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# Important Days



**When is World Press Freedom Day observed each year?**

- A) May 01
- B) May 02
- C) May 03
- D) May 04
- E) May 05

**Answer  
C) May 03**



# Important Days



## Explanation

- World Press Freedom Day is observed each year on **May 03**.
- The day symbolizes the importance of press freedom and its role in the smooth and effective functioning of society.
- World Press Freedom Day 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of this day.
- It was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in **December 1993** after the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference. Since then, May 03 is being celebrated as World Press Freedom Day.
- Theme for the **30th World Press Freedom Day 2023** is "**Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for all other human rights.**"



**Which South African cricketer recently announced her retirement from international cricket?**

- A) Mignon du Preez
- B) Laura Wolvaardt
- C) Dane van Niekerk
- D) Lizelle Lee
- E) Shabnim Ismail

**Answer**  
**E) Shabnim Ismail**



## Explanation

- South Africa fast bowler **Shabnim Ismail** announced her retirement from **international cricket**.
- Ismail has featured in **241 international matches, picking up 317 wickets**.
- Ismail's last appearance for South Africa was in the **2023 ICC Women's T20 World Cup** final against the eventual champion Australia, on home soil in February 2023.
- The right-arm fast bowler made her **international debut in an ODI against Pakistan in January 2007 in Pretoria**, and ended up picking 191 wickets in 127 matches with a notable economy rate of 3.70.
- Her best figures of six for 10 came against Netherlands in 2011.
- Ismail is the **second-highest wicket-taker in the format**, only bettered by **India's Jhulan Goswami (255 wickets)**.



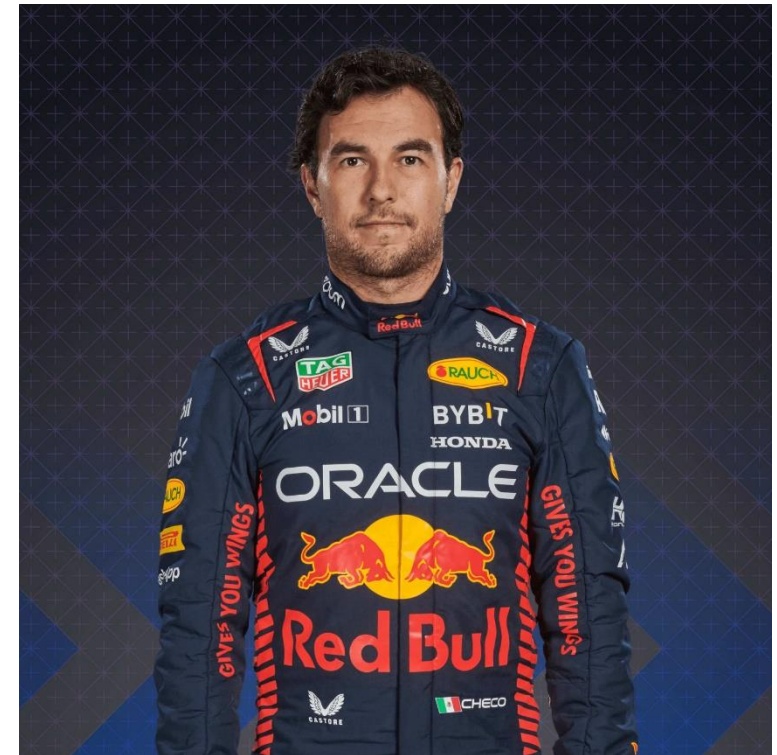
## Explanation

- Ismail also grabbed the joint-most Women's ODI wickets taken in a single calendar year, with 37 scalps in 2022, including 14 at the 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in New Zealand.
- Ismail also bagged 123 T20I wickets from 113 appearances, the fourth-highest overall, with a strike-rate of 19.30.
- Ismail has featured in four 50-over World Cups between 2009-2022 as well as in all eight Women's T20 World Cups, beginning with the 2009 edition.

