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Important Days



➤ On which date is World Braille Day marked annually?

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

Answer

D) January 4



Important Days



Explanation

- **World Braille Day**, marked annually on **January 4**, serves as a tribute to Louis Braille, the visionary behind the braille system. **Born in 1809** in France, Louis Braille suffered the loss of his sight following a childhood accident.
- Despite this adversity, his resilience and determination led to the creation of one of the most revolutionary systems in history.
- This day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018. It coincides with Louis Braille's birth date.
- World Braille Day stands as a testament to his groundbreaking contributions, highlighting the impact of his invention on the lives of the visually impaired.



➤ **One97 Communications Ltd (OCL), the owner of Paytm, signed an MoU with which organization to facilitate mobile payments in Ayodhya?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh Tourism
- B) Ayodhya Municipal Corporation
- C) Ayodhya Development Authority
- D) Ayodhya Nagar Nigam
- E) Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board

Answer

D) Ayodhya Nagar Nigam



Explanation

- **One97 Communications Ltd (OCL)**, which owns the brand **Paytm**, has signed an MoU with Ayodhya Nagar Nigam to enable mobile payments in Ayodhya using the Paytm-pioneered QR code, Soundbox, and card machines.
- This is aimed at providing seamless mobile payment services during the much-anticipated inauguration of Ram Mandir in the city on January 22. With this, the company will enable mobile payments at various departments in collaboration with Ayodhya Nagar Nigam.



Explanation

- Through this MoU, the company will also deploy Paytm card machines at cash collection centres under State Nagar Nigam departments.
- This MoU was signed in presence of Girish Pati Tripathi, Mayor, Ayodhya Nagar Nigam. The company is taking mobile payments far and wide, driving financial inclusion across the country.



➤ **PayNearby and Star Health and Allied Insurance have entered into a strategic collaboration to improve the accessibility and affordability of which financial service?**

- A) Mutual Funds
- B) Life Insurance
- C) Health Insurance
- D) Pension Plans
- E) Home Loans

Answer

C) Health Insurance



Explanation

- **PayNearby and Star Health and Allied Insurance** have recently formed a **strategic collaboration aimed at enhancing the accessibility** and affordability of health insurance coverage throughout the country, with a particular focus on the semi-urban and rural population.
- This partnership is poised to play a pivotal role in providing insurance to millions of currently uninsured individuals nationwide, leveraging PayNearby's extensive Distribution-as-a-Service (DaaS) network, which boasts over a million active outlets. Through this collaboration, Star Health's carefully crafted insurance products will be made available at local retail stores.



Explanation

- To extend health insurance to rural areas in India (Bharat), an inventive approach is needed—one that provides affordable coverage, easy accessibility, and eliminates the burden of excessive paperwork. The collaboration between Star Health and PayNearby addresses this need, enabling customers to conveniently purchase customized insurance plans at their local retail stores with the assistance of trusted retailers.



Titbits

PayNearby:

Founded: 2016

Founder, MD and CEO: Anand Kumar Bajaj



➤ **Reliance Industries has achieved a significant environmental milestone by becoming the first in India to receive which certification?**

- A) ISO 14001
- B) ISCC-Plus
- C) LEED Certification
- D) Green Mark Certification
- E) FSC Certification

Answer
B) ISCC-Plus



Explanation

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)**, The Mumbai-based conglomerate, which operates energy and petrochemical businesses, has become the **first in India to produce ISCC-Plus certified chemically recycled polymers.**
- RIL announced it shipped its first batch of ISCC-Plus certified circular polymers, named CircuRepol (polypropylene) and CircuRelene (polyethylene), to an undisclosed client.



Explanation

- The ISCC-Plus certification applies to RIL's Jamnagar refinery, located in the state of Gujarat. RIL has developed a continuous catalytic pyrolysis technology that converts plastics waste, including single-use and multi-layered plastics, into pyrolysis oil. The company says the technology provides 'high yields of good quality pyrolysis oil', without specifying values.
- The technology has been successfully validated at demonstration scale. The Jamnagar refinery has a capacity to output up to 600 tonnes of pyrolysis oil per month. RIL said in a statement that its long-term plans include establishing in-house technology plants and scaling up its capacities.



Explanation

- RIL is the largest integrated petrochemical producer in India and the world's largest integrated polyester producer.
- Internationally recognised, ISCC Plus is the leading global certification system that provides supply chain transparency and traceability for sustainable feedstocks used to manufacture chemically recycled polymers. With ISCC PLUS, producing companies ensure that the sustainability of their raw materials can be fully and transparently traced, from the field to the store. The certification requires companies to follow the mass balance or material segregation chain of custody models. This helps to ensure that the amount of bio-based, circular, or renewable content is tracked across the value chain.



