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JUNE 24 & 25

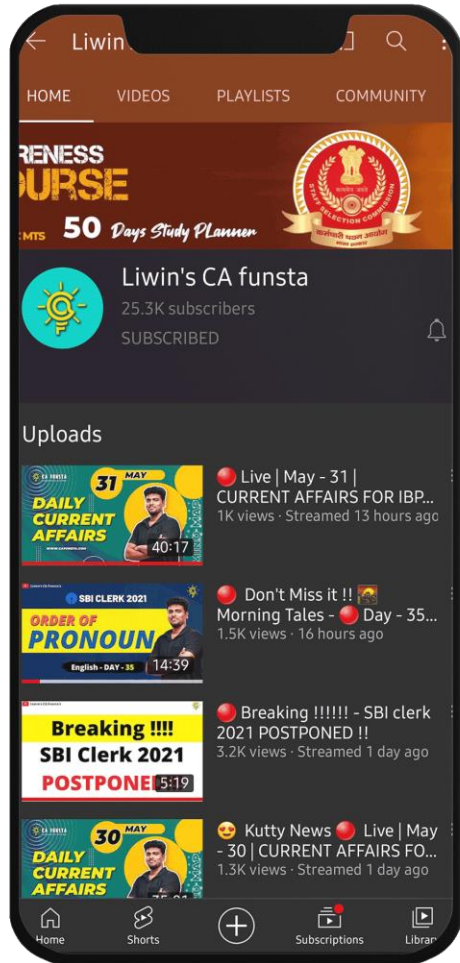
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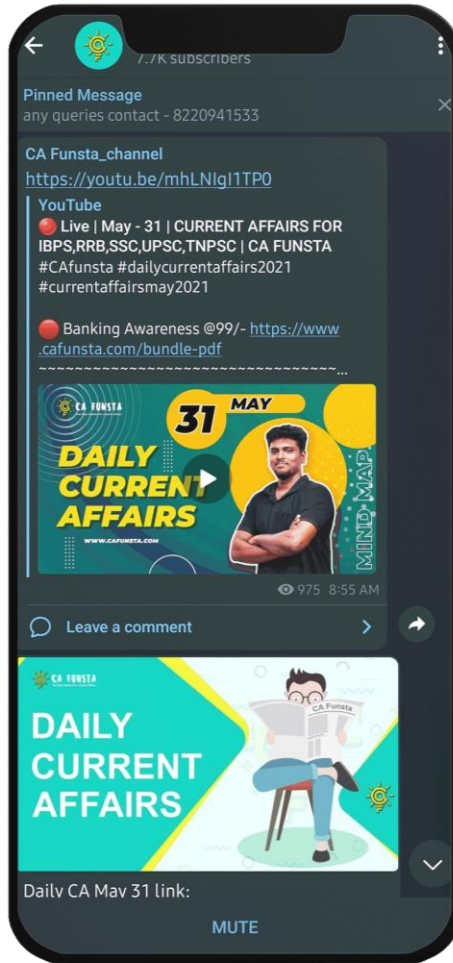
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Important Days



When is World Vitiligo Day celebrated?

- A) January 25th
- B) March 25th
- C) June 25th
- D) September 25th
- E) December 25th

Answer
C) June 25th



Important Days



Explanation

- **World Vitiligo Day** is celebrated annually on **June 25th** to raise awareness about vitiligo, a chronic skin condition that causes the loss of pigmentation in patches of the skin.
- World Vitiligo Day was first observed on **June 25th, 2011**, on the initiative of the non-profit organization Vitiligo International Foundation (VIF) and the global Vitiligo community.
- The date was chosen to honor **Michael Jackson**, the famous American singer, songwriter, and performer who had vitiligo.



Important Days



Day of the Seafarer

- Every year, on **June 25th**, the international maritime community comes together to celebrate the Day of the Seafarer.
- This special day is dedicated to recognizing and honouring the invaluable contributions of seafarers to the world economy and our everyday lives.
- The Day of the Seafarer was established in **2010** by a resolution adopted at a diplomatic conference in Manila.
- The revised International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), the original STCW was to ensure an international standard of competency and welfare for seafarers, for their safety, and the revision was to ensure the upholding of the Day of the Seafarer as part of this.
- **Theme:** MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on.
- **Campaign Slogan:** #OceansWorthProtecting



Important Days



International Day of Women in Diplomacy

- **International Day of Women in Diplomacy (IDWID)**, observed on **June 24**, annually, celebrates inspiring women in fields of diplomacy and decision-making, around the world.
- The theme, “**Breaking Barriers, Shaping the Future: Women in Diplomacy for Sustainable Development**” has been chosen for this year’s IDWID Inaugural Forum, organised by the Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT).
- **IDWID** was created just last year, at the **76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**, which began on **September 14, 2021** and concluded on **September 13, 2022**.
- The resolution was adopted by the UNGA on **June 20, 2022**. It recognised that as part of the 2030 SDG target, highlighting women’s contributions in diplomacy, the need for equal participation of women in decision-making was a vital need.
- To this end the UNGA declared **June 24** as the International Day of Women in Diplomacy.