## Who won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix?

- A) Lewis Hamilton
- B) Max Verstappen
- C) Valtteri Bottas
- D) Sergio Perez
- E) Charles Leclerc

**Answer**  
**D) Sergio Perez**



## Explanation

- The **Azerbaijan Grand Prix** is a Formula One motor racing event that was held for the first time in **2017**.
- It is held on the **Baku City Circuit**, a **street circuit in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan**.

Rank	Name	Country	Company
1	Sergio Perez	Red Bull	Mexico
2	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	Netherlands
3	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	Monaco



# OBITUARY



**Tori Bowie passed away. She was related to which sports?**

- A) Sprinter
- B) Boxer
- C) Wrestler
- D) Swimmer
- E) Cricketer

**Answer**  
**A) Sprinter**



# OBITUARY



## Explanation

- American sprinter and long jumper **Tori Bowie** – a three-time Olympic medalist and a two-time world champion in track and field – has died.
- Bowie won three medals at the **2016** Olympic Games in Rio: **gold in the 4x100m relay, silver in the 100 meters and bronze in the 200 meters.**
- At the 2017 world championships, she won gold in both the **100 meters and the 4x100m.**
- Last appearance , She placed fourth in the **long jump** at the World Championships in **Doha, Qatar, in 2019.**
- Davis won **bronze** in the **400 metres hurdles** at the **1996 Games in Atlanta** and was part of the U.S. team that won 4x400m relay gold at the 1995 World Indoor Championships in Barcelona.



# RANKING



What is the rank of India in World Press Freedom Index 2023?

- A) 162
- B) 163
- C) 164
- D) 165
- E) 161

**Answer**  
**E) 161**

INDEX 2023

**161** / 180

Score : 36.62

INDEX 2022

**150** / 180

Score : 41

POLITICAL  
INDICATOR

**169**  
33.65

POLITICAL  
INDICATOR

**145**  
40.76

ECONOMIC  
INDICATOR

**155**  
34.15

ECONOMIC  
INDICATOR

**149**  
30.36

LEGISLATIVE  
INDICATOR

**144**  
42.92

LEGISLATIVE  
INDICATOR

**120**  
57.02

SOCIAL  
INDICATOR

**143**  
45.27

SOCIAL  
INDICATOR

**127**  
56.25

SECURITY  
INDICATOR

**172**  
27.12

SECURITY  
INDICATOR

**163**  
20.61



# RANKING



## Explanation

- **Report Released By** : Global Reporters Without Borders.
- **Total Countries** : 180
- India has Slipped 11 places to 161 according to Latest Report
- **India's Rank In 2022** : 150

# RANKING



## Explanation

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Country</u>
1	Norway
2	Ireland
3	Denmark
4	Sweden
5	Finland
161	India
178	Vietnam
179	China
180	North Korea

**Which organization has introduced the Legal Identifier System for issuers with listed NCDs, securitised debt, security receipts?**

- A) RBI
- B) SEBI
- C) NSE
- D) BSE
- E) IRDAI

**Answer**  
**B) SEBI**



भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनिमय बोर्ड  
Securities and Exchange Board of India



## Explanation

- Capital markets regulator **Sebi** introduced **Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system** for issuers that have listed or planning to list non-convertible securities, securitised debt instruments and security receipts.
- LEI, a unique global identifier for legal entities participating in financial transactions, is designed to create a global reference data system that uniquely identifies every legal entity, in any jurisdiction, that is party to a financial transaction. It is a unique **20-character code** to identify legally distinct entities that engage in financial transactions.
- Presently, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandates non-individual borrowers having aggregate exposure of **above Rs 25 crore to obtain LEI code**.
- Issuers having outstanding listed non-convertible securities as on **August 31** will have to obtain and report the LEI code in the centralised database of corporate bonds by **September 1**.

