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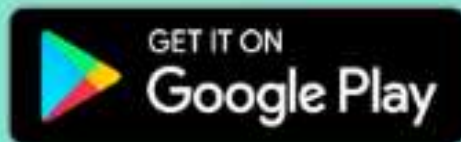
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Important Days



➤ On which date was November 25 officially designated as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women?

- A) January 15, 1995
- B) February 07, 2000
- C) March 22, 1998
- D) April 05, 2005
- E) May 10, 2012



Answer

B) February 07, 2000



Important Days



Explanation

- **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is celebrated every year on November 25**
- **Theme:** "UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls"
- **It is a United Nations-designated day marked to create awareness of the different types of violence faced by women, promoting advocacy, and creating better opportunities for women.**
- The campaign addressed stopping violence against women runs for 16 days, starting on November 25 and ending on December 10.



Important Days



History:

- **On December 20, 1993, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.**
- **On February 07, 2000, November 25 was officially designated as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**



Important Days



Recent findings by UN:

- Some **736 million women**, almost one in three, have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both, at least once in their lives, as per United Nations.
- More than **133 women or girls** are killed every day by someone in their family as per the UN Women report.
- Only **0.2%** is the percentage of the overall aid & development spending allocated to gender-based violence prevention in 2022.



➤ **What was Imad Wasim's role who has recently retired from international cricket, in the Pakistan cricket team?**

- A) Opening Batsman
- B) Fast Bowler
- C) Wicketkeeper
- D) Left-arm Spinner and Lower-order Batter
- E) Captain



Answer

D) Left-arm Spinner and Lower-order Batter



Explanation

- Pakistan allrounder Imad Wasim has retired from international cricket with immediate effect.
- He played 55 ODIs and 66 T20Is for Pakistan as a left-arm spinner and lower-order batter.
- He last represented Pakistan in April 2023 in a T20I against New Zealand in Rawalpindi.



About his career:

- Imad (34) was part of Pakistan's Under-19 World Cup-winning side in 2006 and lead Pakistan in 2008.
- In 2015 for a Pakistan debut, in a T20I he played against Zimbabwe in Lahore.
- This was when international cricket returned to Pakistan six years after the attack on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore.
- He represented Pakistan in the T20 World Cup again in 2016.
- In 2019, he captained Pakistan, in two ODIs against Australia in Dubai, when regular captain Shoaib Malik was out with an injury.
- In all, he took 44 wickets and scored 986 runs in ODIs.
- In T20Is, he took 65 wickets and scored 486 runs.



SPORTS



➤ **How many medals did India win in total at the World Wushu Championship held in Texas, USA, as mentioned in the statement?**

- A) One gold and one silver
- B) Two gold and one silver
- C) One silver and two bronze
- D) Two silver and one bronze
- E) Three bronze



Answer

C) One silver and two bronze



SPORTS



Women 60kg Category – Silver Medal by Roshibina Devi.

- Asian Games silver medallist Roshibina Devi lost to Vietnam's Thi Thu Nguyen in the final and got Silver medal.



Men's 48kg Category: 1 Bronze medal by Kushal Kumar

- Kushal Kumar won a bronze medal after losing 0-2 to Vietnamese Hai Tran Huy.

Women's 48kg weight category : 1 Bronze medal by Chhavi

- Chhavi also won a bronze medal after her defeat to Philippines' Jennifer Kilapio.

- India ended its campaign with **one silver and two bronze at the World Wushu Championship held in Texas, USA.**



➤ **What is the purpose of the USD 170 million loan approved by ADB for Kochi, Kerala?**

- A) Rural Development
- B) Healthcare Infrastructure
- C) Modernizing Water Supply Services
- D) Education Initiatives
- E) Renewable Energy Projects



Answer

C) Modernizing Water Supply Services



Explanation

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has given the **nod to a USD 170 million loan aimed at modernizing water supply services in Kochi, Kerala.**
- Kochi, often referred to as the commercial capital of Kerala, has witnessed rapid urbanization, making it one of India's fastest-growing urban centres.
- Kerala has experienced severe dry spells and droughts, with the latest distress in 2016 that affected the availability of water.
- As climate projections point to varying frequency of rainfall and rising temperature, provision of reliable and safe water services is a critical climate adaptation strategy.



