



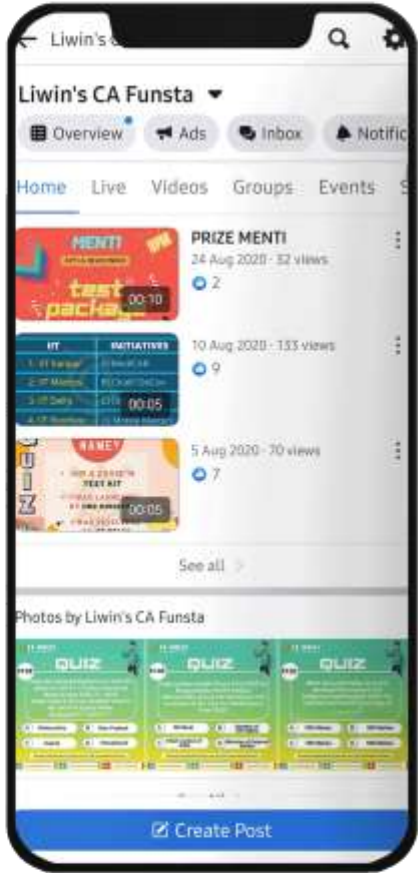
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

October 7 & 8

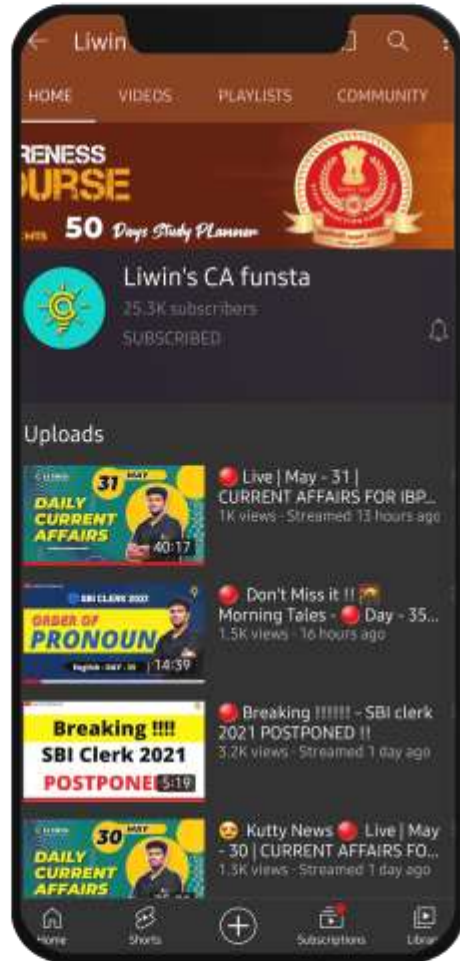
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Important Days



➤ On which date is World Cotton Day celebrated each year?

- A) January 1
- B) July 7
- C) October 7
- D) November 7
- E) December 7

Answer

C) October 7



Important Days



Explanation

- Every year, **World Cotton Day** is celebrated on **October 7**.
- Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali – four main cotton producers in sub-Saharan Africa proposed World Cotton Day to be celebrated in **2012**.
- The proposal was made to the World Trade Organisation. In 2019, World Trade Organisation hosted the first World Cotton Day celebrations as an initiative after the proposal of Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali.



Important Days



Explanation

- The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) were also part of the celebrations.
- Theme : **“Making cotton fair and sustainable for all, from farm to fashion”**.



Important Days



Air Force Day 2023

- **The Indian Air Force** is celebrating its **91st anniversary on 8th October.**
- The Indian Air Force, also known as Bharatiya Vayu Sena' was established in the country on October 8, 1932, by the British Empire.
- The first operational squadron came into being on April 1, 1933, with six RAF-trained officers and 19 HavaiSepoys (air soldiers).
- The aircraft inventory consisted of four Westland Wapiti IIA army co-operation biplanes at Drigh Road as the "A" Flight nucleus of the planned No.1 (Army Co-operation) Squadron.