## Explanation

- Similarly, issuers having outstanding listed securitised debt instruments and security receipts as on August 31 will have to obtain and report the LEI code to the depositories by **September 1**.
- Issuers proposing to list non-convertible securities and securitised debt instruments as well as security receipts on or after September 1 will have to report their LEI code to the centralised database of corporate bonds and depositories respectively at the time of allotment of the ISIN.
- The LEI code can be obtained from **Legal Entity Identifier India Ltd**, a subsidiary of the **Clearing Corporation of India Ltd**, which has been recognised by the RBI as issuer of LEI and is accredited by the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF) as the local operating unit in India for issuance and management of LEI code.

## Titbits

### SEBI

Abbreviation: Securities and Exchange Board of India

Establishment : 1992

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman :Madhabi Puri Buch

**What is the new solution launched by Kiwi for customers?**

- A) Kiwi Credit
- B) Credit on UPI
- C) Kiwi UPI
- D) UPI Credit
- E) Kiwi Pay

**Answer**  
**B) Credit on UPI**



## Explanation

- Kiwi, a credit card platform announced the launch of a new solution called "**Credit on UPI**" for customers.
- The solution has been certified by the **NPCI**, making **Kiwi the first app in India** to provide "Credit on UPI" by issuing Rupay Cards in collaboration with banks.
- Through the launch of its innovative mobile application, which allows users to securely make payments using either a credit card or bank account through their phones, Kiwi hopes to establish one of the largest direct-to-consumer (D2C) models in the credit market.
- The company has raised **\$6 million** in pre-seed capital from well-known investors, including Stellaris Venture Partners, Nexus Venture Partners, and a large number of angel investors.



## Titbits

### Kiwi

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Co-Founder: Siddharth Mehta, Mohit Bedi and Anup Agarwal

### NPCI

Abbreviation: National Payments Corporation of India

Founded: 2008

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe

**Which platform has announced the acceptance of Digital Rupee on its PoS terminals in partnership with ICICI Bank?**

- A) Paytm
- B) PhonePe
- C) Google Pay
- D) Pine Labs
- E) Amazon Pay



**Answer**  
**D) Pine Labs**



## Explanation

- **Pine Labs**, a merchant commerce omnichannel platform, has announced the acceptance of Digital Rupee on its PoS terminals in partnership with **ICICI Bank**.
- The technology integration between the two entities will now support e₹ (Digital Rupee) acceptance at Pine Labs' point-of-sale terminals across key retail outlets in Mumbai and Bengaluru.
- Pine Labs' execution of the Digital Rupee payment process is completely digital via dynamic QR built within its smart Android PoS terminals.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), is conducting a pilot to test the CBDC in the retail and wholesale segment. The pilot for the **CBDC wholesale** was started on **November 1, 2022**, while the pilot for the **retail segment** was launched on **December 1, 2022**.

## Explanation

- RBI's **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** pilot for both person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) digital Rupee transactions is currently live with leading banks like **State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, IDFC First Bank, Union Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and HDFC Bank.**

## Titbits

### **Pine Labs**

Headquarters: Noida, Uttar Pradesh  
CEO: B Amrish Rau

### **ICICI Bank**

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra  
MD & CEO : SandeepBakshi  
Tagline : Hum Hai Na, KhayalApka



**Dvara SmartGold and Jana Small Finance Bank have announced a strategic partnership to offer gold loans to customers in which Indian states?**

- A) Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra
- B) Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh
- C) Kerala, Goa, and Gujarat
- D) Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan
- E) Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir



**Answer**

**A) Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra**



## Explanation

- **Dvara SmartGold** and **Jana Small Finance Bank** have announced a strategic partnership to offer gold loans to customers in **Tamil Nadu, Chattisgarh, and Maharashtra**.
- Under the partnership, Dvara SmartGold will provide gold loans to its customers, with Jana Small Finance Bank acting as the lending provider. Customers will have the option to apply for gold loans through the platform and receive funds directly in their bank accounts.
- The loans will have competitive interest rates and flexible repayment terms. The partnership aims to attract customers away from the traditional, unregulated channels dominated by moneylenders and pawnbrokers.
- **Dvara SmartGold** is a portfolio company of **Dvara Holdings (formerly Dvara Trust)** and part of the **Dvara Venture Studio cohort** that supports entrepreneurs working towards large-scale systemic change in financial inclusion.

