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Important Days



When is World Environment Day observed annually?

- A) June 1
- B) June 3
- C) June 5
- D) June 7
- E) June 9

Answer
C) June 5



Important Days



Explanation

- **World Environment Day** is an annual global event celebrated on **June 05**.
- It is observed to raise awareness on the protection and preservation of the environment.
- The history of World Environment Day can be traced back to **1972** when the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was held in **Stockholm, Sweden**.
- As a result of this conference, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established on June 15, 1972.
- The UNEP proposed a special day for the environment. In 1972, the UN General Assembly designated June 05 as World Environment Day (WED).
- The first World Environment Day was observed on **June 05, 1973**, with the slogan "**Only One Earth**."
- This year, the theme of the WED 2023 is "**BeatPlasticPollution**." According to UNEP, World Environment Day 2023 will be **hosted by Côte d'Ivoire** and **supported by the Netherlands** and the theme will focus on solutions to plastic pollution under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution.



Important Days



International Day for the Fight against Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing 2023

- On **June 5**, the **International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (I.U.U.)** is observed.
- This annual event aims to raise awareness of the dangers posed by I.U.U. fishing to the marine ecosystem.
- In **2017**, the U.N. General Assembly proclaimed June 5 as the International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing, per the commission's proposal.
- This year is 6th edition.

Important Days



World Day Against Speciesism

- World Day Against Speciesism is observed annually on **June 5**.
- **First Edition:** 2015
- It is an international event aimed at denouncing speciesism, which is discrimination against non-human animals on the basis of their species.

Important Days



International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

- **International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression** is observed on **June 4** every year.
- This day acknowledges the abuse and violence suffered by children all over the world of any kind physical, mental, and emotional.

History:

- The idea of the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression emerged from the UN General Assembly's emergency special session held on **August 19, 1982**.
- During the session, the assembly focused on protecting Palestinian and Lebanese children from Israeli aggression during the Lebanon war.
- In a bid to protect the rights of children in Lebanon, UN General Assembly decided to organize the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression on June 4 every year.
- Soon afterwards, the United Nations expanded the scope of the day to take cognisance of the physical, mental and emotional abuse suffered by children throughout the world.



Who won the 23rd Dubai Open 2023 for the second consecutive year?

- A) Vishy Anand
- B) Magnus Carlsen
- C) Fabiano Caruana
- D) Hikaru Nakamura
- E) Aravindh Chithambaram

Answer

E) Aravindh Chithambaram



Explanation

- **Grandmaster (GM) Aravindh Chithambaram** of India won the **23rd Dubai Open 2023** for the **second consecutive year**.
- The 23rd edition of Dubai Chess Open was organised by **Dubai Chess & Culture Club**.
- A total of 172 participants (in category A) from more than 46 different countries participated in this tournament.
- A total of 9 rounds were played in Swiss format.
- First held in 1999 with the aim of giving exposure to young talent in UAE, the Dubai Open Chess Tournament is one of the most well-known and strongest open tournaments in the world with prize fund of USD 52,000
- Jaiveer Mahendru finish second in Category B.

SPORTS



Explanation

Rank	Name	Country
1	Aravindh, Chithambaram Vr.	India
2	Javokhir Sindarov	Uzbekistan
3	Arjun Erigaisi	India

SPORTS



Which university reclaimed top medal tally at the Khelo India University Games 2023 after three years?

- A) Jawaharlal Nehru University
- B) Banaras Hindu University
- C) Panjab University
- D) Delhi University
- E) Mumbai University

Answer

C) Panjab University



Explanation

- **The Khelo India University Games 2023** concluded with **Panjab University** reclaiming the title after three years.
- Panjab University, who won the inaugural Khelo India University Games title back in **2020**, topped the KIUG 2023 medals tally with **26 gold, 17 silver and 26 bronze medals (total - 69 medals)**.
- **Swimmer Siva Sridhar** topped the **men's section** with a total of **11 medals, including eight golds**, while **fellow swimmer Shrungi Bandekar** won **nine medals** in the **women's section, including five golds**.
- Four cities across **Uttar Pradesh - Lucknow, Varanasi, Greater Noida and Gorakhpur** - hosted a majority of KIUG 2023 events. Only the **shooting events** were scheduled in **New Delhi**.
- The KIUG is an inter-university meet where athletes representing different institutes from all over the country vie for medals in a variety of sporting events.

