June 2012

CEO: Amit Chadha

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



Which two banks have signed agreements to buy up to 9.94% stake each in Insurtech startup Go Digit Life Insurance Limited?

- A) Axis Bank and HDFC Bank
- B) State Bank of India and ICICI Bank
- C) Punjab National Bank and Canara Bank
- D) Bank of Baroda and Kotak Mahindra Bank
- E) Union Bank of India and IndusInd Bank



Answer

A) Axis Bank and HDFC Bank

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



Explanation

- Private sector lenders Axis Bank and HDFC Bank have signed agreements to buy up to **9.94% stake** each in Insurtech startup Go Digit Life Insurance Limited, for a total cash consideration of **Rs 10.93 crore each**.
- HDFC Bank and Axis Bank has executed definitive agreements to invest ₹69.90 crore in Go Digit Life Insurance Ltd in two tranches.
- They have made the first tranche of payment of ₹10.93 crore for towards the acquisition.
- It was **founded in 2017 by Kamesh Goyal**, offers insurance policies across verticals like health, auto, travel, and commercial properties such as stores and holiday homes.



ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



Titbits

Axis Bank

Hq : Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO : Mr Amitabh Chaudhary

Tagline : Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

HDFC Bank

Headquarters: Mumbai , Maharashtra

Tagline : We Understand Your World

CEO :Sashidhar Jagdishan

GoDigit General Insurance

Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra

MD & CEO: Jasleen Kohli

APPOINTMENTS



Who assumed the charge of secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)?

- A) Rajesh Kumar Singh
- B) Ashish Kumar Singh
- C) Rajiv Kumar
- D) Rakesh Gupta
- E) Rajiv Kumar Gupta

Answer

A) Rajesh Kumar Singh



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Rajesh Kumar Singh**, 1989 batch IAS officer of Kerala cadre assumed the charge of **secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- Singh replaces **Anurag Jain**, who has been appointed as **secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**.
- Jain is also a 1989 batch officer of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). Jain is from the Madhya Pradesh cadre.
- Prior to taking charge as **DPIIT secretary**, **Singh was serving as secretary, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.



APPOINTMENTS



Who has been appointed as the new chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)?

- A) Shreekant M Bhandiwad
- B) Vijay Kumar
- C) Suresh Kumar
- D) Manoj Kumar
- E) Ravi Shankar

Answer

A) Shreekant M Bhandiwad

APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Shreekant M Bhandiwad** has taken charge as the new chairman of **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)**.
- Outgoing chairman **P Gopikrishna** handed over the charge to the new incumbent.
- Prior to his joining as chairman of KVGB, Shreekant Bhandiwad was heading the Patna circle of Canara Bank.

APPOINTMENTS



Titbits

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank

Headquarters: Dharwad, Karnataka

Chairman: Shreekant M Bhandiwad



AWARDS



Who has been conferred with the Order of Australia, the highest civilian honour in Australia?

- A) Ratan Tata
- B) Mukesh Ambani
- C) Anand Mahindra
- D) Adi Godrej
- E) Kotak Mahindra

Answer
A) Ratan Tata



AWARDS



Explanation

- Industrialist and executive chairman of Tata & Sons, Ratan Tata has been conferred the Order of Australia, the highest civilian honour in that country.
- The honor was also given for service to the Australia-India bilateral relationship.
- In October **2022**, Tata received '**Sewa Ratna**' from the **RSS-affiliated Sewa Bharti** for his philanthropic pursuits.
- He is also a **2008** recipient of India's second-highest civilian award, the **Padma Vibhushan**.

AWARDS



Titbits

The Tata Group

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman Emeritus : Ratan Tata

Chairman & Managing Director: Natarajan

Chandrasekaran

When is Mongolia's first oil refinery expected to be completed, which was built with Indian assistance?

- A) 2022
- B) 2023
- C) 2024
- D) 2025
- E) 2026

Answer
D) 2025

Explanation

- **Mongolia's first oil refinery**, built and funded with Indian assistance, will be completed by **2025**.
- The first stage of Mongol Oil Refinery, built with a **USD 1.2 billion** Indian soft loan, will be completed at the end of this year.
- Since the historic visit of Prime Minister Modi in **2015**. An agreement between the governments was made to establish the first oil refinery in Mongolia.
- **Develop** : Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited, a Hyderabad- based company(2022 approved)
- Mongolia plans to start shipping coking coal to India by 2024.

Titbits

Mongolia

Capital: Ulaanbaatar

Currency: Mongolian Tugrik

President: Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh

Prime Minister: Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene

What is the name of the operation launched by India to evacuate its citizens stranded in Sudan?

