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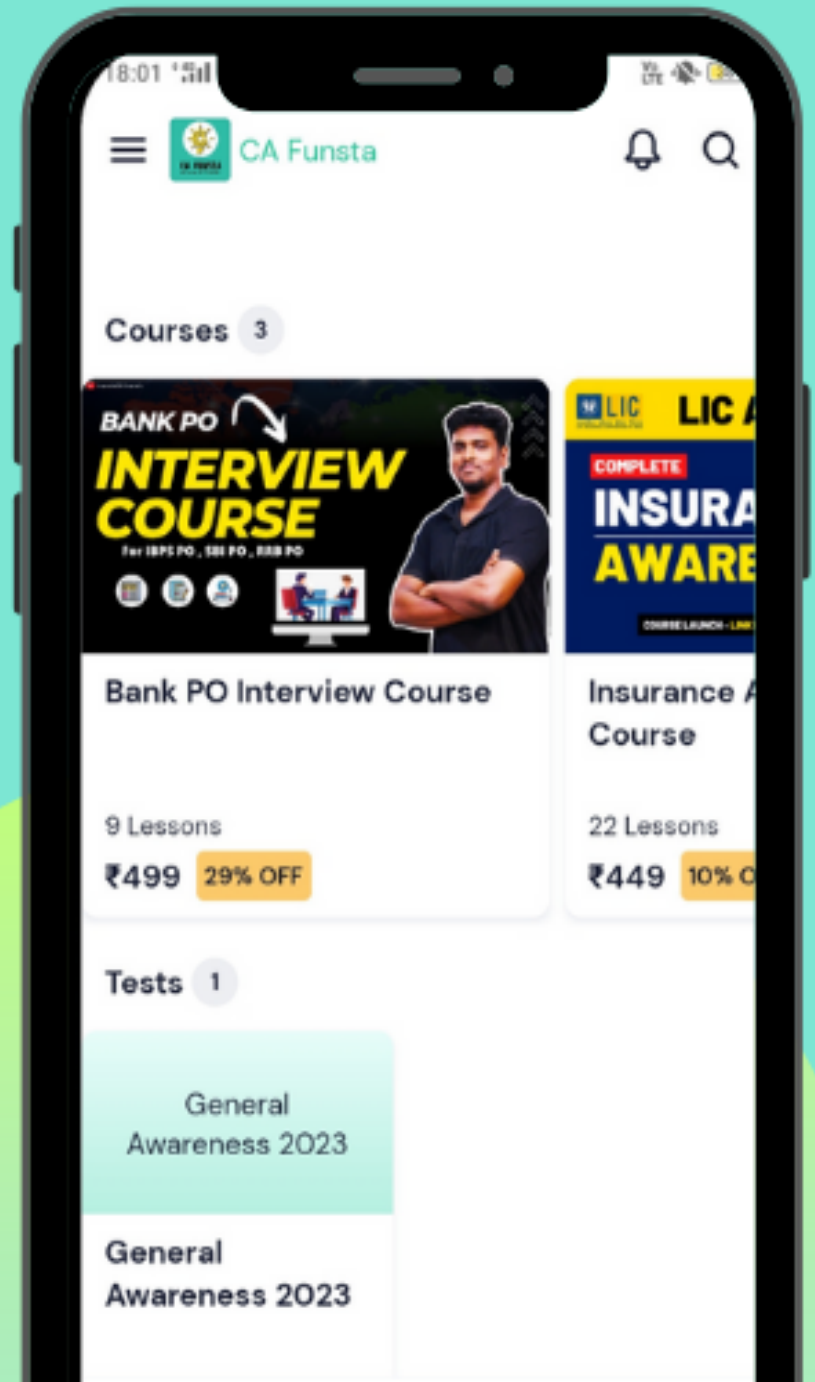


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# Important Days



**On November 9, Uttarakhand observes its 23rd Foundation Day. What year was Uttarakhand established?**

- A) 1998
- B) 2000
- C) 2002
- D) 2005
- E) 2010

**Answer**  
**B) 2000**

# Important Days



## Explanation

- **Uttarakhand Day** also referred to as **Uttarakhand Divas**, is celebrated as the state foundation day of Indian state **Uttarakhand**.
- It is observed annually on **9 November (beginning in 2000)** carving out from Uttar Pradesh
- **Edition:** 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Who won the 3rd edition of the Federation Internationale des Echecs (FIDE) Grand Swiss 2023 title?**

- A) Magnus Carlsen
- B) Hikaru Nakamura
- C) Ding Liren
- D) Anish Giri
- E) Vidit Santosh Gujrathi

**Answer**

**E) Vidit Santosh Gujrathi**





## Explanation

- Held in: Villa Marina, Douglas, Isle of Man.