Explanation

- At KIUG 2023, around 4,000 athletes, all in the under-27 category, from 205 top universities from across the country competed for 822 medals (262 gold, 263 silver and 297 bronze) across 21 different sports. Rowing made its KIUG debut this year.
- KIUG 2023 was the third edition of the inter-university meet.
- The KIUG is a part of the Indian government's Khelo India initiative, which is focused towards promoting grassroots sports and identifying young talents from all across the country.
- **Mascot:** Jeetu
- **Torch:** Shakti

SPORTS



Explanation

Rank	University	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Panjab University, (PB)	26	17	26	69
2	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	24	27	17	68
3	Jain University, Karnataka	16	10	6	32
4	Punjabi University, Patiala (PB)	12	14	8	34
5	Guru Kashi University	9	10	9	28

OBITUARY



Sulochana Latkar passes away. She is related to which field?

- A) Politician
- B) Actress
- C) Writer
- D) Novelist
- E) Economist

**Answer
B) Actress**



OBITUARY



Explanation

- **Veteran actress Sulochana Latkar** passes away
- Sulochana Latkar has been a part of 300 films, including Hindi and Marathi. She had played the mother to most Bollywood actors.
- Sulochana was awarded the **Padma Shri Award in 1999** and the prestigious **Maharashtra Bhushan Award in 2009** from the Government of Maharashtra.
- Some of her popular films include Ab Dilli Dur Nahin, Sujata, Aaye Din Bahar Ke, Dil Deke Dekho, Aasha, and Majboor, Nai Roshni, Aayi Milan Ki Bela, Gora Aur Kala, Devar, Bandini amongst others.



RANKING



Which institute has retained the top spot in the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2023 for the fifth consecutive year?

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

Answer

D) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras



RANKING



Explanation

- **Minister of State for Education and External Affairs, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh** released the India Rankings 2023, which implements the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)** drafted for this purpose by the Ministry of Education in **2015**.
- This is the **eighth consecutive edition of India Rankings** of HEIs in India.
- The latest rankings include four categories: Overall, Colleges, Universities, and Research Institutions. The subject domains now consist of Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, Law, Medical, Architecture and Planning, Dental, and a new addition -- Agriculture and Allied Sectors.

RANKING



Explanation

- The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), launched in November 2015 by the Ministry of Education, was used for this edition as well as for the previous seven editions of India Rankings released for the years 2016 to 2023. Five broad categories of parameters identified in the NIRF and their weightage on scale of 10.
 - Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR)
 - Research and Professional Practice (RPC)
 - Graduation Outcomes (GO)
 - Outreach and Inclusivity (OI)
 - Perception

RANKING



India Rankings 2023: Overall

Name	City	State	Rank
Indian Institute of Technology Madras	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	1
Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru	Bengaluru	Karnataka	2
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi	New Delhi	Delhi	3
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	Mumbai	Maharashtra	4
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	5

NIRF RANKINGS: TOP 5 'UNIVERSITIES' IN INDIA

Rank 1: Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru	Location: Bengaluru, Karnataka
Rank 2: Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)	Location: New Delhi, Delhi
Rank 3: Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI)	Location: New Delhi, Delhi
Rank 4: Jadavpur University (JU)	Location: Kolkata, West Bengal
Rank 5: Banaras Hindu University	Location: Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh



RANKING



NIRF RANKING 2023: TOP 5 'ENGINEERING' INSTITUTES IN INDIA

Rank 1: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras	Location: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Rank 2: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi	Location: New Delhi, Delhi
Rank 3: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay	Location: Mumbai, Maharashtra
Rank 4: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur	Location: Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
Rank 5: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee	Location: Roorkee, Uttarakhand

NIRF RANKINGS: TOP 5 'MANAGEMENT' INSTITUTES IN INDIA

Rank 1: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad	Location: Ahmedabad, Gujarat
Rank 2: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore	Location: Bengaluru, Karnataka
Rank 3: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Kozhikode	Location: Kozhikode, Kerala
Rank 4: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta	Location: Kolkata, West Bengal
Rank 5: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Delhi	Location: New Delhi, Delhi

