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Important Days



- **What is the significance of the World Day of War Orphans, observed annually on January 6?**
- A) To honor the contributions of war veterans.
 - B) To recognize the resilience of children affected by war.
 - C) To raise awareness about the plight of orphans resulting from wars.
 - D) To commemorate historical war events.
 - E) To fundraise for war-affected regions.



Answer

- C) To raise awareness about the plight of orphans resulting from wars.**



Important Days



Explanation

- **Observance Date:** The **World Day of War Orphans** is observed globally on **January 6** every year.
- **Impact of War on Children:** Wars significantly impact children, often leaving them as orphans. These children witness the loss of parents and siblings, leading to long-lasting **psychological, emotional, mental, and physical effects**.
- **Purpose of the Day:** The day aims to **draw attention** to the sufferings of orphans caused by wars. It serves as a platform to **spread awareness** and advocate for the cessation of wars worldwide.



Important Days



Explanation

- **History and Importance:** Understanding the **history** and **significance** of this day is crucial in acknowledging the challenges faced by war orphans and the importance of global efforts to support and protect them.



AWARDS



➤ **What achievement has the SVAMITVA Scheme recently accomplished?**

- A) Completion of the drone survey in all Indian states
- B) Winning the Best Innovation Award at Public Policy Dialogues–2024
- C) Full digitalization of urban property records
- D) Integration with the National Land Records Modernization Program
- E) Launch of a new mobile application for land governance



Answer

B) Winning the Best Innovation Award at Public Policy Dialogues–2024



AWARDS



Explanation

- **Public Policy Dialogue Participation:** The **SVAMITVA Scheme** was a significant focus at the **Public Policy Dialogues–2024** event organized by the **Indian School of Business** in Hyderabad.
- **Property Card Saturation:** The scheme achieved a milestone by reaching full saturation in generating **property cards** for every inhabited village across **Haryana, Uttarakhand, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Goa**.
- **Drone Survey Completion:** A substantial drone survey was carried out, covering **2.90 lakh villages**. This led to the creation of approximately **1.66 crore property cards** for **1.06 lakh villages**.



AWARDS



Explanation

- **Digital Transformation Showcase:** The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** demonstrated its "Digital Transformation Initiatives in Land Governance through SVAMITVA Scheme" during the Innovation Sandbox segment of the event.
- **Recognition and Awards:** The Ministry's efforts were recognized with the award of the **1st Prize** at the event, underscoring the successful implementation of digitalization in land governance systems.
- **Previous Honors:** The SVAMITVA Scheme is no stranger to accolades, having previously won awards for its **innovative use of technology** in land governance at the **National Awards for e-Governance** and **Digitech Conclave** in the year 2023.



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the CEO of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)?**

- A) Rajesh Patel
- B) Vinod Rai
- C) Raghuram Iyer
- D) Anil Kumble
- E) Neeta Ambani

Answer

C) Raghuram Iyer



APPOINTMENTS



Professional Background:

- Raghuram Iyer has been appointed to the prestigious position of **CEO** of the **Indian Olympic Association** (IOA).

Previous Roles:

- Iyer boasts a considerable track record in sports administration, having been the CEO of **IPL teams** such as the Rajasthan Royals, Lucknow Super Giants, and Rising Pune Supergiant, as well as the **ISL club ATK Mohun Bagan**.



APPOINTMENTS



Selection Process:

- His selection was a **unanimous** decision made by the **IOA Nomination Committee**, following extensive interviews and evaluations of several candidates.

Experience in Sports Management:

- With a wealth of experience in managing sports teams and events, Iyer has also contributed to the field of football and **table tennis**, having worked with the UTT franchise **RPSG Mavericks**.



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been recently appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Ltd (NIIFL)?**

- A) Rajiv Dhar
- B) Sanjiv Aggarwal
- C) Amitabh Kant
- D) Nandan Nilekani
- E) Arundhati Bhattacharya

Answer

B) Sanjiv Aggarwal



APPOINTMENTS



Appointment Announcement:

- **Sanjiv Aggarwal** has been announced as the new **CEO and Managing Director** of **NIIFL**, effective from February, succeeding Rajiv Dhar, the interim CEO and MD since May 2023.

Role of NIIFL:

- **NIIFL** serves as a key investment platform, functioning akin to a **sovereign wealth fund**, and is a collaborative effort between international and domestic investors, anchored by the Centre.



APPOINTMENTS



Professional Experience:

- Aggarwal comes with extensive experience in the **infrastructure and energy sectors**. He joins NIIFL from **Actis**, a global sustainable infrastructure investor, where he has been a partner since 2010. Prior to Actis, he worked with **Citigroup** and **ANZ Investment Bank** in similar sectors.