### FIDE Grand Swiss – 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

Medal	Player	Country
Gold	Vidit Santosh Gujrathi	India
Silver	Hikaru Nakamura	United States
Bronze	Andrey Esipenko	Played under FIDE flag

# SPORTS



## Explanation

### FIDE Women's Grand Swiss – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

Medal	Player	Country
Gold	Vaishali Rameshbabu	India
Silver	Anna Muzychuk	Ukraine
Bronze	Tan Zhongyi	China

# SPORTS



**Which Australian cricketer recently announced a shock retirement from international cricket?**

- A) Steve Smith
- B) Pat Cummins
- C) David Warner
- D) Ellyse Perry
- E) Meg Lanning

**Answer**  
**E) Meg Lanning**



## Explanation

- **Record-breaking Australian women's captain Meg Lanning** has announced her **retirement from international cricket** after winning seven World Cup titles during a 241-match career.
- The 31-year-old top-order batter, who led Australia to four Twenty20 World Cup titles, one 50-over World Cup triumph and a Commonwealth Games gold
- Her exploits as a batter and captain earned her the nickname “Megastar”
- She amassed 8,352 runs in international cricket after making her debut in 2010. That total included 17 centuries and 38 half-centuries.
- Lanning was Australia's skipper for 100 T20Is, 78 ODIs and four Tests. In these matches, she managed to win 76 T20Is, 69 ODI, and one Test as well.
- She is also the highest run scorer for the Aussie women's side in T20Is with 3,405 runs in 132 games at a strike rate of 116 and an average of 36. In ODIs, she has scored 4,602 runs in 103 ODIs at a staggering average of 53 with 15 hundreds and 21 fifties - the third most runs for Australia behind Belinda Clark and Karen Rolton.

## Explanation

- Lanning's first ICC title came at the T20 World Cup in Sri Lanka in 2012 and she followed that up the following year by claiming the 50-over World Cup in India.
- Lanning was named ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year in 2014 and the following year was adjudged the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year.
- Lanning's last international match was when she fittingly led her country to the T20 World Cup title in South Africa earlier this year.

**ICICI Bank received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to make which entity its wholly-owned subsidiary?**

- A) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- B) ICICI Lombard General Insurance
- C) ICICI Securities
- D) ICICI Home Finance
- E) ICICI Mutual Fund

**Answer**

**C) ICICI Securities**



## Explanation

- **ICICI Bank** received the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approval for making **ICICI Securities its wholly-owned subsidiary**
- ICICI Bank on June 26 announced that it will be considering a proposal for the delisting of ICICI Securities, a subsidiary of the bank
- The decision to delist comes five years after the broking firm made its debut on the bourses.
- In April 2018, the Rs 4,000 crore-IPO of ICICI Securities had received poor response.
- The IPO was subscribed 78 percent overall, with retail investors bidding only 89 percent of the allotted quota.

# BANKING AND FINANCE



## Titbits

### ICICI Bank

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakshi

Tagline : Hum Hai Na, Khayal Apka



**Mirae Asset Mutual Fund has introduced which feature for SIP registrations?**

- A) Direct Debit Facility
- B) Net Banking Registration
- C) Credit Card Payments
- D) UPI AutoPay Mandate
- E) NEFT Transfer Option

**Answer**

**D) UPI AutoPay Mandate**



## Explanation

- **Mirae Asset Mutual Fund** announced the launch of **UPI AutoPay Mandate for SIP registrations**.
- The initiative is jointly developed by **Mirae Asset Mutual Fund, KFinTech and BillDesk** to help investors of Mirae Asset Mutual Fund to register SIP mandate using UPI AutoPay feature. It simplifies the overall investment process by reducing the investment time and improving the overall investment experience, said the fund house.
- UPI AutoPay allows an investor to automate their recurring Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) payments. The payments will be deducted from the bank account on a particular date.
- Mirae Asset Mutual Fund UPI AutoPay facility enables a hassle-free monthly deduction from the investor's bank account to invest in their desired Mirae Asset Mutual Fund schemes, making the investment process more convenient and disciplined

## Explanation

- As per present limit set by NPCI, mandates up to Rs 15,000 (fifteen thousand) can be created using UPI AutoPay. As per latest data from AMFI, (30th sept 2023), the average SIP ticket size is Rs 2250 (Industry book size is Rs 16,042 crore per month and there are 7.12 crore SIP accounts)
- With digital payments penetrating in India, Mirae Asset Mutual Fund's Unified Payments Interface (UPI AutoPay) transactions aims to set a record high every month.

## Titbits

### **Mirae Asset Mutual Fund**

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Founder: Hyeon Joo Park

### **BillDesk**

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founder(s): M.N. Srinivasu; Ajay Kaushal; Karthik Ganapathy

# APPOINTMENTS



**Who has been appointed as the new chief executive of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)?**

- A) Rakesh Jhunjhunwala
- B) Nirmala Sitharaman
- C) Venkat Nageswar Chalasani
- D) Uday Kotak
- E) R. S. Sharma

**Answer**

**C) Venkat Nageswar Chalasani**



# APPOINTMENTS



## Explanation

- The **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)** announced the appointment of **Venkat Nageswar Chalasani as the New Chief Executive**.
- Chalasani will take over the position from **NS Venkatesh**, who retired after completing two consecutive **three-year terms**
- Chalasani brings an extensive wealth of experience and expertise to his new role. His professional journey has been marked by nearly four decades of service at the State Bank of India (SBI) where he held the position of Deputy Managing Director (DMD) prior to joining AMFI.
- He has also served in various board positions and contributing to committees established by the Reserve Bank of India and the Ministry of Finance. Additionally, Chalasani has served as the Chairman of both the Fixed Income Money Market and Derivatives Association of India (FIMMDA) and the Foreign Exchange Dealers Association of India (FEDAI).

