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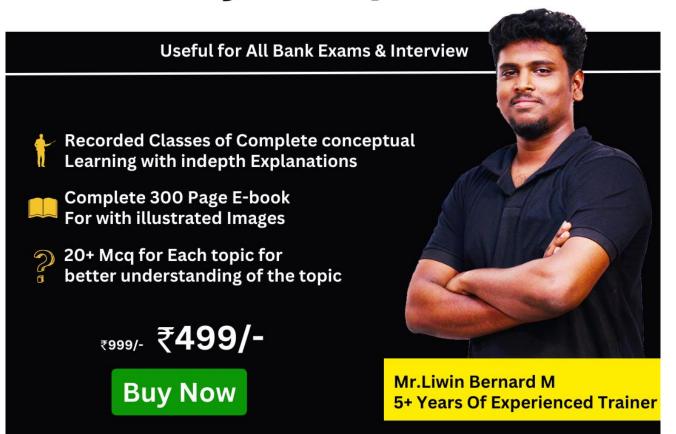






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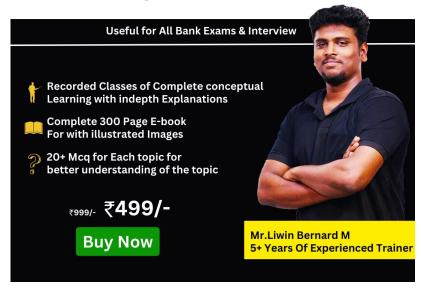
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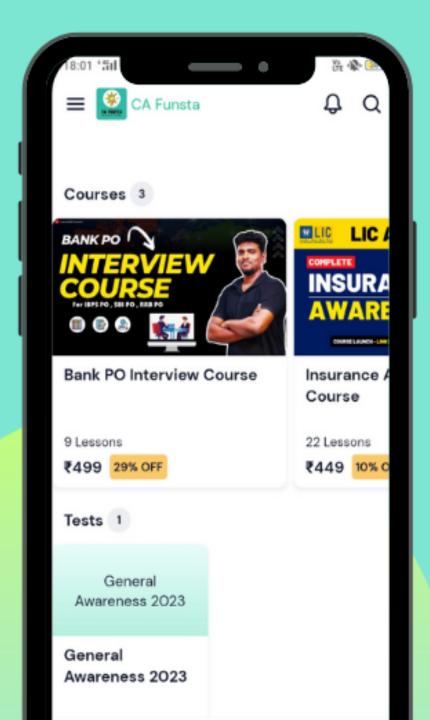
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## **Important Days**



#### On which date is World Diabetes Day observed?

- A) November 5
- B) November 10
- C) November 13
- D) November 14
- E) November 17

Answer D) November 14





## **Important Days**



- **World Diabetes Day** is celebrated every year on **November 14** to mark the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who discovered the insulin hormone along with Charles Herbert Best in 1922.
- World Diabetes Day was established by the International Diabetes Foundation (IDF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1991, as a response to growing concerns about the escalating health threat posed by the ailment.
- World Diabetes Day was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2006 with the passage of a resolution to this effect.
- The theme for World Diabetes Day 2023 is "Access to Diabetes Care".



## **Important Days**



#### Children's Day 2023

- **Children's Day in India** is celebrated every year on **November 14**. This date was chosen to coincide with the birthday of India's first prime minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was known to be very fond of children and advocated for their rights and education
- Jawaharlal Nehru was born on November 14, 1889 and his birthday is celebrated as Children's Day.
- Children's Day was first observed as "Flower Day" on November 5, 1948. It was only in 1954 that Children's Day was first celebrated on Nehru's birthday – November 14.
- The idea of celebrating Children's Day on Nehru's birthday gained momentum after his death on May 27, 1964. To honour his legacy and his advocacy for children's rights and education, it was decided to celebrate his birthday as Children's Day across the country. The first Children's Day was celebrated in 1964.

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## **SPORTS**



Lt Col Sanjeev Malik, an Army Medical Corps Officer, created history by winning how many gold medals in the World Medicine and Health Games in Colombia?

