



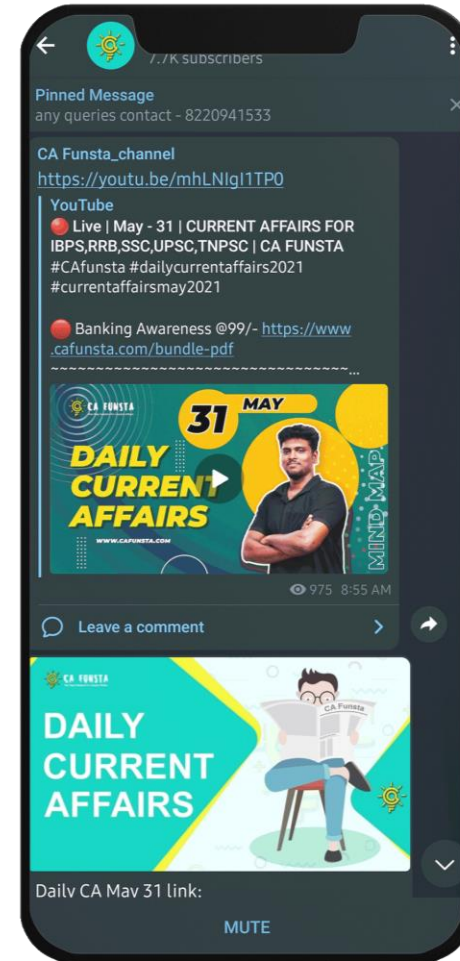
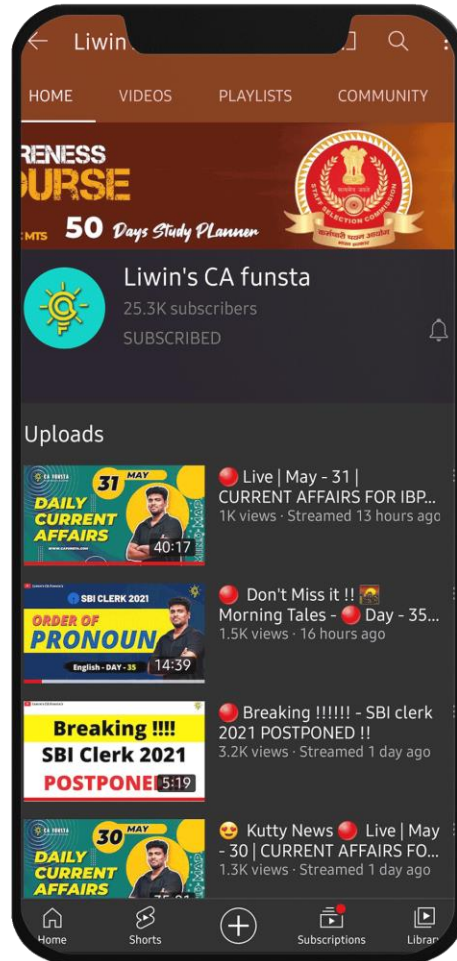
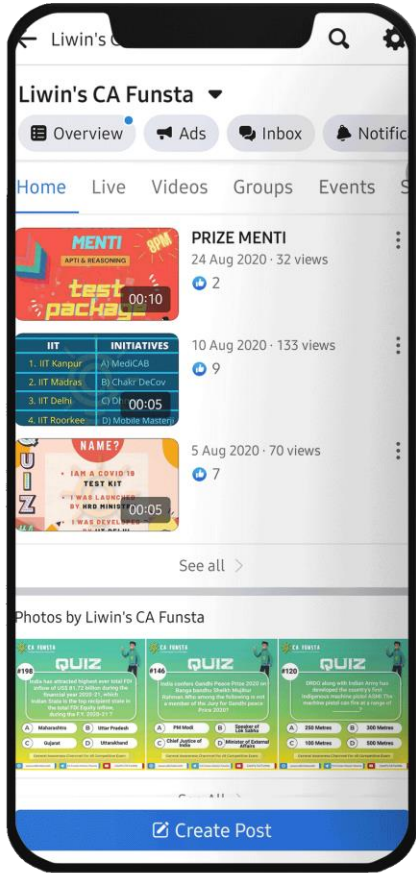
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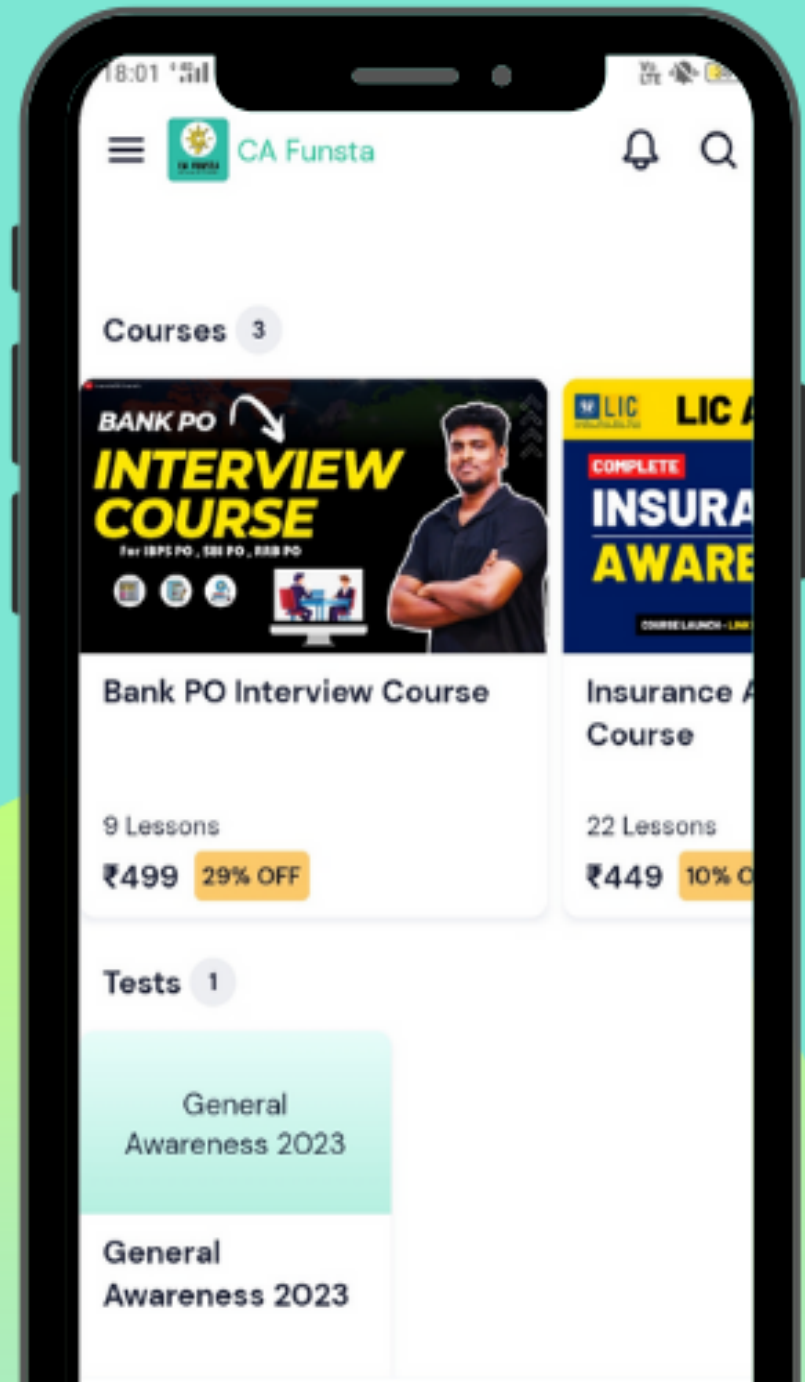
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Important Days