Titbits

Reliance Industries Limited:

Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani

CMD: Mukesh Ambani

HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the new president of AIRIA?**

- A) Ravi Kapoor
- B) Shashi Singh
- C) Anurag Gupta
- D) Meera Sharma
- E) Deepak Agarwal

AIRIA

Answer

B) Shashi Singh



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Shashi Singh** has been elected as the **president of the All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA), the apex body for rubber industries in India.**
- Singh will be succeeding Ramesh Kejriwal as the President of AIRIA, playing a pivotal role in steering the association forward. Singh is set to build upon the roadmap established by his predecessors and former presidents, acknowledging their invaluable contributions to the association, a press release said.



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- With two decades of dedicated service to the rubber industry, Singh, who has held various positions within AIRIA, is poised to bring continuity and innovation to the association's activities.
- Prior to assuming the role of President, Shashi Singh held the position of senior vice president within AIRIA. His extensive involvement in the association includes serving on various committees and acting as the chief convener for the western region, overseeing the organization the National Rubber Conference in 2019.



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- Zafar Ahmed, Managing Director of New India Rubber Works Pvt Ltd, has been elected as the senior vice-president of AIRIA for 2023-24.
- Indra Parekh has been elected as the vice president of the Association



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who is the next head of the European Investment Bank from Spain?**

- A) Nadia Calviño
- B) Pedro Sánchez
- C) Pablo Iglesias
- D) Angela Merkel
- E) Emmanuel Macron



Answer
A) Nadia Calviño



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Spain's Finance Minister Nadia Calviño** become the **head of the European Investment Bank**
- After a contest lasting several months, Calviño saw off the challenge of Margrethe Vestager, who took leave from her job as the EU digital and competition chief.
- She is scheduled to start at the Luxembourg-based bank on January 1, the expiry date of current chief Werner Hoyer.



APPOINTMENTS



Titbits

European Investment Bank:

Founded: 1958

Location: Kirchberg, Luxembourg

President: Nadia Calvino



APPOINTMENTS



➤ Who has recently taken over as the Chairman of FAITH (Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality) while continuing as the President of HAI (Hotel Association of India)?

- A) Rakesh Verma
- B) Puneet Chhatwal
- C) Sanjay Sethi
- D) Neeraj Govil
- E) Deep Kalra

Answer

B) Puneet Chhatwal



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- The **Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH)**, announced the appointment of **Puneet Chhatwal as its chairman**. Chhatwal will be taking over from Nakul Anand, the former executive director at ITC Hotels.
- Chhatwal is the managing director and chief executive officer at Indian Hotels Company Limited. He will also continue as the president of the Hotel Association of India (HAI), a position he was re-elected to in 2022.
- Several national tourism and hotel associations like HAI, the Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India, and The Federation of Hotels & Restaurant Associations of India are members of FAITH.



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the Executive Chairperson of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)?**

- A) Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde
- B) Justice N.V. Ramana
- C) Justice B.R. Gavai
- D) Justice Sanjiv Khanna
- E) Justice U.U. Lalit

Answer

D) Justice Sanjiv Khanna



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **President Droupadi Murmu** has nominated **Justice Sanjiv Khanna, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, as the Executive Chairperson of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).**
- Justice Khanna would replace Justice S. K. Kaul who retired on December 25. It has been a convention to appoint the second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court to the post of NALSA Executive Chairman.
- According to the Legal Services Authority Act of 1987, the Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief of NALSA. The President, in consultation with the CJI, appoints an active or retired Supreme Court judge as the Executive Chairman of NALSA.



APPOINTMENTS



Titbits

National Legal Services Authority:

Formed: 9 November 1995

HQ: New Delhi

Executive Chairman: Sanjeev Khanna



AWARDS



➤ **The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has announced the 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar' for 2023. Where will the awardees receive their awards?**

- A) Lok Sabha
- B) Rajya Sabha
- C) Rashtrapati Bhavan
- D) Vigyan Bhavan
- E) Shastri Bhavan

Answer

C) Rashtrapati Bhavan



AWARDS



Explanation

- **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** announced '**Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar**' **2023**. The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 09th January, 2024 (Tuesday) at 1100 hours.
- '**Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar**' is given to corporate entities (both in private and public sector), Sports Control Boards, NGOs, including sports bodies at the State and National level, who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.