RANKING



NIRF RANKING 2023 TOP 5 'PHARMACY' INSTITUTES IN INDIA

Rank 1: National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research	Location: Hyderabad, Telangana
Rank 2: Jamia Hamdard	Location: New Delhi, Delhi
Rank 3: Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani	Location: Pilani, Rajasthan
Rank 4: JSS College of Pharmacy	Location: Ooty, Tamil Nadu
Rank 5: Institute of Chemical Technology	Location: Mumbai, Maharashtra

NIRF RANKINGS: TOP 5 'COLLEGES' IN INDIA

Rank 1: Miranda House	Location: New Delhi, Delhi
Rank 2: Hindu College	Location: New Delhi, Delhi
Rank 3: Presidency College	Location: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Rank 4: PSGR Krishnammal College for Women	Location: Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
Rank 5: St. Xavier's College	Location: Kolkata, West Bengal

RANKING



NIRF RANKING 2023: TOP 5 'MEDICAL' COLLEGES IN INDIA

Rank 1: All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)	Location: New Delhi, Delhi
Rank 2: Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research	Location: Chandigarh, Chandigarh
Rank 3: Christian Medical College	Location: Vellore, Tamil Nadu
Rank 4: National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences	Location: Bengaluru, Karnataka
Rank 5: Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research	Location: Puducherry

NIRF RANKING 2023: TOP 5 'RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS' IN INDIA

Rank 1: Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru	Location: Bengaluru, Karnataka
Rank 2: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras	Location: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Rank 3: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi	Location: New Delhi, Delhi
Rank 4: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay	Location: Mumbai, Maharashtra
Rank 5: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur	Location: Kharagpur, West Bengal

RANKING



NIRF RANKING 2023: TOP 5 'INNOVATION' INSTITUTES IN INDIA

Rank 1: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur	Location: Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
Rank 2: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras	Location: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Rank 3: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad	Location: Hyderabad, Telangana
Rank 4: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi	Location: New Delhi, Delhi
Rank 5: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee	Location: Roorkee, Uttarakhand

NIRF RANKING: TOP 5 'LAW' COLLEGES IN INDIA

Rank 1: National Law School of India University	Location: Bengaluru, Karnataka
Rank 2: National Law University (NLU)	Location: New Delhi, Delhi
Rank 3: Nalsar University of Law	Location: Hyderabad, Telangana
Rank 4: The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences	Location: Kolkata, West Bengal
Rank 5: Jamia Millia Islamia	Location: New Delhi, Delhi

RANKING



NIRF RANKING 2023: TOP 5 'ARCHITECTURE' INSTITUTES IN INDIA

Rank 1: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee	Location: Roorkee, Uttarakhand
Rank 2: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Calicut	Location: Kozhikode, Kerala
Rank 3: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur	Location: Kharagpur, West Bengal
Rank 4: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Tiruchirappalli	Location: Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu
Rank 5: School of Planning and Architecture	Location: New Delhi, Delhi

NIRF RANKINGS: TOP 5 'DENTAL' INSTITUTES IN INDIA

Rank 1: Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences	Location: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Rank 2: Manipal College of Dental Sciences	Location: Udupi Karnataka
Rank 3: Dr. DY Patil Vidyapeeth	Location: Pune, Maharashtra
Rank 4: Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences	Location: New Delhi, Delhi
Rank 5: AB Shetty Memorial Institute of Dental Sciences	Location: Mangaluru, Karnataka

RANKING



NIRF RANKINGS 2023: TOP 5 'AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED' INSTITUTES IN INDIA

Rank 1: Indian Agricultural Research Institute

Location: New Delhi, Delhi

Rank 2: National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal

Location: Karnal, Haryana

Rank 3: Punjab Agricultural University

Location: Ludhiana, Punjab

Rank 4: Banaras Hindu University

Location: Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Rank 5: Tamil Nadu Agricultural University

Location: Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

RANKING



According to the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) report, which state was ranked at the top in terms of overall environmental performance?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Telangana
- C) Karnataka
- D) Tamil Nadu
- E) Kerala

Answer
B) Telangana

RANKING



Explanation

- **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** has released its annual compendium of data in which **Telangana** was ranked in the top in terms of overall environmental performance.
- CSE released its annual compendium of data '**State of India's Environment 2023: In Figures**'.
- The report offers a wealth of statistics on the state of climate and extreme weather, health, food and nutrition, migration and displacement, agriculture, energy, waste, water and biodiversity.