## Titbits

### **Dvara SmartGold**

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Co-founder: Jaydeep Banerjee, Clemenston Varghese

### **Jana Small Finance Bank**

Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka

MD & CEO: Ajay Kanwal

Tagline: Likho Apni Kahani

**What is the name of the parent firm of ZVC India that has received the Unified License from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)?**

- A) Zoom Video Communications, Inc
- B) Microsoft Corporation
- C) Apple Inc.
- D) Amazon.com Inc.
- E) Alphabet Inc.



**Answer**

**A) Zoom Video Communications, Inc**

## Explanation

- **ZVC India**, parent firm **Zoom Video Communications, Inc**, has received the Unified License with Access - **pan India, NLD National Long Distance, and ILD - International Long Distance** from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- With these licences, the company will be able to offer its cloud-based private branch exchange (PBX) service 'Zoom Phone' to multinational corporations (MNCs) and businesses operating in India.
- In September 2022, **Cisco's Indian subsidiary WebEx India** was granted a telecom licence, allowing the company to deliver “business grade” national and international telecom connectivity in the country.



## Titbits

### **Zoom Video Communications, Inc.**

Headquarters: San Jose, California, United States

CEO: Eric Yuan



# APPOINTMENTS



**Who has been recommended as the next Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India (CIL) by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PSEB)?**

- A) Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad
- B) S.N. Tiwary
- C) Pramod Agrawal
- D) Anil Kumar Jha
- E) None of the above

**Answer**

**A) Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad**



# APPOINTMENTS



## Explanation

- The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has recommended the name of **Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad** for the post of Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India Limited.
- Prasad is currently the chairman cum managing director of the Ranchi-based CIL arm - **Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL)**.
- Prasad joined as **Central Coalfields Ltd CMD in September 2020**.
- Both CCL and BCCL are subsidiaries of CIL.
- He joined **NTPC in May 2015** as **executive director (coal mining)** and **Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL) in 2018** as **Director Technical (P&P)**. Under his direction, NCL was recognised for exceptional environmental conservation activities at the World Environmental Conference in June 2018.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Explanation

- Prasad will take over the baton from serving CMD **Pramod Agrawal**, whose term ends on June 30, 2023.
- He joined NTPC in **May 2015** as **Executive Director (Coal mining) and Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)** in **2018** as **Director Technical (P&P)**.
- In **August 2019**, he was appointed **CMD** of **Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)**.

# APPOINTMENTS



## Titbits

### CIL

Abbreviation : Coal India Limited

Founded: November 1975

Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal

CEO: Pramod Agrawal

Next CEO: Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad

# APPOINTMENTS



**Who has been appointed as the President of the World Bank?**

- A) David Malpass
- B) Jim Yong Kim
- C) Kristalina Georgieva
- D) Ajay Banga
- E) Christine Lagarde

**Answer**  
**D) Ajay Banga**





# APPOINTMENTS



## Explanation

- Indian-American business leader **Ajay Banga** has been appointed as the **President of the World Bank for a five-year term**. He is the first Indian-born nominee to the World Bank president role.
- He replaces **David Malpass**.
- Banga, a US citizen since **2007**, currently serves as vice chair of General Atlantic, a private equity company. He also serves as co-chair of the Partnership for Central America.
- He is a former CEO of **Mastercard**. He retired in **December 2021**.
- He recently served as **Vice Chairman at General Atlantic**.
- He also served as **Honorary Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce from 2020-2022**.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Explanation

- He began his career with **Nestle in India** and went on to work with the **Citigroup in India and Malaysia**.
- He is also a member of the Trilateral Commission, a founding trustee of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, a former member of the National Committee on US-China Relations, and Chairman Emeritus of the American India Foundation.
- In **2016**, Banga was honoured with the **Padma Shri Award** by the President of India. He was named the Empower Ethnic Minority Role Model, received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and was ranked amongst the top 10 best-performing CEOs in the world by Harvard Business Review in 2019. He was awarded the **Foreign Policy Association Medal in 2012**, and the **Distinguished Friends of Singapore Public Service Star in 2021**.
- Banga also featured in Fortune's list of the World's Leading Businesspersons and received the Leadership Award from the Business Council for International Understanding.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Explanation

- In **2019**, the **Economic Times Awards for Corporate Excellence** named Ajay Banga as '**Global Indian of the Year**'.
- **Banga** will also chair the **Board of Executive Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**. He will also be the **ex officio chair of the Board of Directors of the International Development Association (IDA)**.