- A) Operation Sankat Mochan
- B) Operation Rahat
- C) Operation Kaveri
- D) Operation Seva
- E) Operation Samarpan

Answer

C) Operation Kaveri

Explanation

- The government launched 'Operation Kaveri' to evacuate close to 3,000 Indian citizens stranded in Sudan, the African country that remained on edge because of fierce fighting between the army and a paramilitary force.
- **Two Indian Air Force C-130J** are currently positioned on standby in Jeddah. And, **INS Sumedha** has reached Port Sudan.
- It was focusing on the safety of over 3,000 Indian citizens currently located throughout Sudan.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Sudan

Capital: Khartoum

Currency: Sudanese pound

President: Omar al-Bashir



For how many years has the Odisha government extended the sponsorship agreement of the Indian National Hockey Teams?

- A) 5 years
- B) 8 years
- C) 10 years
- D) 12 years
- E) 15 years

Answer
C) 10 years

Explanation

- **The Odisha government** has extended the sponsorship agreement of the Indian National Hockey Teams for a period of the next 10 years from **2023 to 2033**.
- State Cabinet approved the proposal for the extension of the sponsorship agreement of both the Men and Women Indian National Hockey Teams (Senior and Junior) for the next decade.
- Govt. of Odisha has been the official sponsor of both the Men and Women's National Hockey Teams since **2018**.
- Earlier, **Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd.** (OMC) had entered into an agreement with Hockey India, after due Government approval, for sponsorship of the Indian Hockey Teams for a period of 5 years from 2018 to 2023.

Explanation

- Based on a request from President Hockey India for an extension of the Agreement, OMC Ltd. had sought approval from the Government which got the Cabinet nod. OMC has now committed to the sponsor for a further period of ten (10) years from 1st February 2023 to 31st January 2033.
- Meanwhile, a total amount of **Rs. 434.12 crores** will be released by OMC to Hockey India during this period.
- The cabinet also accorded its approval for extension of **Biju Setu Yojana (BSY)** up to 2025-26 with an additional outlay of **Rs 3,597.22 crore**. The scheme was launched by the state government in the year **2011-12** with the objective to bridge all the missing links on roads of the Rural Development department.

Explanation

- The state government also decided to implement the **Central Scheme Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme** to improve the quality, reliability of power supply along with reduction of AT & C loss and ACS-ARR gap. The total outlay of the scheme is **Rs 6,284 crore** which includes state government's share of **Rs 2,342 crore**.
- The Cabinet also approved promulgation of **Ordinance for amendment of the Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes (OSCBC) Act, 1993** to include **22 castes in the OBC List**.
- The state government has also enhanced subsidy under the **Odisha Electric Vehicle Policy, 2021**. This policy was implemented on 01.09.2021. Based on the experience and best practices across the country, it is decided to enhance the subsidy for purchase of new EV.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Odisha

Capital : Bhubaneswar

Chief Minister - Naveen Patnaik

Governor - Ganeshi Lal

Khelo India initiative completes how many years?

- A)5
- B)6
- C)4
- D)3
- E)2

Answer
A)5



Explanation

- **Khelo India initiative** is a Government of India programme launched in **2017-18** under the tenure Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Sports Minister's **Vijay Goel and Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore**.
- Khelo India initiative completes **5** years.
- It aims at improving India's sports culture at the grass-root level through organized talent identification, structured sporting competitions and infrastructure development.
- **Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE)** are sports facilities across India, built upon existing facilities, aiming to provide basic facilities for sportspersons with potential.
- Talented players identified in priority sports disciplines at various levels by the High-Powered Committee will be provided annual financial assistance of **INR 5 lakh per annum** for **8** years.

What is the name of the flagship initiative launched by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot?

- A) Skill India
- B) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- C) Ayushman Bharat Yojana
- D) Mehangai Rahat
- E) Digital India

Answer

D) Mehangai Rahat

Explanation

- **Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot** launched his government's flagship initiative '**Mehangai Rahat**' camps from **Sanganer district's Mahapura village**.
- These camps will be organised across the state from **April 24 to June 30** so that the benefits of various welfare schemes of the state government reach the beneficiaries.
- The registration portal and website of the inflation relief camp were inaugurated.
- Registration has been made mandatory in the camps to join the 10 public welfare schemes run by the state government. For the convenience of the common people, a person from any district can register in the camps of other districts also through the Rajasthan government's Jan Aadhar card.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Rajasthan

Capital : Jaipur
CM: Ashok Gehlot
Governor :Kalraj Mishra

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Which ministry of the Government of India is organizing the G20 Tourism Expo in Jaipur, in association with the Government of Rajasthan's Department of Tourism?