RANKING



Which two Indian companies were included in TIME magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential companies in the world?

- A) Flipkart and Paytm
- B) Ola and Zomato
- C) Meesho and NPCI
- D) Tata Motors and Reliance Industries
- E) Infosys and Wipro

Answer

C) Meesho and NPCI



RANKING



Explanation

- Government-backed retail digital payments firm **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and shopping app **Meesho** has been featured on Time's list of 100 most influential companies 2023 list released.
- Additionally, **Polygon Labs**, originally founded as **Matic Network** by four Indians, also found its mention in the list.
- **NPCI** was introduced in **2008** as a collaborative initiative between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Bank's Association (IBA). The firm has been credited for significantly contributing to the widespread adoption of digital payments within the country.
- Founded in **2015** by **Vidit Aatrey and Sanjeev Barnwal**, **Meesho** is a shopping app based in Bengaluru.



Explanation

- Among the featured companies was Polygon Labs. It was previously known as **Matic Network**. Founded in **2017** by four software engineers hailing from Mumbai – **Jaynti Kanani, Sandeep Nailwal, Anurag Arjun, and Mihailo Bjelic** – the company underwent a rebranding in February 2021, adopting the name Polygon. With a vision to establish a multi-chain blockchain system that harmonises with Ethereum, Polygon employs a proof-of-stake consensus mechanism to facilitate on-chain transaction processing, much like Ethereum.
- Times 2023 list also highlighted other companies including chip maker Nvidia, Elon Musk's SpaceX, Sam Altman's OpenAI, popular footwear brand Crocs, fast food chain Taco Bell, electric vehicle manufacturer BYD, luxury fashion brand LVMH, and defense contractor Lockheed Martin.
- Last year, Falguni Nayar's Nykaa also made it to the coveted list.

RANKING



Titbits

NPCI

Abbreviation: National Payments Corporation of India

Founded: 2008

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe

Meesho

Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka

CEO: Vidit Aatrey

RANKING



Which city has been named the best city to live in the world for the second year in a row?

- A) Paris, France
- B) Tokyo, Japan
- C) Sydney, Australia
- D) Vienna, Austria
- E) Zurich, Switzerland

Answer

D) Vienna, Austria

RANKING



Global Liveability Index 2023

- **Released by:** Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- **Cities:** 172 cities
- **Algeria's Algiers, Libya's Tripoli and Syria's Damascus** were ranked the three least liveable cities in the world.
- Damascus has consistently been ranked as one of the lowest-ranked cities in the survey.

RANKING



Explanation

Rank	City
1	Vienna, Austria
2	Copenhagen, Denmark
3	Melbourne, Australia
4	Sydney, Australia
5	Vancouver, Canada
172	Damascus, Syria

RANKING



In the Times Higher Education's annual Asia university rankings 2023, which rank did the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru secure?

- A) 25th rank
- B) 37th rank
- C) 48th rank
- D) 62nd rank
- E) 76th rank

Answer
C) 48th rank



RANKING



11th edition of Times Higher Education's annual Asia university rankings 2023

- A total of **eighteen Indian universities** featured in the **top 200 positions on the Times Higher Education's (THE) annual Asia university rankings 2023**, released.
- The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, secured the **48th rank this year**, becoming the best among Indian higher education institutions, despite falling six positions as compared to last year.
- Overall, India has only one university in the top 50, about four in the top 100, and a total of 18 universities in the top 200.

RANKING



Explanation

Rank	University
1	Tsinghua University (China)
2	Peking University (China)
3	National University of Singapore (Singapore)
4	University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong)
5	Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (Singapore)
48	Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru
68	The Jagadguru Sri Shivarathreeswara (JSS) Academy of Higher Education and Research, Mysore, Karnataka
77	Shoolini University in Himachal Pradesh
95	Mahatma Gandhi University or MG University, Kottayam, Kerala
106	International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad



How much loan has been approved by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the state of Bihar in India to widen and upgrade state highways?

- A) \$100 million
- B) \$150 million
- C) \$200 million
- D) \$250 million
- E) \$295 million

Answer

E) \$295 million

Explanation

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **\$295 million** loan to widen and upgrade around **265 kilometers of state highways**, improving transport connectivity and safety in the state of Bihar in India.
- The highways will be upgraded with climate- and disaster-resilient design, road safety elements, and other features that will respond to the needs of the elderly, women, children, and people with disabilities.
- The project will also encourage women's participation by providing employment to female workers in construction works. Trainings in livelihood as well as awareness on road safety, health and hygiene, and abuse and harassment will be offered to women from communities in the project areas.