On which date is National Forest Martyrs Day commemorated in India every year?

- A) August 15th
- B) September 5th
- C) September 11th
- D) October 2nd
- E) November 14th

Answer

C) September 11th



Important Days



Explanation

- In India, **National Forest Martyrs Day** is commemorated every year on **September 11th**
- The origins of National Forest Martyrs Day date back to **1970**, with the tragic event known as the Khejarli massacre that occurred in the Marwar Kingdom of India.
- In **2013**, recognising the significance of this historical event, the Ministry of Environment declared September 11, the day of the Khejarli massacre, as National Forest Martyrs Day.

Which country's U-16 team won the SAFF U-16 Championship by defeating Bangladesh?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) India
- C) Nepal
- D) Sri Lanka
- E) Pakistan

Answer
B) India



Explanation

SAFF U16 Championship

- **Winner:** India (5th time - Winners (2013, 2017, 2019, 2022))
- **Runner:** Bangladesh
- **Edition:** 8th
- **Date:** 2–10 September 2023
- **Matches played :** 9
- **Held in:** The Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan
- **Best Goalkeeper:** Suraj Singh
- **Most Valuable Player (MVP) & Highest Scorer :** Mohammed Arbash
- **India Head coach:** Ishfaq Ahmed

How many Grand Slam titles has Novak Djokovic won after his victory in the US Open 2023 Men's singles championship?

- A) 20
- B) 21
- C) 22
- D) 23
- E) 24

Answer
E) 24



Explanation

143rd edition of tennis' US Open

- Held in: USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York City.
- Novak Djokovic won his fourth title at the US Open and 24th Grand Slam title by beating Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 7-6(5), 6-3 in the final US Open 2023 Men's singles champion

SPORTS



Explanation

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic	Daniil Medvedev
Women's Singles	Coco Gauff	Aryna Sabalenka
Men's Doubles	Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury	Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden
Women's Doubles	Gabriela Dabrowski and Erin Routliffe	Vera Zvonareva and Laura Siegemund
Mixed Doubles	Harri Heliovaara and Anna Dalinina	Jessica Pegula and Austin Krajicek



SPORTS



Other champions at US Open 2023

- **Wheelchair Men's singles:** Alfie Hewett
- **Wheelchair Women's singles:** Diede de Groot
- **Wheelchair quad singles:** Sam Schroder
- **Wheelchair men's doubles:** Stephane Houdet and Takashi Sanada
- **Wheelchair women's doubles:** Yui Kamiji and Tgothatso Montjane
- **Wheelchair quad doubles:** Sam Schroder and Niels Vink
- **Boys' singles:** Joao Fonseca
- **Girls' singles:** Katherine Hui
- **Boys' doubles:** Max Dahlin and Oliver Ojakaar
- **Girls' doubles:** Mara Gae and Anastasiia Gureva
- **Wheelchair boys' singles:** Dahnnon Ward
- **Wheelchair girls' singles:** Ksenia Chasteau
- **Wheelchair boys' singles:** Dahnnon Ward and Joshua Johns
- **Wheelchair girls' singles:** Ksenia Chasteau and Maylee Phelps



OBITUARY

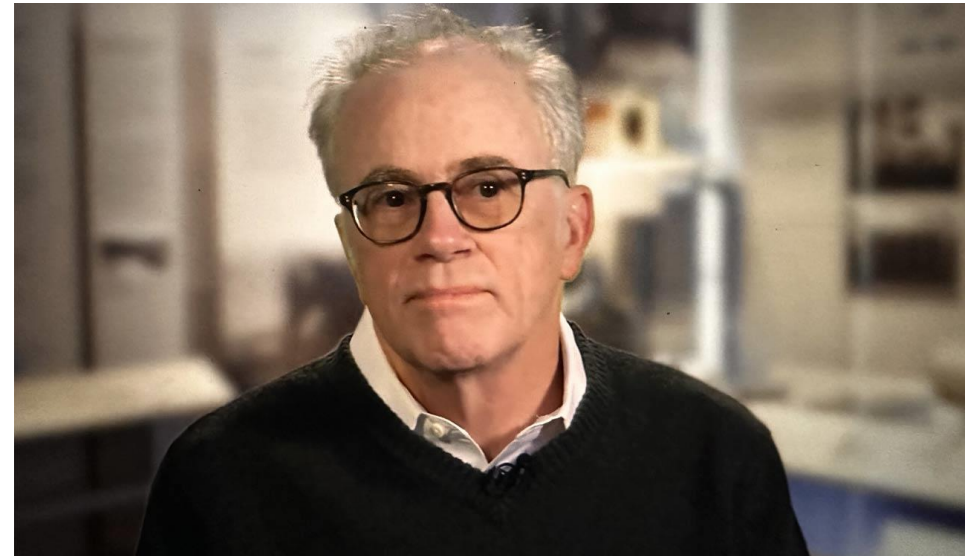


Who is credited with co-creating the PowerPoint software recently passed away?