- A) Ministry of Finance
- B) Ministry of Defence
- C) Ministry of External Affairs
- D) Ministry of Tourism
- E) Ministry of Home Affairs

Answer
D) Ministry of Tourism



Explanation

- Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in association of department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan is organizing G20 Tourism Expo in **Jaipur**.
- G20 Tourism Expo organized by **Ministry of Tourism, Government of India along with FICCI and Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan**.
- The G20 Tourism Expo is being organized simultaneously with the 12th edition of Great Indian Travel Bazaar (GITB).
- GITB, one of the biggest events of inbound tourism in India, is co-organized by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India along with Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Explanation

- The third G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting will be held in Srinagar from May 22 to 24.
- Two Tourism Working Group (TWG) meetings of the G20 have already taken place in **Bhuj** and **Siliguri**.
- This will be the first major international event to be held in Kashmir after the abrogation of **Article 370 in August 2019**.

Titbits

Culture , Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region

Minister: G. Kishan Reddy

Constituency: Secunderabad, Telangana

Rajasthan

Capital : Jaipur

CM: Ashok Gehlot

Governor :Kalraj Mishra

FICCI

Abbreviation: The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry

Director-General : Arun Chawla

President: Subhrakant Panda

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 1927

Which company has signed a contract for the supply of loitering munition with the Ministry of Defence?

- A) Economic Explosives Ltd(EEL)
- B) Defence Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Research and Manufacturing Establishment (DEOREM)
- C) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- D) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- E) Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)

Answer

A) Economic Explosives Ltd(EEL)

Explanation

- **Economic Explosives Ltd**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Solar Industries India Ltd has signed a contract for supply of **loitering munition** with the Ministry of Defence.
- The size of the order is **Rs 212 crore**.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Economic Explosives Limited

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

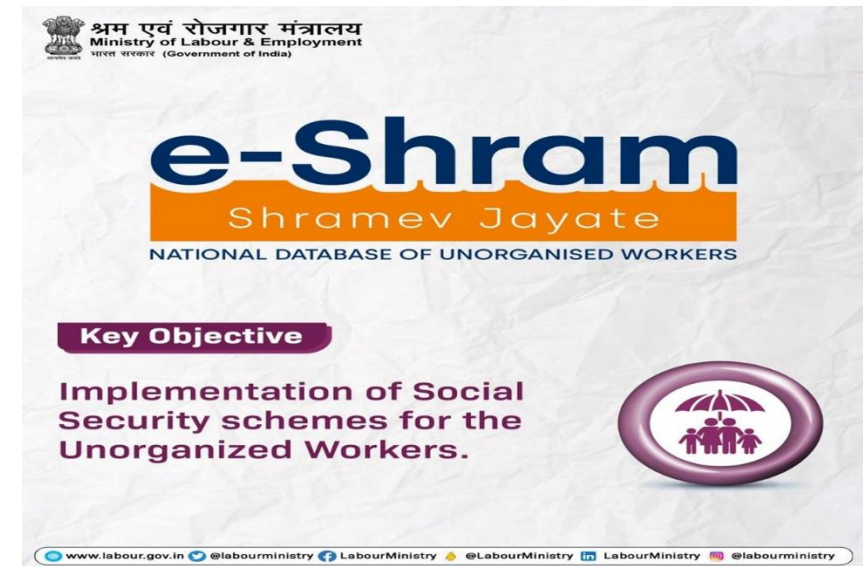
Executive Director: Sanjay Singh

What is the purpose of the eShram portal launched by the Ministry of Labour & Employment on 26th August 2021?

- A) To provide employment opportunities to rural youth
- B) To create a comprehensive National Database of Unorganised Workers
- C) To facilitate online registration of trade unions
- D) To provide financial assistance to workers affected by COVID-19
- E) To provide vocational training to unskilled workers

Answer

- B) To create a comprehensive National Database of Unorganised Workers**



Explanation

- Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri **Bhupender Yadav**, launched new features in **eShram Portal** in presence of Ms. Arti Ahuja, Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment and other Senior officers of the Ministry
- The new features added in eShram portal will enhance the utility of the portal and facilitate ease of registration for unorganised workers.
- The eShram registered workers can now connect with Employment opportunities, Skilling, Apprenticeship, Pension Scheme, Digital Skilling and States' schemes through eShram portal.
- A feature of capturing family details of migrant worker has been added to the eShram portal.

Explanation

- The Union Minister also formally launched **Data Sharing Portal (DSP)** for sharing of eShram data with the State/ UT Governments. Data Sharing Portal will allow sharing of eShram beneficiaries data with the respective States and Union Territories in a secured manner for targeted implementation of social security/welfare schemes for the unorganised workers registered on eShram.
- Labour & Employment Ministry launched **eShram portal** on **26th August 2021** to create a comprehensive National Database of Unorganised Workers which is seeded with **Aadhaar**.
- As on 21st April 2023, over **28.87 crore unorganised workers** have registered on eShram portal.