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

Answer D) Five





## SPORTS



- Army Medical Corps officer Lt Col Sanjeev Malik has made history by winning Five Gold
   Medals in 42nd World Medicine and Health Games in Colombia.
- He is presently posted in the President's Body Guards, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
- His victories in the 800m, 1500m, 3000m, 5000m, and cross-country events make him the only athlete to achieve this feat in 2023 and one of a select few since the Games began in 1978.
- The DGAFMS Lt Gen Daljit Singh has congratulated Lt Col Malik for his spectacular performance and wished him more laurels in the future.
- The World Medicine and Health Games, often regarded as the Olympic Games for Health Professionals, has evolved into the most prestigious global sporting event within the medical community. With a legacy dating back to 1978, the Games annually attract over 2,500 participants from more than 50 different nations.



## **SPORTS**



#### **Explanation**

- These healthcare professionals engage in approximately twenty sports disciplines, both individually and collectively, all while upholding the core values of Olympism.
- Lt Col Sanjeev's success not only highlights his personal excellence but also showcases the dedication of healthcare professionals globally, blending their medical expertise with athletic achievements. As the 42nd edition concludes, Lt Col Sanjeev stands as a symbol of inspiration in the world of health sports.

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#### Lala Kedarnath Aggarwal, the founder of Bikanervala, passed away at the age of 86. What was his notable contribution to the food industry?

- A) Founder of a popular chain of sweet shops
- B) Pioneer in organic farming
- C) Renowned chef and restaurateur
- D) Inventor of a famous culinary dish
- E) Leading figure in the global spice trade

**Answer** A) Founder of a popular chain of sweet shops







- Lala Kedarnath Aggarwal, who once sold bhujia and rasgullas in buckets on the streets of old Delhi before establishing sweets and snacks brand Bikanervala, passed away
- Kedarnath Aggarwal started his entrepreneurial journey in Delhi.
- Hailing from Bikaner, his family owned a sweet shop in the bylanes of the city since 1905.
   The shop was named as Bikaner Namkeen Bhandar and used to sell a few varieties of sweets and snacks.

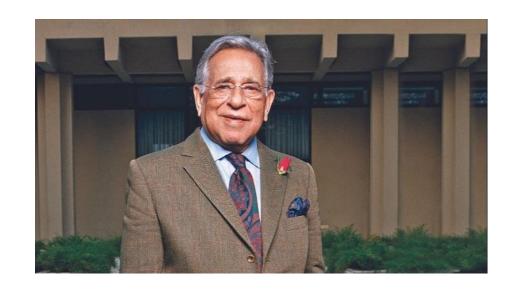




# The legendary hotelier PRS Oberoi passed away recently. What was his notable contribution to the hospitality industry?

- A) Founder of Taj Hotels
- B) Founder of Oberoi Hotels
- C) Founder of ITC Hotels
- D) Founder of Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts
- E) Founder of The Lalit Hotels

Answer
B) Founder of Oberoi Hotels







- The doyen of the Indian hospitality industry and chairman emeritus of the Oberoi Group,
   Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi, passed away
- Born in 1929 in New Delhi, P.R.S. Oberoi was educated in India, the United Kingdom and in Switzerland
- He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan award, India's second highest civilian honour in 2008.
- Popularly known as "Biki", P.R.S. Oberoi was the Executive Chairman of EIH Limited. He was
  also the Chairman of Oberoi Hotels, the major shareholder of EIH Limited

## **RANKING**



According to a US varsity, in which position did India rank among 129 nations in the inclusiveness index?

- A) 92nd
- B) 105th
- C) 117th
- D) 124th
- E) 129th

Answer C) 117th



## RANKING



- **India** is ranked **117th in the list of 129 countries** in the world in the inclusiveness index published by the Othering and Belonging Institute (OBI) at California University, United States.
- Smaller countries like Bangladesh (106) and Israel (115) were placed better than India.
- The index examines inclusivity in terms of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and the general population using several measures.
- The measures include out-group violence, political representation, income inequality, antidiscrimination laws, rate of incarceration, and immigration/ asylum policies, as per a release from OBI.
- India was ranked last (129) in religion inclusiveness, 121st in gender, 108th in disability, 87th in race, 40th in the general population, and 39th in LGBTQ



## RANKING



- **New Zealand finished first in the index** for the second consecutive year. Portugal recorded its best showing by securing second place (up from 5th place in 2022) followed by the Netherlands in the third place.
  - Iran was placed at the bottom of the global list. Yemen, which has been devastated by the Saudi-led invasion performed poorly followed by the Comoros Islands, a former French colony located off the southeastern coast of Africa.
- OBI has been publishing the inclusiveness index from 2016 ranking the countries by their levels of inclusion using a number of indicators. This year for the first time, OBI included an indicator for a country's response to the climate crisis by considering its change in greenhouse gas emissions