# APPOINTMENTS



## Titbits

### World Bank

Founded: 1944

Members: 189 countries (IBRD), 173 countries (IDA)

Headquarters: Washington D.C, US

President: Ajay Banga

# AWARDS



**Who won the World Press Freedom Prize 2023 for their commitment to truth and accountability?**

- A) Sara Omatali, Maryam Alizadeh, and Zeynab Karimi
- B) Neda Naji, Zahra Mohammadi, and Mahsa Amrabadi
- C) Niloufar Hamedei, Elaheh Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi
- D) Roya Ramezani, Mona Abdi, and Shiva Nazar Ahari
- E) Nazanin Afshin-Jam, Shohreh Bayat, and Maryam Majd

**Answer**

**C) Niloufar Hamedei, Elaheh Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi**



# AWARDS



## Explanation

- **Niloufar Hamed, Elaheh Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi**, Three imprisoned **Iranian female journalists** have been named as the winners of the United Nations premier prize for press freedom.
- They were lauded "**for their commitment to truth and accountability**".
- **Niloufar Hamed** broke the news that 22-year-old **Mahsa Amini** died last September while being held by the morality police for wearing her headscarf too loosely, and **Elaheh Mohammadi** wrote about her funeral.
- The third winner is **Narges Mohammadi**, who has worked for many years as a journalist and is one of Iran's most prominent activists.



# AWARDS



## Explanation

- The U.N. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization **World Press Freedom Prize** is named for **Guillermo Cano**, a Colombian journalism who was assassinated in front of the offices of his newspaper El Espectador in Bogota on Dec. 17, 1986.
- UNESCO has awarded the prize to coincide with **World Press Freedom Day on May 3 since 1997.**





# AWARDS



## Titbits

### UNESCO

Abbreviation: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Founded: 1945

Headquarters: Paris, France

Director-General : Audrey Azoulay

**Which institute has signed an agreement with the Military Engineer Services (MES) Jhansi to transform Army stations into carbon-neutral campuses?**

- A) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay
- B) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi
- C) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur
- D) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras
- E) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur

**Answer**

**C) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur**

## Explanation

- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** has signed an agreement with the **Military Engineer Services (MES)** Jhansi to transform Army stations into carbon-neutral campuses. The partnership aims to convert five MES Jhansi cantonment campuses into net zero carbon, energy, water, and waste stations in a phased approach.
- The process will commence with a proof-of-concept plan for the selected Army campuses to adopt sustainable resource utilization. Campuses will be assessed on various criteria, including energy sources, consumption, carbon footprint, sustainable alternatives adoption, on-site tree planting, and habit-related factors.
- The agreement also encompasses training Army personnel in sustainable practices and creating a resource pool through on-job training.

**Which commercial wing of ISRO has informed about the successful on-orbit experiments of PSLV Orbital Experimental Module, POEM-2?**

- A) IN-SAT
- B) IN-SPACE
- C) IN-ORBIT
- D) IN-ROCKET
- E) IN-FLIGHT

**Answer**  
**B) IN-SPACE**



## Explanation

- The **PSLV-C55 mission** successfully carried **PSLV Orbital Experiment Module (POEM-2)**.
- This module was exclusively made by **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** subsidiary **IN-SPACE** with an aim to provide a platform wherein non-governmental entities (NGE) and research institutes working in space technology can carry out in-orbit testing of their experiments.
- **PSLV-C55** was launched successfully on April 22 from **Sriharikota**. This is a dedicated commercial mission through **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** with TeLEOS-2 as primary satellite and Lumelite-4 as a co-passenger satellite. The satellites weigh about 741 kg and 16 kg, respectively. Both belong to **Singapore**.
- The **TeLEOS-2 satellite** is developed under a partnership between DSTA (representing the Government of Singapore) and ST Engineering. Once deployed and operational, it will be used to support the satellite imagery requirements of various agencies within the Government of Singapore.

