



# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

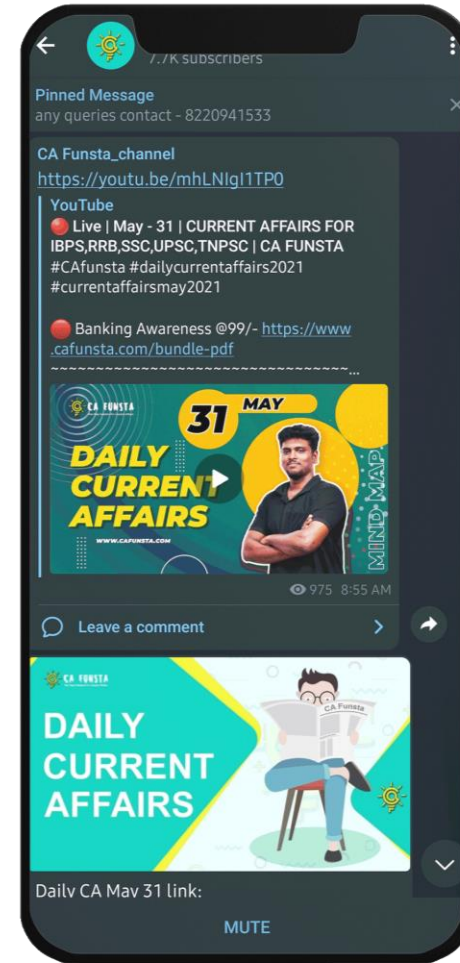
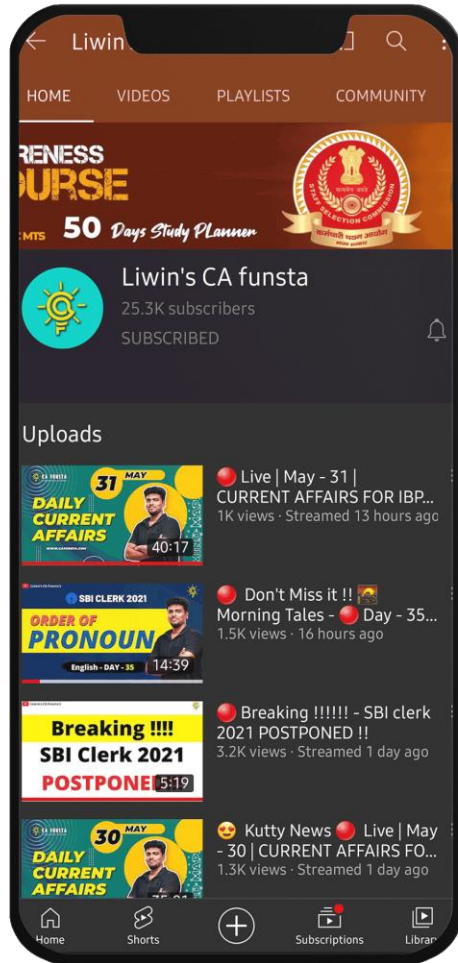
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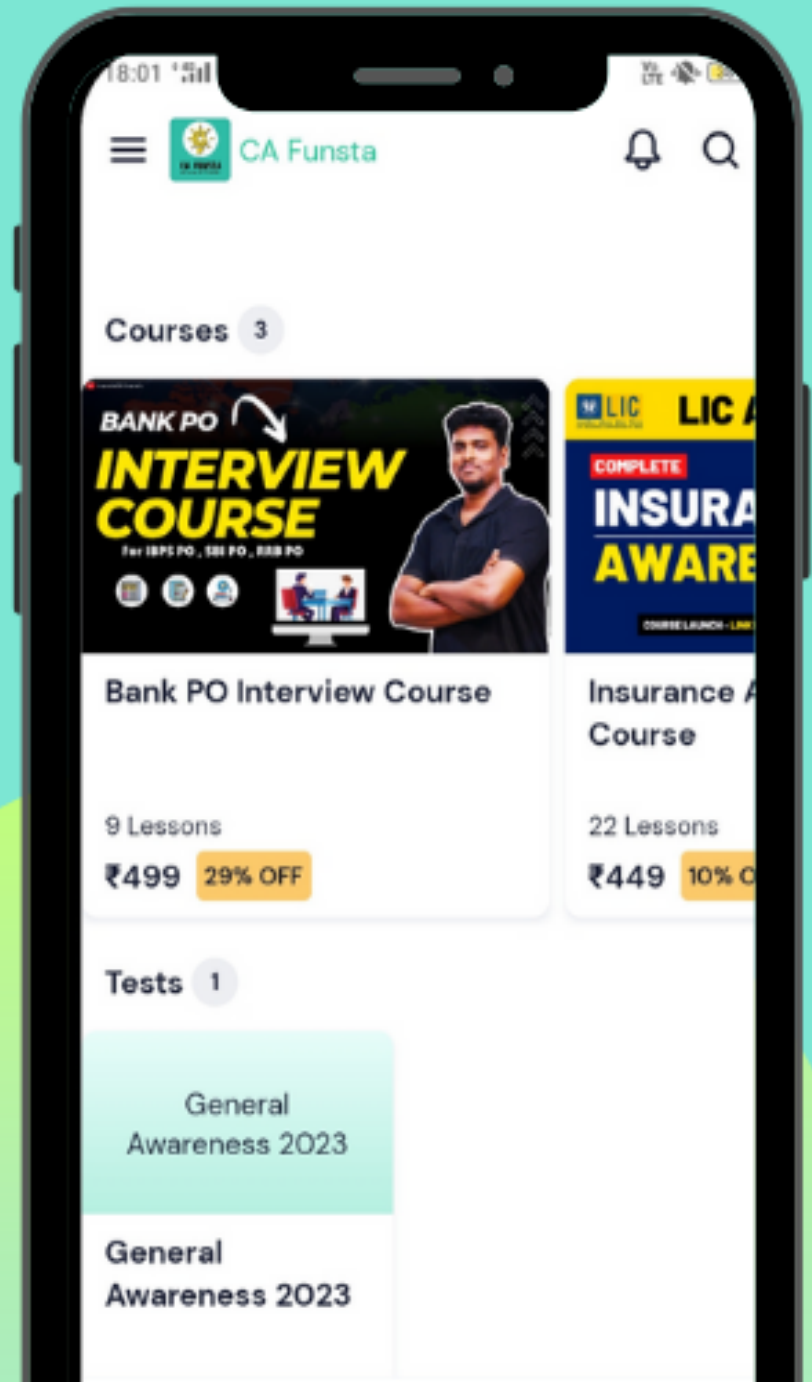
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# Important Days