# APPOINTMENTS



## Titbits

### **Association of Mutual Funds in India(AMFI)**

Founded: 22 August 1995

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman: Venkat Nageswar Chalasani

# APPOINTMENTS



**Who has been appointed as the Managing Director of city gas operator Torrent Gas Ltd?**

- A) Manoj Jain
- B) Uday Shankar
- C) Nita Ambani
- D) Anand Mahindra
- E) R. K. Singh

**Answer**  
**A) Manoj Jain**





# APPOINTMENTS



## Explanation

- **Former GAIL (India) Ltd Chairman Manoj Jain** has been appointed **Managing Director of city gas operator Torrent Gas Ltd**
- The Board of Torrent Gas, which has a licence to retail CNG to automobiles and piped natural gas to households and industries in 34 districts across the country, appointed Jain as its Managing Director with effect from January 1, 2024
- Prior to this, Jain was the chairman and managing director of GAIL (India) Ltd from February 2020 to August 2022
- Torrent Gas has license to sell compressed natural gas (CNG) to automobiles and piped natural gas (PNG) to industries and households in 34 districts across seven states, including Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Punjab, and one Union Territory (Puducherry).

# APPOINTMENTS



## Titbits

**Torrent Gas Private Limited**  
Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat  
Managing Director : Manoj Jain

# APPOINTMENTS



**Who is set to be the next CMD (Chairman and Managing Director) of Konkan Railway?**

- A) Santosh Kumar Jha
- B) Rajiv Kumar
- C) Neha Sharma
- D) Anil Singh
- E) Preeti Gupta

**Answer**

**A) Santosh Kumar Jha**

# APPOINTMENTS



## Explanation

- **Santosh Kumar Jha** is set to be next **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL)**, a PSU under the Ministry of Railways.
- He has been recommended for the post by the Public Enterprises Selection Panel (PESB) panel
- Presently, he is serving as Director (Operations & Commercial) in the same organisation.
- Jha is an Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS) officer of 1992-batch. He holds M. Sc. (Geology) from Lucknow University and an MBA (Marketing) from Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai
- He has hands on experience as head of operations on major divisions of Indian Railways

# APPOINTMENTS



## Titbits

### **Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd**

Headquarters: CBD Belapur in Navi Mumbai,  
Maharashtra

Founded: 19 July 1990

CMD: Sanjay Gupta

# APPOINTMENTS



**Who has the Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) appointed as part-time members of the audit regulator National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)?**

- A) Ramesh Srinivasan and Anjali Menon
- B) Sanjay Kallapur and R Narayanaswamy
- C) Deepak Kapoor and Nisha Sharma
- D) Ajay Gupta and Meera Agarwal
- E) Rajesh Singh and Shalini Verma

**Answer**

**B) Sanjay Kallapur and R Narayanaswamy**



# APPOINTMENTS



## Explanation

- **The Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) has appointed Sanjay Kallapur and Professor R Narayanaswamy as part-time members of the audit regulator National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).**
- In exercise of powers conferred under sub-Rule (6) of Rule 4 of the National Financial Reporting Authority (Manner of Appointment and other terms and conditions of service of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 2018, the Central Government hereby appoints Sanjay Kallapur and R. Narayanaswamy as Part-time Members in National Financial Reporting Authority for a period of 3 years
- Kallapur also served on the Board of Directors of IDBI Bank on the risk management and audit committees. He previously served on the Life Insurance Corporation of India's Board of Directors, where he was a member of the audit and risk management committees.
- From 2018 to 2021, Kallapur served as an International Council Member-at-large for the American Accounting Association. He is a member of the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) Corporate Reporting Consortium.

# APPOINTMENTS



## Explanation

- Professor R. Narayanaswamy is a former Finance and Accounting faculty member at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB).
- Narayanaswamy worked for the Steel Authority of India from 1980 to 1984. In 1984, he joined the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.
- From 2005 to 2011, he presided over the audit committee of Indian Railway Finance Corporation as an independent director. From 2014 to 2017, he did the same for Bank of Baroda.
- Narayanaswamy has served on the Accounting Standards Board (2001-02 and 2009-10), the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (2008-09 and 2010-11), the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India's Committee on Accounting Standards for Local Bodies (2014-15), and the Accounting Standards Board's National Group (2011-12). In 2013-14, he also served on the ICAI Awards for Excellence in Financial Reporting Jury.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Titbits

### **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)**

Founded: 1 October 2018

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairman: Dr Ajay Bhushan Prasad Pandey

# AWARDS



**S4S Technologies, an Indian full-stack food-processing, solar-tech platform, is among the five winners of which prestigious award founded by Britain's Prince William?**

- A) Nobel Prize
- B) Booker Prize
- C) Earthshot Prize 2023
- D) Green Innovation Award
- E) Global Sustainability Award

**Answer**

**C) Earthshot Prize 2023**

# AWARDS



## Explanation

- **S4S Technologies**, an Indian full-stack food-processing, solar-tech platform, is among the five winners of what's called the "**Eco Oscars**"—the **Earthshot Prize 2023**, which was founded by Britain's Prince William.
- **Acción Andina, GRST, WildAid Marine Program, S4S Technologies, and Boomitra are named 2023 Winners and will each receive a catalytic £1 million prize to support efforts to scale their innovative climate and environmental solutions.**
- The winners were whittled down from a shortlist of 15 finalists, each solving one of the five problems identified by the prize: "Protect and Restore Nature; Clean our Air; Revive our Oceans; Build a Waste-Free World and Fix our Climate."
- The five Winners were selected by Prince William and the Earthshot Prize Council, chaired by the architect of the Paris Agreement, Christiana Figueres. Other council members included Sir David Attenborough, Jack Ma and Indra Nooyi, among others.

