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# Important Days



➤ **When was UNICEF initially established, and what was its original purpose?**

- A) January 1, 1945, to promote international cooperation
- B) December 11, 1946, to address the needs of children impacted by World War II
- C) March 24, 1948, for global health initiatives
- D) November 20, 1952, for environmental protection
- E) October 24, 1945, for humanitarian aid in conflict zones



**Answer**

**B) December 11, 1946, to address the needs of children impacted by World War II**



# Important Days



## Explanation

- **UNICEF was initially established as the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund to address the needs of children impacted by World War II on December 11, 1946.**
- **Theme: "For every child, every right."**
- Its full name was changed to United Nations Children's Fund in 1953.



# Important Days



**International Mountain Day is observed on December 11**

- Theme: "Restoring Mountain Ecosystems,"
- Mountains cover approximately **27% of the Earth's land surface and are home to diverse plant and animal species.**
- They are crucial for climate regulation, water supply, soil maintenance, and conservation.
- According to the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, up to 84% of endemic mountain species are at risk of extinction.**





# Important Days



**International Mountain Day is observed on December 11**

- The recent biodiversity agreement of the **2022 United Nations Biodiversity Conference**, which aims to protect **30% of the Earth's lands and waters by 2030**.
- UN General Assembly has proclaimed **2023–2027 as "Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions."**



# Important Days



## Titbits

### United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF):

Formed: 11 December 1946

HQ: New York, US



# RANKING



➤ **How many countries and entities are evaluated in the CCPI, accounting for over 90% of global greenhouse gas emissions?**

- A) 50 countries
- B) 75 countries
- C) 100 countries
- D) 63 countries and the EU
- E) All countries in the world



**CCPI**  
Climate Change  
Performance Index

**Answer**

**D) 63 countries and the EU**



# RANKING



## Explanation

- **India has ascended to the 7th position in this year's Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI).**
- India's success is attributed to its robust performance in the greenhouse gas category, with a notable emphasis on the food sector, which holds significant weight in the CCPI
- **Germanwatch, the NewClimate Institute and the Climate Action Network publish the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) index annually since 2005.**
- It compares the **climate protection performance of 63 countries and the EU** which together account for **over 90% of global greenhouse gas emissions.**





# RANKING



## Explanation

- The climate protection performance is assessed in four categories: **GHG Emissions, Renewable Energy, Energy Use and Climate Policy.**
- Using standardised criteria, **the CCPI looks at four categories, with 14 indicators: Greenhouse Gas Emissions (40% of the overall score), Renewable Energy (20%), Energy Use (20%), and Climate Policy (20%).**
- It aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enables comparison of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries.



# RANKING



**Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI): India ranked at 7<sup>th</sup> position**

**Top 3 Countries:**

- **Demark**
- **Sweden**
- **Chile**

**Last 3 Countries:**

- **Iran**
- **Saudi Arabia**
- **Kazakhstan**



# RANKING



➤ How much total funding did India receive in startup funding by December 5, 2023, according to Tracxn's data?

- A) \$5 billion
- B) \$7 billion
- C) \$10 billion
- D) \$12 billion
- E) \$15 billion



**Answer**  
**B) \$7 billion**



# RANKING



## Explanation

- **India slipped to fourth position in the global ranking of Start up funding among the highest-funded geographies in 2023.**
- **India ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> spot globally in 2021 and 2022 in this ranking.**
- **This year India ranked fourth behind the US, the UK and China, receiving only \$7 billion in total funding (till December 5), according to data compiled by global market intelligence platform Tracxn.**
- **In the third quarter (Q3) this year, India even slipped to fifth position among the highest-funded countries – behind the US, the UK, China and France.**





# RANKING



## Explanation

- Q3 2023 raised a total of \$1.5 billion, which is a 30 per cent drop from Q2 2023 and a 54 per cent drop as compared to Q3 2022.
- The last quarter (Q4) this year recorded the lowest funding of \$957 million to date, marking it the lowest-funded quarter since Q3 2016.
- The decline is primarily due to the biggest drop in late-stage funding, by over 73 percent to \$4.2 billion in 2023 from \$15.6 billion in 2022.