**On which date is the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction observed?**

- A) 12th May
- B) 22nd July
- C) 29th September
- D) 5th October
- E) 18th November

**Answer**

**C) 29th September**

# Important Days



## Explanation

- The **International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction** is observed on the **29th of every September**.
- The theme for this year's International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste is **“Reducing Food Loss and Waste: Taking Action to Transform Food Systems”**.

# Important Days



## World Heart Day

- **World Heart Day** is celebrated every year on **29 September**.
- The day is dedicated to creating awareness about different types of life-threatening heart diseases, and promoting heart health.
- The theme for World Heart Day 2023 is '**Use Heart, Know Heart**'.
- In the year 2000, **World Heart Day was established in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- The reason was to create a day that would raise awareness and mobilize international action against cardiovascular disease. In 2011, World Heart Day became an annual event.
- World Heart Day launched #UseHeart in the year 2020 to encourage everyone to think about the many ways they can use the biggest and most important muscle in their body.



# OBITUARY



**Who recently passed away, co-founder of Asian Paints?**

- A) N. R. Narayana Murthy
- B) Ratan Tata
- C) Azim Premji
- D) Adi Godrej
- E) Ashwin Dani

**Answer**  
**E) Ashwin Dani**



# OBITUARY



## Explanation

- **Ashwin Suryakant Dani**, the **co-founder of Asian Paints Ltd** died at 79.
- Dani was an Indian billionaire businessman, who served as the the non-executive chairman of India's largest paint company (Asian company) with operations in 16 countries
- He joined the Company's Board in **1970**. He held the position of **Vice Chairman and Managing Director** of the Company from **1998 to 2009**.
- Since **2009** he continued on the Board as the Non-Executive Director & Vice Chairman of the Board and the Company
- Between 2018 to 2021, Dani held the position of Chairman of the Board and the Company. His father Suryakant was one of the co-founders of Asian Paints.
- As per the latest Forbes report, Ashwin Dani and his family had a net worth of 7.7 billion USD (around Rs 64,000 crore), ranked 293 globally.

# OBITUARY



## Explanation

- Asian Paints was the first paint company in India, and even in Asia, to **implement this concept way back in 1975.**
- He was also instrumental in setting up the 50:50 Joint Venture between Asian Paints Limited and PPG Industries Inc., USA for industrial coatings. He was the founder Director on the Board of the first joint venture company with PPG Industries Inc, PPG Asian Paints Private Limited, which is currently in its 26th year of operations.
- Dani has been also associated with various government and trade bodies like the President's Advisory Council of The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio, USA, The Central Board of Trustees – Employees Provident Fund of the Government of India, Vice President of FICCI, Board of Governors of the U.D.C.T. (Currently Institute of Chemical Technology) Alumni Association, Board of Management of Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai.
- He was also the recipient of several awards as the **Lifetime Achievement Award by CNBC-TV18, the Businessman of the Year award in 2015 by Business India magazine, the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Indian Paint Association and the Cheminor Award from the Indian Institute of Materials Management for Excellence in Supply Chain in 2002.**



# RANKING



Which company has retained the top spot in the Kantar BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands Report with a brand value of \$43 billion?