Explanation

- **The project aims to mitigate these challenges and enhance access to quality water, a vital element of inclusive development.**
- **This project involves the rehabilitation and upgrade of five existing water treatment plants with a cumulative production capacity of 325 million litres per day (MLD).**
- **Additionally, a new plant with a capacity of 190 MLD will be constructed.**
- **To minimize treated water loss during distribution, around 700 kilometres of pipes will be replaced, accompanied by the introduction of a real-time monitoring system.**



Explanation

- **Approximately 146,000 water meters will be upgraded to high-quality and reliable meters.**
- One of the distinctive features of this initiative is the introduction of preventive maintenance and asset management practices through a long-term performance-based contract.
- This encompasses the operation and maintenance of water distribution infrastructure, as well as rehabilitation and upgrading activities.
- Recognizing the importance of institutional capacity, the project seeks to strengthen the Kerala Water Authority (KWA).



Titbits

Asian Development Bank

Founded: 19 December 1966

HQ: Mandaluyong, Manila, Philippines

President: Masatsugu Asakawa

Members: 68 Countries



➤ **How much funding has been tied up by HSBC India and UKEF to support Indian MSMEs and corporates?**

- A) 50 million pounds
- B) 75 million pounds
- C) 100 million pounds
- D) 125 million pounds
- E) 150 million pounds

Answer

C) 100 million pounds



Explanation

- **HSBC India and UK Export Finance (UKEF), the UK's export credit agency, tied up to 100 million pound to support Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and corporates for financing their imports from Britain.**
- This partnership will enhance the availability of credit for Indian MSMEs and boost trade ties between the two countries



Explanation

- **India was the UK's 12th largest trading partner in the four quarters to the end of Q2 2023, accounting for 2.1 per cent of total UK trade.**
- **In 2021, around 7,500 UK SMEs, with around 3,17,300 employees, exported goods worth 1.2 billion pound to India, accounting for 85 per cent of all UK businesses exporting goods to India.**



Titbits

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited(HSBC India)

Founded: 1853

HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO: Hitendhra Dave



➤ **Which specific health risks are mentioned as being disproportionately affecting the poorest and most vulnerable due to climate change as per the report by World Bank?**

- A) Diabetes and hypertension
- B) Infectious diseases
- C) Mental health disorders
- D) Genetic disorders
- E) Chronic respiratory conditions



Answer

B) Infectious diseases



Explanation

- The World Bank has teamed up with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria to fortify health systems in the global south against the effects of climate change.
- The World Bank estimates that **132 million people may be forced into extreme poverty by 2030 due to climate change; one-third are the result of climate-related health risks disproportionately affecting the poorest and most vulnerable.**
- **More than half of the global population is not fully covered by essential health services and the climate crisis will only increase the demand for such services.**



Explanation

- The two organizations will work together on climate and health priorities to reduce malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis via stronger health systems, including better access to primary health care services for the most vulnerable.
- Another focus area is bolstering the regional production and procurement of health supplies, such as drugs and medical devices.
- **The World Bank and Global Fund will help localize health supply chains by supporting sustainable manufacturing in Africa and low- and middle-income countries.**



Titbits

World Bank

Founded: 7 July 1944
HQ: Washington DC, USA
President: Ajay Banga

Global Fund

Founded: 28 January 2002
Location: Geneva, Switzerland
Executive Director: Peter Sands



➤ **What has the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) introduced new guidelines for?**

- A) Large multinational corporations
- B) Small and medium enterprises (SMEs)
- C) Technology startups
- D) Agricultural cooperatives
- E) Educational institutions



Answer

B) Small and medium enterprises (SMEs)



Explanation

- The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has introduced new guidelines for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) seeking to move to the main board from the SMEs platform.
- As per the latest guidelines, **an applicant firm will be required to have a net worth of at least Rs 15 crore for the preceding two financial years to migrate to the main board.**
- The guidelines stipulate that **the applicant firm should have been listed on the SME platform for a minimum of three years.**
- They **should have 250 public shareholders before shifting to the main board.**



Explanation

- They should have a positive operating profit for at least any two out of three financial years and have a positive profit after tax (PAT) in the immediate financial year of making the migration application to the bourse.
- The paid-up equity capital of the applicant firm should be more than Rs 10 crore and the market capitalisation should be at least Rs 25 crore.
- The applicant company should not have received any winding-up petition admitted by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and no material regulatory action should have been taken against the firm in the past three years like suspension of trading against the SME and its promoters by any stock exchange.