Explanation

- The government is contributing **\$156.6 million to the project.**
- Since 2008, ADB has provided five loans totaling **\$1.63 billion to the state of Bihar**, which have upgraded about 1,696 kilometers of state highways and constructed a new bridge over the Ganga River.
- ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.
- Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.

Titbits

Asian Development Bank

Member Countries: 68

Founded Year : 1966

Headquarters: Manila, Philippines

Head : Masatsugu Asakawa

Bihar

Capital : Patna

CM : Nitish Kumar

Governor : Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Paytm Payment Services Limited (PPSL) signed an MoU with which organization to create a startup ecosystem for the youth in Arunachal Pradesh?

- A) National Innovation Foundation (NIF)
- B) Indian Angel Network (IAN)
- C) Indian School of Business (ISB)
- D) Arunachal Pradesh Innovation and Investment Park (APIIP)
- E) Northeast Venture Fund (NEVF)

Answer

D) Arunachal Pradesh Innovation and Investment Park (APIIP)



Explanation

- **Paytm Payment Services Limited (PPSL)** signed an MoU with **Arunachal Pradesh Innovation and Investment Park (APIIP)** to create a startup ecosystem for the youth in the northeastern state.
- Paytm Incubation Centre will provide its product to early-stage startups at a discounted price and offer free credits through the Paytm Startup toolkit to aid the business ventures of youths in their early stage of growth.
- This will nurture the startup ecosystem in the state and motivate the young entrepreneurs.
- The MoU was signed at the Arunachal Pradesh Innovation & Investment Park, the first state-owned marquee incubator here in the presence of its CEO Tabe Haidar.

Explanation

- **Paytm** is India's payment app, which offers consumers and merchants payment services. It is a pioneer of mobile QR payments in the country.
- It enables commerce for small merchants and distributes various financial services offerings to its consumers and merchants in partnership with financial institutions.

Titbits

Paytm Payments Bank

Headquarters : Noida,Uttar Pradesh

MD & CEO : Surinder Chawla

Tagline: Simplifying Payments for India

Part-time Chairman: Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Arunachal Pradesh

Capital : Itanagar

CM : Pema Khandu

Governor : Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

Which company has partnered with Indian Bank to offer customised banking products?

- A) Infosys
- B) Wipro
- C) TCS (Tata Consultancy Services)
- D) Manipal Technologies
- E) HCL Technologies

Answer

D) Manipal Technologies



Explanation

- **Manipal Technologies Limited** has partnered with state-owned **Indian Bank** to drive **financial inclusion by offering customised banking products**.
- The partnership aims to build a sustainable network of corporate business correspondents (CBCs) that will enhance the availability, affordability, and accessibility of financial services, particularly in underserved markets and rural areas.
- As part of this association, Manipal Technologies Limited (MTL) will work closely with Indian Bank to offer tailor-made banking products in rural locations.
- The initial focus will be serving more than 600 locations and gradually expanding the presence in newer regions in states such as Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Haryana, and Punjab.

Titbits

Manipal Technologies Limited

Headquarters: Manipal, Karnataka

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer: Abhay Anant Gupte

Indian Bank

Hq: Chennai, Tamilnadu

MD & CEO: Shanti Lal Jain

Tagline : Your Own Bank

Which company has launched a new retirement solution called ABSLI Nishchit Pension Plan?

- A) HDFC Life Insurance
- B) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- C) SBI Life Insurance
- D) Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance
- E) Max Life Insurance

Answer

D) Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance

Aditya Birla Sun Life
Insurance Company Limited
(A part of Aditya Birla Capital Ltd.)



Explanation

- **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Company Limited (ABSLI)**, a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), has recently launched a new retirement solution called **ABSLI Nishchit Pension Plan**.
- This plan is specifically designed to help individuals plan for their retirement by providing a 100% guaranteed corpus, ensuring a secure and uninterrupted income during their golden years.
- The **ABSLI Nishchit Pension Plan** offers several key features. Firstly, it allows policyholders to accumulate a guaranteed corpus by providing accrued guaranteed additions throughout the policy term.

Explanation

- Additionally, a loyalty addition is provided at the end of the policy term, as long as the policy remains active and all premiums have been paid.
- These features ensure that policyholders can accumulate a fully guaranteed corpus by their desired retirement age, guaranteeing a steady income after retirement.
- Another notable aspect of the plan is its flexibility, as it allows policyholders to defer the Vesting **Benefit for up to 10 years**.
- This flexibility ensures that individuals can align their retirement planning with their specific life goals.
- The **ABSLI Nishchit Pension Plan** offers customization options to policyholders based on their retirement goals.