- A) Infosys
- B) Reliance Industries
- C) Tata Motors
- D) Wipro
- E) Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)

**Answer**

**E) Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**

## TOP 10 MOST VALUABLE INDIAN BRANDS

Rank 2023	Brand	Category	Brand value (\$ billion)
1	Tata Consultancy Services	Business tech & services	42.96
2	HDFC Bank	Financial services	33.61
3	Infosys	Business tech & services	24.17
4	Airtel	Telecom provider	22.51
5	State Bank of India	Financial services	14.48
6	ICICI Bank	Financial services	12.97
7	Asian Paints	Paint	12.83
8	Reliance Jio	Telecom provider	11.77
9	Kotak Mahindra Bank	Financial services	10.33
10	HCLTech	Business tech & services	9.36

Source: Kantar BrandZ top 75 most valuable Indian brands report

# RANKING



## Explanation

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has retained the top spot as **India's most valuable brand**, with a value of \$43 billion, according to **Kantar's BrandZ India ranking**.
- **HDFC Bank, Infosys, and Airtel** also held on to their positions among the **top four**, while **State Bank of India** came in at the **fifth spot**.
- ICICI Bank, Asian Paints, Jio, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and HCL Tech were the other brands ranked among the Top 10 in the report.
- The combined value of India's Top 75 brands was estimated at \$379 billion, down 4 per cent, compared to 2022.
- The 2023 ranking is based on opinions of more than 127,634 respondents on 1,500 brands across 106 categories.

# RANKING



## Titbits

### **Tata Consultancy Services**

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO: K Krithivasan

**What is the new interest rate for the five-year recurring deposit scheme for the December quarter, as announced by the Centre?**

- A) 6.2%
- B) 6.5%
- C) 6.7%
- D) 6.8%
- E) 7.0%

**Answer**  
**C) 6.7%**

## Explanation

- The **Government of India** has decided to maintain the interest rates on various small savings schemes for the third quarter of the financial year 2023-24, starting from October 1, unchanged.
- The interest rate for **5 years recurring rate** has been increased by **20 bps** from **6.5% to 6.7%**.



# BANKING AND FINANCE



## Explanation

Instrument	Rates of interest from July 1 to Sep 30	Rates of interest from October 1 to December 31
Savings Deposit	4.0	4.0
1 year time deposit	6.9	6.9
2 year time deposit	7.0	7.0
3 year time deposit	7.0	7.0
5 year time deposit	7.5	7.5
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	8.2	8.2
Monthly Income Account Scheme	7.4	7.4
National Savings Certificate	7.7	7.7
Public Provident Fund Scheme	7.1	7.1
Kisan Vikas Patra	7.5 (will mature in 115 months)	7.5 (will mature in 115 months)
Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme	8.0	8.0
5 year recurring deposit	6.5	6.7

# BANKING AND FINANCE



**How much funding capacity will be unlocked by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for addressing crises in the next decade due to the approved capital management reforms?**

- A) \$50 billion
- B) \$75 billion
- C) \$100 billion
- D) \$125 billion
- E) \$150 billion

**Answer**  
**C) \$100 billion**

## Explanation

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved **capital management reforms that would unlock \$100 billion** in its new funding capacity over the next decade to address the region's overlapping, simultaneous crises.
- The reforms, carried out through an update of ADB's Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF), would expand the bank's annual new commitments capacity to more **than \$36 billion—an increase of approximately \$10 billion, or about 40 per cent.**
- The expansion of available funds will be further leveraged through mobilising private and domestic capital to move from the billions to the trillions required to tackle the climate crisis
- The G20 independent expert group on strengthening multilateral development banks had said that by 2030, additional spending of \$3 trillion will be required to meet the sustainable development goals and global public goods.
- The report has also stated that there is an inescapable need for a significant increase in new equity of \$100 billion across all MDB institutions.

## Titbits

### **Asian Development Bank**

Member Countries: 68

Founded Year : 1966

Headquarters: Manila, Philippines

Head : Masatsugu Asakawa

**Which two organizations signed a bancassurance pact to provide accessible comprehensive insurance solutions for residents of Sikkim?**

- A) State Bank of India (SBI) and Sikkim Bank
- B) Sikkim Bank and LIC (Life Insurance Corporation of India)
- C) State Bank of Sikkim and SBI Life Insurance
- D) SBI Life Insurance and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)
- E) Sikkim Bank and HDFC Life Insurance