➤ **With which German bank did the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited sign a 200 million Euro loan agreement?**

- A) Deutsche Bank
- B) Commerzbank
- C) KfW
- D) DZ Bank
- E) UniCredit

The logo for KfW, consisting of the letters "KFW" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

**Answer**  
**C) KfW**



## Explanation

- **Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power, has signed a 200 million Euro loan agreement with the German bank KfW.**
- This marks REC's sixth line of credit under the Indo-German Development Cooperation and demonstrates the corporation's commitment to **enhance the distribution infrastructure of DISCOMs in line with the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) of the Government of India.**



## Explanation

- The government launched the **Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)** to help **DISCOMs improve their operational efficiencies and financial sustainability by providing result-linked financial assistance to DISCOMs.**
- **REC is the nodal agency to implement the RDSS scheme.**





## Rural Electrification Corporation (REC):

- **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.**



## Titbits

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

Founded: 25 July 1969

HQ: New Delhi

CMD: Vivek Kumar Dewagan

Maharatna Status: 12th Maharatna in September 2002



➤ Which bank has launched an exclusive savings bank product for women called "Nari Shakti Savings Account"?

- A) State Bank of India (SBI)
- B) Punjab National Bank (PNB)
- C) Bank of India (BoI)
- D) ICICI Bank
- E) HDFC Bank

**Answer**

**C) Bank of India (BoI)**



## Explanation

- **Bank of India (BoI) has launched an exclusive savings bank product for women(18 years age and above) (Nari Shakti Savings Account) with an independent source of income.**
- **It has features such as personal accident insurance cover of up to Rs 1 crore, discounted health insurance and wellness products, rebates on locker facilities for gold and diamond SB A/C holders, among others.**





## Explanation

- The account offers a concessional rate of interest on retail loans and waiver of processing charges on these loans, free issuance of credit cards and a higher usage limit of up to Rs 5 lakh on POS.
- **For each New Nari Shakti account opened, the bank will make a contribution of Rs 10 towards the CSR fund, which will be utilised for the socio-economic development of underprivileged women and the girl child**



## Titbits

### Bank of India:

HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra  
MD and CEO: Rajneesh Karnatak



➤ How many EV charging stations does Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) aim to provide by the year 2024?

- A) 5,000
- B) 7,500
- C) 10,000
- D) 15,000
- E) 20,000

**Answer**  
**C) 10,000**



## Explanation

- **Tata Power Company Limited collaborated with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, signing an MoU to deploy 500+ fast and ultra-fast electric vehicle (EV) charging points across India.**
- This collaboration aims to install EV charging points in major cities and along key highways, intending to alleviate range for intercity EV travellers.
- EV users will have a dual advantage of EV charging through the 'Tata Power EZ Charge' app and 'IndianOil e-Charge' mobile app that can be used to locate and book the chargers at their convenience.
- **IOCL envisages to provide 10,000 EV Charging Stations by 2024 transforming the retail network to complete energy solutions outlets.**



## Titbits

### **Tata Power Company Limited:**

HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra  
MD and CEO: Praveer Sinha

### **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd:**

HQ: New Delhi  
Chairman: Shrikant Madhav Vaidhya





➤ **What technology powers the Cash Management System deployed by Intellect Design Arena Ltd?**

- A) Artificial Intelligence
- B) Blockchain
- C) Virtual Reality
- D) eMACH.ai
- E) Quantum Computing

**eMACH.ai**

**Answer**  
**D) eMACH.ai**



## Explanation

- **Intellect Design Arena Ltd, the Chennai-based FinTech company for financial and insurance clients, has signed a Rs 80 crore, five-year deal with Indian Bank to deploy Intellect's eMACH.ai powered Cash Management System.**
- This will bolster the bank's corporate banking modernization.
- Through this implementation, Intellect provides Omni-channel access across desktop and mobility; treasury persona-aligned dashboard to drive Contextual Banking experience; coverage of payments across electronic and physical channels and coverage of multi-modal collections offerings for Indian corporate.