# AWARDS



## Explanation

- S4S Technologies was selected for its efforts to "build a waste-free world". The Maharashtra-based combats food waste, rural poverty and gender inequality by helping smallholder female farmers preserve and market surplus produce.
- Founded in 2013 by six university friends—Nidhi Pant, Vaibhav Tidke, Swapnil Kokte, Ganesh Bhere, Shital Somani, Tushar Gaware and Ashwin Pawade—S4S Technologies provides rural communities with cheaper solar-powered conduction dryers and food processing equipment to prepare their crops on-site, rather than using cold storage or other more expensive methods of conventional industrial food preservation.
- The Harsh Mariwala's Marico Innovation Foundation-incubated organisation, which also provides market linkages, claims to have helped about 300,000 women smallholder farmers record 10-15% increases in profits, while 2,000 female entrepreneurs have seen income double or triple.

# AWARDS



**Tennis star Serena Williams has been named a fashion icon by which organization?**

- A) International Tennis Federation (ITF)
- B) Women's Tennis Association (WTA)
- C) Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)
- D) Vogue Magazine
- E) Sports Illustrated Fashion Edition

**Answer**

**C) Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)**



# AWARDS



## Explanation

- **Tennis star Serena Williams** has been named a **fashion icon by the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)**.
- With this, she has become the first athlete to win the award. Previous recipients include artists like Beyonce, Zendaya and Rihanna.
- The event was held at the American Museum of Natural History. Ms Williams wore a black sequenced dress designed by CFDA Chairman Thom Browne at the event. She was presented with the 2023 CFDA Fashion Icon Award by reality TV star and fashion mogul Kim Kardashian.
- The CFDA awards are presented by Amazon Fashion. Other honors: Alina Cho received a media award, Domenico De Sole won the founder's award, Mara Hoffman won a sustainability award, and the international award went to Jonathan Anderson for JW Anderson and Loewe.

# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Which two railway stations in Assam, belonging to Northeast Frontier Railway, have been awarded the 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI?

- A) Guwahati and Dibrugarh
- B) Rangiya and Mariani
- C) Jorhat and Tinsukia
- D) Silchar and Lumding
- E) Nagaon and Goalpara

**Answer**

**B) Rangiya and Mariani**



## Explanation

- The **Rangiya and Mariani Railway Stations of Northeast Frontier Railway in Assam** have been awarded '**Eat Right Station**' certification by **FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India)** in recognition of providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
- This certification is awarded by FSSAI to railway stations that set benchmarks for providing safe and wholesome food to passengers.
- This certification has been awarded for the period from September 25th, 2023, to September 24th, 2025 for Rangiya Railway Station and from October 19th, 2023, to October 18th, 2025 for Mariani Railway Station. Further, in its endeavour to ensure safe and hygienic food for passengers, Northeast Frontier Railway has planned to take up more stations in the future to qualify as 'Eat Right Station' by FSSAI for which necessary efforts are being carried out.
- Previously, Guwahati, Harishchandrapur and Lumding Railway Stations of N. F. Railway have been awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI.



## Explanation

- It is to be mentioned here that the 'Eat Right Station' certification is granted by FSSAI to railway stations adhering to standard food storage and hygiene practises. The station is awarded a certificate upon the conclusion of an FSSAI-empanelled third-party audit agency.
- The certification is part of the 'Eat Right India' movement, a large-scale effort by FSSAI to transform the country's food system to ensure safe, healthy and sustainable food for all Indians

## Titbits

### **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India(FSSAI)**

Founded: August 2011

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairperson: Shri Rajesh Bhushan

**Which department organized the maiden INDUS-X Investors Meet in New Delhi in collaboration with the US Department of Defence?**

- A) Department of Science and Technology
- B) Ministry of External Affairs
- C) Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence
- D) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- E) NITI Aayog

**Answer**

**C) Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence**



## Explanation

- **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence and US Department of Defence, organised the **maiden INDUS-X Investors Meet at New Delhi as a pre-cursor to the 2+2 Indo-US Ministerial Dialogue**.
- The **INDUS-X Educational Series (Gurukul)** was also launched during the event. Mr Doug Beck, Director Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), US DoD led the US delegation and Mr Vivek Virmani, PO (G) & COO/iDEX-DIO the Indian delegation.
- The event was co-ordinated by US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), IndusTech, and mach33.aero (Social Alpha).
- The first-ever INDUS-X Investors Event evinced the interest of the investors in the start-ups and MSMEs operating in the defence sector and the emerging opportunities under the INDUS-X initiative.