#### The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) have announced the establishment of which fund?

- A) Climate Change Adaptation Fund (CCAF)
- B) Green Growth Fund (GGF)
- C) Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)
- D) Natural Capital Fund (NCF)
- E) Biodiversity Conservation Fund (BCF)

Answer D) Natural Capital Fund (NCF)







#### **Explanation**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) have announced the establishment of Natural Capital Fund (NCF), which is a concessional fund designed to support projects that enhance food security while also protecting and restoring natural capital in ADB's developing member countries (DMCs).
- GEF is supporting the NCF with an investment of \$15 million.
- The announcement was made at the Asia-Pacific Natural Capital Forum held on 7--9 November 2023, co-hosted by ADB and Stanford University's Natural Capital Project. ADB and Stanford University have been collaborating on introducing natural capital accounting and gross ecosystem product (GEP) in DMCs

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- The forum discussed, among others, the nature financing gap and noted ADB's broader initiative, Nature Solutions Finance Hub, which aims to develop financing models for nature-based solutions by proactively developing scalable and bankable demonstration projects centered around innovative finance approaches.
- Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.





#### **Titbits**

#### **Asian Development Bank**

Member Countries: 68

Founded Year: 1966

Headquarters: Manila, Philippines

Head: Masatsugu Asakawa

**Global Environment Facility(GEF)** 

Founded: October 1991

**CEO: Carlos Manuel Rodriguez** 

Headquarters: Washington, District of Columbia, United

States of America





The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 100 million loan for improving urban services and tourism facilities in which Indian state?

- A) Assam
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Mizoram
- D) Tripura
- E) Arunachal Pradesh

**Answer** D) Tripura





- In a significant stride towards enhancing urban services and fortifying tourism infrastructure, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has given the nod to a USD 100 million loan dedicated to the northeastern state of Tripura
- This project will support the state as a gateway to the northeast region by developing tourist destinations along the national highways and by improving urban governance and financial sustainability
- The comprehensive project encompasses the upgrade of urban water supply systems through the installation of 42 kilometres of new transmission and distribution pipes, the establishment of four new water treatment plants, and the enhancement of 55 kilometres of stormwater drains
- Additionally, 21 kilometres of urban roads will be improved with a focus on features catering to the needs of the elderly, women, children, and disabled individuals





#### **Titbits**

### **Tripura**

Capital: Agartala

CM: Manik Saha

Governor: Indra Sena Reddy Nallu





In October, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) fell by what percentage, continuing its negative streak for how many consecutive months?

- A) 0.52%, 5 months
- B) 0.52%, 7 months
- C) 0.75%, 3 months
- D) 1.00%, 6 months
- E) 1.25%, 8 months

**Answer** B) 0.52%, 7 months





- India's wholesale price index in October fell 0.52% from a year earlier, staying in negative territory for the seventh straight month on weaker manufacturing and a moderation in food prices, according to government data
- The fall in the index was steeper than a decline of 0.20% expected by economists polled by Reuters. It fell 0.26% in September.
- In October, fuel and power prices fell 2.47% from a year earlier, compared with a 3.35% drop in September. Prices of primary articles were up 1.82% versus a rise of 3.70% a month earlier.
- Food prices rose 1.07% year-on-year compared with a rise of 1.54% in September, while manufactured product prices fell 1.13% against a 1.34% fall the previous month.
- Data showed India's retail inflation eased in October to a four-month low, edging closer to the central bank's target of 4%, which it has said needs to be firmly in sight before it can start lowering interest rates.





#### Which companies have been granted the requisite licenses to provide satellite internet services in India?

- A) Jio Satellite Communications Ltd and Starlink
- B) Bharti Global and SES S.A.
- C) Jio Satellite Communications Ltd and Eutelsat OneWeb
- D) Vodafone Idea and Airtel
- E) ISRO and Hughes Communications

**Answer** C) Jio Satellite Communications Ltd and Eutelsat OneWeb







- Jio Satellite Communications Ltd and Eutelsat OneWeb have been granted the requisite licences to provide satellite internet services in India.
- Both companies hold the GMPCS (Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite)
   licence, alongside a pan-India ISP (Internet Service Provider) licence.
- As reported by the Financial Express, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)
  allocated ISP-A and a VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) licence to OneWeb
- Meanwhile, Amazon and Starlink are also in the process of obtaining the GMPCS licence in India.
- Jio showcased JioSpaceFiber at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2023, while Airtel's booth featured solutions from Eutelsat OneWeb
- The ISP (Internet Service Provider) licence and the GMPCS (Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite) licence are distinct authorisations granted by regulatory bodies, each governing different aspects of communication services.