NIIFL's Portfolio:

- NIIFL manages approximately **USD 5 billion** of equity capital commitments, distributed across its four funds: the master fund, fund of funds, the strategic opportunities fund, and the India-Japan fund.



- **Which country did India sign the Bilateral Haj Agreement 2024 with, finalizing a quota of 1,75,025 pilgrims for Haj 2024?**

- A) United Arab Emirates
- B) Pakistan
- C) Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- D) Iran
- E) Iraq

Answer

C) Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Explanation

- **Agreement Signing:** India signed the **Bilateral Haj Agreement 2024** with the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)**. The agreement was signed by Union Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani and Shri. V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs.
- **Quota Allocation:** A total of **1,75,025 pilgrims** from India are finalized for Haj 2024. Out of these, **1,40,020 seats** are reserved for the Haj Committee of India, benefiting first-time pilgrims, while **35,005 pilgrims** can proceed through Haj Group Operators.



Explanation

- **Digital Initiatives:** The **digital initiatives** by the Government of India for the ease and convenience of Indian Haj pilgrims were appreciated by the KSA. These initiatives include providing detailed information to the pilgrims and encouraging participation in the Ladies without Mehram (LWM) category.
- **Logistics and Monitoring:** Following the agreement, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani and Shri. Muraleedharan visited the Haj Terminal of King Abdulaziz International Airport, Jeddah, to assess and improve the logistics and monitoring mechanisms for the convenience of Indian Haj pilgrims.



➤ **What are the expected benefits of the 12 National Highway projects inaugurated by Shri Nitin Gadkari in Kerala?**

- A) Promotion of electric vehicle usage in Kerala.
- B) Integration with the coastal shipping network.
- C) Reduction in transportation costs and road accidents.
- D) Direct connectivity between all district capitals in Kerala.
- E) Creation of an alternative route to the Western Ghats.



Answer

C) Reduction in transportation costs and road accidents



Project Launch:

- **Union Minister** for Road Transport and Highways, **Shri Nitin Gadkari**, launched 12 National Highway projects in **Kerala**, covering **105 km** and worth over **₹1464 Crore**.

Distinguished Presence:

- The event was attended by dignitaries such as Union MoS **Shri V. Muraleedharan**, Kerala PWD Minister **Shri P. A. Mohammed Riyas**, MP from Kasargod **Shri Rajmohan Unnithan**, among others.



Connectivity Enhancement:

- The projects aim to enhance **connectivity** between **Tamil Nadu** and **Kerala**, facilitating efficient transportation and **reducing costs**.

Road Safety:

- A focus on **road safety** involves targeting **black spots** on highways to significantly **reduce road accidents**.



Economic Development:

- These highway projects are set to create **employment opportunities**, driving **socio-economic growth** within the state.

Tourism and Infrastructure:

- Improved road infrastructure is expected to boost **tourism**, especially with better access to **Munnar**. The construction of a **high-level bridge** will address the 27 km detour during floods, aiding **travel** and benefitting the **export of local products**.



➤ **What product from West Bengal was recently granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag as a part of the National GI Drive Mission?**

- A) Darjeeling Tea
- B) Jalpaiguri Black Nunia Rice
- C) Murshidabad Silk
- D) Sunderbans 'Mouban' Honey
- E) Bardhaman Mahua



**Geographical
Indication (GI)
Tags**

Answer

B) Jalpaiguri Black Nunia Rice



National GI Drive Mission:

- West Bengal has achieved a milestone in its efforts to preserve cultural and agricultural heritage by obtaining **GI tags** for several regional products.

Sunderbans Honey - 'Mouban':

- **Sunderbans honey**, also known as '**Mouban**', has been granted a GI tag, which aids in preserving the authenticity and economically benefiting the **Mouli community**.



Black Nunia Rice - 'Prince of Rice':

- The **GI tag** for Black Nunia rice, or the '**Prince of Rice**', from Jalpaiguri district, contributes to the state's agricultural prestige.

Distinctive Sarees:

- **Tangail, Gorod, and Kadiyal sarees**, known for their unique textile heritage, have been applied for GI tags by the **Wbfdcl**, highlighting the region's craftsmanship.



Impact of GI Protection:

- These products now have **legal protection** against unauthorized use under GI status, promoting **economic prosperity** for local artisans and farmers, and preserving West Bengal's diverse cultural and agricultural identity.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



➤ During the recent Global Investors Meet, which southern Indian state signed investment deals worth over \$4.39 billion with companies including Tata Electronics, Pegatron, and Hyundai Motors?

- A) Kerala
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Karnataka
- D) Andhra Pradesh
- E) Telangana

Answer
B) Tamil Nadu



Explanation:

- **Historic Deals:** Tamil Nadu has secured significant investment agreements exceeding **\$4.39 billion** with major companies like **Tata Electronics, Pegatron,** and **Hyundai Motors.**
- **Apple's Supply Chain:** The deals include commitments from Apple suppliers like Tata Electronics and Pegatron, highlighting India, particularly Tamil Nadu, as a growing hub for Apple's production diversification.