Important Days



Air Force Day 2023

- In January 1950, India became a Republic within the British Commonwealth and the Indian Air Force dropped its "Royal" prefix.
- The theme of this year's Indian Air Force Day is '**IAF - Airpower Beyond Boundaries**'



➤ Which organisation has partnered with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) in India to collaborate on digital initiatives?

- A) Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD)
- B) Indian Ministry of Finance
- C) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- D) State Bank of India (SBI)
- E) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)



Answer

A) Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD)



Explanation

- **The Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD)** has joined forces with the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**, a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- This collaboration, cemented through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed at the recent **Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai**, will look to revolutionise the accessibility of financial services by bridging language divides.
- The primary objective of this partnership is to extend the reach of digital financial services by enabling communication in local languages.
- By breaking down language barriers, the DIBD and RBIH aspire to create seamless banking experiences for all, irrespective of their linguistic backgrounds.



Explanation

- In August, the RBI had unveiled an end-to-end digital credit delivery platform, developed by RBIH, designed to streamline and enhance credit delivery by financial institutions. This platform serves as the foundation for the collaborative effort, with a focus on expanding the scope of financial inclusion across the country.
- This collaboration comes at a crucial juncture when the fintech sector is undergoing transformation in India, driven by increased smartphone penetration and reduced data usage costs.
- These advancements have improved financial inclusion; however, certain sectors and population segments still find themselves on the fringes of the formal financial sector.



- What is the name of Axis Bank's digital bank proposition that was launched in its latest advertising campaign?

- A) Axis Express
- B) Axis Innovate
- C) Axis Digital
- D) Axis Prime
- E) open by Axis Bank

*dil se
open*

Answer

E) open by Axis Bank



Explanation

- **Axis Bank** announced the launch of '**open by Axis Bank**', its digital bank proposition in its latest advertising campaign.
- The Open 2023 campaign highlights the top 15 features of the bank's digital offerings.
- The launch seeks to establish 'open by Axis Bank' as the epitome of digital banking, bringing all the features in a user-friendly, modern interface for both existing and new customers



Titbits

Axis Bank

Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO : Mr Amitabh Chaudhary

Tagline : BadhtiKaNaamZindagi



➤ Which bank became the first in India to issue an 'ONDC Network Gift Card'?

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) Axis Bank
- D) YES Bank
- E) State Bank of India (SBI)



Answer
D) YES Bank



Explanation

- **YES Bank** announced that it has become the first bank in the country to issue an '**ONDC Network Gift Card**'.
- This marks a shift in the way India shops and aims to revolutionise the shopping experience for Indian consumers.
- The ONDC Network Gift Card, issued in partnership with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), is at the forefront of democratising digital commerce. Unlike traditional gift cards, this concept empowers customers to utilise the gift card for purchasing products from any brand and any seller across a wide array of segments, including food, fashion, handicrafts, electronics, home essentials, health and wellbeing,



Explanation

- The ONDC Network Gift Card is open for sponsorship and utilisation by corporate and individual customers, enabling them to extend thoughtful gestures to their customers, employees, or for their loved ones.
- This card leverages the Rupay network and offers the flexibility to **load up to Rs 10,000**.



Titbits

Yes Bank

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD and CEO : Prashant Kumar

Tagline: Experience our Expertise



- Sharekhan recently partnered with which organization to fully digitize the process of demat account opening?

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) ICICI Securities
- C) Kotak Securities
- D) Axis Direct
- E) NeSL



Answer

E) NeSL (National e-Governance Services Limited)



Explanation

- **Sharekhan**, one of India's most trusted full-service online brokerage houses, announces its collaboration with **National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)**, to bring complete digitalisation of the demat account opening process at the backend.
- This partnership signifies a momentous achievement in the brokerage industry, positioning Sharekhan as the first and only broker in India to offer this digital transformation, which would benefit millions of new customers by reducing time of onboarding.
- Founded in 2000 and a subsidiary of BNP Paribas since November 2016, Sharekhan was one of the first brokers to introduce online trading in India.



Titbits

NeSL

Abbreviation: National E-Governance Services Limited

Headquarters: JAGATPURI, DELHI

MD & CEO: Debajyoti Ray Chaudhuri

Found: 24th June 2016



➤ Which two entities are collaborating to promote Travel for LiFE in the Asia-Pacific region?