## Explanation

- The interactive meet brought all the stakeholders viz Startups/MSMEs, Investors, Incubators, Industry from both sides under one roof to discuss the collaborative agendas and opportunities thereon
- The Gurukul initiative is aimed to help the innovators /startups to navigate in the defence eco-system of the US and India.
- The Gurukul (Education) series will have sessions for the startups/innovators by the experts from both sides including Govt Officials, Corporate Leaders, Industry Forums, Incubators/ Accelerators etc.
- The kick-off session was launched with an interesting fireside chat between the Director, DIU and the COO, DIO highlighting the opportunities for the defence start-ups under the INDUS-X initiative and the way-ahead.
- The INDUS-X Educational Series (Gurukul) was also launched during the event.
- **India-US Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X)** was launched in **June 2023** during the State Visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US to expand strategic technology partnership and defence industrial cooperation between governments, businesses, and academic institutions of India and US

**What event did Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, address as the Chief Guest in New Delhi?**

- A) International Conference on Cybersecurity
- B) National Symposium on Space Exploration
- C) Promotion of Organic Products through Cooperatives
- D) World Economic Forum Summit
- E) Global Summit on Sustainable Agriculture

**Answer**

**C) Promotion of Organic Products through Cooperatives**



## Explanation

- **Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah** addressed the **National Symposium on 'Promotion of Organic Products through Cooperatives'** organized by **National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL)** as the **Chief Guest in New Delhi**
- Shri Amit Shah launched the **logo, website and brochure of NCOL** and also distributed membership certificates to NCOL members. On this occasion, many dignitaries including Union Minister of State for Cooperation Shri B.L. Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation and Chairman, NCOL were present.
- **National Cooperative Organics Limited** is jointly promoted by **Amul**, National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd (NCCF), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED), National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Explanation

- It is launched with an authorized capital of Rs 500 crore
- Till now, it has more than 950 members in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Nagaland and membership applications from more than 2000 cooperative institutions have been received



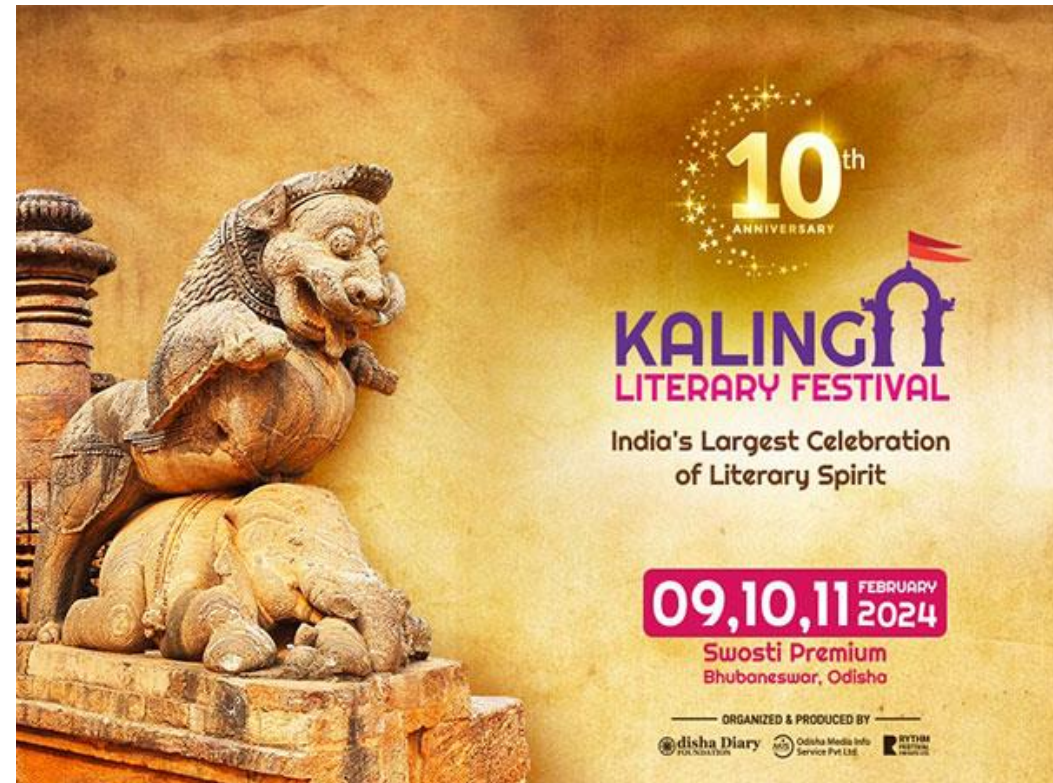
# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



When is the 10th Kalinga Literary Festival scheduled to be held in Bhubaneswar?

- A) February 1
- B) February 9
- C) March 15
- D) April 5
- E) May 20

**Answer**  
**B) February 9**



## Explanation

- The **10th edition of the Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF)** with the theme '**Legends of Ancient Bharat and Beyond: Inspiring Lived Experience in the 21st Century**', will be kick-started from **February 9 in Bhubaneswar**.
- Over 300 esteemed speakers, including poets, musicians, artists, and performers are all set to grace the festival, which will take place till February 11.
- It will also celebrate the intricate relationships between literature and liberty, the ethos of a republic, the kaleidoscope of cultural diversity, and the pillars of social equity

What does STPI's LEAP AHEAD initiative aim to provide for startups?