Rank	State/UT
1	Telangana
2	Madhya Pradesh
3	Delhi
4	Gujarat

Which bank announced the launch of the Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) facility using UPI on its ATMs?

- A) State Bank of India (SBI)
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) Bank of Baroda (BoB)
- E) Punjab National Bank (PNB)

Answer

D) Bank of Baroda (BoB)



Explanation

- **Bank of Baroda** announced launch of **Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) facility** wherein a customer can withdraw cash using UPI from the bank's ATMs
- The first public sector bank to launch this service, Bank of Baroda customers as well as customers of other participating issuer banks that use BHIM UPI, bob World UPI or any other UPI application enabled for ICCW on their mobile phone can withdraw cash from a Bank of Baroda ATM without using their debit card.
- On selecting the option '**UPI Cash Withdrawal**' at a Bank of Baroda ATM, the customer needs to enter the withdrawal amount, post which a QR code is displayed on the ATM screen.
- Explaining the process, the lender said the customer will scan the QR code using a UPI app enabled for ICCW and then authorise the transaction with her/his UPI PIN on the mobile phone to withdraw the cash from the ATM.

Explanation

- If multiple bank accounts are linked to a single UPI ID, ICCW functionality gives customers the option to select the account to be debited.
- Customers can avail two transactions a day per account with a withdrawal limit of **Rs 5,000 per transaction**.
- Bank of Baroda has over 11,000 ATMs across the country.

Titbits

Bank of Baroda

Hq: Vadodara, Gujarat

MD and CEO : Debadatta Chand

Tagline : India's International Bank

What is the name of the financial inclusion dashboard launched by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das?

- A) Antardrishti
- B) Sahayata
- C) Sashakti
- D) Samarthan
- E) Arthik Pragati

Answer

A) Antardrishti

Explanation

- **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das** launched a financial inclusion dashboard named '**Antardrishti**'.
- As the name suggests, the dashboard will provide the required insight to assess and monitor the progress of financial inclusion by capturing relevant parameters
- This facility will also enable to gauge the extent of financial exclusion at granular levels across the country so that such areas can be addressed.
- Presently, the dashboard is intended for **internal use in the RBI**, adding it will further facilitate greater financial inclusion through a multi-stakeholder approach.
- The Reserve Bank has been promoting financial inclusion through various policy initiatives
- To measure the **extent of financial inclusion**, RBI had constructed the **Financial Inclusion (FI) Index** in **2021**.

Explanation

- In collaboration with the government and the relevant sectoral regulators, the FI-Index was conceptualised as a complete index that includes information on the banking, investments, insurance, postal, and pension sectors.
- The index records data on different aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging from **0 to 100**, where 0 denotes total financial exclusion and 100 denotes complete financial inclusion.
- According to RBI, the FI-Index comprises of three broad parameters (weights indicated in brackets) viz., **Access (35 per cent)**, **Usage (45 per cent)**, and **Quality (20 per cent)** with each of these consisting of various dimensions, which are computed based on a number of indicators

Titbits

RBI

Abbreviation: Reserve Bank of India

Act: Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Governor– Shaktikanta Das

Deputy Governors– 4 (T Rabi Sankar, Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao)

Which company introduced a real-time interbank US dollar settlement pilot project in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) using its blockchain platform, Onyx?

- A) Bank of America
- B) Wells Fargo
- C) Citigroup
- D) J.P. Morgan
- E) Goldman Sachs

Answer

D) J.P. Morgan

Explanation

- **J.P. Morgan**, the largest bank by market capitalisation, has introduced a real-time interbank **US dollar settlement pilot project in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)** through its blockchain platform, **Onyx**.
- The six banks that have joined the platform are **Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, JPMorgan Chase Bank's Gift City branch, and Yes Bank**.
- The approval from the International Financial Services Center Authority (IFSCA) has paved the way for interbank US dollar transactions on the blockchain platform
- **Onyx** by J.P. Morgan, established in **2020**, has been a frontrunner in blockchain-based platforms for wholesale payment transactions.
- The platform would also allow banks and corporates to do new transactions like intraday repo to meet temporary liquidity needs.