AWARDS



Explanation

- The six core awards which constitute India's National Sports Awards are the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award or simply the Khel Ratna, the Arjuna Award, the Dronacharya Award, the Major Dhyan Chand Award, the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy, also called the MAKA Trophy, and the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar.
- Based on the recommendations of the Committee and after due scrutiny, Government has decided to confer awards upon the following entities:



AWARDS



Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2023

S. No.	Category	Entity awarded for Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2023
1.	Identification and nurturing of budding / young talent	Jain Deemed to be University, Bengaluru
2.	Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility	Odisha Mining Corporate Limited

- The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 09th January, 2024 (Tuesday) at 1100 hours



AWARDS



➤ **Hero MotoCorp's facility was honored with a CII National Award.
In which category did it receive the award?**

- A) Energy Efficiency
- B) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
- C) Environmental Sustainability
- D) Water Management
- E) Innovation in Manufacturing

Answer

D) Water Management



AWARDS



Explanation

- **Hero MotoCorp's** manufacturing facility in **Gurugram** bagged the **CII National Award for Excellence in Water Management**, securing the top position in the 'Within the Fence' category.
- The company is making strides towards its goal of being 500 per cent water positive by 2025. Presently, the company is saving nearly 3.8 million kiloliters of water annually.



AWARDS



Explanation

- The company adopted an approach encompassing water reduction, recycling, recovery, and recharge. Measures include the replacement of RO filtration with Ultra Filtration (UF), the reuse of machine RO reject water in cooling towers, enhanced efficiency of DM and RO plants, and the adoption of cascading rinsing over continuous rinsing, among various other water conservation programs.



AWARDS



➤ **The Vice Chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Prof B R Kamboj, was honored with which prestigious award?**

- A) C. Subramaniam Award
- B) Norman Borlaug Award
- C) M S Swaminathan Award
- D) Varghese Kurien Award
- E) Deendayal Upadhyaya Award

Answer

C) M S Swaminathan Award



AWARDS



Explanation

- **Chaudhary Charan** Singh Haryana Agricultural University's Vice Chancellor Prof. B.R. Kamboj has been honoured with the **prestigious M.S. Swaminathan Award** in recognition of his contributions as a scientist and extension specialist in the field of agronomy.
- Thawar Chand Gehlot, the Governor of Karnataka, presented him this award. The award ceremony took place at the International Conference on 'One Health One World,' held at Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Agricultural University at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.



AWARDS



Explanation

- A special committee, constituted for the M.S. Swaminathan Award, selected Prof. B.R. Kamboj for his excellent achievements in the field of education, research, technology development and extension in agricultural science.
- Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.R. Kamboj is well aware of the common problems, needs and socio-economical conditions of the farmers. The agricultural recommendations put forth by Prof. Kamboj, stemming from his research work and collaborative extension activities with university scientists, have consistently proven to be highly advantageous for farmers.



AWARDS



Explanation

- Prof Kamboj has published about 300 research papers and articles in national and international journals, books and technical magazines



➤ **What is the name of the portal launched by Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, allowing farmers to sell tur dal to government procurement agencies?**

- A) Kisan Connect
- B) DalMitra
- C) E-Grameen
- D) Tur Purchase
- E) KrishiSell

Answer

D) Tur Purchase



Explanation

- **Cooperation minister Amit Shah** launched a portal through **which farmers can sell tur dal to government procurement agencies**, saying the move will be expanded to help India end its import dependency on pulses within three years.
- Through the portal, farmers will be able to sell tur dal to the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (Nafed) or the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) at the minimum support price (MSP) or market price, whichever is higher.



Explanation

- A similar facility will be launched soon for other farm produce, he said, adding that the farmers will have direct benefit transfer benefits. About ₹6.8 million has already been transferred to 25 farmers toward payment for sale of tur via the portal
- Nafed and NCCF will undertake procurement of pulses on behalf of the government to maintain a buffer stock.



➤ **The Ministry of Defence signed two contracts on January 4, 2024, for the procurement of military equipment. What are the two categories of equipment mentioned in the contracts?**

- A) Fighter Jets and Submarines
- B) Armored Vehicles and Communication Systems
- C) Military Wagons and Minefield Marking Equipment
- D) Radars and Missiles
- E) Surveillance Drones and Rocket Launchers

Answer

C) Military Wagons and Minefield Marking Equipment



Explanation

- **Ministry of Defence inked two contracts for procurement of Qty-697 Bogie Open Military (BOM) Wagons at a cost of 473 Cr with M/s Jupiter Wagons Limited and procurement of Qty-56 Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment (MMME) Mark II at a cost of 329 Cr with M/s BEML Ltd, under Buy (Indian-IDDMM) category in New Delhi.**
- The BOM Wagons and MMME will be produced with equipment and sub-system sourced from indigenous manufacturers, giving a boost to the indigenous manufacturing and participation of the private sector in defence production, realizing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.