- A) PATA and UNICEF
- B) PATA and WHO
- C) PATA and ASEAN
- D) PATA and India
- E) PATA and UNESCO

Answer

D) PATA and India



Explanation

- **Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)**, has committed to work with India to expand Travel for LiFE initiative across Asia Pacific region.
- India hosted **46th edition of Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Travel Mart 2023 from Oct 4 to Oct 6 at the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC), PragatiMaidan, in New Delhi.**
- Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) was formally launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 19th October 2022, in the presence of the UN Secretary General AntónioGuterres, at the Statue of Unity, Ekta Nagar, Gujarat.



Explanation

- Ministry of Tourism will set up a PATA desk to strengthen engagement with PATA on Travel for LiFE and other areas of cooperation in tourism sector. This is the first major international partnership for Travel for Life program after its global launch on September 27, 2023, world tourism day. Ministry of Tourism is already working with UNEP and UNWTO on strengthening the TFL program.



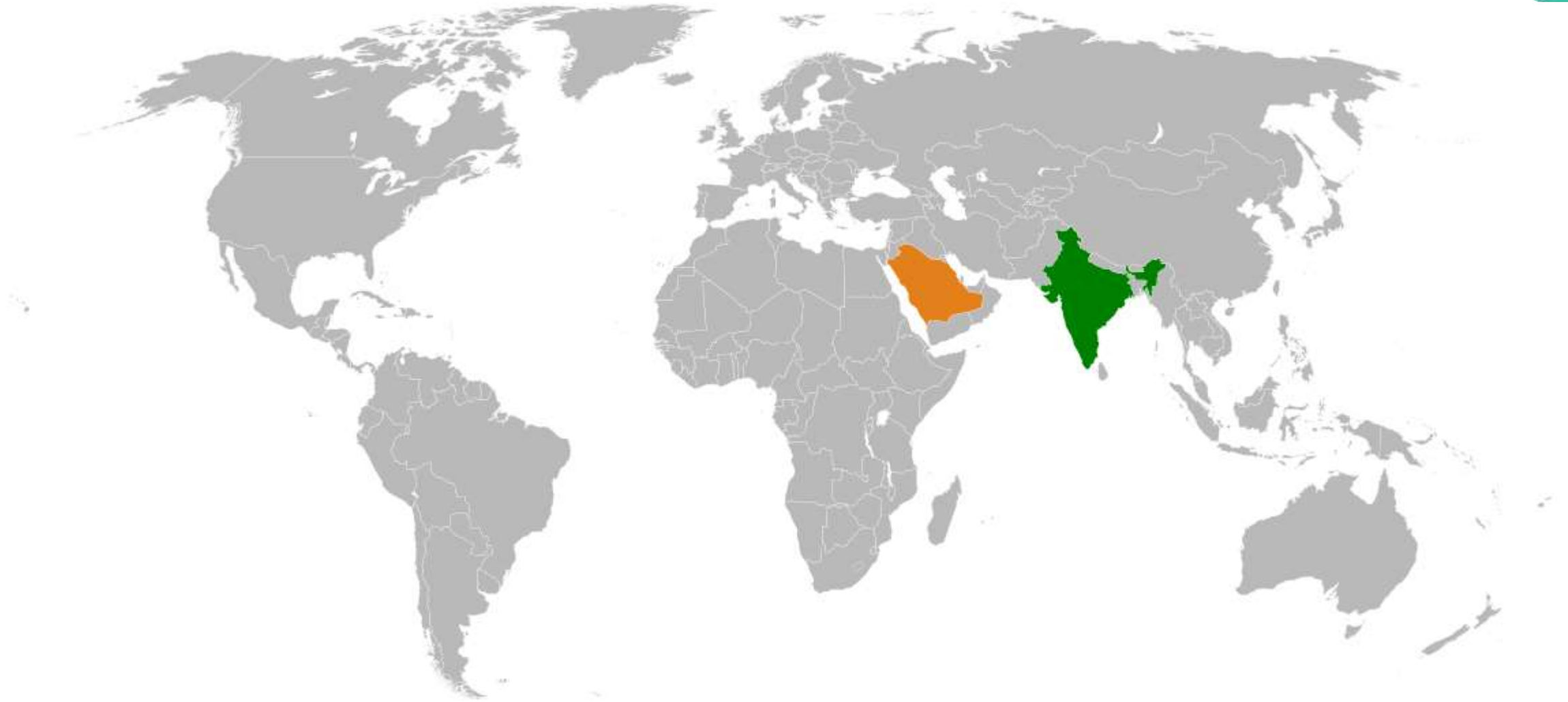
- **What areas were covered in the MoU signed between India and Saudi Arabia?**
- A) Tourism and Trade
 - B) Renewable Energy and Agriculture
 - C) Electrical Interconnections, Green/Clean Hydrogen, and Supply Chains
 - D) Education and Healthcare
 - E) Defense and Security