Explanation

- In collaboration with the government and the relevant sectoral regulators, the FI-Index was conceptualised as a complete index that includes information on the banking, investments, insurance, postal, and pension sectors.
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BANKING AND FINANCE



Titbits

JPMorgan Chase & Co

Headquarters: New York, United States

CEO: Jamie Dimon



ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



How much money did the government receive from the stake sale of Coal India?

- A) Rs 3,567.48 crore
- B) Rs 4,185.31 crore
- C) Rs 5,912.16 crore
- D) Rs 6,430.99 crore
- E) Rs 7,248.82 crore

Answer

B) Rs 4,185.31 crore

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



Explanation

- The government has mopped up **Rs 4,185 crore** through a **three per cent stake** sale in state-run Coal India.
- The holding of the government has come down to **63.13 per cent** in the coal producer after the offer-for-sale (OFS).
- The government has received Rs 4,185 crore through a 3 per cent stake sale in state-run Coal India, as per the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) website.
- The full-year target from disinvestment has been pegged at **Rs 51,000 crore**

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



Titbits

CIL

Abbreviation : Coal India Limited

Founded: November 1975

Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal

CEO: Pramod Agrawal

Next CEO: Polavarapu Mallikharjuna Prasad

Which countries agreed on an "ambitious new roadmap" for defence industrial cooperation?

- A) India and Russia
- B) India and China
- C) India and Australia
- D) India and France
- E) India and the United States

Answer

E) India and the United States



Explanation

- **India and the United States** agreed upon an “**ambitious new roadmap**” for defence industrial cooperation, which will accord high priority to various projects for the co-development of military platforms and hardware.
- India’s defence minister **Rajnath Singh** and his American counterpart **Lloyd Austin** finalised the roadmap in New Delhi, two weeks ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to the US on a state visit.
- The US defence secretary arrived in New Delhi, June 4, for a two-day tour. It is **Austin’s second visit to India**; he had visited India before in March 2021.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

United States of America

Capital : Washington D.C

Currency :US Dollar

President: Joe Biden

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Who inaugurated the 'Lavender Festival' in Baderwah, Jammu and Kashmir?

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) Rajnath Singh
- C) Amit Shah
- D) Jitendra Singh
- E) Nitin Gadkari

Answer

D) Jitendra Singh



Explanation

- **Union Minister Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the two-day "**Lavender Festival**" in **Jammu and Kashmir's Baderwah Valley**
- The festival has been organised by the **CSIR-IIIM** and is part of the institution's 'One Week One Lab Campaign'.
- It showcases the remarkable progress made in lavender cultivation and its impact on the local community.

Titbits

Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space

Name: Dr. Jitendra Singh

Constituency: Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir

Capital : Srinagar(summer),Jammu(winter)

Governor : Manoj Sinha

Which institution signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with National Dam Safety Authority for establishing a National Centre for Earthquake Safety of Dams?

- A) National Institute of Technology, Surat
- B) Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
- C) Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
- D) National Institute of Technology, Warangal
- E) Malviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur

Answer

E) Malviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur

Explanation

- To ensure availability of subject experts and work on protection of dams in the country, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed at **Malviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) Jaipur** for setting up a **National Centre for Earthquake Safety of Dams**.
- The MoU was signed between **National Dam Safety Authority** (Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India) and **MNIT, Jaipur** in the presence of Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- This centre will study seismic hazards on dams across the country, how dams must be developed and how existing dams can be protected.
- A financial grant of about **Rs 30 crore** has been approved for centre's operation for the next five years.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Which state government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bajaj Finserv for a Rs 5,000 crore investment in Pune?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Gujarat
- D) Karnataka
- E) Rajasthan

Answer
B) Maharashtra



Explanation

- The **Maharashtra government** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding - MoU with **Bajaj Finserv** in Pune.
- Under this MoU, the non-banking finance company will invest **5,000 crore rupees** in Pune which is expected to create **40,000 jobs**.