Explanation

- It provides flexible Premium Payment Term (PPT) and Policy Term (PT) options, allowing individuals to choose from various premium payment term durations, **including 5, 6, 8, 10, 12 years, or regular pay options.**
- The plan sets a **maximum entry age of 65 years and a minimum entry age of 30 years.**
- The **minimum annualized premium required is Rs. 20,000.** Policyholders can avail the **vesting benefit until the age of 75, with a minimum vesting age of 45 years.**
- In addition to its retirement benefits, the **ABSLI Nishchit Pension Plan** also offers life insurance coverage throughout the policy term.
- In unfortunate circumstances, the plan provides a lump sum Death Benefit to the nominee(s)/heir(s), as long as the policy is in-force.

Titbits

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO : Kamlesh Rao

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



By selling a little over 2 per cent stake, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) reduced its stake in which iron ore producer to 9.62 per cent?

- A) Tata Steel
- B) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)
- C) Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL)
- D) Vedanta Limited
- E) NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation)

Answer

E) NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation)



ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



Explanation

- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has reduced its stake in iron ore producer **NMDC** to 9.62 per cent by selling a little **over 2 per cent** stake for about **Rs 649 crore**.
- The state-owned insurer sold over 6.06 crore shares or 2.07 per cent stake in NMDC between March 14 and June 20 at an average price of Rs 107.59 a share via open market sale.
- At this price, over 6.06 crore shares would be valued at around **Rs 649 crore**.
- LIC said its shareholding in NMDC has decreased **from 11.69 per cent to 9.62 per cent**.

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



Titbits

Life Insurance Corporation of India

Founded: 1 September 1956

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairperson: Siddharth Mohanty

National Mineral Development Corporation(NMDC)

Steel Limited

Headquarters: Bastar, Chhattisgarh

Founded: January 2, 2015

Chairman and Managing Director (CMD): Amitava Mukherjee

AWARDS



Who was conferred with the 'Order of the Nile' Egypt's highest honour by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi?

- A) President Recep Tayyip Erdogan
- B) President Jair Bolsonaro
- C) President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi
- D) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- E) President Emmanuel Macron

Answer

D) Prime Minister Narendra Modi



AWARDS



Explanation

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was conferred with the '**Order of the Nile**', **Egypt's highest honour**, by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.
- Instituted in **1915**, the 'Order of the Nile' is conferred upon **heads of states, crown princes, and vice presidents who offer Egypt or humanity invaluable services.**
- This is the **13th highest state honour** conferred upon Prime Minister Modi.
- The 'Order of the Nile' is a pure gold collar consisting of three-square gold units comprising Pharaonic symbols. The first unit resembles the idea of protecting the state against the evils, the second one resembles prosperity and happiness brought by the Nile and the third one refers to wealth and endurance.

AWARDS



Explanation

- The three units are connected to one another by a circular gold flower decorated with turquoise and ruby. Hanging from the collar is a hexagonal pendant decorated with flowers of the Pharaonic style, and turquoise and ruby gems.
- In the middle of the pendant, there is a protruding symbol representing the Nile that brings together the North (represented by the Papyrus) and the South (represented by the Lotus).
- Over the past nine years, the Prime Minister has been conferred the **Companion of the Order of Logohu, the highest civilian award of Papua New Guinea; the Companion of the Order of Fiji; the Ebakl Award by the Republic of Palau; the Order of the Druk Gyalp, the highest civilian decoration by Bhutan.**
- Modi has also been conferred with **the Legion of Merit by the US Government; the King Hamad Order of the Renaissance by Bahrain; the Order of the Distinguished Role of Nishan Izzuddin, the highest honour of the Maldives; the Order of St. Andrew award, the highest civilian honour of Russia.**



AWARDS



Explanation

- Modi has also received the **Order of Zayed Award, the highest civilian honour of the United Arab Emirates; the Grand Collar of the State of Palestine Award, the highest honour of Palestine; the State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan, the highest civilian honour of Afghanistan and the Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud, the highest honour of Saudi Arabia awarded to non-Muslim dignitaries.**

AWARDS



Titbits

Egypt

capital: Cairo

Currency: Egyptian pound

President: Abdel Fattah El-Sisi

Prime Minister: Mostafa Madbouly

Which engine has Skyroot successfully tested, designed to help the Vikram-I rocket?

- A) Raman-II
- B) Newton-I
- C) Aryabhata-I
- D) Raman-I
- E) Chandrayaan-I

Answer
D) Raman-I

Explanation

- **Skyroot Aerospace** successfully conducted the flight qualification test of the **Raman-I engine**, which will be used for roll attitude control in the company's under-development **Vikram-I rocket**.
- The engine underwent a test fire at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro)**, making Skyroot the first private company to utilise this facility
- The Raman-I engine will be employed for roll attitude control, which ensures the rocket's ability to manage its rotation and orientation.
- The system assists in adjusting the rocket's aerodynamic properties during flight. By altering the rocket's orientation along the roll axis, it can optimize its aerodynamic profile, decreasing drag and enhancing overall efficiency.