**Answer**

**C) State Bank of Sikkim and SBI Life Insurance**



## Explanation

- **SBI Life Insurance**, one of the most trusted private life insurers in India, signed a bancassurance pact with the **State Bank of Sikkim (SBS)** at the **bank's headquarters in Gangtok, Sikkim**.
- The landmark agreement highlights SBI Life's commitment to make insurance solutions accessible to the residents of Sikkim, through its trusted bancassurance partner.
- The agreement was signed by Shri P.Wangdi Bhutia, Managing Director, State Bank of Sikkim and Shri Jayant Pandey, Regional Director- Bengal region, SBI Life Insurance in presence of Shri S.R. Karki, Chief General Manager, Ms. Deepika Chettri, GM (HR), Shri Kunchok Bhutia, GM (Credit) - SBS, Shri Dorjee Teshering Lepcha, GM(Operation)-SBS, Shri Anil Pradhan, GM(IT) -SBS, Shri Sameer Sharma, Sr. Manager (TPP)-SBS, and Shri Ritesh Kumar Jha, Regional Manager,- Bengal, SBI Life; Shri Vikas Patra, Vice President, Institutional Alliance - SBI Life and other dignitaries.
- Ensuring greater reach and penetration, the partnership will see extensive distribution network of the State Bank of Sikkim spread across the state offer SBI Life's diverse range of protection, wealth creation and savings insurance products to its customers.
- This partnership will not only ensure easy accessibility of insurance products but will also empower the customers to address their complete financial needs under one roof.

## Titbits

### **SBI Life Insurance**

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO: Mahesh Kumar Sharma

Next CEO: Amit Jhingran

### **State Bank of Sikkim**

Headquarters: Gangtok Sikkim

Chairman: Smt Mingma Lhamu Bhutia

Tagline: Your State, Your Bank

**Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has entered into a strategic partnership with which bank?**

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) Axis Bank
- D) South Indian Bank
- E) Kotak Mahindra Bank



Allianz



**Answer**

**D) South Indian Bank**



## Explanation

- **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance** has entered into a **strategic partnership with South Indian Bank**.
- As per the deal, South Indian Bank's customers can now fulfil their long-term life goals by investing in Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance's value-packed products across the bank's 942 branches in the country.
- In addition to the comprehensive suite of products, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance will also offer South Indian Bank's customers an extensive range of services to ensure they have a seamless experience.

## Titbits

### **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance**

Hq: Pune, Maharashtra

MD & CEO : Tarun Chugh

### **South Indian Bank**

Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala

MD & CEO : Murali Ramakrishnan

Next MD & CEO: P. R. Seshadri

Tagline: Experience Next Generation Banking

**Which organization did Kotak Mutual Fund partner with to launch the 'Seekho Paiso ki Bhasha' investor education initiative?**

- A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- C) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)
- D) National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)
- E) State Bank of India (SBI)

**Answer**

**C) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**



## Explanation

- **Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Ltd**, in collaboration with the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**, has launched the '**Seekho Paiso ki Bhasha**' **investor education and awareness initiative**.
- This initiative is dedicated to promoting financial literacy by conducting a series of educational and awareness programmes aimed at empowering teachers across India.
- The primary goal of this initiative is to educate and raise awareness among approximately 75,000 educators, with the intention of empowering them and enhancing their financial acumen.
- Ultimately, this effort is designed to contribute to India's journey towards a more prosperous future
- Between September and October 2023, the initiative aims to encompass approximately 1,000 financial literacy programmes.

## Explanation

- 'Seekho Paiso ki Bhasha' is designed to mold a generation of financially savvy citizens.
- These programmes will be hosted in more than 100 locations, ensuring widespread access for teachers nationwide
- Kotak Mutual Fund's objective is to engage with over 75,000 CBSE teachers through this initiative, with a particular focus on empowering female educators, constituting 50% of the total participants

## Titbits

### **Kotak Mutual fund**

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD: Nilesh Shah

### **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**

Established : 1962

Chairperson : Nidhi Chibber

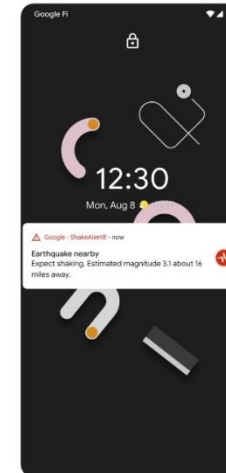
Headquarters : New Delhi

What did Google recently launch for Android users in India to provide alerts related to earthquakes?

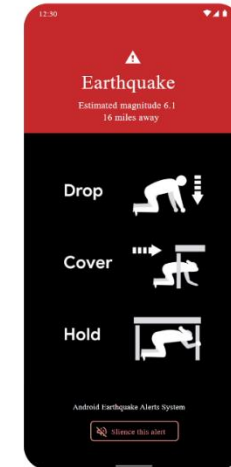
- A) Flood warning system
- B) Cyclone tracking app
- C) Earthquake alert system
- D) Landslide prevention program
- E) Tsunami early warning system

**Answer**

**C) Earthquake alert system**



Be Aware Alert  
[Weak / Light Shaking]



Take Action Alert  
[Moderate / Extreme Shaking]