- 1. ISP Licence (Internet Service Provider):
  - Scope: An ISP licence pertains to the provision of internet services. It allows a company or entity to offer internet connectivity, bandwidth, and related services to end-users or other businesses.
  - Infrastructure: ISPs typically operate and maintain the necessary network infrastructure, including servers, routers, and cables, to facilitate the transmission of data over the internet.
  - Services: ISPs provide services such as broadband internet, email hosting, website hosting, and virtual private networks (VPNs), among others.



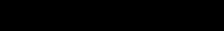


#### **Explanation**

- 2. GMPCS Licence (Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite):
  - Scope: A GMPCS licence, on the other hand, focuses on satellite-based mobile communication services on a global scale. It allows the licencee to offer mobile communication services via satellite technology.
  - Infrastructure: GMPCS services rely on satellite networks to enable communication in areas where traditional terrestrial networks may be unavailable or impractical.

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- Services: GMPCS licences cover mobile voice and data communication services delivered through satellite connections. These services are often used in remote or mobile environments, providing connectivity beyond the reach of terrestrial networks.





#### **Titbits**

#### **OneWeb**

Headquarters: London, United Kingdom

CEO: Neil Masterson



## **ACQUISTIONS AND MERGERS**



Accel Partners and Quona Capital are set to increase their stake in which financial institution to 9.99% each?

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

**Answer** D) Shivalik Small Finance Bank



## **ACQUISTIONS AND MERGERS**



- Global venture capital funds, Accel Partners and Quona Capital are set to increase their stake in Shivalik Small Finance Bank to 9.99 per cent each.
- Presently both VCs hold a 4.99 per cent stake each in the bank
- In November 2022, Accel Partners and Quona Capital infused ₹111
  crore in the bank for a 4.99 per cent stake each. The bank was then
  valued at ₹560 crore.
- In January 2020, the bank received in-principle approval from the RBI to convert from an urban cooperative bank into a small finance bank. The bank commenced its operations as SFB on April 26, 2021 and its net worth stood at around ₹160 crore as of March 31, 2023



## **ACQUISTIONS AND MERGERS**



#### **Titbits**

#### **Shivalik Small Finance Bank**

Headquarters : Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh

MD& CEO: Mr. Anshul Swami

Tagline: A Bank For Your Welfare

Accel

Headquarters: Palo Alto, California, United States

Founders: Jim Swartz, Arthur Patterson

**Quona Capital Management Ltd** 

Headquarters: Washington, District of Columbia, United

States of America

Managing Partner: Monica Brand Engel, Jonathan

Whittle, Ganesh Rengaswamy



## **APPOINTMENTS**



#### Kerala Tourism's pavilion won the Best Stand Award at which international event held in London?

- A) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- B) World Trade Organization (WTO)
- C) World Health Assembly (WHA)
- D) World Travel Market (WTM)
- E) World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS

**Answer** D) World Travel Market (WTM)







- Kerala Tourism's pavilion has won the best stand award at the World Travel Market (WTM)
  in London, besides basking in limelight at the leading international travel and hospitality fair.
- The Kerala Tourism pavilion, which stood on a 126 sq m space, was themed "The Magical Everyday", celebrating the festivals of Kerala. The central attraction of the stand was 'Kettu Kala' a gigantic effigy of a pair of bulls.
- The show saw the trailer launch of Car and Country's next leg, featuring Kerala. Two Keralites

   Deepak Narendran and Ashique Thahir were at the wheels in this edition, along with
   Freddie Hunt, a professional racing driver and son of legendary James Hunt, the 1976 F1
   World Champion.
- Trade partners from Kerala to WTM 2023 were Abad Hotels & Resorts, Alhind Tours and Travels, Cosima Travel and Trade Links, Crowne Plaza Kochi, Intersight Tours and Travels, Kerala Tourism Development Corporation, Pioneer Personalized Holidays, Santa Monica Tours and Travels, Spiceland Holidays, Tamara Leisure Experiences and Xandari Resorts.





The 'Airgun Surrender Abhiyan', a wildlife conservation initiative by the Arunachal Pradesh forest department, received international recognition at which event held in Malaysia?