- A) Bill Gates
- B) Steve Jobs
- C) Dennis Austin
- D) Mark Zuckerberg
- E) Jeff Bezos

Answer

C) Dennis Austin



OBITUARY



Explanation

- **Dennis Austin**, who co-created the **PowerPoint software** almost 36 years ago which is still being used by millions, has passed away
- Released in 1987 by software firm Forethought, PowerPoint was the digital successor to overhead projectors, "transforming the labour-intensive process of creating slides".
- The company released the software in 1987, and Microsoft bought the company just a few months later for \$14 million.
- By 1993, PowerPoint was generating more than \$100 million in sales. Microsoft integrated PowerPoint to its suite of Office products, including Word.
- Austin served as PowerPoint's primary developer from 1985 to 1996 when he retired.
- After Microsoft acquired Forethought, Austin continued to lead development of PowerPoint.
- He retired in 1996.

RANKING



Which country has top position in the Best Countries Ranking for the year 2023?

- A) Sweden
- B) United States
- C) Japan
- D) Switzerland
- E) Germany

Answer

D) Switzerland

RANKING



U.S. News & World Report'S Best Countries Ranking for the year 2023

- With an overall score of 40.8, **India**, which was at the **31st position in the 2022 rankings**, improved one spot to claim the **30th rank in 2023**.
- India's best performance came in the 'Movers' category, in which countries are ranked based on their future growth potential, including how prepared it is to weather challenges posed by the global economy.
- India was ranked 5th on the list below UAE, Qatar, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia.
- In terms of **culture and heritage**, India was ranked **8th**.
- Among the most powerful countries, India was ranked **12th**.
- The annual ranking by the US News & World Report ranks countries based on various attributes grouped into 10 thematic sub-rankings that rolled into the Best Countries rankings: **Adventure, Agility, Cultural Influence, Entrepreneurship, Heritage, Movers, Open for Business, Power, Quality of Life and Social Purpose**.
- Cameroon, Algeria, Myanmar, Honduras, Serbia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Belarus, and Iran made the bottom 10 in the list of **87 countries** that were assessed on a number of criteria.

RANKING



U.S. News & World Report'S Best Countries Ranking for the year 2023

Rank	Country
1	Switzerland
2	Canada
3	Sweden
4	Australia
5	USA
30	India

Which financial institution has assured India of providing concessional loans under the Green Financing facility to support the country's vision?

- A) World Bank
- B) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- C) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- D) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- E) New Development Bank (NDB)

Answer

D) Asian Development Bank (ADB)



Explanation

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** assured **India** to provide **concessional loans** under the Green Financing facility to help in achieving its vision.
- **ADB President Masasugu Asakawa**, who is in Delhi to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit, met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ADB President assured support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and transformative initiatives such as PMGatiShakti, GIFT City, Green Hydrogen Hub, Future Cities of India etc. through ADB's Country Partnership Strategy **2023-2027 for India**.
- During **2023-2027**, ADB operations in India will focus on accelerating structural transformation and job creation, promoting climate-resilient growth, and deepening social and economic inclusiveness.
- This Country Partnership Strategy (CPS), 2023-2027 for India is well aligned with India's national development priorities to be achieved by 2047 when the country marks 100 years of independence.

Explanation

- Economic and sector reforms and national flagship programs embody the national priorities.
- India is a key ADB partner and fourth largest shareholder.
- As of the end of December 2022, ADB had committed USD 52.6 billion in 605 public sector loans, grants, and technical assistance in India, as well as USD 8 billion in private sector investments.
- 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

BANKING AND FINANCE



Cleartrip recently announced a partnership with Axis Bank to provide benefits for a significant user base. How many users are expected to benefit from this partnership?

- A) 1 million
- B) 5 million
- C) 8 million
- D) 10 million
- E) 12.5 million

Answer
E) 12.5 million



Explanation

- **Cleartrip**, a Flipkart company, announced a partnership with **Axis Bank** to introduce travel benefits to all the existing and new Axis Bank credit cardholders while booking through the online travel aggregator's platform.
- This will include features such as flexible bookings, cancellation options and date changes, all without any additional costs.
- This unique proposition truly sets us apart in the market and is set to benefit close to 12.5 million customers
- Axis Bank cardholders can reschedule/modify their flights through 'CT FlexMax,' access seats valued up to Rs 1200, free meals worth up to Rs 500, and an exemption from convenience fees.

Titbits

Cleartrip

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO: Ayyappan R

Axis Bank

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO : Mr Amitabh Chaudhary

Tagline : Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi

BANKING AND FINANCE



Which bank recently introduced two new Debit Card variants, including a Metal Card for Ultra High Net Worth Individuals (HNI) and another with benefits aimed at women, both issued on the RuPay network?

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

Answer

C) Union Bank of India



Explanation

- **Union Bank of India** has introduced two new **Debit Card variants - a Metal Card for Ultra HNI** and one with benefits targeted at women. Both the cards are issued on the **Rupay network**.
- **Besides the metal design, the HNI card** will have benefits in the form of insurance cover, subscription to over the top (OTT) channels, international lounge access and merchant-specific discounts. Both cards are equipped with near field communications (NFC) and can be enabled for tap and pay in transit.
- The **women's card**, is a **Rupay platinum** card, and offers a comprehensive range of benefits, including free cancer care coverage for breast, ovarian, and cervical cancers, along with complimentary health check-ups.
- It also provides free personal accident and air accident cover, access to OTT subscriptions, international lounge access, and exclusive merchant-specific offers and discounts, making it a valuable and well-rounded card for women's health and lifestyle needs.
- The two cards were launched by the bank's MD & CEO, A. Manimekhalai alongwith NPCI, chief operating officer Praveena Rai at the Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai.

Titbits

Union Bank of India

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO : A. Manimekhalai

Tagline: Good People to Bank with

What has HSBC India recently launched for corporates, providing a one-stop-shop proposition for seamless enablement on ONDC?