## Explanation

- **Google** is rolling out its earthquake alert system for Android in India for Android phones.
- Google has built in the earthquake alert into **Android**, which will now be available to users in India, notifying them before an earthquake strikes.
- In collaboration with the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** and the **National Seismology Center (NSC)**, **Google** has introduced the **Android Earthquake Alerts System in India**.
- There are two types of alerts: **Be Aware and Take Action**.
- Be Aware alerts provide information for light shaking. Take Action alerts to get your attention for moderate to heavy shaking. Only sent for MMI 5+ shaking with magnitude 4.5+.
- While the Be Aware alerts respect device settings, Take Action alerts break through Do Not Disturb to send the alert
- To receive alerts, users need to make sure that their smartphone is connected to the internet and that both Android Earthquake Alerts and location settings are enabled. Turn on Location Services and go to Safety & Emergency in Settings. Select Earthquake Alerts and turn on the toggle.
- The **Android earthquake** alert feature will be available on all smartphones **running Android 5.0 Lollipop**



# BUSINESS AND ECONOMY



## Titbits

### Google

CEO: Sundar Pichai

Founded: 4 September 1998

Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States

# ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



What percentage of stake has the RBI (Reserve Bank of India) granted approval to the IFC (International Finance Corporation) to acquire in Federal Bank?

- A) 5.3%
- B) 7.9%
- C) 9.7%
- D) 12.1%
- E) 15.6%

**Answer**  
**C) 9.7%**



# ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



## Explanation

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval to the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to acquire a 9.7 per cent stake in Federal Bank.**
- Earlier this year, the Kerala-based private sector lender had raised ₹959 crore via preferential issue of shares to the World Bank Group member.
- The approval granted by RBI is subject to the compliance with the relevant provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, RBI's Master Direction and Guidelines on Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights in Banking Companies dated January 16, 2023 (as amended from time to time), provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, regulations issued by Securities and Exchange Board of India, and any other guidelines, regulations and statutes as applicable, it said in the regulatory filings

# ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS



## Titbits

### **International Finance Corporation(IFC)**

Founded: 20 July 1956

Headquarters: Washington, D.C., U.S.

MD: Makhtar Diop

### **Federal Bank**

Headquarters : Aluva, Kerala

CEO : Shri Shyam Srinivasan

Tagline : Your Perfect Banking Partner

# APPOINTMENTS



**Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)?**

- A) Mukesh Ambani
- B) Ratan Tata
- C) Saugata Gupta
- D) N. R. Narayana Murthy
- E) Adi Godrej

**Answer**  
**C) Saugata Gupta**



# APPOINTMENTS



## Explanation

- **Saugata Gupta, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Marico Ltd**, has been appointed new **Chairman of the Advertising Standards Council of India ( ASCI)**, at the board meeting of the self-regulatory body.
- Gupta's association with ASCI spans several years, including two years on the Board of Governors and four years as a special invitee on the Board of Governors.

# APPOINTMENTS



## Titbits

### **Advertising Standards Council of India(ASCI)**

Founded: 1985

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman: Saugata Gupta

**Who inaugurated the two-day National Conference on 'Millets for Military Ration and Specific Nutritional Requirements' in Mysuru, Karnataka?**

- A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B) Defense Minister Rajnath Singh
- C) Home Minister Amit Shah
- D) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- E) Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt

**Answer**

**E) Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt**





## Explanation

- A two-day **National Conference on 'Millets for Military Ration and Specific Nutritional Requirements'** was inaugurated by **Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt** in **Mysuru, Karnataka**
- The conference has been organised by **Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL), the Mysuru-based laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**
- The conference will deliberate on the scientific facts for the adoption of millets-based food for the Services, exploring millets for sustainable agro-processing practices at terrains of troop deployment; identifying and resolving the challenges in millet processing; preservation and storage for sustained nutritional & food security.
- Padma Shri Prof Khadar Valli Dudekula, known as the Millet Man of India, was present during the inaugural ceremony.
- On the occasion, the Raksha Rajya Mantri also inaugurated the **exhibition organised by DFRL, wherein 17 industries are participating.**

## Explanation

- He also launched the first biodegradable water bottle in the country developed by DFRL.
- Various Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology were handed over to the industry by the DRDO Chairman in the presence of Shri Ajay Bhatt.
- The conference is being attended by the personnel of the Armed Forces, Paramilitary, DRDO scientists, academia and industry partners.

**Which government official inaugurated the country's first Cartography Museum in Mussoorie?**

- A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- C) Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj
- D) Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel
- E) Home Minister Amit Shah

**Answer**

**C) Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj**



## Explanation

- **Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj** inaugurated the **Sir George Everest Museum and inaugurated the helipad at George Everest, Mussoorie**
- The Tourism Minister inaugurated the country's first cartography museum built at a cost of Rs 23 crore 52 lakh at Sir George Everest House and dedicated it to the great mathematician Radhanath Sikdar and Pandit Nain Singh Rawat.

# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



**How many Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) did the government sign with IBM to provide curated courses for youth in future-ready skills?**

- A) 2
- B) 4
- C) 6
- D) 8
- E) 10

**Answer**  
**D) 8**



## Explanation

- **Agencies of the ministries of education and skill development and entrepreneurship** have signed **eight agreements** with **IBM** under which curated courses will be provided to empower youth in India with future-ready skills.
- Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan presided over the signing of the MoUs
- The collaboration will focus on the co-creation of curriculum for skilling learners across school education, higher education, and vocational skills on emerging technologies like AI (including generative AI), cyber-security, cloud computing and professional development skills
- The collaboration between **IBM and Ministry of Education and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** spans across three core levels of education.