## Note:

- Indian Bank, with a network of 4,900 ATMs and 5,798 domestic branches, serves over 100 million customers with 41,000 employees and \$140 billion worth of assets.
- **As part of the project 'INDLEAP', the Indian Bank has taken on the objective of digital transformation by leveraging technology wherever possible with transaction banking and supply chain management being the key growth engines**



## Titbits

### **Intellect Design Arena Ltd:**

HQ: Chennai

Chairman and MD: Arun Jain

### **Indian Bank:**

HQ: Chennai

CEO: Shanthi Lal Jain



# BOOKS AND AUTHORS



➤ **Who launched the book 'Naye Bharat ka Samaveda' and what is the book about?**

- A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi; A collection of speeches by various leaders
- B) Shri Ramnath Kovind; A book on Indian history
- C) Shri Ramnath Kovind; A collection exploring the essence and values of India's Constitution and highlighting speeches by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- D) Prime Minister Narendra Modi; A compilation of constitutional amendments
- E) Shri Ramnath Kovind; A guide to Indian economic policies

## **Answer**

**C) Shri Ramnath Kovind; A collection exploring the essence and values of India's Constitution and highlighting speeches by Prime Minister Narendra Modi**



## Explanation

- **Shri Ramnath Kovind launched a book 'Naye Bharat ka Samaveda,' a seminal collection that delves into the core essence and values embedded in our nation's Constitution, spotlighting Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's impactful speeches.**
- It signifies the importance of understanding Modi's vision for India.





# APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been elected as the new Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh?**

- A) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- B) Mohan Yadav
- C) Sunderlal Patwa
- D) Uma Bharti
- E) Babulal Gaur



**Answer**  
**B) Mohan Yadav**



# APPOINTMENTS



## Explanation

- **Mohan Yadav is elected as a new Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh**
- **The BJP swept Madhya Pradesh assembly election by winning 163 of 230 seats, successfully beating anti-incumbency.**
- Yadav will be the fifth chief minister from the BJP after Sunderlal Patwa, Uma Bharti, Babulal Gaur and Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- Of these, Chouhan served as CM for more than 16 years.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Titbits

### Madhya Pradesh:

Capital: Bhopal

Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Governor: Manghubai C Patel



➤ **What is the primary objective of the 'Prasthan' exercise conducted by the Indian Navy?**

- A) Testing new naval equipment
- B) Addressing contingencies in oil production platforms
- C) Conducting search and rescue operations
- D) Testing submarine capabilities
- E) Ensuring maritime trade security



**Answer**

**B) Addressing contingencies in oil production platforms**



## Explanation

- The Indian Navy, along with other defence state and civil agencies completed a two-phased exercise 'Prasthan' in the Offshore Development Area, off the Mumbai coast.
- The 'Prasthan' is conducted to validate measures and procedures to address various contingencies that may arise in the oil production platforms.



➤ Who inaugurated Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram, Vijayawada?

- A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B) Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
- C) Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy
- D) Minister of Culture and Tourism, Prahlad Singh Patel
- E) Renowned classical musician L. Subramaniam



**Answer**

**B) Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**



## Explanation

- **Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.**
- **The event is to commemorate the contributions of Telugu language in promoting classical music and emphasized that the festival aims to establish a cultural identity for the region by showcasing the local traditions and promoting local artisans, crafts and cuisine.**





## Explanation

- This three-day classical music extravaganza will host a variety of activities, including classical music performances by renowned musicians of the country and an exhibition and sale of regional cuisine, local handicrafts and handlooms.



- **India's first Six Lane Steel Slag based Road Connecting NH-6 to Hazira Port has been constructed. Which government agency or organization was involved in the construction of India's first six-lane steel slag-based road?**

- A) National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL)
- B) Indian Road Congress (IRC)
- C) Ministry of Steel
- D) CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI)
- E) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways



**Answer**

**D) CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI)**



## Explanation

- **Ministry of Steel has funded a R&D project on “Development of Design Guidelines and Specifications for utilization of steel slag in road construction” being pursued by CSIR-CRRI in association with the steel industry.**
- Under this R&D project, **India’s first six lane steel slag based road connecting NH-6 to Hazira port (Gujarat) was constructed in May, 2022.**
- In this 1 km long test section, processed Electric Arc Furnace (EAF)/ CONARC slag from Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel (AMNS) steel plant at Hazira has been used.