- A) Digital Banking Platform
- B) E-commerce Marketplace
- C) Mobile Banking App
- D) 'ONDC in a Box'
- E) Trade Finance Solutions

Answer
D) 'ONDC in a Box'



Explanation

- **HSBC India** announced the launch of '**ONDC in a Box**', a one-stop-shop proposition for corporates towards seamless enablement on **ONDC**.
- With this launch, HSBC India becomes the **first foreign bank** in India to offer an ONDC-enabled proposition
- The 'ONDC in a Box' proposition by HSBC India is presented along with its ecosystem partners - **Protean eGov Technologies Ltd (Protean)** and **Shayr Omnichannel Private Limited (Adya)**.
- As part of this proposition, banking services are offered by HSBC India and the ONDC Modules are offered by Protean and Adya
- The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is an initiative by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, and Ministry of Commerce and Industry to build an open, interoperable network on which buyers and sellers can transact without needing to be present on the same platform.
- ONDC aims at fostering an inclusive, competitive, and open network, amplifying its impact across the business spectrum.

BANKING AND FINANCE



Titbits

HSBC India

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO: Hitendra Dave

Google Cloud has entered into a partnership with which Indian government entity, specifically within the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), to collaborate in the areas of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cybersecurity?

- A) NITI Aayog
- B) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- C) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- D) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- E) CERT-In



Answer
E) CERT-In

Explanation

- **Google Cloud is partnering with CERT-In** within the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in the area of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cybersecurity. This collaboration marks a significant step towards advancing the cybersecurity skills of learners and government officials.
- The partnership between CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team) and Google Cloud will significantly ramp up cybersecurity training and skilling through various initiatives.
- This includes training a 'cyber force' of 1,000 government officials in cyber defence best practices.
- The initiatives also involve using generative AI and conducting cybersecurity AI hackathons led by front-line experts from Google Cloud and Mandiant.
- Google will also provide 100,000 new scholarships for Google Cybersecurity Certificates to learners in the community.

Explanation

- Built and taught by experts at Google, the Cybersecurity Certificate will equip people with in-demand skills needed for jobs in cybersecurity.
- **Google Cloud is also collaborating with ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce)** to drive innovation across the e-commerce industry in India at scale.
- This includes a new India-wide hackathon and an extension of their existing ONDC initiative.
- **ONDC** is the Indian government's marquee initiative to increase the penetration of e-commerce in India – currently limited to about 10 per cent of all commerce in the country – by bringing millions of last-mile stores into e-commerce on the open network.
- **ONDC and Google Cloud** will launch an India-wide hackathon aimed at catalysing innovation and addressing critical challenges for the next billion digital users in the country.

Explanation

- The hackathon intends to develop solutions that democratise access to digital commerce, regardless of digital literacy, geography, or economic status.
- The event also aims to foster an open ecosystem of developers, students, and startups to innovate within the ONDC framework.
- **Google Cloud has also expanded its partnership with Apollo Hospitals** to build a digital platform, Apollo 24|7. It aims to deliver an omnichannel healthcare experience to people in India with telemedicine services, online doctor consultations, home delivery of medication, and improved clinician decision-making.

Titbits

Google Cloud

Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States

CEO: Thomas Kurian

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



Who acquired 5,07,39,653 shares of the bank from IDFC First Bank's MD & CEO V Vaidyanathan in a block trade transaction?

- A) ICICI Bank
- B) State Bank of India
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) Axis Bank
- E) GQG Partners

Answer

E) GQG Partners



ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



Explanation

- **IDFC First Bank** said **Rajiv Jain's GQG Partners** has acquired **5,07,39,653 shares** of the bank from **MD & CEO V Vaidyanathan** in a block trade transaction
- The sale net of STT and other brokerage charges of **Rs 478.70 crore**
- Vaidyanathan would utilise Rs 229 crore as payment to IDFC First Bank to subscribe to new shares, Rs 240.5 crore for payment of income tax for exercising the stock options, and Rs 9.2 crore will be contributed to pre-committed causes.
- After the execution of the deal, Vaidyanathan's stake in the bank would increase to 1.04 per cent from the existing 0.58 per cent as of June 30, 2023.
- Further, including options yet to be converted, his shareholding will be 1.23 per cent of the total share capital of the bank.



ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



Explanation

- Capital First, which was a non-banking finance company and was merged with the then IDFC Bank, had originally granted CMD stock options to Vaidyanathan.
- After the merger of **Capital First** in **December 2018**, these stock options were converted to IDFC FIRST Bank stock options.
- Earlier on **September 1**, bulk deals data showed that GQG Partners has picked up **17.1 crore shares or 2.58% stake** in the lender for about **Rs 1,527 crore**. The transaction was done at Rs 89 apiece.

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



Titbits

IDFC first bank

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO: Mr. V. Vaidyanathan

Tagline: Always You First

GQG Partners

Headquarters: Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA

Chairman and CIO: Rajiv Jain

AWARDS



Who was recognized with the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize?

- A) Dr. Ramesh Sharma
- B) Dr. Rajnish Kumar
- C) Dr. Swati Kapoor
- D) Dr. Anil Deshmukh
- E) Dr. Priya Singh

Answer

B) Dr. Rajnish Kumar



AWARDS



Explanation

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) faculty Rajnish Kumar** has been recognised with the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize**.
- The Prize is bestowed on a person who has made outstanding contributions to human knowledge and progress – fundamental and applied – in a particular field of their specialization.
- The award is being given for his contributions to fundamental understanding of the nucleation and growth of clathrate hydrates, CO₂ sequestration in solid hydrates and methane recovery from marine gas hydrates
- The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology (SSB) is a science award in India given annually by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for notable and outstanding research, applied or fundamental, in biology, chemistry, environmental science, engineering, mathematics, medicine, and physics.

AWARDS



Explanation

- The award, being given since 1985, is named after the Founder Director of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar.
- He is also a recipient of the NASI-SCOPUS Young Scientist Award for the year 2016
- Ahead of its foundation day, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) on Monday announced the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards for 2022** to be distributed to **12 young scientists across the country.**
- **Immunologist Dipyaman Ganguli of CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata, astrophysicist Kanak Saha from the Pune-based Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Kanishka Biswas from International Centre of Materials Science of the Bengaluru-based Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research were among the awardees.**
- The award is given every year to scientists under the age of 45 years and carries a purse of Rs five lakh and a citation.