- A) Skill Development Programs
- B) Access to Technology
- C) Funding Opportunities
- D) Innovation Labs
- E) Access to Investment, Mentorship, and Global Connect

**Answer**

**E) Access to Investment, Mentorship, and Global Connect**



## Explanation

- In the bid to support and accelerate the success of tech startups across India, **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary Shri S Krishnan** launched the **LEAP AHEAD initiative, a joint collaboration of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Delhi-NCR, here at the LEAP AHEAD summit.**
- This initiative will be a game-changer for tech Startups that are in the scaling stage, growth stage, product diversification or planning expansion into new geographical locations.
- They can benefit through funding support of up to ₹ 1 Crore and a comprehensive three-month mentorship program that combines virtual and in-person sessions for a well-rounded learning experience.
- Furthermore, the initiative will provide start-ups with access to an extensive network and personalized guidance through one-on-one mentorship sessions with seasoned investors and industry experts.

## Explanation

- STPI is an organization under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology engaged in promoting software exports, nurturing tech startup ecosystem and working for the dispersal of the IT/ITES Industry.
- STPI has been actively involved in strengthening the startup ecosystem in India through its Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS) and 22 domain-specific Centers of Entrepreneurship innovation by providing requisite support and resources to the startups
- TiE Delhi-NCR has continuously taken the lead in creating an increasingly positive ecosystem for entrepreneurs and investors. TiE Delhi-NCR conducts a wide range of programs to help entrepreneurs. These include TiEcon, Startup Expo, TiE Institute, TiE Young Entrepreneurs along with Special Interest Groups (SIGs) across sectors

**What is the name of the initiative that the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is set to unveil under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)?**

- A) Women Empowerment in Urban Areas (WEUA)
- B) Water Conservation for Women (WCW)
- C) Progressive Women's Urban Transformation (PWUT)
- D) Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign
- E) Urban Women Livelihood and Water Initiative (UWLWI)

**Answer**

**D) Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign**



## Explanation

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** is all set to unveil a progressive initiative "**Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign**" under its flagship scheme - **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)**, in partnership with the **Ministry's National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM)**.
- Odisha Urban Academy is the knowledge partner. This campaign celebrates "Jal Diwali" and commences from, 7th November, 2023. It will continue till 9th November, 2023.
- The campaign aims to provide a platform for inclusion of women in water governance. They will be given first-hand knowledge about water treatment processes through visits to Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) in their respective cities
- The phase I of "Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign", "Jal Diwali" shall witness participation from all States/ UTs (barring the 5 States under Model Code of Conduct), with an expected participation of more than 15,000 SHG women, nationwide. The focus areas of the campaign include:

## Explanation

- Familiarizing the women with functioning of Water Treatment Plants & water testing facilities
- Promote inclusivity & involvement through souvenirs & articles created by Women SHGs
- Familiarizing & educating the women about AMRUT scheme & its impact on water infrastructure



**REC (Rural Electrification Corporation) has signed an MoU with which organization to finance infrastructure projects in telecom, IT, and railway signaling?**

- A) Power Grid Corporation of India
- B) Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL)
- C) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)
- D) RailTel Corporation of India
- E) Indian Railways

**Answer**

**D) RailTel Corporation of India**



## Explanation

- **REC Limited** signed an MoU with **RailTel** to extend financial assistance **upto Rs. 30,000 Crore for Infrastructure Projects to be executed by RailTel in next 5 years.**
- These projects encompass a wide range of areas, including Data Center products and services, Telecom & IT products and services, Railways & Metro projects, and the KAVACH Train Collision Prevention System.
- Additionally, the MoU extends to the possibility of financing overseas ventures related to High-Speed Rail, metro, IT network, and the Upgradation of Railway Network, as part of bilateral country discussions and Infrastructure Projects in Southeast Asia and Eastern Africa where RailTel is currently focusing.

## Explanation

- Shri T.S.C Bosh, Executive Director (Infra & Logistics), REC and Shri Jasmeet Singh Marwah, Company Secretary, RailTel signed the MoU in the presence of Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan, CMD, REC; Shri Sanjai Kumar, CMD, RailTel; Shri Ajoy Choudhary, Director (Finance), REC; Shri V K Singh, Director (Projects), REC; Shri Manoj Tandon, Director (Project) RailTel; Shri Anshul Gupta, Advisor, RailTel and other senior officials from REC and RailTel. Post the MoU Signing, they also discussed opportunities for collaboration in detail and agreed upon exploring new areas viz, Renewable Energy, Smart Metering and other projects where RailTel and REC (through its wholly owned subsidiary RECPDCL) can join hands.
- REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE established in 1969, under Ministry of Power, provides long term loans and other finance products for Power-Infrastructure sector comprising of Generation, Transmission, Distribution, Renewable Energy and new technologies like Electric Vehicles, Battery Storage, Green Hydrogen etc. More recently REC has also diversified into the Non-Power Infrastructure sector comprising of Roads & Expressways, Metro Rail, Airports, IT Communication, Social & Commercial Infrastructure (Educational Institution, Hospitals), Ports and Electro-Mechanical (E&M) works in respect of various other sectors like Steel, Refinery, etc. The loan book of REC exceeds Rs 4,74,275 Crore.