## Explanation

- **TeLEOS-2** carries a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload. TeLEOS-2 will be able to provide all-weather day and night coverage, and capable of imaging at 1 m full-polarimetric resolution.
- This is the second mission of PSLV carrying **POEM**, the first POEM was carried in the PSLV-C53 mission. Authorization for all seven payloads was given by **IN-SPACE**.
- The mission has the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM), where the spent PS4 stage of the launch vehicle would be utilized as an orbital platform to carryout scientific experiments through non-separating payloads. The payloads belong to ISRO, Bellatrix, Dhruva Space, and Indian Institute of Astrophysics.
- In **POEM-2**, a total of seven experiments were flown which include Dhruva Space Orbiter deployer (DSOD) for 3U and 6U class CubeSats by Dhruva Space. It also carried out experiments on Dhruva Space Orbital link (DSOL) using a Software-defined radio (SDR) based transceiver.

## Explanation

- The critical experiments on the propulsion involved the **ARKA-200 Electric Propulsion system** indigenously which is developed by **Bellatrix Aerospace, a Bengaluru-based aerospace entity**.
- Another key experiment on **microsensors** was conducted on **tarBerrySense(SBS) which was developed by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru**.
- For the PSLV-C55 mission, an advanced retarding studies was required. The crucial experiment involved ARIS (Advanced Retarding Potential Analyzer for Ionospheric Studies) and PILOT (Pslv In orbital Obc and Thermals) which was realized by the Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology (IIST), Thiruvananthapuram.



## Titbits

### **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE)**

Formed: 2020

Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Chairman: Dr. Pawan Kumar Goenka

# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



**Which countries signed an MoU on Industrial Research and Development Cooperation with a focus on technology areas such as aerospace, electronics instrumentation, and water, among others?**

- A) India and Japan
- B) India and Israel
- C) India and South Korea
- D) India and United States
- E) India and China

**Answer**  
**B) India and Israel**



## Explanation

- **India and Israel** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Industrial Research and Development Cooperation, with a focus on several key technology areas, including aerospace, electronics instrumentation, civil infrastructure and engineering, ecology, environment, earth and ocean sciences and water, among others.
- The multi-sectoral agreement was signed between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Directorate of **Defence Research and Development (DDR&D), Ministry of Defence of the State of Israel, in the presence of Union Minister Jitendra Singh**, at the CSIR-Science Centre in New Delhi.

## Titbits

### Israel

Capital : Jerusalem

Currency : Israeli new shekel

President: Isaac Herzog

Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu

# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



**Who laid the foundation stone for the Coast Guard 'Ekatha Harbour' at Sifavaru in Uthuru Thila Falhu (UTF) atoll?**

- A) Narendra Modi and Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
- B) Rajnath Singh and Mariya Didi
- C) S. Jaishankar and Abdulla Shahid
- D) Amit Shah and Maldivian Imran Abdulla
- E) Nirmala Sitharaman and Ibrahim Ameer

**Answer**

**B) Rajnath Singh and Mariya Didi**



## Explanation

- The foundation stone for the **Coast Guard 'Ekatha Harbour'** was laid by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Maldivian counterpart, Mariya Didi, at Sifavaru** in Uthuru Thila Falhu (UTF) atoll, where India is assisting in construction of a naval dockyard.
- The UTF Harbour Project, as it is called, is among the biggest Indian grant-in-aid projects in Maldives.
- Singh was on a three-day visit to Maldives.
- India and the Maldives signed a pact for the development of the coast guard facility in **2021** when New Delhi also extended a **\$50 million line of credit** to the Maldives for defence projects.