AWARDS



Explanation

- **Amit Singh**, Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology of the Indian Institute of Science and Arun Kumar Shukla Department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering of Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur were awarded in the category of Biological Sciences.
- **Biswas and T Govindaraju** of the Bio-organic Chemistry Laboratory of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research have been selected for the prestigious prize in the Chemical Sciences category.
- In the **Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences category**, the Prize has been bagged by **Binoy Kumar Saikia** of the Coal and Energy Research Group of CSIR North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat.
- In the field of **Engineering Sciences**, **Debdeep Mukhopadhyay** of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur has bagged the Prize.
- The prize in the **Mathematical Sciences category** has gone to **Anish Ghosh** of Mumbai-based Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and **Saket Saurabh** of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai.

AWARDS



Explanation

- In the field of **Medical Sciences**, **Dr Jeemon Panniyammakal** of the Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology and Rohit Srivastava of the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay will receive the Prize.
- **Saha** has received the Prize in the physical sciences category.

Which branch of the Indian Armed Forces conducted tests on the indigenously developed Military Combat Parachute System?

- A) Indian Army
- B) Indian Navy
- C) Indian Air Force (IAF)
- D) Indian Coast Guard
- E) Special Forces of India

Answer

C) Indian Air Force (IAF)

Explanation

- A test jumper of the **Indian Air Force**, during his jump, carried out an intentional detachment of the main parachute and let the reserve parachute open on its **own through Reserve Static Line (RSL)**, without activation of the Reserve Handle, even before the Barometric Automatic Activation Device
- The Military Combat Parachute System is developed by **ADRDE**, a pioneer R&D lab of DRDO for **the Design and Development of Aerodynamic Decelerators, Aerostat Systems.**

Titbits

The Indian Air Force

Founded: 8 October 1932

Headquarters: New Delhi

Commander-in-Chief: President Droupadi Murmu

Chief of the Air Staff (CAS): Air Chief Marshal Vivek
Ram Chaudhari

Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) : Air Marshal
Ashutosh Dixit

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



What area of cooperation is covered by the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Saudi Arabia?

- A) Defence
- B) Agriculture
- C) Energy
- D) Healthcare
- E) Education

Answer
C) Energy



Explanation

- **India and Saudi Arabia** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of **energy**.
- The MoU between the Government of the **Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** was signed in New Delhi, by Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power, Government of India, Shri R. K. Singh for the Indian side and Minister of Energy for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud for the Saudi side.

Explanation

- According to the MoU, India and Saudi Arabia will cooperate in the following areas:
 - Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, Hydrogen, Electricity and Grid Interconnection between the two countries, Petroleum, Natural Gas, Strategic Petroleum Reserves and Energy Security.
 - Encouraging bilateral investment in the field of Renewable Energy, Electricity, Hydrogen and Storage; and Oil & Gas.
 - Circular Economy and its technologies to reduce the effects of climate change, such as: carbon capture, utilization and storage.
 - Promoting digital transformation, innovation and cyber-security and artificial intelligence in the field of Energy.
 - Working on developing qualitative partnerships between the two countries to localize materials, products and services related to all sectors of energy, supply chains and its technologies.
 - Strengthening the cooperation with companies specialized in the field of energy.
 - Any other fields related to the energy field that the two countries agree upon.

Explanation

- The MoU will develop a stronger partnership between India and Saudi Arabia in the field of energy.
- The MoU will support India's efforts for energy transition and transformation of global energy system towards combating climate change.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Saudi Arabia

Capital: Riyadh

Currency: Saudi riyal

Prime Minister: Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



How much financing has the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) approved for TP Solar's solar manufacturing plant in Tamil Nadu?

- A) \$225 million
- B) \$325 million
- C) \$425 million
- D) \$525 million
- E) \$625 million

Answer
C) \$425 million

Explanation

- The **US International Development Finance Corporation's (DFC) board** has approved up to **\$425 million** in financing in **TP Solar** for its upcoming greenfield 4.3 gigawatts (GW) solar cell and module manufacturing plant at Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu).
- TP Solar is a subsidiary of **Tata Power Renewable Energy (TPREL)** which, in turn, is a **Tata Power** subsidiary.
- DFC is a US-based development finance institution
- The plant's first module production is expected by the year-end and the first cell production is expected in the first quarter of FY24
- In July 2022, Tata Power signed a MoU with the Tamil Nadu government in which it put the proposed investment in the project at ₹3,000 crore.

Explanation

- the project cost has been revised to **₹4,500 crore**, consequent upon the increase in the proposed capacity from 4 GW to 4.3 GW.
- This is the second time that the US International Development Finance Corporation is giving funding for a solar plant in India. In December 2021, First Solar had secured a \$500m funding from the DFC, for its 3.3 GW plant coming up at Sriperumbudur, near Chennai. The plant has just commenced production.
- This financing support will contribute towards securing India's commitment to achieve 500 GW of clean energy targets by 2030.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

United States International Development Finance Corporation(DFC)

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States

Founded: 20 December 2019

CEO: Scott Nathan

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Which organization has joined forces with IIM Indore to revolutionize skill development?

- A) ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)
- B) NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)
- C) NSDC (National Skill Development Corporation)
- D) UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
- E) WHO (World Health Organization)

Answer

C) NSDC (National Skill Development Corporation)



Explanation

- In a stride towards advancing the landscape of skill development and entrepreneurship in India, **Indian Institute of Management Indore** has entered into a partnership with the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**.
- The collaboration signifies a commitment to foster excellence and innovation in these critical domains.
- The MoU, inked online by IIM Indore director Prof Himanshu Rai and NSDC chief executive officer Ved Mani Tiwari is poised to redefine skill development, entrepreneurship and research in India, aligning the visions of both institutions and leveraging their collective prowess to shape the nation's skilling eco-system.
- This synergy will identify industry trends, bridge gaps, and gather invaluable data to guide strategic decision-making. Furthermore, the partnership emphasises nurturing social and rural entrepreneurship, exemplified by establishing a social/rural entrepreneurship incubator.
- This incubator aims to expand access to affordable credit, focusing on skill-based credit scoring for nano-entrepreneurs.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

NSDC

Abbreviation: National Skill Development Corporation

Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi

Founded: 2008

CEO: Ved Mani Tiwari

Who inaugurated the 'Bangus Adventure Festival' in Jammu and Kashmir to boost tourism?