## Explanation

- IBM will provide access to digital content from IBM SkillsBuild for high school students, teachers, and trainers on cutting-edge skills in schools identified by the **Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)**.
- This program will be offered online, via webinars and in-person workshops conducted by IBM's CSR implementation partners.
- In addition, **IBM will refresh CBSE's AI curriculum for Grades 11 and 12, develop a cyber skilling and blockchain curriculum for high school students to be hosted on IBM SkillsBuild.**
- IBM will continue its partnership with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and work closely with the Directorate General of Training and state vocational education and skilling departments to onboard job seekers, including long-term unemployed, and school dropouts to IBM SkillsBuild and enable them to gain the technical and professional skills required to re-enter the workforce.

# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Titbits

### **The International Business Machines Corporation(IBM)**

CEO: Arvind Krishna

Headquarters: Armonk, New York, United States

Founded: 16 June 1911



**What is the purpose of the Unified Registration Portal introduced by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation?**

- A) To register farmers for agricultural subsidies
- B) To streamline the registration of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) and biogas plants nationwide
- C) To facilitate voter registration
- D) To register companies for tax purposes
- E) To streamline the registration of renewable energy projects

**Answer**

**B) To streamline the registration of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) and biogas plants nationwide**

## Explanation

- The **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti** has introduced a **Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan (gobardhan.co.in)** to **streamline the registration of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) and biogas plants nationwide.**
- The DDWS, being the Nodal Department for GOBARdhan, announced that over **1163 biogas plants and 426 CBG plants** have successfully registered on the portal to date.
- These registered CBG/Biogas plants are eligible for assistance under the Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme of the Deptt. of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
- Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers has rolled out the MDA scheme, with focused guidelines to promote production and uptake of organic fertilizers from Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) plants.

## Explanation

- The MDA scheme has been launched with a robust budget of Rs. 1451.82 Crore spanning three years (FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26) to promote production and take-up of organic fertilizers generated from GOBARdhan plants inter alia, promoting sustainable/organic agricultural practices throughout the country.
- Its objective is to drive the widespread adoption of organic manure, ushering in savings for rural households by cutting down reliance on chemical fertilizers/urea. Bio-slurry, has potential to rev up acreage under organic farming and consequent monetary benefits to farmers.
- The MDA component is also a leveler, ensuring that organic fertilizer producers and farmers play on a fair field. It champions Integrated Nutrient Management, curbing chemical fertilizer overuse.
- GOBARdhan, a trailblazing multi-ministerial initiative, is on a mission to transform biodegradable and organic waste, including cattle dung, agricultural residues, and biomass, into high-value resources like biogas, CBG and organic manure.

**Where is the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus Expert Working Group (EWG) on Counter Terrorism Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2023 scheduled to be conducted?**

- A) India
- B) China
- C) Russia
- D) Singapore
- E) Thailand

**Answer**  
**C) Russia**



## Explanation

- **Indian Army Contingent consisting of 32 personnel from a Battalion affiliated to the RAJPUTANA RIFLES departed for ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus Expert Working Group (EWG) on Counter Terrorism Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2023 scheduled to be conducted from 25th to 30th September 2023 in Russia.**
- It is a multinational joint military exercise being hosted by Russia as a co-chair of the EWG along with Myanmar.
- It was preceded by **Table Top Exercise** of the **ADMM Plus EWG on Counter Terrorism at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar** from 2nd to 4th August 2023.
- Since 2017, the ADMM Plus meets annually to allow dialogue and cooperation among Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Plus countries.
- The **inaugural ADMM Plus was convened in Ha Noi, Vietnam on 12th October 2010.**

## Explanation

- This year ASEAN member states along with Plus Group will be participating in the exercise.
- The exercise will comprise of a number of counter terrorism drills including destroying of terrorist groups in a fortified area.
- The main objective of the exercise is strengthening and promoting regional cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism.
- ADMM Plus EWG on Counter-terrorism 2023 will provide Indian Army with a platform to share their expertise and best practices in counter-terrorism operations besides increasing cooperation between other 12 participating countries. Indian Army looks forward to an enriching professional experience from the exercise.

## 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

### **Russia**

Capital : Moscow

Currency : Russian ruble

President : Vladimir Putin

Prime Minister : Mikhail Mishustin

**Who launched India's first 5G Training Labs and 5G health applications in all North Eastern States?**

- A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- C) Home Minister Amit Shah
- D) Minister G. Kishan Reddy
- E) Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya

**Answer**

**D) Minister G. Kishan Reddy**



## Explanation

- The **Minister for Development of North East Region, Tourism, and Culture, Shri G. Kishan Reddy** launched **India's first 5G training labs and 5G applications in health sector in all the eight North Eastern States.**
- The project is centrally funded through North East Council (NEC) and being implemented by Assam Electronic Development Corporation (AMTRON), a PSU of Assam government.
- The event was also graced by Minister of State Shri B.L Verma, AMTRON Chairman, Shri Ramendra Narayan Kalita, Secretary DoNER, Mr. Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, NEC Shri Moses Chalai among other dignitaries.

# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Titbits

### **Culture , Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region**

Minister:G. Kishan Reddy

Constituency: Secunderabad, Telangana

**Renewable Energy Company IREDA was recently upgraded from which category to 'Schedule A' Central Public Sector Enterprise?**

- A) 'Schedule C'
- B) 'Schedule B'
- C) 'Schedule A'
- D) 'Schedule D'
- E) 'Schedule E'

**Answer**  
**B) 'Schedule B'**



## Explanation

- In a significant milestone in its journey towards sustainable energy development, **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)**, the largest pure-play green financing Non-Banking Finance Company in India, has now been upgraded **from 'Schedule B' to the 'Schedule A' category of Central Public Sector Enterprises.**
- The upgradation has been effected through an Office Memorandum, issued by Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance, which has subsequently been notified by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy.
- The elevation of IREDA to the 'Schedule A' category opens the door for its upgradation from "Mini Ratna (Category– I)" to "Navratna" status.
- This will grant increased financial autonomy to IREDA, allowing the organization to make more strategic decisions to further its commitment to accelerating the adoption of renewable energy solutions across the country.

## Titbits

### **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)**

Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi

Founded: 11 March 1987

Chairman and Managing Director : Shri Pradip Kumar  
Das

**Who launched the Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 Public Grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard portal of DARPG?**

- A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- C) Home Minister Amit Shah
- D) Minister of State (MoS) for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh
- E) Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar

**Answer**

**D) Minister of State (MoS) for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh**

## Explanation

- **Dr Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, launched the **IGMS 2.0 Public Grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard portal of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**.
- The Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 Dashboard has been **implemented by IIT Kanpur** following an MoU with DARPG on December 14, 2021 for upgrading DARPG Information Systems (CPGRAMS) with Artificial Intelligence capabilities.
- The Dashboard provides instant tabular analysis of Grievances Filed & Disposed, State-wise & District-wise Grievances Filed & Ministry-wise data.
- Besides, the Dashboard will also help the officials identify the root cause of the grievance.

## Explanation

- During his visit to DARPG Office, Dr Jitendra Singh also launched the **Swachhata Special Campaign 3.0** and **released the Precedent Book (e-book)** prepared by the Department. He lauded DARPG for achieving a completely fileless office with all communication transferred to the eOffice portal.
- The Government of India has announced Special campaign 3.0 from 2nd October, 2023, coinciding with the Birth Anniversary of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, till 31st October, 2023. The Campaign is a sequel of the Special campaigns conducted in the last two years.
- Special Campaign 3.0 will focus on field/outstation offices responsible for service delivery or having public interface, in addition to the Ministries/Departments and their attached/subordinate offices. DARPG is the Nodal Department for implementation of Special Campaign 3.0.



# QUICK RECALL



- **The International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction is observed on the 29th of every September. World Heart Day is celebrated every year on 29 September.**
- **Ashwin Suryakant Dani, the co-founder of Asian Paints Ltd died at 79.**
- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has retained the top spot as India's most valuable brand, with a value of \$43 billion, according to Kantar's BrandZ India ranking.**
- **The Government of India has decided to maintain the interest rates on various small savings schemes for the third quarter of the financial year 2023-24, starting from October 1, unchanged.**
- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved capital management reforms that would unlock \$100 billion in its new funding capacity over the next decade to address the region's overlapping, simultaneous crises.**
- **SBI Life Insurance, one of the most trusted private life insurers in India, signed a bancassurance pact with the State Bank of Sikkim (SBS) at the bank's headquarters in Gangtok, Sikkim.**
- **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has entered into a strategic partnership with South Indian Bank.**
- **Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Ltd, in collaboration with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), has launched the 'Seekho Paiso ki Bhasha' investor education and awareness initiative.**

# QUICK RECALL



- **Google is rolling out its earthquake alert system for Android in India for Android phones.**
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval to the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to acquire a 9.7 per cent stake in Federal Bank.**
- **Saugata Gupta, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Marico Ltd, has been appointed new Chairman of the Advertising Standards Council of India ( ASCI), at the board meeting of the self-regulatory body.**
- **A two-day National Conference on 'Millets for Military Ration and Specific Nutritional Requirements' was inaugurated by Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt in Mysuru, Karnataka**
- **Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj inaugurated the Sir George Everest Museum and inaugurated the helipad at George Everest, Mussoorie**
- **Agencies of the ministries of education and skill development and entrepreneurship have signed eight agreements with IBM under which curated courses will be provided to empower youth in India with future-ready skills.**
- **The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti has introduced a Unified Registration Portal for GOBARDhan (gobardhan.co.in) to streamline the registration of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) and biogas plants nationwide.**