Explanation

- **Skyroot** made history by becoming the first private company to launch a rocket from India with **Vikram-S**. The indigenous Vikram-S was launched from the **Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota**, marking India's entry into commercial space exploration.
- The test fires the stage for the launch of Vikram-1, which is anticipated to occur by the end of this year.
- Skyroot has been developing three variants of the Vikram rocket. While Vikram-I can carry 480 kilograms of payload to Low Earth Orbit, Vikram-II is designed to lift off with 595 kilograms of cargo. Meanwhile, Vikram-III can launch with 815 kg to 500 km Low Inclination Orbit.

Titbits

Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited

Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana

Head: Pawan Kumar Chandana

Which country did India sign an agreement on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with at the Egmont Palace, Brussels?

- A) Germany
- B) France
- C) Belgium
- D) Netherlands
- E) Luxembourg

Answer
C) Belgium

Explanation

- **India** signed an agreement on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with **Belgium** at the **Egmont Palace, Brussels**.
- The agreement was signed by **India's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union (EU) Santosh Jha** and **Belgium's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and the North Sea Vincent Van Quickenborne**.
- The agreement provides a framework for both countries to exchange requests for legal assistance in criminal matters with each other.
- This will ensure more effective cooperation between both countries in the prevention and prosecution of criminal matters in both India and Belgium.
- The agreement will also further deepen bilateral legal cooperation.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Belgium

Capital : Brussels

Currency : Euro

Prime Minister: Alexander De Croo



Who launched the India's first Pregnancy, Child Tracking & Health Services Management System (PCTS) mobile monitoring app for over 53,000 Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers in Rajasthan?

- A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B) Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot
- C) Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan
- D) Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani
- E) Minister of State for Health, Ashwini Kumar Choubey

Answer

B) Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot



Explanation

- **Rajasthan government** has launched the India's first **Pregnancy, Child Tracking & Health Services Management System (PCTS) mobile monitoring app** for over 53,000 Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers in the state to keep track of the health facilities provided to the pregnant and children daily.
- Earlier, Rajasthan launched PCTS software back in **2008**.
- However, this app will be the first to include the ASHA workers, who work with the people belonging to the grassroot level in the state and therefore it will help to improve the overall health system of the state, said the official familiar with the matter.

Explanation

- The app will also enable the ASHA workers to submit daily reports. Any executive officer of the Health department will also be able to directly communicate with the ASHA workers and ANM from any locality.
- This new app will also provide the schedule and contacts related to various services provided by the ASHA workers, pre-delivery examinations of the pregnant women, caring service in the post-delivery period, children's growth chart, vaccination, NHVYC facility for the children, geo-mapping of the closest referral health organisations etc.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Rajasthan

Capital : Jaipur

CM: Ashok Gehlot

Governor :Kalraj Mishra

Which government-backed e-commerce marketplace signed an agreement with the Kerala government to improve access and business opportunities in various sectors in the state?

- A) Flipkart
- B) Amazon India
- C) Snapdeal
- D) Paytm Mall
- E) Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

Answer

E) Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)



Explanation

- After signing agreements with the **Madhya Pradesh and the Tamil Nadu governments**, the government-backed e-commerce marketplace the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** signed an agreement with the **Kerala government** to improve access and business opportunities in various sectors in the State.
- Nine public sector units (PSUs) have already on boarded around 200 products on ONDC.
- The signing was attended by two senior State ministers and most senior members of the State bureaucracy.
- The ONDC, an ambitious digital platform launched by the Government of India, seeks to streamline the e-commerce ecosystem and create a unified online marketplace for diverse products and services.

Explanation

- The app will also enable the ASHA workers to submit daily reports. Any executive officer of the Health department will also be able to directly communicate with the ASHA workers and ANM from any locality.
- This new app will also provide the schedule and contacts related to various services provided by the ASHA workers, pre-delivery examinations of the pregnant women, caring service in the post-delivery period, children's growth chart, vaccination, NHVYC facility for the children, geo-mapping of the closest referral health organisations etc.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Kerala

Capital : Thiruvananthapuram

CM : Pinarayi Vijayan

Governor : Arif Mohammed Khan

Open Network for Digital Commerce(ONDC)

Founded: 31 December 2022

CEO: Thampy Koshy

Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi

Which organization has partnered with TANSTIA (Tamil Nadu Small and Tiny Industries Association) in Coimbatore to enhance the GeM seller base in Tamil Nadu?