- A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B) Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir
- C) Indian Tourism Minister
- D) Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir
- E) President of India

Answer

D) Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir



Explanation

- **Lieutenant Governor of J&K Shri Manoj Sinha** inaugurated the '**Bangus Adventure Festival**', in the **Kupwara district of North Kashmir**
- The festival aims to highlight rural and adventure tourism potential of Bangus valley
- The festival will promote tribal culture of this premier offbeat destination, provide a platform for local artisans to showcase traditional arts & crafts

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Jammu and Kashmir

Capital : Srinagar(summer),Jammu(winter)

Governor : Manoj Sinha

In which region of India is the world's highest fighter airfield, known as Nyoma, set to be constructed?

- A) Ladakh
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Sikkim
- D) Arunachal Pradesh
- E) Uttarakhand

Answer
A) Ladakh

Explanation

- The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** will construct the **world's highest fighter airfield in the Nyoma region of Ladakh**
- the foundation stone of the project will be laid by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh from Devak Bridge
- The Nyoma village is located close to the south **Bank of Pangong Tso at an altitude of about 13,700 feet.**
- Nyoma is around 46 kilometres from the Line of Actual Control with China
- Of the dedicated amount of **₹ 2,900 crores**, Nyoma Airfield will be developed at a cost of approximately **₹ 200 crore**
- The airfield is part of the 90 infrastructure projects of BRO that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh dedicated to the nation.
- Spread across 11 states and union Territories, these 90 projects are worth over ₹ 2,900 crore of these 90 projects, 26 are in Ladakh, including Nyoma Airfield.

Titbits

BRO

Expansion: The Border Roads Organisation
Director General: Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary

Founded: 7 May 1960

Headquarters: New Delhi

Ladakh

Capital : Leh, Kargil

Lt Governor : BD Mishra

Which two companies have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore opportunities in the Green Hydrogen and Green Energy space?

- A) Reliance Industries and Tata Motors
- B) NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation)
- C) Nayara Energy and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)
- D) Adani Green Energy and GAIL (Gas Authority of India Limited)
- E) NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and Nayara Energy

Answer

E) NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and Nayara Energy

Explanation

- **NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of India's leading integrated power producer **NTPC Limited**, and **Nayara Energy**, a new-age international downstream energy company of international scale, have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore opportunities in the Green Hydrogen and Green Energy space.
- The MoU envisages collaboration to produce Green Hydrogen for Nayara Energy's captive usage, accelerate decarbonisation and catalyse reduction in carbon footprint.
- The collaboration is in line with NTPC's initiatives to develop hydrogen projects in India and aligns with the vision of a self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat) as laid out by the Prime Minister.
- The MoU signing ceremony was attended by CEO, NGEL, Shri Mohit Bhargava and Head-Technical, Nayara Energy, Shri Amar Kumar, along with other senior officials of NTPC, NGEL and Nayara Energy.
- **NTPC** is India's largest Power Utility having a total installed capacity of more than **73 GW**.

Explanation

- As part of increasing its renewable energy portfolio, a wholly-owned subsidiary NGEL has been formed to take up Renewable Energy Parks and Projects including businesses in the area of Green Hydrogen, Energy Storage Technologies, and Round-the-Clock RE Power.
- **NTPC Group has a plan of 60 GW** of RE capacity by the year **2032** and is currently working on a pipeline of 20+ GW, out of which over 3 GW is operational capacity.
- Nayara Energy is an integrated downstream company of international scale with strong presence across the hydrocarbon value chain from refining to retail.
- **Nayara Energy** owns India's second largest single-site refinery at Vadinar, Gujarat with a capacity of **20 MMTPA**.
- It is one of the world's most modern and complex refineries with a complexity of 11.8, which is amongst the highest globally. The company has over 6,000 operational retail outlets spread across India.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL)

Headquarters : New Delhi, Delhi

CEO: Shri Mohit Bhargava

Nayara Energy

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO: Dr. Alois Virag

Which community in Arunachal Pradesh celebrated the Pham-Kho Sowai Festival centrally at Singchung in the West Kameng district?

- A) Nyishi community
- B) Apatani community
- C) Bugun (Khowa) community
- D) Monpa community
- E) Adi community

Answer

C) Bugun (Khowa) community



Explanation

- The **Bugun (Khowa) community of West Kameng district in Arunachal Pradesh** celebrated the **Pham-Kho Sowai Festival** centrally at **Singchung in the district with great enthusiasm and grandeur**.
- The annual harvesting festival is celebrated as a tribute to Pham (mountains) and Kho (water), which are considered vital components for human survival.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Arunachal Pradesh

Capital : Itanagar

CM : Pema Khandu

Governor : Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik

Which festival was organized by the Indian Army in collaboration with civil agencies at the Ice Skating Rink near Gondola Base in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir, with the aim of boosting tourism and promoting local talent?

- A) Jashn-e-Kashmir
- B) Gulmarg Carnival
- C) Jammu and Kashmir Winter Wonderland
- D) Gulmarg Festival
- E) Kashmiri Cultural Fiesta

Answer
D) Gulmarg Festival



Explanation

- In order to boost tourism and promote local talent, the **Indian Army** in collaboration with civil agencies organized the **Gulmarg Festival** at the **Ice Skating Rink near Gondola Base in Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The festival was a mega event and consisted of a multitude of activities.
- The cultural events by local artists made people aware of the tourism potential of Kashmir and Gulmarg in particular.
- Gulmarg is one of the most renowned tourist destinations, attracting a large number of tourists from all over the countryside.
- The festival will promote tribal culture and provide a platform for local artisans to showcase traditional arts and crafts.
- Local residents lauded this step taken by the Tourism Department as these types of events will boost tourism in North Kashmir.