Explanation:

- **Investment Breakdown:** Tata Electronics pledged ₹12,080 crore for mobile phone assembly operations, while Pegatron plans to invest ₹1,000 crore to expand its production capabilities.
- **Tata Power's Vision:** Tata Power is exploring further investments of up to ₹70,000 crore in the state, including existing projects.
- **Government Support:** Chief Minister M. K. Stalin emphasized the government's support for investors and Tamil Nadu's role in India's growth.
- **Job Creation:** These investments are expected to generate thousands of jobs in Tamil Nadu.



Explanation:

- **Renewable Energy and EV Focus:** The state also secured an agreement with JSW Energy for a ₹12,000 crore investment in renewable energy and a significant commitment from Hyundai Motors for EV battery and car manufacturing.
- **International Investments:** Vietnamese EV maker VinFast and Nike shoemaker Hong Fu also announced significant investments, underscoring Tamil Nadu's appeal to a diverse range of global investors.



QUICK RECALL



- **The World Day of War Orphans is observed globally on January 6 every year.**
- **Raghuram Iyer has been appointed as the CEO of the Indian Olympic Association**
- **Sanjiv Aggarwal has been recently appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Ltd (NIIFL)**
- **The SVAMITVA Scheme was a significant focus at the Public Policy Dialogues–2024 event organized by the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad.**
- **India signed the Bilateral Haj Agreement 2024 with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).**



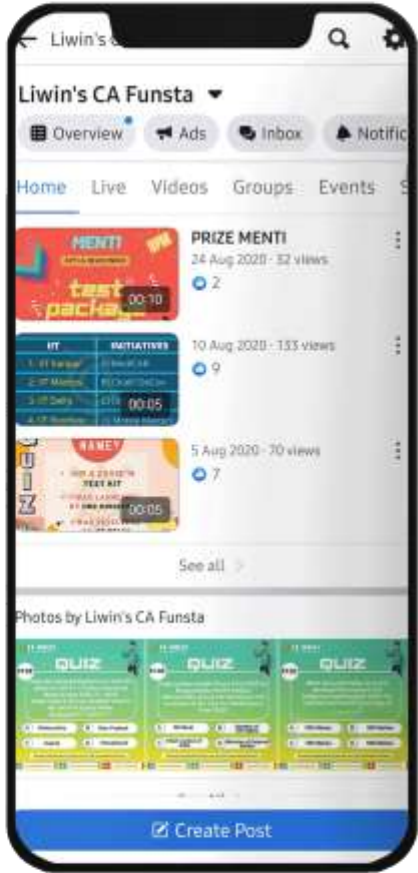
QUICK RECALL



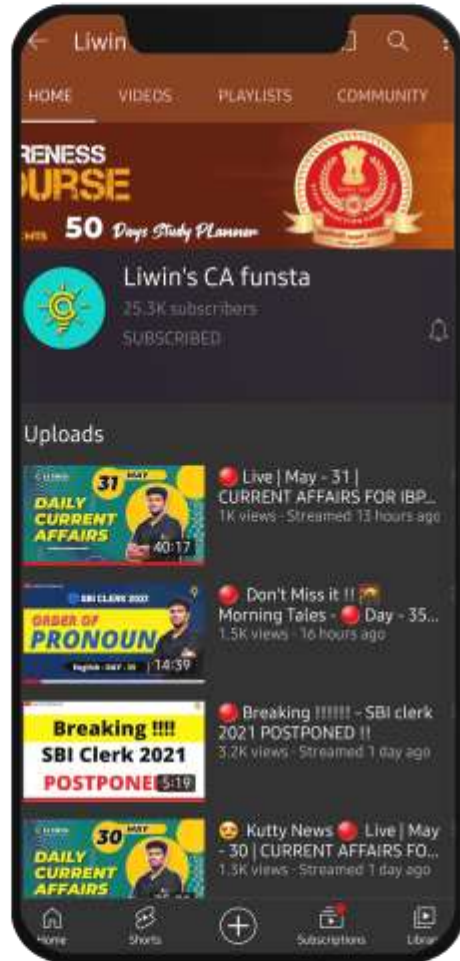
- **Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari, launched 12 National Highway projects in Kerala, covering 105 km and worth over ₹1464 Crore.**
- **Jalpaiguri Black Nunia Rice from West Bengal was recently granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag as a part of the National GI Drive Mission**
- **Tamil Nadu has secured significant investment agreements exceeding \$4.39 billion with major companies like Tata Electronics, Pegatron, and Hyundai Motors.**



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