Answer

C) Electrical Interconnections, Green/Clean Hydrogen, and Supply Chains



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Explanation

- India and Saudi Arabia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Riyadh in the fields of Electrical Interconnections, Green / Clean Hydrogen and Supply Chains.
- The MoU was signed between the visiting Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, Shri R.K. Singh and the Minister of Energy, Government of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud on the sidelines of the MENA Climate Week in Riyadh



Explanation

- This MoU aims to establish a general framework for cooperation between the two countries in the field of electrical interconnection; exchange of electricity during peak times and emergencies; co-development of projects; co-production of green / clean hydrogen and renewable energy; and also establishing secure, reliable and resilient supply chains of materials used in green / clean hydrogen and the renewable energy sector.
- It was also decided between the two energy ministers that B2B Business Summits and regular B2B interactions between the two countries will be conducted to establish complete supply and value chains in the above-mentioned areas of energy sector cooperation.



Explanation

- Earlier, an Indian delegation led by the Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, Shri R.K. Singh participated in the High-Level Segment of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Climate Week 2023, which is being held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia during October 8 - 12, 2023. MENA Climate Week 2023 will discuss climate solutions ahead of COP28 and is being hosted by the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



➤ **Who declared the Gangetic Dolphin as Uttar Pradesh's aquatic animal?**

- A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath
- C) President Ram Nath Kovind
- D) Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar
- E) Wildlife Conservationist Rajesh Gopal



Answer

B) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath



Explanation

- **Chief minister Yogi Adityanath** declared the **Gangetic Dolphin as the state aquatic animal** and emphasized on the need to maintain purity of ponds and rivers
- Gangetic Dolphins are found in rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Ghaghra, Rapti, and Gerua. Their estimated population in the state is around 2,000.
- in the old data, there were 22 dolphins counted in 2015, 30 dolphins in 2016, 32 dolphins in 2017, 33 dolphins in 2018, 35 dolphins in 2019 and 41 dolphins in 2020.



- **How many new districts did Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announce the formation of in the state?**

- A) One
- B) Two
- C) Three
- D) Four
- E) Five

Answer
C) Three



Explanation

- **Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot** announced the formation of three new districts in the state.
- The three new districts are **Malpura, Sujangarh, and Kuchaman City**.
- With the addition of the three districts, the total number of districts in the state has now reached 53.
- Earlier in August, the state government announced 17 new districts and redrawn the two large urban districts – Jaipur and Jodhpur. It also announced three new divisions in the state.



➤ **Who laid the foundation stone for India's largest pumped storage project?**

- A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B) Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath
- C) Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- D) Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot
- E) Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijay Rupani