Titbits

Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Labour and Employment

Minister : Bhupendra Yadav

Constituency: Rajya Sabha, Rajasthan

QUICK RECALL



- **April 24 - National Panchayati Raj Day, International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace; 23 April - Manipur observes Khongjom Day.**
- **Gemini Sankaran, the founder of Gemini Circus and a pioneer of Indian circus, has died.**
- **Arun Singh Barhat, Table Tennis Player, a bronze medal winner at the 2023 World Veterans Championships, died.**
- **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Partners With Actyv.Ai To Offer Insurance To Enterprises.**
- **Life Insurance Corporation of India announced that its shareholding in L&T Technology Services Ltd from 4.988 percent to 5.008 percent of the paid-up capital.**
- **Axis Bank and HDFC Bank have signed agreements to buy up to 9.94% stake each in Insurtech startup Go Digit Life Insurance Limited.**



QUICK RECALL



- **Rajesh Kumar Singh assumed the charge of secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).**
- **Shreekant M Bhandiwad has taken charge as the new chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB).**
- **The Order of Australia (AO) award was presented for Ratan Tata.**
- **Mongolia's first oil refinery, built and funded with Indian assistance, will be completed by 2025.**
- **The government launched 'Operation Kaveri' to evacuate close to 3,000 Indian citizens stranded in Sudan.**
- **The Odisha government has extended the sponsorship agreement of the Indian National Hockey Teams for a period of the next 10 years from 2023 to 2033.**



QUICK RECALL



- **Khelo India initiative completes 5 years.**
- **Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched his government's flagship initiative 'Mehangai Rahat' camps from Sanganer district's Mahapura village.**
- **Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in association of department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan is organizing G20 Tourism Expo in Jaipur.**
- **Economic Explosives Ltd has signed a contract for supply of loitering munition with the Ministry of Defence.**
- **Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, launched new features in eShram Portal.**



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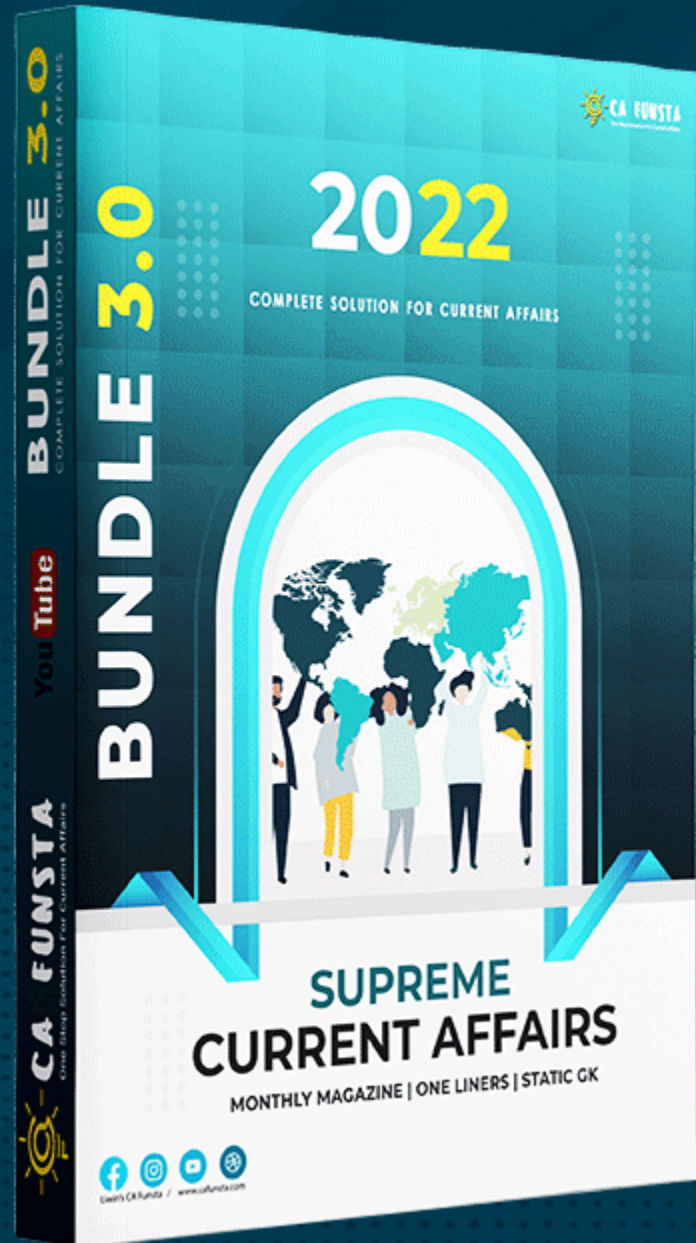
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