Titbits

Maharashtra

Capital : Mumbai

CM : Eknath Shinde

Governor : Ramesh Bais

Bajaj Finserv Limited

Headquarters: Pune, Maharashtra

CMD: Sanjiv Bajaj

Who flagged off India's first international cruise vessel from Chennai to Sri Lanka?

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) Amit Shah
- C) Rajnath Singh
- D) Sarbananda Sonowal
- E) Nitin Gadkari

Answer

D) Sarbananda Sonowal



Explanation

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal** flagged off the maiden **International Cruise Vessel - MV Empress, India's first international cruise vessel - from Chennai to Sri Lanka** in Chennai.
- This marks the beginning of the international cruise tourism terminal at Chennai, built at a cost of **₹17.21 crores**, heralding a new age of cruise tourism & maritime trade in the country.
- Coinciding on the occasion of Environment Day, the Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal along with the port officials also planted 2500 tree saplings at the port.
- The cruise service is the result of an MoU signed during the first Incredible India International Cruise Conference in 2022 between **Chennai Port and M/S Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt Ltd** to start domestic and international cruise service.

Explanation

- An overwhelming response by 85,000 passengers availing the cruise service through 37 vessels for the domestic circuit, it is expected that the opening up of international circuit will further amp up the business of cruise tourism in the region.
- The modern cruise terminal developed at Chennai Port is spread over an area of 2,880 square meters with an ability to host 3,000 passengers at a time.

Titbits

Ports, Shipping and Waterways & AYUSH

Minister: Sarbananda Sonowal

Constituency: Rajya Shaba, Assam

Sri Lanka

Capital : Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte (legislative),
Colombo (executive and judicial)

Currency : Rupee

President: Ranil Wickremesinghe

Prime Minister: Dinesh Gunawardena

Who launched the Kerala Fibre Optical Network (KFON), aimed at providing high-speed internet connectivity for all households in Kerala?

- A) Pinarayi Vijayan
- B) Oommen Chandy
- C) V. S. Achuthanandan
- D) Ramesh Chennithala
- E) K. M. Mani

Answer

A) Pinarayi Vijayan

Explanation

- **Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** launched the ambitious **Kerala Fibre Optical Network (KFON)**, which is envisaged to provide high-speed internet connectivity for all households in the state.
- Kerala is the only state in the country which has made the right to access the internet a basic right.
- In the initial phase, KFON will offer internet services to 14,000 households that are financially backward and 30,000 government offices.
- The project inauguration will take place at the **R Sankaranarayanan Thampi Hall of the legislative assembly**.
- During the event, **KFON Commercial Website and the KFON Mobile App** will be launched by KN Balagopal, Minister of Finance and MB Rajesh, Minister of Excise, Local Self-Governments and Rural Development respectively.

Explanation

- **K Krishnankutty**, Minister of Electricity unveils the **KFON modem**.
- As part of the project, KFON connection has been given to 17,412 government offices and 2,105 households. A cable network has already been laid to ensure connection for 9,000 houses.
- Through KFON, families below the poverty line (BPL) will be able to access the internet free of cost

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Kerala

Capital : Thiruvananthapuram

CM : Pinarayi Vijayan

Governor : Arif Mohammed Khan

Which two schemes were launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on World Environment Day?

- A) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
- B) Amrit Dharohar Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi
- C) Amrit Dharohar Yojana and Mishti Yojana
- D) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Ayushman Bharat Yojana
- E) Mishti Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

Answer

C) Amrit Dharohar Yojana and Mishti Yojana

Explanation

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on World Environment Day launched two new schemes, **Amrit Dharohar Yojana and Mishti Yojana**, to ensure conservation of India's wetlands of international importance (Ramsar sites) and reviving as well as protecting the mangrove ecosystem of the country, respectively.
- Besides, a compendium of **LiFE (lifestyle for environment)** practices around the world - Mindful Living - carrying dos and don'ts for sustainable living, was also released on the occasion.
- The compendium is jointly brought out by the **UNDP and the Niti Aayog**, underlining the need for responsible production and consumption across the globe as an important tool to deal with the challenges of climate change.