- A) International Conference on Climate Change
- B) UNESCO's International Conference on Biosphere Reserves
- C) United Nations Biodiversity Conference
- D) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Congress
- E) Global Summit on Sustainable Development

Answer
B) UNESCO's International Conference on
Biosphere Reserves







- The 'Airgun Surrender Abhiyan', a wildlife conservation initiative by the Arunachal Pradesh forest department, has received international recognition at the UNESCO's International Conference on Biosphere Reserves at Sabah in Malaysia
- The abhiyan was launched in March 2021 to discourage hunting and raise awareness about the detrimental effects of wildlife killing.
- The programme was officially inaugurated on March 17, 2021 at Lumdung in East Kameng district where 46 airguns were surrendered, making Lumdung the first 'airgun-free' village in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Earlier, the abhiyan had received acclaim from various national and international media outlets and was honoured at the sixth North East Green Summit of Forest Ministers of North East held at Silchar in Assam in 2021.
- The initiative received a significant boost when it was featured in the 84th edition of the 'Mann Ki Baat' programme on December 26 the same year, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally acknowledging and appreciating these efforts





#### **Titbits**

#### **UNESCO**

Abbreviation: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Founded: 1945

Headquarters: Paris, France

Director-General: Audrey Azoulay





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#### Where did the 6th High-Level Meeting of the India-OPEC Energy Dialogue take place?

- A) New Delhi, India
- B) Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- C) Vienna, Austria
- D) Abu Dhabi, UAE
- E) Geneva, Switzerland

Answer C) Vienna, Austria







- The 6th High-Level Meeting of the India-OPEC Energy Dialogue took place at the OPEC Secretariat in Vienna, Austria
- The Meeting was co-chaired by HE Haitham Al Ghais, Secretary General of OPEC and HE Hardeep Singh Puri, Honourable Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs of the Republic of India.
- It was agreed to hold the next High-Level Meeting of the India-OPEC Energy Dialogue during the course of 2024 in India.





#### **Titbits**

**Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries(OPEC)** 

> Headquarters: Vienna, Austria Founded: September 1960

Secretary General: HE Haitham Al Ghais





Russia signed a contract to supply which hand-held anti-aircraft missiles to India and has allowed their production under license?

- A) Akash
- B) Barak
- C) Spyder
- D) Igla-S
- E) BrahMos

**Answer** D) Igla-S







- Russia signed a contract to supply Igla-S hand-held anti-aircraft missiles to India and has allowed the production of the Igla under license
- The Igla-S is a man-portable air defense system (MANPADS) that can be fired by an individual or crew to bring down an enemy aircraft
- Moreover, at the beginning of this year, India and Russia also began the joint production of AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles





#### **Titbits**

#### Russia

Capital: Moscow

Currency: Russian ruble

President: Vladimir Putin

Prime Minister: Mikhail Mishustin





#### The coal ministry has made amendments to the SHAKTI policy. What is the primary aim of these amendments?

- A) Increase coal prices
- B) Promote market transparency
- C) Reduce coal production
- D) Enhance environmental regulations
- E) Expand nuclear energy production

**Answer** 

**B) Promote market transparency** 





- In a significant move towards coal sector reform, the **ministry of coal** has announced an amendment to the SHAKTI Policy (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India), allowing power plants, including private generators without Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), to be granted coal linkage for a minimum of three months and up to a maximum of one year.
- The amendment, aimed at fostering a more transparent coal allocation mechanism, dictates that power generated through such linkages must be sold via power exchanges or through transparent bidding processes on the Discovery of Efficient Energy Price (DEEP) portal.
- This methodology will be formulated by the Ministry of Power in consultation with the Ministry of Coal
- The policy revision is expected to improve the availability and affordability of coal for power generation and enhance the overall efficiency of the sector.





#### Ashok Leyland has commenced the delivery of India's first liquefied natural gas (LNG)-powered haulage truck to which organization?