Explanation

- Such firms, their promoters as well and their subsidiaries should not be debarred by the capital markets regulator Sebi.
- **The new guidelines will become effective from January 1, 2024 according to Bombay Stock Exchange.**



Titbits

Bombay Stock Exchange:

Founded: 9 July 1875

HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman: S S Mundra

MD and CEO: Sundararaman Ramamurthy



- **Who is the individual or entity that has exited the listed fintech company One 97 Communications in an open market transaction?**

- A) Elon Musk
- B) Bill Gates
- C) Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaw
- D) Jeff Bezos
- E) Mark Zuckerberg



Answer

C) Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway



Explanation

- Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway or BH International has exited listed fintech company One 97 Communications (Paytm's parent) in an open market transaction, bulk deals' data published by bourses shows.
- The firm has booked a loss of Rs 507 crore on its total investment in Paytm made five years ago.
- Some of the marquee backers of Paytm, such as SoftBank and Ant Group, among others, have been cashing out of the company in recent times.



Titbits

Paytm:

Founded: August 2010

HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Founder and CEO: Vijay Shekar Sharma

BH International:

Founded: 2001



APPOINTMENTS



- For how many years has Chandra Shekhar Ghosh been re-appointed as the MD of Bandhan Bank, according to the approval?

- A) 1 year
- B) 2 years
- C) 3 years
- D) 4 years
- E) 5 years



Answer
C) 3 years



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- Bandhan Bank board approved re-appointment of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as its MD for 3 years.
- The board approval for re-appointment is subject to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India and the shareholders of the bank.



APPOINTMENTS



Titbits

Bandhan Bank

Founded: 2015

HQ: Kolkata, West Bengal

Chairman: Dr Anup Kumar Sinha

MD and CEO: Chandhra Shekhar Ghosh



AWARDS



➤ **What does ICCC stand for in the context of the GCC-ICCC Smart Governance Centre?**

- A) Indian Climate Change Centre
- B) International Center for Civic Constructio
- C) Integrated Command and Control Centre
- D) Innovation in Climate Control Center
- E) Institute for Climate-conscious Construc



Answer

C) Integrated Command and Control Centre



AWARDS



Explanation

- **The Greater Chennai Corporation's (GCC) -ICCC Smart Governance Centre has been awarded the Platinum Certification under the IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) Green New Building Rating System (GNBRS).**
- **This award marks GCC as India's First Government Building to receive the highest score of 89 out of 100 points.**
- **GCC is one of the oldest corporations to construct an end-to-end sustainable government building.**
- **Dr J Radhakrishnan, Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation and Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu received the Platinum award and certification.**



AWARDS



GCC – ICCC Smart Governance Centre:

- **The 51,338, sq ft, Smart Governance Centre of GCC was constructed this year, using several eco-friendly construction materials.**
- Over 30 per cent of the area is dedicated to predominantly native vegetation, with a strong commitment to preserving all mature trees during construction.
- The Centre harvests more than 90 per cent of peak rainfall and uses low-flow water fixtures and a bio-based Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), crucial in water-scarce Chennai.
- Also, around 42 per cent of water savings through the use of low flow/flush water fixtures.



AWARDS



GCC – ICCC Smart Governance Centre:

- With several energy-efficient features and systems, it achieves energy cost savings of around 43 per cent over the ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) baseline case building including solar energy generation.
- The 131kWp installed solar PV system caters to 34 per cent of total annual energy consumption.