Titbits

The Indian Army

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 1 April 1895

Commander-in-Chief: India President Droupadi Murmu

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS): General Anil Chauhan

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS): General Manoj Pande

Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS): Lieutenant

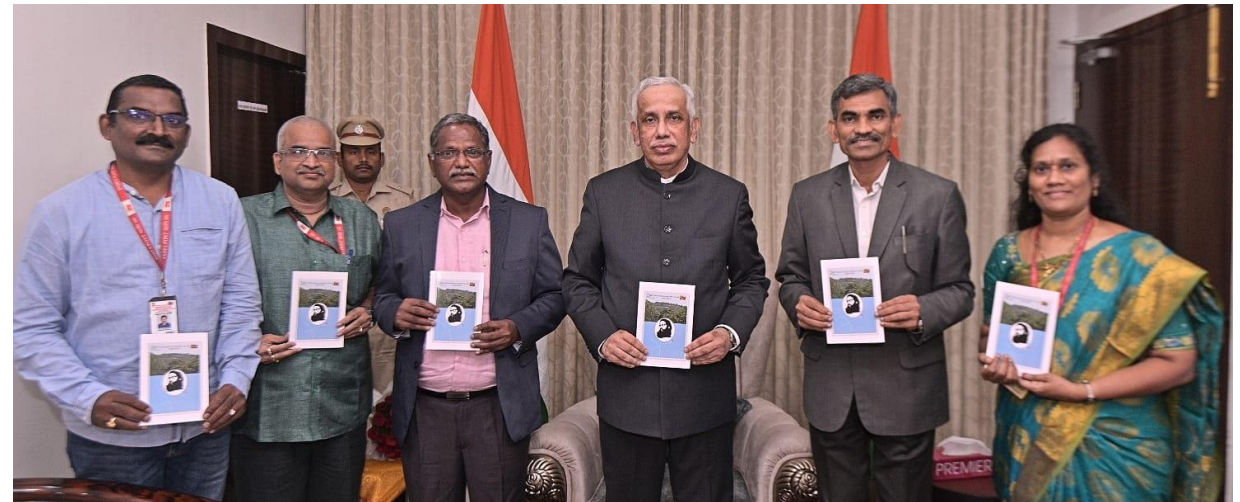
General M. V. Suchindra Kumar

Who released the special postal covers dedicated to the freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju in Andhra Pradesh?

- A) Prime Minister of India
- B) President of India
- C) Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh
- D) Governor of Andhra Pradesh
- E) Minister of Culture and Tourism

Answer

D) Governor of Andhra Pradesh



Explanation

- **Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer** has released six special covers on "**Manyam Viplava Saradhi Alluri Sitarama Raju**" in honour of unsung heroes through the medium of philately.
- The postal covers have been released to commemorate the **Centenary of Chilli Post**, brought out by the Department of Posts, as part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**.
- The Department of Posts has brought out a compilation on the heroic deeds of Alluri and sacrifices of his lieutenants in the form of monograph covering release of all six special covers and narratives from the family members of Alluri and research scholars through the medium of philately.
- Col. V Ramulu, Chief Postmaster General, Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle, M. Venkateswarlu, Retd. PMG, Visakhapatnam, who was instrumental in bringing out the Monograph and other officers were present on the occasion.

Explanation

- **'Manyam Veerudu' Alluri Sitarama Raju** fought against the British forces against atrocities meted out to tribal people. He attacked the police stations at Chintapalli, Krishnadevipeta, Rampachodavaram, Addatigala, Annavaram and Rajavommangi and took away arms and ammunition.
- His unique way of dispatching advance messages to the officials about his intended attack on police stations, through an arrow by tying up message along with bunch of chillies, was popularly called CHILLI POST.
- Rampa Rebellion led by Alluri with the help of tribal people against the British, started in the year 1922 and ended in 1927 with the martyrdom of Alluri. His heroic deeds and patriotism are still remembered by the people of Andhra Pradesh

Titbits

Andhra Pradesh

Capital : Visakhapatnam (executive), Amaravati
(legislative), Kurnool (judicial)
CM: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy
Governor : Sri S. Abdul Nazeer

What action has the Union Environment Ministry taken regarding the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) that previously assisted the Supreme Court in matters related to forest and environment issues?

- A) Dissolved the CEC
- B) Appointed a new chairman for the existing CEC
- C) Established a new CEC to replace the ad hoc expert panel
- D) Reduced the funding for the CEC
- E) Merged the CEC with another government committee

Answer

C) Established a new CEC to replace the ad hoc expert panel

Explanation

- The **Union Environment Ministry** has set up a new **Central Empowered Committee (CEC)**, replacing an ad hoc expert panel with the same name which assisted the Supreme Court in matters of forest and environment issues.
- The CEC, initially established by the **apex court in 2002**, served as a watchdog for issues pertaining to environmental conservation and compliance.
- Over the years, the committee has played a pivotal role in shaping India's environmental policy and governance landscape.
- While its restructuring aims to make it more efficient, questions remain about its independence under the government's complete control.

Explanation

- This development comes shortly after the passage of the **Forest Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, which critics argue weakens existing safeguards in Indian forest law, potentially facilitating construction projects in ecologically sensitive regions.
- The Union government will nominate and appoint members to the new CEC, according to a September 5 notification.
- Under the revamped structure, the CEC will comprise a chairperson, a member secretary and three expert members, all selected by the Union government.
- The **chairperson**, with a minimum of **25 years of experience in environmental, forestry, or wildlife fields or substantial administrative expertise in government, will serve a maximum term of three years.**
- The member secretary must hold a rank not lower than deputy inspector general or director in the government and possess at least 12 years of experience in environmental, forestry, or wildlife matters.
- The three expert members, one each from the environment, forest, and wildlife sectors, should have a minimum of 20 years of expertise.