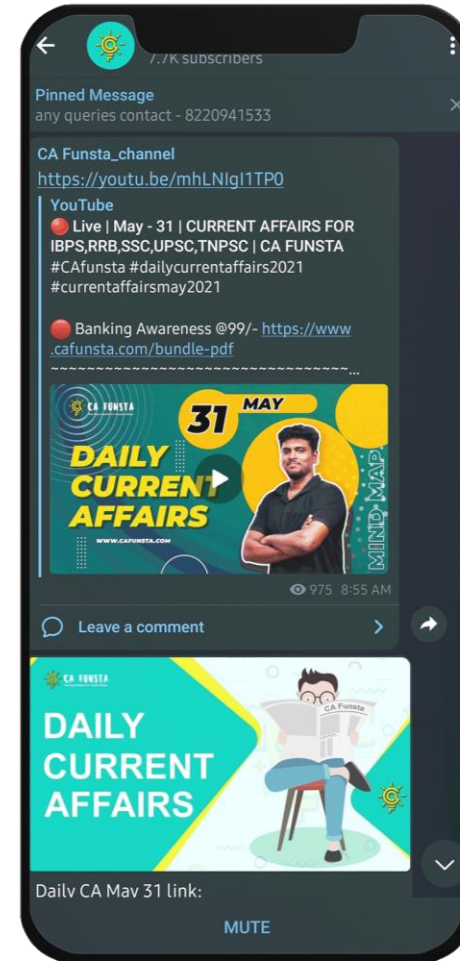
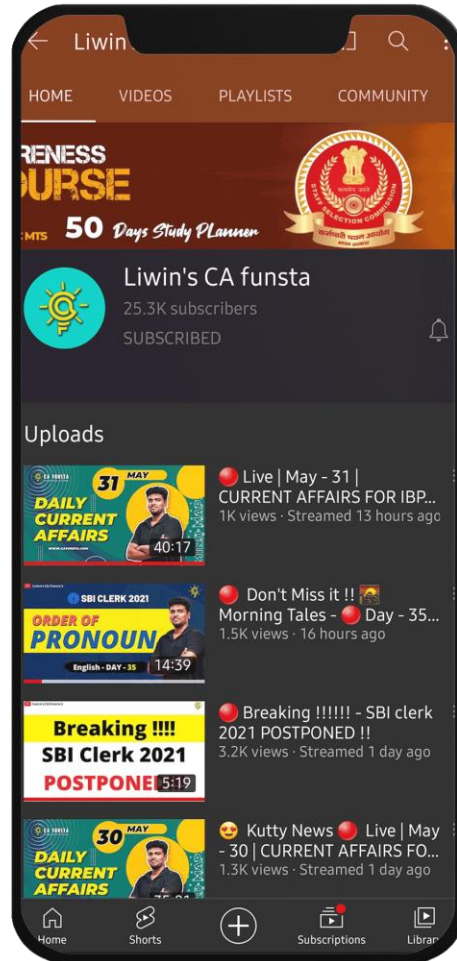
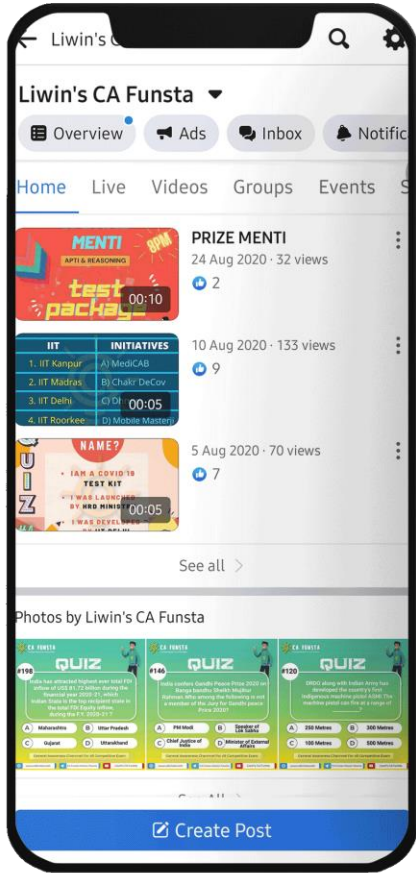


# QUICK RECALL



- **Indian Army Contingent consisting of 32 personnel from a Battalion affiliated to the RAJPUTANA RIFLES departed for ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus Expert Working Group (EWG) on Counter Terrorism Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2023 scheduled to be conducted from 25th to 30th September 2023 in Russia.**
- **The Minister for Development of North East Region, Tourism, and Culture, Shri G. Kishan Reddy launched India's first 5G training labs and 5G applications in health sector in all the eight North Eastern States.**
- **In a significant milestone in its journey towards sustainable energy development, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA), the largest pure-play green financing Non-Banking Finance Company in India, has now been upgraded from 'Schedule B' to the 'Schedule A' category of Central Public Sector Enterprises.**
- **Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, launched the IGMS 2.0 Public Grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard portal of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).**

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