## Explanation

- RailTel, a "Mini Ratna (Category-I)" Central Public Sector Enterprise under Ministry of Railways, is one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure & ICT Solutions & Services providers in the country, owning a Pan-India optic fiber network covering several towns & cities and rural areas of the country. Along with a strong a reliable network of 61000+ RKM of Optic fibre, RailTel has two MeitY empaneled tier III data centers as well. RailTel offers a bundle of services like, MPLS VPN, Telepresence, leased line, Tower Co-location, Data center services, Project management, IT & ICT consultancy etc.

## Titbits

### **Rural Electrification Corporation Limited(REC Limited)**

Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi

Founded: 25 July 1969

CMD: Vivek Kumar Dewagan

### **RailTel Corporation of India Ltd**

Founded: 26 September 2000

Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana

Chairman and Managing Director :Sh. Sanjai Kumar

**Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) and SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) signed an MOU for what purpose?**

- A) Rural Health Mission
- B) Financial Inclusion Program
- C) Women Empowerment Initiatives
- D) Agriculture and Irrigation Projects
- E) Skill Development Programs

**Answer**

**C) Women Empowerment Initiatives**



## Explanation

- **DeendayalAntyodayaYojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)** under the Ministry of Rural Development and the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that marks a significant milestone in the journey of women-led enterprises in India.
- The MoU, which is set to **span two years**, was inked today by DAY-NRLM and SIDBI in the presence of Secretary Rural Development Shri Shailesh Kumar Singh and Chairman & Managing Director SIDBI Shri Sivasubramanian Ramann. Additional Secretary Rural Livelihoods Shri Charanjit Singh signed the document on behalf of DAY-NRLM while SIDBI was represented by their Chief General Manager Dr. S. S. Acharya.
- Other dignitaries present during the event were Smt Smriti Sharan and Smt Swati Sharma Joint Secretaries Rural Livelihoods, Director Rural Livelihoods Shri Raghevendra Pratap Singh and Dy. General Manager SIDBI Shri Saurav Bajpai

## Explanation

- This strategic partnership brings together the expertise of DAY-NRLM and SIDBI to create a transformative initiative aimed at promoting women-led enterprises among experienced members of Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- The primary focus of this collaboration is to demonstrate on-the-ground activities that establish a reliable and sensitive support structure for the capacity enhancement of women entrepreneurs (WEs).
- Furthermore, it aims to institutionalize standard protocols, systems, and procedures for streamlined access to formal finance, as well as the development of a comprehensive framework for new financial products and schemes



## Explanation

- Key outcomes expected from this collaboration are:
  - Enhanced capacity and ability of State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLM) teams to promote the graduation of seasoned SHG members into micro-entrepreneurs
  - The establishment of a reliable and sensitive support architecture for women-led enterprises, involving a network of field cadres, mentors, and experts
  - The implementation of standardized protocols within DAY-NRLM to support women-led enterprises
  - The formation of partnerships with financial institutions and a network of financiers
  - The design and implementation of new financial schemes, such as credit guarantees and interest subventions
  - The creation of clear, scalable models for promoting women-led enterprises which can be replicated nationwide

# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Titbits

### **SIDBI**

Abbreviation: Small Industries Development Bank of  
India

Establishment – 2nd April 1990

Headquarters – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Chairman & Managing Director – Sivasubramanian  
Ramann

# QUICK RECALL



- **Uttarakhand Day also referred to as Uttarakhand Divas, is celebrated as the state foundation day of Indian state Uttarakhand ON 9<sup>TH</sup> November**
- **Vidit Santosh Gujrathi won the 3rd edition of the Federation Internationale des Echecs (FIDE) Grand Swiss 2023 title**
- **Record-breaking Australian women's captain Meg Lanning has announced her retirement from international cricket after winning seven World Cup titles during a 241-match career.**
- **ICICI Bank received the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approval for making ICICI Securities its wholly-owned subsidiary**
- **Mirae Asset Mutual Fund announced the launch of UPI AutoPay Mandate for SIP registrations.**
- **The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) announced the appointment of Venkat Nageswar Chalasani as the new Chief Executive.**
- **Former GAIL (India) Ltd Chairman Manoj Jain has been appointed Managing Director of city gas operator Torrent Gas Ltd**