- A) Amazon India
- B) Flipkart
- C) Snapdeal
- D) GeM (Government e-Marketplace)
- E) eBay India

Answer

D) GeM (Government e-Marketplace)



Explanation

- **GeM (Government e-Marketplace)**, India's leading online public procurement platform, has partnered with **TANSTIA (Tamil Nadu Small and Tiny Industries Association)** in Coimbatore to enhance the GeM seller base in the State.
- The Memorandum of Understanding outlines the commitments and collaborative efforts of both parties to promote transparency, efficiency, and inclusivity in public procurement processes. The partnership holds immense potential for growth and development in the small and tiny industries sector of Tamil Nadu.

Explanation

- During the last fiscal year, Tamil Nadu recorded the second-highest growth in GeM procurement amongst 36 States and Union Territories. The State observed an increase in order value by nearly three times to ₹889.19 crore in FY23 from ₹220.89 crore in FY22.
- GeM was launched on **August 9, 2016**, by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to create an open and transparent procurement platform for government buyers.

What is the new name of the Department of Information Technology in Himachal Pradesh government?

- A) Department of Digital Technologies and Governance
- B) Department of Cybersecurity and Information Management
- C) Department of E-Governance and Technology
- D) Department of Digital Transformation and Innovation
- E) Department of IT and Digital Services

Answer

A) Department of Digital Technologies and Governance

Explanation

- The **Himachal Pradesh government** has rechristened its **Department of Information Technology** as the **Department of Digital Technologies and Governance**.
- The approval to this effect was given by the state cabinet recently.
- Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country to have this nomenclature reflecting its commitment to transform the state into a digitally advanced state.
- The department will have four focus areas -- digital technologies, digital infrastructure, and data governance, digital transformation for inclusive development, and IT Investment and Industry Promotion.

Titbits

Himachal Pradesh

Capital : Shimla

CM : Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

Governor : Shiv Pratap Shukla

Who flagged off the "Bharat in Paris" campaign at JL Nehru Stadium in New Delhi?

- A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B) Home Minister Amit Shah
- C) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- D) Union Minister Anurag Thakur
- E) External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar

Answer

D) Union Minister Anurag Thakur



Explanation

- **Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur** flagged off "**Bharat in Paris**" campaign with a short marathon at **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi**.
- The campaign has been launched by Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to create awareness and promote sports across India ahead of the Paris Olympics games.
- The 2024 Olympics will take place from 26 July to 11 August in France, at Paris.
- The campaign has been launched by Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to create awareness and promote sports across India ahead of the Paris Olympics games.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Information and Broadcasting; and Youth Affairs and Sports

Minister: Shri Anurag Singh Thakur

Constituency: Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh

When was the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) launched to extend collateral-free credit to women in the informal sector?

- A) 1985
- B) 1990
- C) 1993
- D) 1998
- E) 2002

Answer
C) 1993

Explanation

- **The Women and Child Development Ministry** has shut down two autonomous bodies that function under it, as well as an internal division.
- This includes the autonomous bodies **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)** and **Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB)**, as well as the **internal division Food and Nutrition Board (FNB)**.
- RMK and CSWB are among the six autonomous bodies under the WCD ministry; the others being the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), National Commission for Women (NCW), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) and Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA).
- The **RMK** was launched in **1993** to extend collateral-free credit to women in the informal sector. It was registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. It must be added that the report on 'Rationalisation of Government Bodies' by the Principal Economic Adviser to the Government of India submitted in November 2020, had recommended the closure of RMK as it has lost its relevance.

Explanation

- The **CSWB**, a charitable company formed in **1953**, was one of the first efforts by the Indian government to build a body on the principle of voluntarism, which would work on social issues like a non-governmental organisation. It was **registered under section 25 of the Indian Companies Act 1956**, but sources said that the body has largely been defunct for a while. It aimed to promote social welfare organisations, study their needs and provide technical and financial aid to Panchayati Raj institutions.
- The **Food & Nutrition Board (FNB)**, **set up in 1964**, is an attached office of the Ministry of Women & Child Development. Originally with Ministry of Food, the FNB was shifted to Ministry of Women and Child Development in **1993**. It has four regional offices and quality control laboratories at **Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai**, in addition to **43 community units in 29 states and UTs**.