Explanation

- The '**Amrit Dharohar**' initiative was announced in this year's Budget to promote the unique conservation values of Ramsar sites. The scheme to conserve the wetland ecosystem will involve local communities, based on the philosophy of conservation through people's participation, and prosperity through conservation.
- The **Mishti - 'Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes'** - scheme was also announced in the Budget 2023-24 to promote and conserve mangroves which are unique and natural ecosystem having very high biological productivity and carbon sequestration potential, besides working as a bio-shield.
- The programme will cover approximately 540 sq km area across nine coastal States and four UTs in five years (2023-2028).

Explanation

- Besides creating an estimated carbon sink of 4.5 million tons of carbon, the scheme will also create potential areas for nature tourism and livelihood potential for local communities.

The World Environment Day this year was organised by the environment ministry with a thrust on the Mission LiFE.

- A comprehensive and non-exhaustive list of 75 individual LiFE actions have already been identified across seven themes – save water, save energy, reduce waste, reduce e-waste, reduce single-use plastics, adopt sustainable food systems, and adopt healthy lifestyles

The government-backed open network for digital commerce (ONDC) has expanded its scope by enabling which type of transactions?

- A) Business to Consumer (B2C) transactions
- B) Business to Business (B2B) transactions
- C) Consumer to Consumer (C2C) transactions
- D) Government to Consumer (G2C) transactions
- E) Government to Government (G2G) transactions

Answer

B) Business to Business (B2B) transactions



Explanation

- The government backed **open network for digital commerce** (ONDC) has expanded the scope of the network by enabling **business to business (B2B) transactions**, a move it expects will benefit scores of small and medium establishments across the country by giving them access to a wider market for their products.
- The B2B transactions on ONDC are being powered by **tech startups SignCatch and Rapidor** which have jointly enabled both the B2B buyer and seller side platforms on the network, allowing interoperability between buyers and sellers.
- In the past few days, both the firms have enabled over 160 B2B transactions. The B2B launch is currently in the alpha mode.

Titbits

Open Network for Digital Commerce(ONDC)

Founded: 31 December 2022

CEO: Thampy Koshy

Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi

QUICK RECALL



- **June 5 - World Environment Day, International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (I.U.U.), World Day Against Speciesism; June 4- International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression**
- **Grandmaster (GM) Aravindh Chithambaram of India won the 23rd Dubai Open 2023 for the second consecutive year.**
- **The Khelo India University Games 2023 concluded with Panjab University reclaiming the title after three years.**
- **Veteran actress Sulochana Latkar passes away**
- **Minister of State for Education and External Affairs, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh released the India Rankings 2023**
- **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has released its annual compendium of data in which Telangana was ranked in the top in terms of overall environmental performance**
- **Bank of Baroda announced launch of Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) facility wherein a customer can withdraw cash using UPI from the bank's ATMs**
- **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das launched a financial inclusion dashboard named 'Antardrishti'.**



QUICK RECALL



- **J.P. Morgan has introduced a real-time interbank US dollar settlement pilot project in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) through its blockchain platform, Onyx.**
- **The government has mopped up Rs 4,185 crore through a three per cent stake sale in state-run Coal India.**
- **India and the United States agreed upon an “ambitious new roadmap” for defence industrial cooperation**
- **Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated the two-day "Lavender Festival" in Jammu and Kashmir's Baderwah Valley**
- **National Dam Safety Authority (Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India) and MNIT, Jaipur signed MoU for setting up a National Centre for Earthquake Safety of Dams.**
- **The Maharashtra government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding - MoU with Bajaj Finserv in Pune.**



QUICK RECALL



- **The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the maiden International Cruise Vessel - MV Empress, India's first international cruise vessel - from Chennai to Sri Lanka in Chennai.**
- **Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the ambitious Kerala Fibre Optical Network (KFON)**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi on World Environment Day launched two new schemes, Amrit Dharohar Yojana and Mishti Yojana**
- **The government backed open network for digital commerce (ONDC) has expanded the scope of the network by enabling business to business (B2B) transactions**