# QUICK RECALL



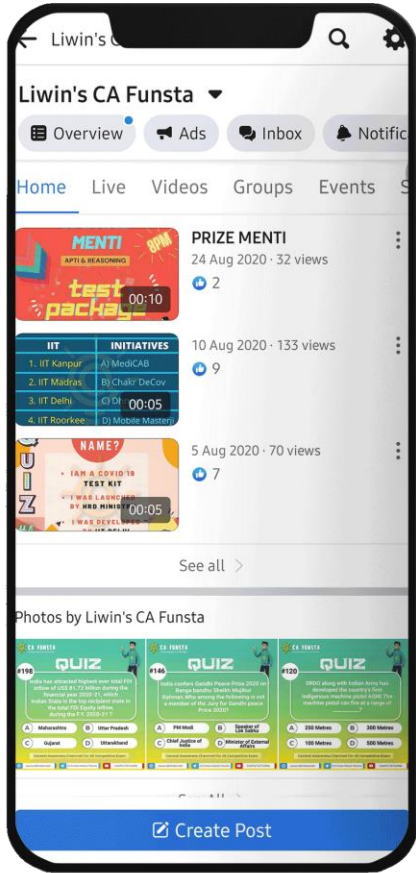
- **Santosh Kumar Jha is set to be next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), a PSU under the Ministry of Railways.**
- **The Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA) has appointed Sanjay Kallapur and Professor R Narayanaswamy as part-time members of the audit regulator National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).**
- **S4S Technologies, an Indian full-stack food-processing, solar-tech platform, is among the five winners of what's called the "Eco Oscars"—the Earthshot Prize 2023, which was founded by Britain's Prince William.**
- **Tennis star Serena Williams has been named a fashion icon by the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA).**
- **The Rangiya and Mariani Railway Stations of Northeast Frontier Railway in Assam have been awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) in recognition of providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.**
- **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence and US Department of Defence, organised the maiden INDUS-X Investors Meet at New Delhi as a pre-cursor to the 2+2 Indo-US Ministerial Dialogue.**
- **Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah addressed the National Symposium on 'Promotion of Organic Products through Cooperatives' organized by National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL) as the Chief Guest in New Delhi**

# QUICK RECALL

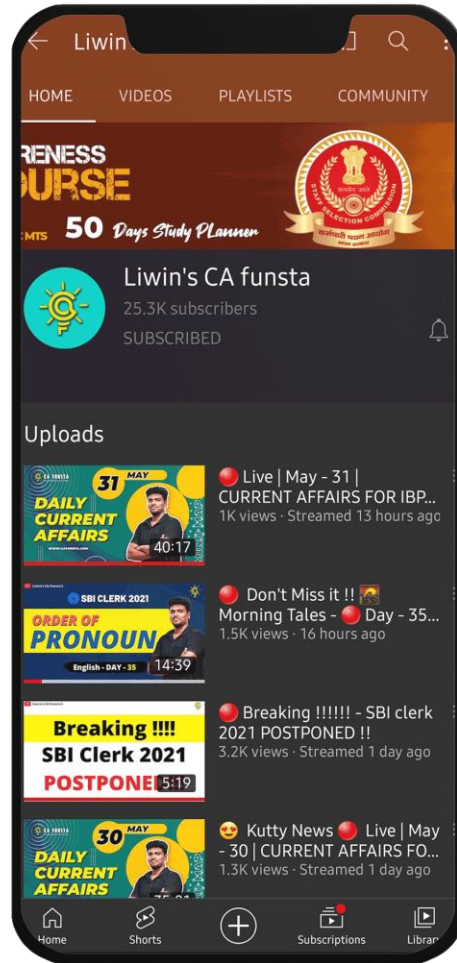


- **The 10th edition of the Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF) with the theme 'Legends of Ancient Bharat and Beyond: Inspiring Lived Experience in the 21st Century', will be kick-started from February 9 in Bhubaneswar.**
- **In the bid to support and accelerate the success of tech startups across India, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary Shri S Krishnan launched the LEAP AHEAD initiative, a joint collaboration of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Delhi-NCR, here at the LEAP AHEAD summit.**
- **The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is all set to unveil a progressive initiative "Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign" under its flagship scheme - Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), in partnership with the Ministry's National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM).**
- **REC Limited signed an MoU with RailTel to extend financial assistance upto Rs. 30,000 Crore for Infrastructure Projects to be executed by RailTel in next 5 years.**
- **DeendayalAntyodayaYojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that marks a significant milestone in the journey of women-led enterprises in India.**

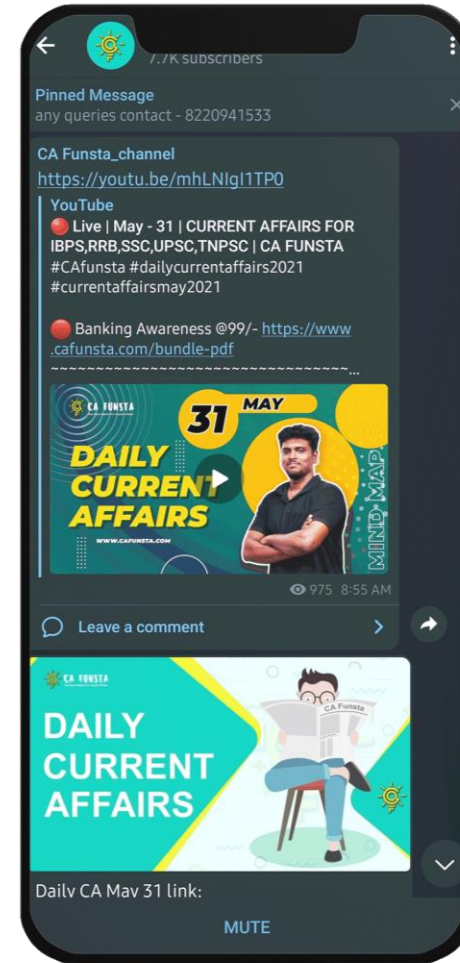
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