Explanation

- The budgetary allocation for CSWB in 2022-2023 was Rs 37.74 crore, which was revised to Rs 50.41 crore. The allocation for 2023-24 is Rs Rs 40.06 crore. For the FNB, Rs 9 crore was set aside in 2022-23, which was revised to Rs 17.99 crore. This year, Rs 18 crore was set aside for FNB. There has been no allocation for RMK in 2023-24.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Women and Child Development, Minority Affairs

Minister : Smriti Irani

Constituency : Amethi, Uttar Pradesh

QUICK RECALL



- **World Vitiligo Day, the Day of the Seafarer are celebrated annually on June 25th. International Day of Women in Diplomacy (IDWID), observed on June 24**
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Meesho has been featured on Time's list of 100 most influential companies 2023 list released.**
- **Vienna The World's Most Liveable City In 2023**
- **Asia University Rankings 2023: IISc emerges best among 18 Indian Universities in Times Higher Education list**
- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$295 million loan to widen and upgrade around 265 kilometers of state highways, improving transport connectivity and safety in the state of Bihar in India.**
- **Paytm Payment Services Limited (PPSL) signed an MoU with Arunachal Pradesh Innovation and Investment Park (APIIP) to create a startup ecosystem for the youth in the northeastern state.**
- **Manipal Technologies Limited has partnered with state-owned Indian Bank to drive financial inclusion by offering customised banking products**



QUICK RECALL



- **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Company Limited (ABSLI), a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), has recently launched a new retirement solution called ABSLI Nishchit Pension Plan**
- **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has reduced its stake in iron ore producer NMDC to 9.62 per cent by selling a little over 2 per cent stake for about Rs 649 crore.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the 'Order of the Nile', Egypt's highest honour, by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.**
- **Skyroot Aerospace successfully conducted the flight qualification test of the Raman-I engine**
- **India signed an agreement on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with Belgium at the Egmont Palace, Brussels.**
- **Rajasthan government has launched the India's first Pregnancy, Child Tracking & Health Services Management System (PCTS) mobile monitoring app**
- **Government-backed e-commerce marketplace the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) signed an agreement with the Kerala government to improve access and business opportunities in various sectors in the State**



QUICK RECALL



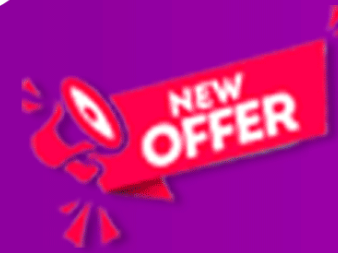
- **GeM (Government e-Marketplace) has partnered with TANSTIA (Tamil Nadu Small and Tiny Industries Association) in Coimbatore to enhance the GeM seller base in the State.**
- **The Himachal Pradesh government has rechristened its Department of Information Technology as the Department of Digital Technologies and Governance.**
- **Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur flagged off "Bharat in Paris" campaign with a short marathon at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi.**
- **The Women and Child Development Ministry has shut down two autonomous bodies that function under it, as well as an internal division.**