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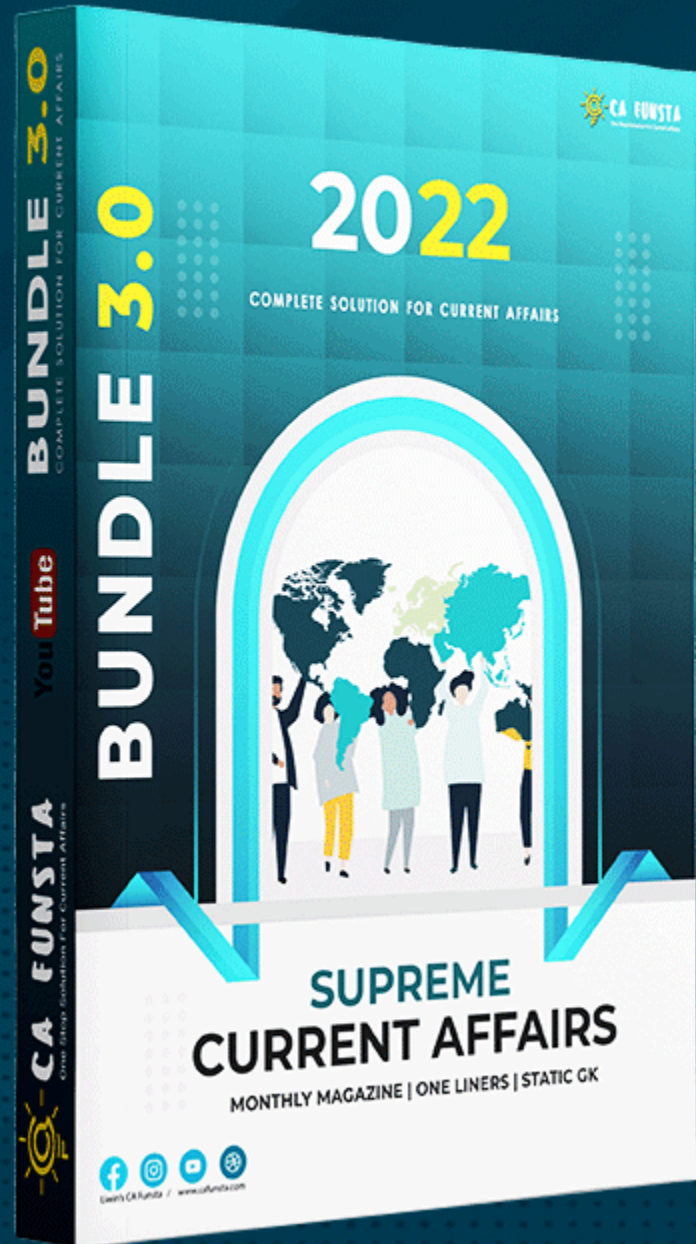
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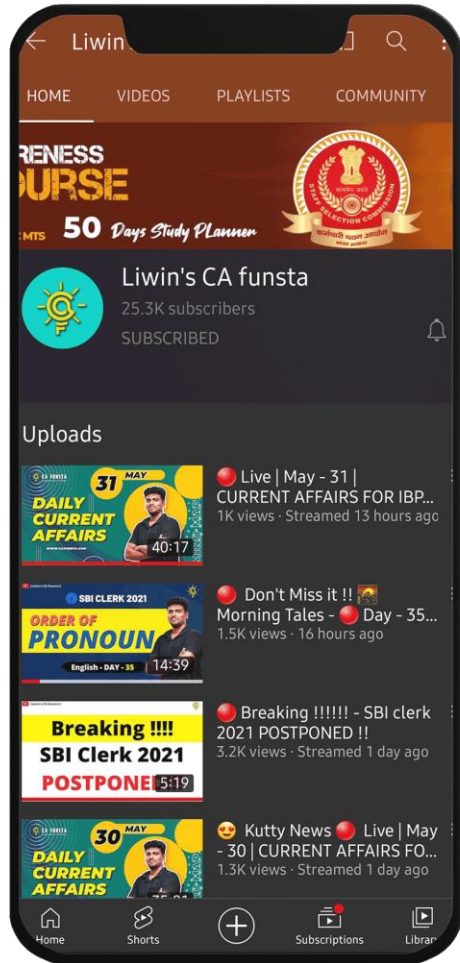
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