AWARDS



Titbits

Indian Green Building Council

HQ: Hyderabad, Telengana

Executive Director: K S Venkatagiri



➤ **Where was the 9th National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-IX) conducted by the Indian Coast Guard?**

- A) Mumbai, Maharashtra
- B) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- C) Kochi, Kerala
- D) Vadinar, Gujarat
- E) Kolkata, West Bengal

Answer

D) Vadinar, Gujarat



Explanation

- **The 9th National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-IX) was conducted by the Indian Coast Guard on 25 Nov 2023 off Vadinar, Gujarat.**
- More than 31 foreign observers and 80 delegates participated in the exercise.
- **The NATPOLREX-IX accomplished its objective of testing the level of preparedness and coordination between various resource agencies to respond to a marine oil spill invoking provisions of the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan or NOSDCP.**



Explanation

- The ICG deployed surface as well as air platforms including **Pollution Response Vessels (PRVs)**, **Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs)**, indigenous **Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III**, and **Dornier Aircraft** configured for marine pollution response.
- Indian Coast Guard assumed responsibilities for protecting the marine environment in the maritime zones of India on 07 Mar 1986, when these responsibilities were transferred from the Ministry of Shipping.
- Subsequently, the **Coast Guard** prepared the **NOSDCP** for combating oil spill disaster at sea, which was approved by the **Committee of Secretaries** in 1993.



Explanation

- **The Coast Guard has established four Pollution Response Centers at Mumbai, Chennai, Port Blair and Vadinar.**
- **75 percent of India's energy requirements are met by oil that is imported into our country by sea.**
- **The Indian Coast Guard functions as the Central Coordinating Authority for response to Oil spills in Indian waters.**



Titbits

Indian Coast Guard:

Formed: 18 August 1978

HQ: New Delhi

Director General: Rakesh Pal

Coast Guard Day: 1st February



➤ Which ghat in Varanasi, where the second floating CNG Mobile Refueling Unit (MRU) station was inaugurated?

- A) Dashashwamedh Ghat
- B) Assi Ghat
- C) Manikarnika Ghat
- D) Ravidas Ghat
- E) Tulsi Ghat

Answer
D) Ravidas Ghat



Explanation

- In Varanasi, the city's second floating Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Mobile Refueling Unit (MRU) station at Ravidas Ghat was inaugurated today by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri.
- The **Country's First CNG station is the Namoo Ghat CNG station** .
- The floating CNG Mother station at **Namoo Ghat has been operational since December 2021**.
- The **compression capacity of this station is around 15,000 kg/day of CNG which can fill approximately 1,000 – 1,500 boats per day**.



Explanation

- **GAIL recently won the prestigious 'Midstream Project of the Year - India' award at the Asian Oil and Gas Awards event for this project.**
- **The new station at Ravidas Ghat is a CNG Mobile Refueling Unit (MRU), CNG will be filled in cascades from Namo Ghat and transported by water ways to Ravidas Ghat for fueling boats.**
- **It has a capacity of 4,000 kg/day, which can cater to 300 to 400 boats per day**
- **Both the stations have been developed by GAIL (India) Limited, a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas at a cost of approximately Rs 17.5 Crore.**



Explanation

- Under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, **GAIL has entered into an agreement with Varanasi Nagar Nigam (VNN) for conversion of boats to the environment-friendly fuel CNG.**
- Till date, **735 such boats out of 890 registered with VNN have been converted to CNG under GAIL's CSR program at a cost of Rs 18 crore.**
- **On an average, it is estimated that each boatman can save potentially Rs 36,000 year by using CNG as fuel.**
- CNG is safer and less polluting and generates significantly less nitrous oxides (NOx) and sulphur oxides (Sox) as compared to diesel.



Other Projects of GAIL:

- GAIL has invested over Rs 350 crore for creating CGD infrastructure in Varanasi and another Rs 100 crore will be spent by 2024.
- The Varanasi CGD project is part of the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project and was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2018.
- Apart from these two floating CNG stations, GAIL also operates 24 CNG stations and another 13 CNG stations work is in progress for supplying the environment friendly fuel to more than 8,000 four-wheelers, 17,000 three-wheelers and around 100 buses.