## Explanation

- The UTF project, announced during **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's** visit in February 2021, has been at the centre of a political controversy in the Maldives.
- In **2020**, India had gifted a Dornier aircraft to Maldives and in **2019** handed over a patrol vessel.
- **2022**, New Delhi had also given a coastal radar system to Male. Last year, Modi had announced that India will provide 24 vehicles and a naval boat and will build police facilities on 61 islands of the country.
- In **November 1988**, the Indian Air Force airlifted the Indian Army contingent that took part in **Operation Cactus** that was launched to help thwart a coup attempt involving mercenaries in the Maldives. The operation was carried out at an extremely short notice, and by night, to an unfamiliar airfield in a foreign country.



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Titbits

### Maldives

Capital: Malé

Currency: Maldivian rufiyaa

President: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

### Ministry of Defence

Minister : Rajnath Singh

Constituency : Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



**What is the name of the new portal launched by the University Grants Commission (UGC) for faculty appointments in central varsities?**

- A) CU-Selection
- B) CU-Recruit
- C) CU-Chief
- D) CU-Chair
- E) CU-Chayan

**Answer**  
**E) CU-Chayan**



## Explanation

- The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has launched a new portal named '**CU-Chayan**' for faculty appointments in central varsities.
- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has developed this portal to create an enabling environment for both, universities and the applicants, with universities driving all the stages of the recruitment independently as is being done at present in the respective university.
- There are 45 central universities, 23 IITs and 20 IIMs in the country.

## Titbits

### **University Grants Commission(UGC)**

Founded: 1956

Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi

Chairman: Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar

**The central government has approved the implementation of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in which Union Territory with a sanctioned cost of Rs 687.05 crore?**

- A) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- B) Lakshadweep
- C) Puducherry
- D) Jammu and Kashmir
- E) Ladakh

**Answer**  
**E) Ladakh**

## Explanation

- The **central government** has given its approval for the implementation of **Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the Union Territory of Ladakh** with a sanctioned cost of **Rs 687.05 crore**.
- In this regard, an agreement was signed between chief engineer, Distribution, Ladakh Power Development Department (LPDD), Tsewang Paljor and executive director WAPCOS Limited A K Gahlot in the presence of administrative Secretary Power, Ladakh, Ravinder Kumar.
- The scheme includes the grid connectivity of the Changthang region, downline infrastructure in the Zaskar region along with other loss reduction works in the Leh and Kargil districts of Ladakh.

## Explanation

- The ministry of power also approved the appointment of **WAPCOS**, a **Government of India** undertaking as the project management agency (PMA) for the implementation of RDSS in **Ladakh**.
- The Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme aims to improve operational efficiencies and financial sustainability, by providing result-linked financial assistance to DISCOMs for strengthening of supply infrastructure based on meeting pre-qualifying criteria and achieving basic minimum benchmarks.

# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Titbits

### Ladakh

Capital : Leh, Kargil

Lt Governor : BD Mishra



# QUICK RECALL



- **World Press Freedom Day is observed each year on May 03.**
- **South Africa fast bowler Shabnim Ismail announced her retirement from international cricket.**
- **Red Bull's Sergio Perez won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix.**
- **American sprinter and long jumper Tori Bowie – a three-time Olympic medalist and a two-time world champion in track and field – has died.**
- **India slips to 161 on World Press Freedom Index.**
- **Sebi introduced Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system for issuers that have listed or planning to list non-convertible securities, securitised debt instruments and security receipts.**
- **Kiwi, a credit card platform announced the launch of a new solution called "Credit on UPI" for customers.**



# QUICK RECALL



- **Pine ZLabs has announced the acceptance of Digital Rupee on its PoS terminals in partnership with ICICI Bank.**
- **Dvara SmartGold and Jana Small Finance Bank have announced a strategic partnership to offer gold loans to customers in Tamil Nadu, Chattisgarh, and Maharashtra.**
- **Zoom gets licence to provide telecom services in India**
- **The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has recommended the name of Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad for the post of Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India Limited.**
- **Indian-American business leader Ajay Banga has been appointed as the President of the World Bank for a five-year term.**
- **Niloufar Hamedi, Elaheh Mohammadi, and Narges Mohammadi won the World Press Freedom Prize 2023 for their commitment to truth and accountability.**