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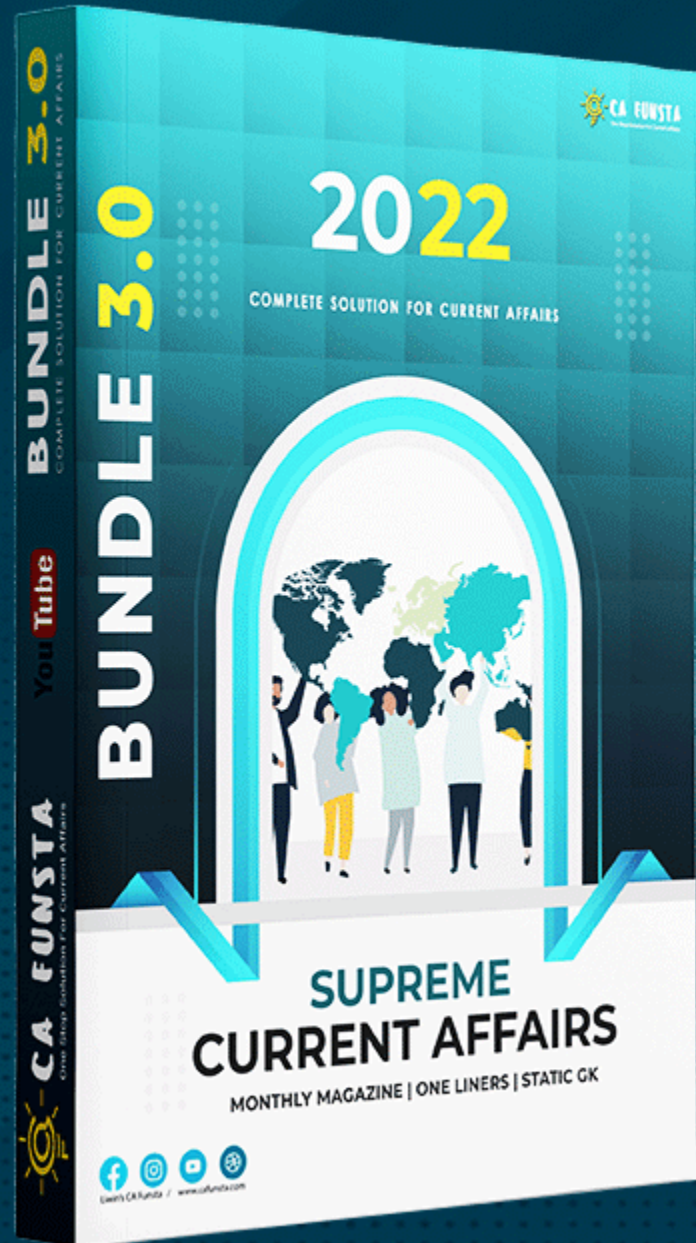
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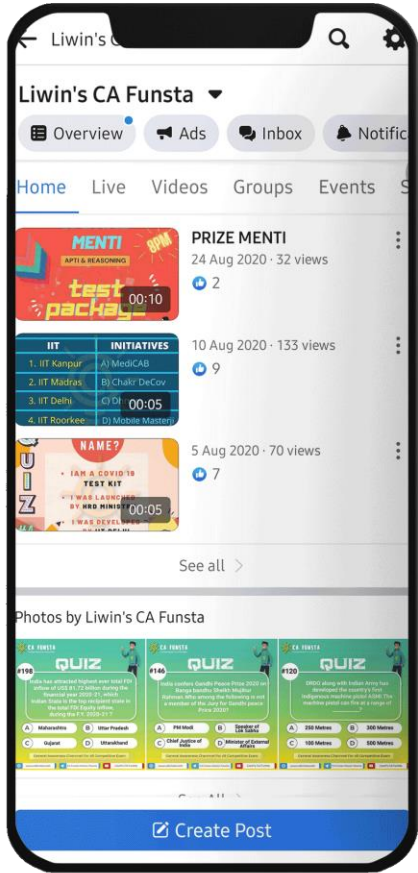
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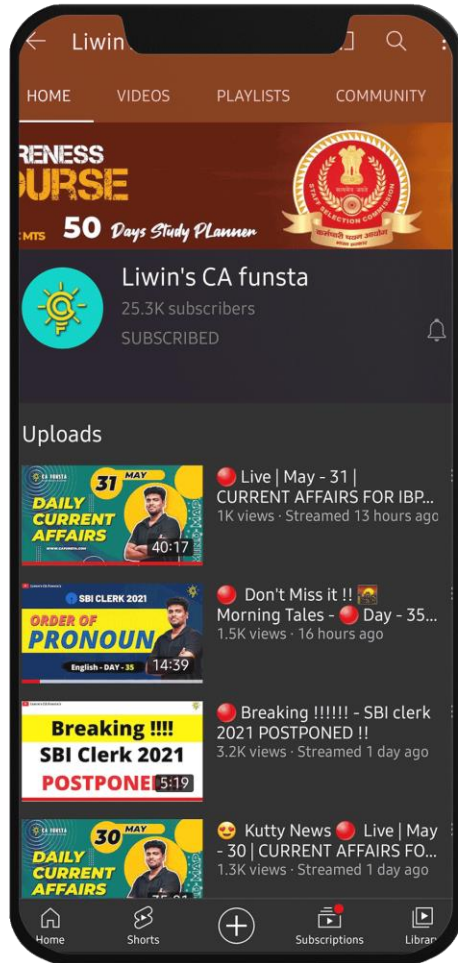
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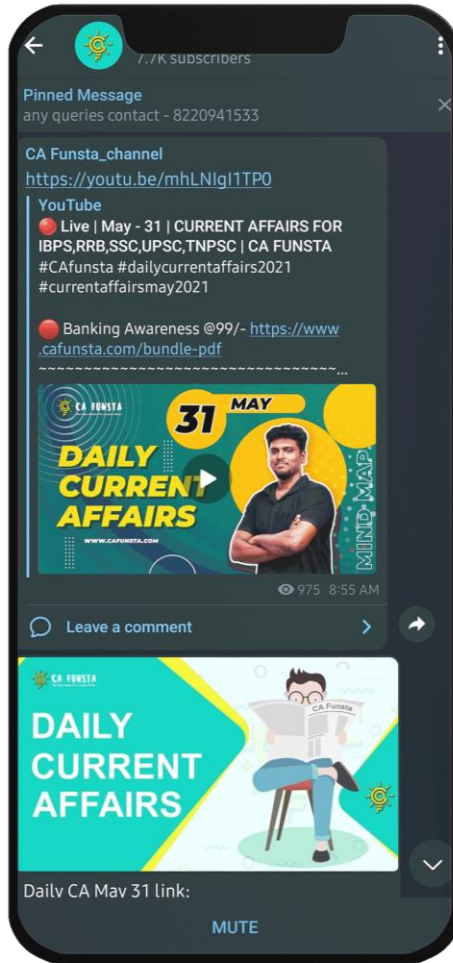
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