Other Projects of GAIL:

- GAIL is also providing piped natural gas (D-PNG) to over 32,000 households, 61 commercial units like hotels and restaurants and 13 industrial units.
- PNG connectivity to another 40,000 households is in progress



Titbits

Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL):

Founded: 1984

HQ: New Delhi

Maharatna Status: 1 Feb 2013

Chairman and MD: Sandeep Kumar Gupta



➤ **What is the proposed total area of the merged tiger reserve which will come up in Damoh district of Uttar Pradesh?**

- A) 1,500 square kilometers
- B) 2,300 square kilometers
- C) 3,000 square kilometers
- D) 1,000 square kilometers
- E) 2,000 square kilometers

Answer

B) 2,300 square kilometers



Explanation

- The Central government has approved a proposal **to merge the two wildlife sanctuaries in Madhya Pradesh to create the largest tiger reserve in the country spanning 2,300 square kilometers.**
- The proposal is about the merging of the **Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, located in central Madhya Pradesh covering parts of Sagar, Damoh, Narsinghpur, and Raisen districts with the Rani Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary in the Damoh district of the state.**



QUICK RECALL



- **International Day For The Elimination of Violence Against Women 2023**
- **Imad Wasim retires from international cricket**
- **World Wushu Championship 2023: Roshibina Devi wins silver**
- **Asian Development Bank unleashes \$170 million wave to transform Kochi's water landscape**
- **HSBC India, UK Export Finance tie up for 100 mn pound financing programme**
- **World Bank, Global Fund team up to tackle health toll of climate change**
- **Bombay Stock Exchange introduced new guidelines for MSE seeking to move to the main board from the SME platform**



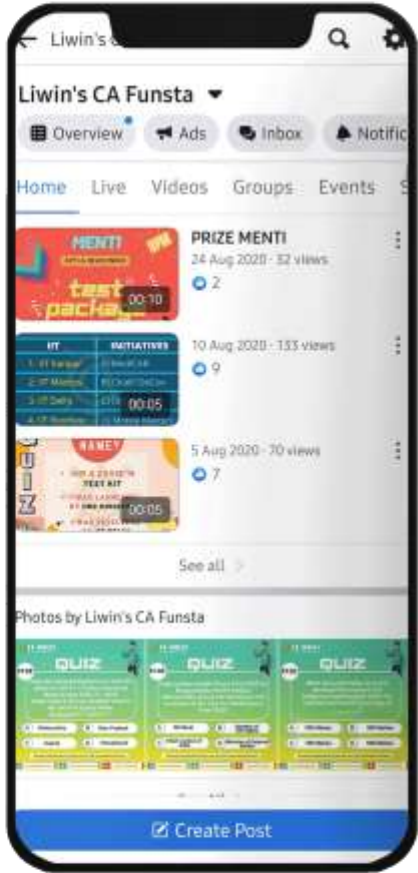
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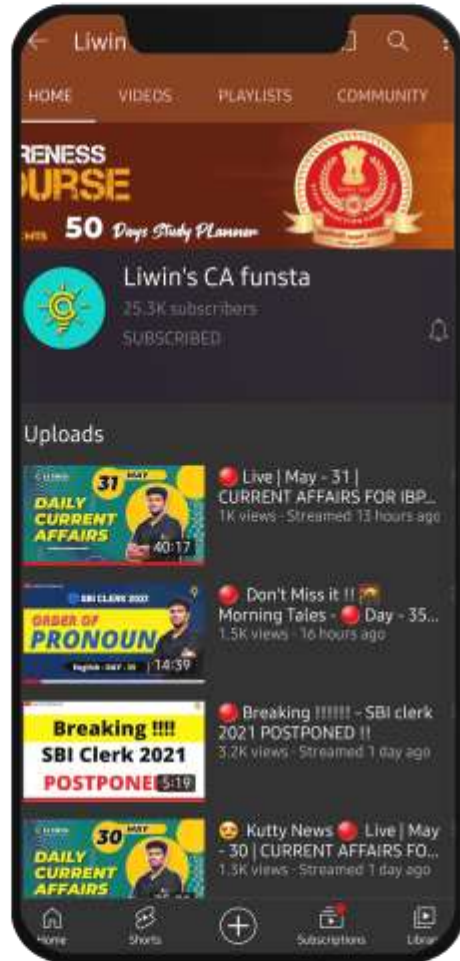
- **Berkshire Hathaway exits Paytm with Rs 507 cr loss**
- **Bandhan Bank board approves re-appointment of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as its MD for 3 years**
- **Chennai Corporation's Smart Governance Centre awarded Platinum Certification for green measures**
- **Indian Coast Guard conducts 9th National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-IX) off Vadinar, Gujarat**
- **Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri inaugurates floating re-fueling (CNG station for boats at Ravidas Ghat**
- **Madhya Pradesh gets India's largest tiger reserve in Damoh**



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