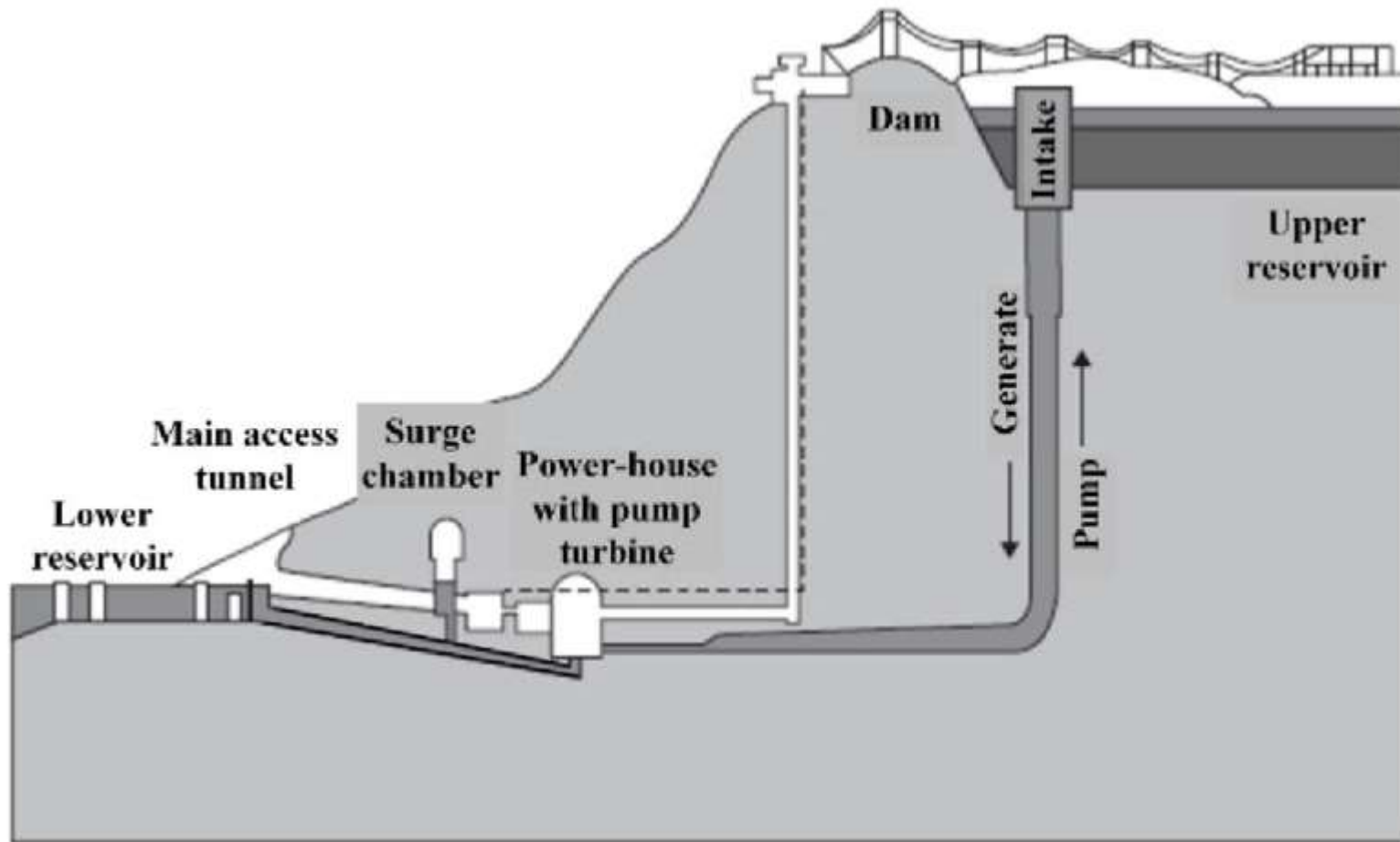


Answer

C) Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Explanation

- **Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan** virtually inaugurated **India's largest pumped storage project in Madhya Pradesh**.
- The project is being developed by **Greenko Group**, India's largest energy storage company.
- The project, which is located in the **Khemla block, Neemuch district, Madhya Pradesh**, has a capacity of 1440 megawatt (MW), with storage for 7.5 hours and is now being expanded to 1920 MW with storage of 6 hours to provide a storage of nearly 11 Giga watt hours (GWh) daily.



Explanation

- The overall investment will total Rs 11,500 crores over the next three years and generate 4800 jobs during construction and 200 jobs after completion of the construction.
- An additional Rs 15 crore will be invested in local community projects to support indirect jobs such as small infrastructure contracts, hiring of vehicles etc. It will be completed within 30 months as against allocated period of 36 months by statutory authorities.