# QUICK RECALL



- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has signed an agreement with the Military Engineer Services (MES) Jhansi to transform Army stations into carbon-neutral campuses.**
- **The PSLV-C55 mission successfully carried PSLV Orbital Experiment Module (POEM-2).**
- **India and Israel have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Industrial Research and Development Cooperation, with a focus on several key technology areas.**
- **The foundation stone for the Coast Guard 'Ekatha Harbour' was laid by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Maldivian counterpart, Mariya Didi, at Sifavaru in Uthuru Thila Falhu (UTF) atoll.**
- **The University Grants Commission (UGC) has launched a new portal named 'CU-Chayan' for faculty appointments in central varsities.**
- **The central government has given its approval for the implementation of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the Union Territory of Ladakh with a sanctioned cost of Rs 687.05 crore.**



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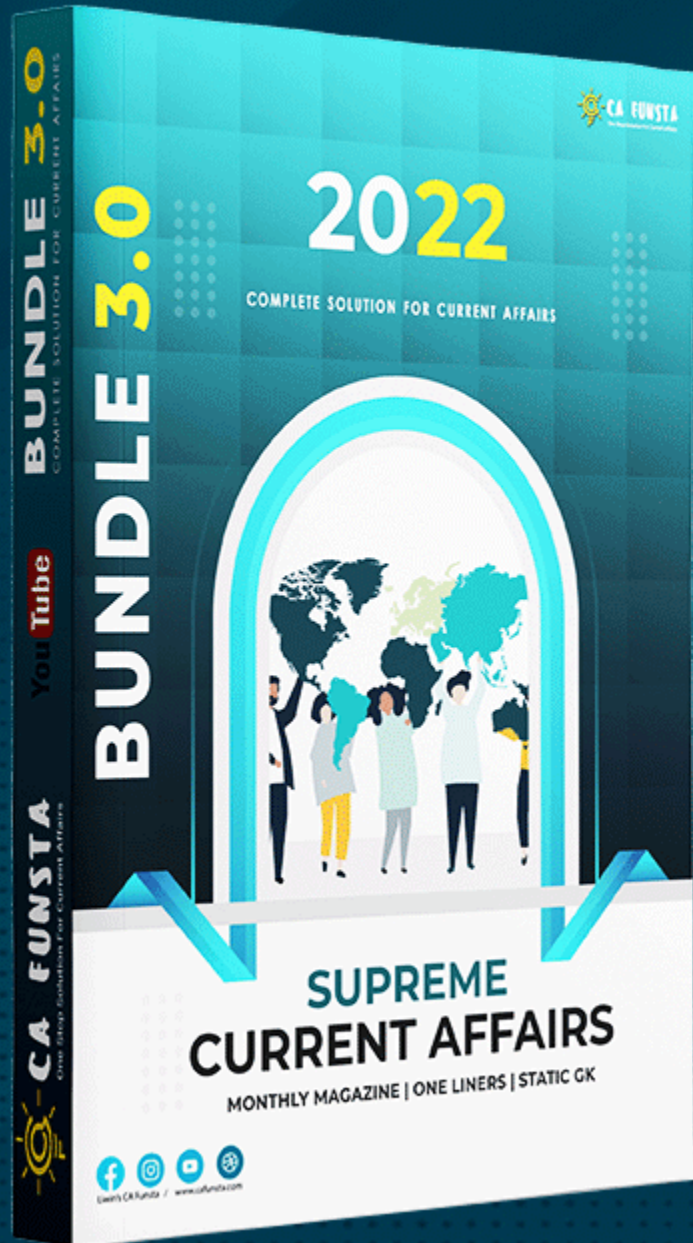


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