QUICK RECALL



- In India, National Forest Martyrs Day is commemorated every year on September 11th
- SAFF U-16 Championships: India beats Bangladesh in final
- Novak Djokovic won his fourth title at the US Open and 24th Grand Slam title by beating Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 7-6(5), 6-3 in the final US Open 2023 Men's singles champion
- Dennis Austin, who co-created the PowerPoint software almost 36 years ago which is still being used by millions, has passed away
- Best Countries Ranking 2023: Switzerland Stays At Top Position, India Climbs One Spot To 30th
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) assured India to provide concessional loans under the Green Financing facility to help in achieving its vision.
- Cleartrip, a Flipkart company, announced a partnership with Axis Bank to introduce travel benefits to all the existing and new Axis Bank credit cardholders while booking through the online travel aggregator's platform.
- Union Bank of India has introduced two new Debit Card variants - a Metal Card for Ultra HNI and one with benefits targeted at women. Both the cards are issued on the Rupay network.
- HSBC India announced the launch of 'ONDC in a Box', a one-stop-shop proposition for corporates towards seamless enablement on ONDC.

QUICK RECALL



- **Google Cloud is partnering with CERT-In within the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in the area of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cybersecurity.**
- **IDFC First Bank said Rajiv Jain's GQG Partners has acquired 5,07,39,653 shares of the bank from MD & CEO V Vaidyanathan in a block trade transaction**
- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) faculty Rajnish Kumar has been recognised with the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize.**
- **A test jumper of the Indian Air Force, during his jump, carried out an intentional detachment of the main parachute and let the reserve parachute open on its own through Reserve Static Line (RSL), without activation of the Reserve Handle, even before the Barometric Automatic Activation Device**
- **India and Saudi Arabia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of energy.**
- **The US International Development Finance Corporation's (DFC) board has approved up to \$425 million in financing in TP Solar for its upcoming greenfield 4.3 gigawatts (GW) solar cell and module manufacturing plant at Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu).**
- **In a stride towards advancing the landscape of skill development and entrepreneurship in India, Indian Institute of Management Indore has entered into a partnership with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).**

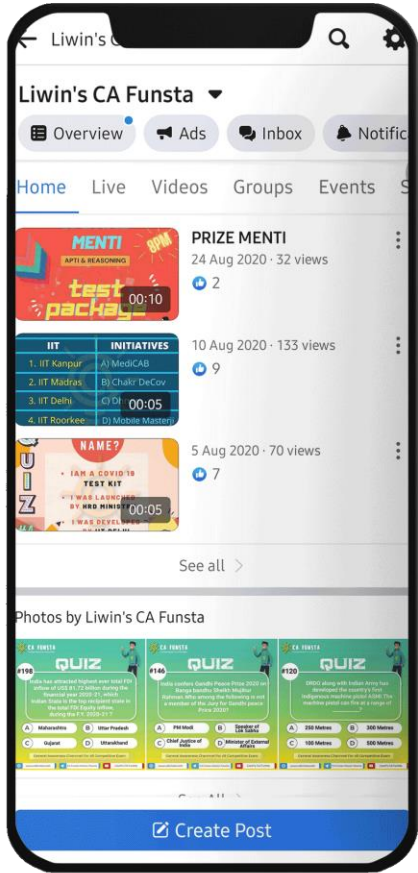


QUICK RECALL

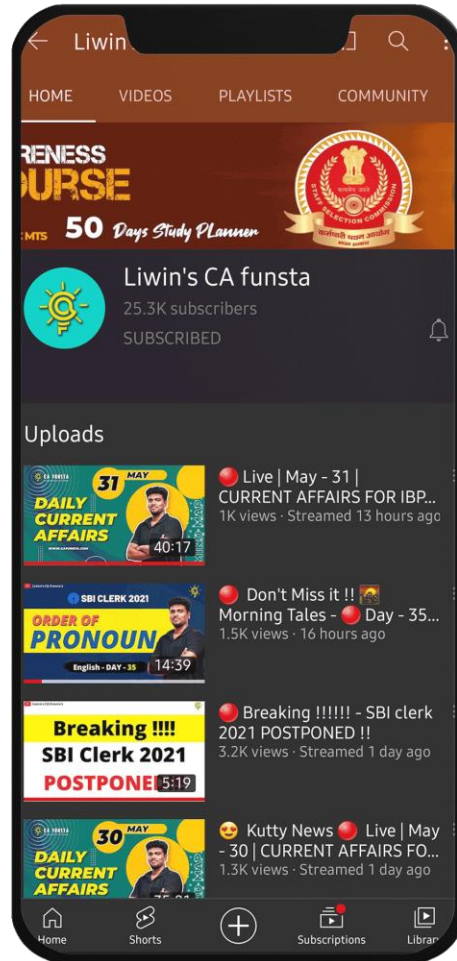


- **Lieutenant Governor of J&K Shri Manoj Sinha inaugurated the 'Bangus Adventure Festival', in the Kupwara district of North Kashmir**
- **The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will construct the world's highest fighter airfield in the Nyoma region of Ladakh**
- **NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of India's leading integrated power producer NTPC Limited, and Nayara Energy, a new-age international downstream energy company of international scale, have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore opportunities in the Green Hydrogen and Green Energy space.**
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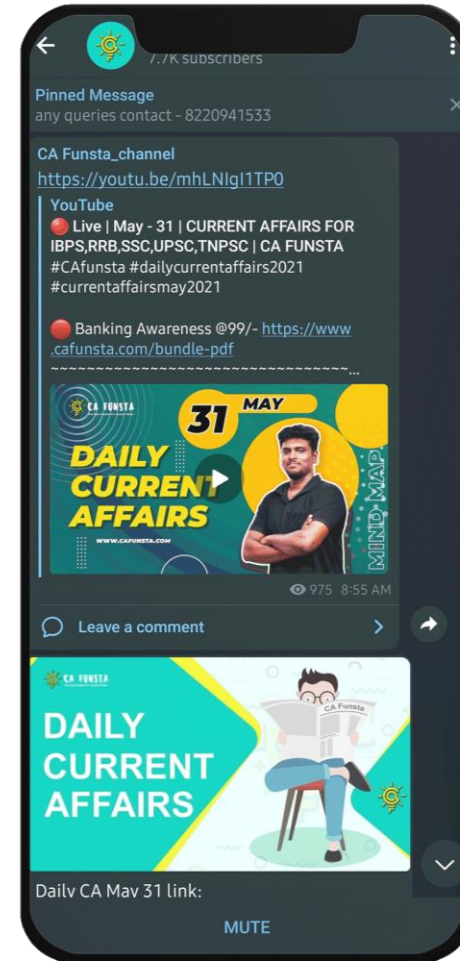
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