## Explanation

- **Steel Slag: Steel Slag is generated as a solid waste during steel production**
- **Note:** For every tonne of steel production around 180 - 200 kg of steel slag is generated in the integrated steel plants, which amounts to around 15 million tonnes steel slag generation annually.



## Titbits

### **CSIR – Central Road Research Institute:**

Formed: 1952

Director: Prof Manoranjan Parida



# QUICK RECALL



- **UNICEF Day is observed on December 11**
- **India Climbs to 7th Place in Global Climate Performance Index, Emphasizing Renewable Energy Gains**
- **Startup funding: India slips to 4th spot in global ranking after dismal 2023**
- **REC Signs 200 Million Euro Loan With German Bank KfW To Propel Distribution Sector Reforms**
- **Bol launches exclusive savings bank product for women**
- **Tata Power partners with Indian Oil to deploy EV charging stations, shares up**
- **Intellect signs Rs 80-crore deal with Indian Bank to deploy cash management system**
- **Ramnath Kovind launched a book 'Naye Bharat ka Samaveda**



# QUICK RECALL

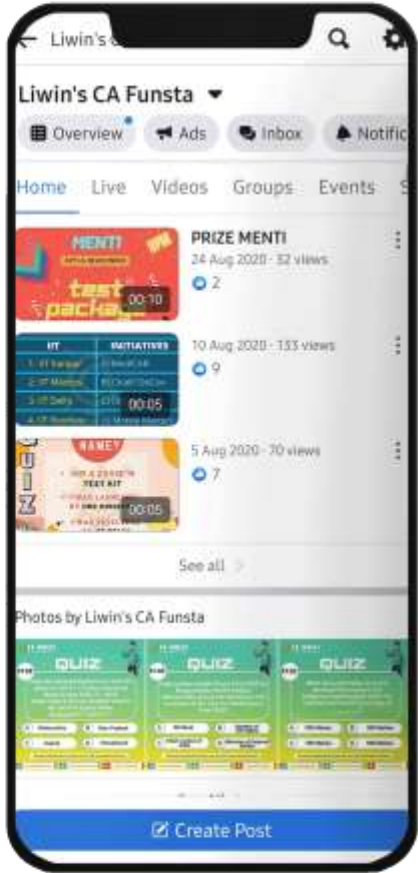


- **Mohan Yadav is elected as a new Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh**
- **Indian Navy conducts bi-annual "Ex Prasthan" off Mumbai coast**
- **Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates 'Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam' in Vijayawada**
- **Ministry of Steel has funded a R&D project on "Development of Design Guidelines and Specifications for utilization of steel slag in road construction" being pursued by CSIR-CRRI in association with the steel industry.**

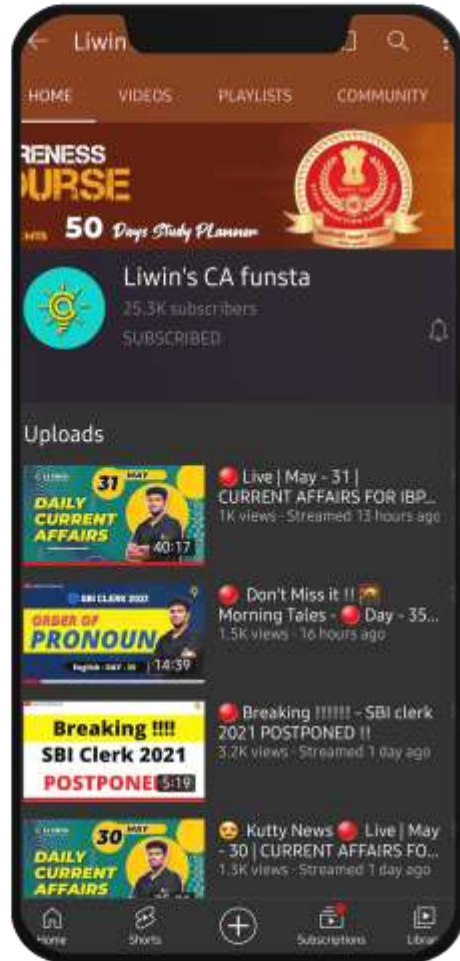




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