Explanation

- When completed, the project will be able to integrate more than 7000 MW of renewable capacity.
- This project is an off stream open loop project as it envisages the construction of new off stream reservoir known as the upper reservoir and the existing Gandhi Sagar Reservoir will be used as lower reservoir. The proposed upper reservoir shall be made by construction of a 5,970-metre-long and a 35-metre-tall Asphalt Face Rockfill Embankment Dam (AFRD).



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



➤ **What is the name of the scheme launched by Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu to provide support to orphans, specially-abled children, destitute women, and elderly people in the state?**

- A) Mukhyamantri Sukh Ashraya Yojana
- B) Himachal Sahayata Yojana
- C) Sukh Sampada Scheme
- D) Ridge Shimla Support Program
- E) Himachal Care Initiative

Answer

A) Mukhyamantri Sukh Ashraya Yojana



Explanation

- **Himachal Pradesh chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the “Mukhyamantri Sukh Ashraya Yojana”** from the Ridge Shimla, aiming to provide comprehensive support to orphans, specially-abled children, destitute women, and elderly people in the state
- In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, the state government took a decision to adopt the orphans, the specially-abled children as the ‘children of the state’ and work for their upliftment and well being, giving them all parental care, besides taking care of the destitute women and elderly who have no one to look after.



Explanation

- The chief minister also distributed financial benefits worth ₹4.68 crore to eligible children which includes ₹15.52 lakh for fees and other hostel expenses, along with ₹11.52 lakh as monthly expense, benefiting 48 orphaned children for pursuing higher education.
- Apart from this, ₹7.02 lakh for fees and ₹4.08 lakh for monthly expenses were also distributed to 17 orphaned children enrolled in few professional courses.
- He also transferred financial benefits to 1,106 beneficiaries through foster care and sponsorship, amounting to ₹2.65 crore.



Explanation

- Besides this, 30 meritorious Class 12 students from child care institutes, who had excelled in Class 10, were provided laptops. In the second phase of the initiative, 268 students from classes 10 and 12 classes will be given laptops.
- He also allocated ₹6 lakh to three beneficiaries for the establishment of small and micro-industries.
- Under the SukhAshrayaYojana, approximately 2,700 identified orphans living with relatives will also get monthly financial assistance of ₹4,000 until the age of 27 years.
- Besides, the scheme also incorporates a 15-day educational tour annually for the orphan children, and their stay in three-star hotels. The air travel and all other expenses will be borne by the government



Titbits

Himachal Pradesh

Capital : Shimla

CM : Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

Governor : Shiv Pratap Shukla



➤ **Until when has the Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) extended the tenure of the 16-member Committee on Digital Competition Law (CDCL)?**

- A) End of September
- B) End of October
- C) End of November
- D) End of December
- E) End of January

Answer

B) End of October



Explanation

- **The Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA)** has formally extended till the end of October the tenure of the **16-member Committee on Digital Competition Law (CDCL)**.
- This Panel, originally to submit its report by May 6, is now expected to submit its report by the end of October. The executive order extending the tenure of the Panel has been issued.
- The inter-ministerial Panel Chaired by MCA Secretary Manoj Govil is now expected to meet for the last time in the next fortnight to finalise the draft of the proposed Bill on digital competition law



➤ **Which government departments and organizations collaborated for Sagar Parikrama, Phase- IX, starting from Thiruvandanai, Tamil Nadu?**

- A) Department of Agriculture and Indian Navy
- B) Department of Fisheries and Indian Coast Guard
- C) Department of Education and Indian Air Force
- D) Department of Health and Border Security Force
- E) Department of Transportation and Central Reserve Police Force

Answer

B) Department of Fisheries and Indian Coast Guard



Explanation

- **The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (FAHD), Government of India, and National Fisheries Development Board along with the Department of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu, Indian Coast Guard, and fishermen representatives** organized as well as actively participated in the Sagar Parikrama, Phase- IX which started today from Thiruvandanai, Tamil Nadu.
- In all around approx.10,500 fishermen, various fisheries stakeholders, scholars attended physically the SagarParikrama Phase IX program from different places of which approx. 3,400 fisherwomen participated.