- A) Indian Oil Corporation
- B) Mahanagar Gas
- C) Bharat Petroleum Corporation
- D) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation
- E) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)

**Answer** B) Mahanagar Gas







- Ashok Leyland, the flagship company of the Hinduja Group and India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, commenced the delivery of India's first liquefied natural gas-powered haulage truck, AVTR 1922, to Mahanagar Gas in Hosur.
- This is a significant step from Ashok Leyland towards a sustainable and eco-friendly future for the Indian transportation industry.
- With this, Ashok Leyland becomes the first Indian Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to unveil an in-house LNG engine compliant with BS VI Stage II emission standards
- The AVTR 1922, powered by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), is built on the AVTR platform and shares a high degree of commonality with Ashok Leyland's existing diesel truck range. This ensures that our customers benefit from streamlined service and maintenance processes.
- With this significant milestone, Ashok Leyland further strengthens its extensive product portfolio by venturing into the alternate fuel segment, setting new standards in the Indian commercial vehicle industry





#### **Titbits**

#### **Ashok Leyland**

Founded: 7 September 1948

Headquarters: Chennai, Tamil Nadu

MD & CEO: Shenu Agarwal

**Mahanagar Gas Limited** 

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Founded: 1995

Chairman: Mr. Sandeep Kumar Gupta





The FSSAI has launched the Food Safety Compliance System portal in how many regional languages?

- A) 2
- B) 3
- C) 4
- D) 5
- E) 6

Answer C) 4







#### **Explanation**

- Food safety regulator FSSAI has launched the Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS) portal in four regional languages, apart from Hindi and English, in order to enhance user experience and accessibility
- The portal is now available in Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu and Marathi, apart from Hindi and English.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) also plans to launch the portal in Kannada, Punjabi, Malayalam, Assamese, Bengali and Odia soon
- The latest advancement aims to enhance the user experience for local food businesses, allowing them to easily connect with the FSSAI's online compliance portal FoSCoS, launched nationwide in 2020

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#### **Titbits**

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India(FSSAI)

Founded: August 2011

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairperson: Shri Rajesh Bhushan





The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, launched the software application "Dashboard" portal. What is the primary purpose of this portal?

- A) Real-time monitoring of government projects
- B) Providing updates on international space missions
- C) Facilitating prompt and effective Parliament business
- D) Tracking COVID-19 vaccination statistics
- E) Monitoring environmental conservation initiatives

**Answer** 

C) Facilitating prompt and effective Parliament business





#### **Explanation**

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the software application "Dashboard" portal of the Ministry of Science & Technology for real-time, prompt and effective Parliament business including Parliament Questions, Acts of Parliament and Gazette Notifications of Govt. of India as well as Cabinet Notes.
- Earlier, the Minister laid the Foundation Stone of the new Auditorium-cum-Guest House Complex in the premises of the "Technology Bhavan" which is the headquarters of the Department of Science & Technology (DST). He unveiled the plaque at the site and also took part in the Bhoomi Pujan.
- The new 500-seater state-of-the-art Auditorium Block (5000 sq meters) is being built in Technology Bhawan Complex with double basement car parking (9000 sq meters). The auditorium block is planned to be completed in 24 months. IRCON ISL is the Project Management Consultant for the project.
- On the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh also launched the software application portal of DST for Parliament Questions, Cabinet Notes, Acts of Parliament and Gazette Notifications of Govt. of India related to DST.

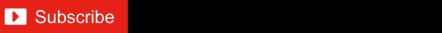
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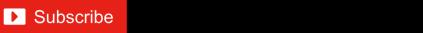
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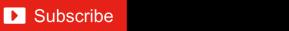
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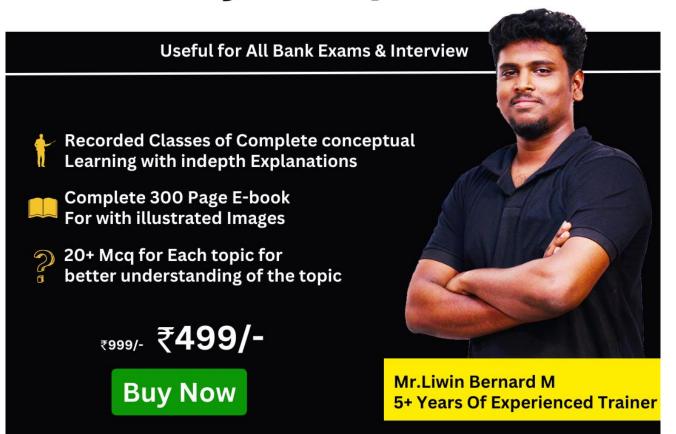






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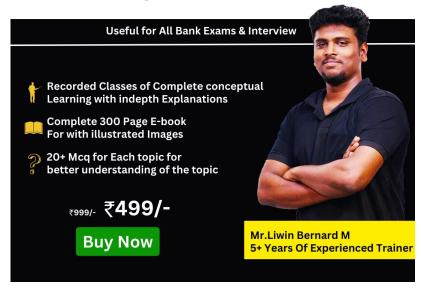
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