Explanation

- SagarParikrama is contributing to disseminate information on fisheries related schemes/programs implemented by Government of India, highlighting best practices, promote responsible fisheries and demonstrate solidarity with all fisherfolks and concerned stakeholders.
- The goal of SagarParikrama is to interact fishermen at their doorsteps, hear their difficulties and grievances, witness village level ground realities, encourage sustainable fishing, and ensure that government subsidies and initiatives reach the beneficiaries.
- So far, the SagarParikrama has covered eight phases across coastal States/UTs.



QUICK RECALL



- World Cotton Day is celebrated on October 7, The Indian Air Force is celebrating its 91st anniversary on 8th October.
- The Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD) has joined forces with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Axis Bank announced the launch of 'open by Axis Bank', its digital bank proposition in its latest advertising campaign.
- Yes bank has become the first in India to issue an 'ONDC Network Gift Card'.
- Sharekhan collaboration with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL), to bring complete digitalisation of the demat account opening process at the backend.
- Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), has committed to work with India to expand Travel for LiFE initiative across Asia Pacific region.



QUICK RECALL



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- Chief minister Yogi Adityanath declared the Gangetic Dolphin as the state aquatic animal.
- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced the formation of three new districts in the state.
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan virtually inaugurated **India's largest pumped storage project** in Madhya Pradesh.
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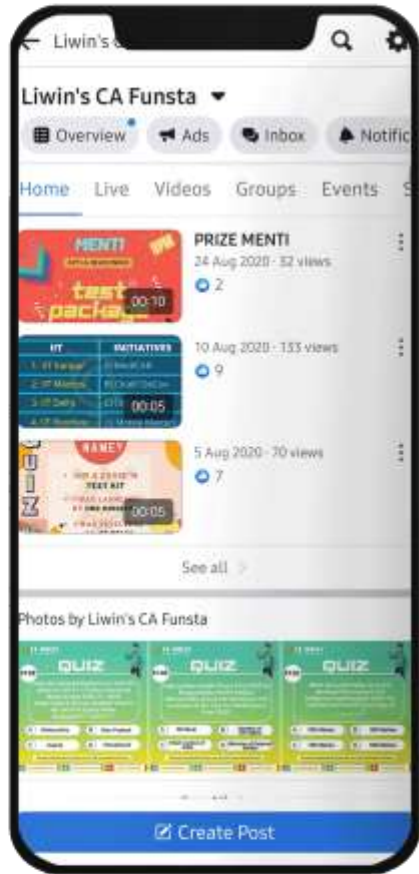
QUICK RECALL



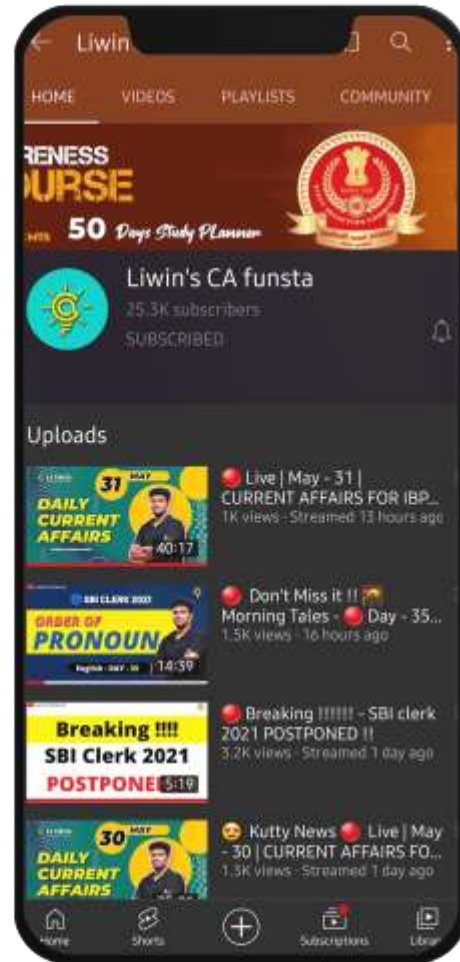
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