Explanation

- Bogie Open Military (BOM) wagons, designed by Research Design and Standard Organization (RDSO) are specialist wagons used by the Indian Army for mobilization of the Army units. BOM wagons are used to transport light vehicles, Artillery Guns, BMPs, Engineering Equipment etc. from their peacetime locations to operational areas.
- This Critical Rolling Stock will ensure speedy and simultaneous induction of units and equipment into operational areas during any conflict situation besides, facilitating their peacetime movement for Military exercise and movement of units from one station to another.



➤ What is the name of the experiential learning program launched by the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India?

- A) ShikshaVikas
- B) VidyaSagar
- C) Pragati
- D) Prerana
- E) GyanUtsav

Answer

D) Prerana



Explanation

- **Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India** has launched '**Prerana: An Experiential Learning program**', aiming to offer a meaningful, unique, and inspiring experience to all participants, thereby empowering them with leadership qualities.
- Prerana is driven by a strong commitment to integrate principles of Indian education system and the philosophy of value-based education which is a corner stone of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.



Explanation

- Prerana is a week-long residential program for selected students of class IX to XII. It is an experiential and inspirational learning program for students with the best-in-class technology where heritage meets innovation. A batch of 20 selected students (10 boys and 10 girls) will attend the program, every week from various parts of the country.



Explanation

- Prerana program will run from a Vernacular School, established in 1888, in one of the oldest living cities of India, Vadnagar, district Mehsana, Gujarat. The school stands as a tribute to Vadnagar's indomitable spirit, a living city that has triumphed over challenges like earthquakes and natural calamities and is home to ancient heritage sites and monuments inhabited since the early historic period and in the modern day. The school signifies the fact that extraordinary lives often find their roots in ordinary foundations. Grounded in the timeless wisdom of India's rich civilization, this unique initiative embodies a vision aligned with the principles and ideals of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, who is an alumnus.



Explanation

- The curriculum of Prerana School prepared by IIT Gandhi Nagar is rooted in nine value based themes: Swabhiman and Vinay, Shaurya and Sahas, Parishram and Samarpan, Karuna and Sewa, Vividhta and Ekta, Satyanishtha and Shuchita, Navachar and Jigyasa, Shraddha aur Vishwas, and Swatantrata and Kartavya. The program based on above themes will inspire the youth and foster respect for Bharat's unity in diversity, embodying the spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" and will contribute by making the youth of today, a flame holder for Viksit Bharat. Towards this endeavour, the participants will be guided by mentors from prestigious institutions.



➤ The Secretary of MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) has launched a web portal for domain registration, DNS, and value-added services for educational institutions. What is the name of the web portal?

- A) EduTech Connect
- B) EduDomain Portal
- C) ERNET Connect
- D) EduDNS Hub
- E) ERNET Domain Services



Answer
C) ERNET Connect



Explanation

- **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary Shri S Krishnan** launched **ERNET India's newly developed integrated web portal for educational institutes in the country, at its head office.**
- The portal will offer domain registration, DNS and value-added services viz.
- Website as a Service (WaaS) and Learning Management as a Service (LMaaS). The users can select from the variety of available templates for schools, colleges, universities as per their requirement and create their own website and Learning Management System.



Explanation

- The user can publish the website and LMS by customizing the template with single click. This web portal has been developed utilizing open-source software and emerging technologies such as AI/ML.
- Besides, Secretary, MeitY Shri S Krishnan also inaugurated new conference hall of ERNET India and interacted with officers and staff.
- The ERNET India is a not-for-profit scientific society under MeitY. It is the exclusive domain registrar for all the education & research institutes having 'ac.in', 'edu.in' & 'res.in' as domain name.



Explanation

- In addition, ERNET India is providing web accessibility service, campus Wi-Fi services, smart classrooms and connectivity through Terrestrial and Satellite based systems to the educational & research institutes in the country. It is also in the field of establishing data centers.



➤ **REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Gujarat for a project worth Rs. 2,094.28 Crores. What is the nature of the project?**

- A) Smart Grid Implementation
- B) Renewable Energy Development
- C) Rural Electrification Program
- D) Smart Metering Project
- E) Power Transmission Upgrade



Answer

D) Smart Metering Project



Explanation

- **REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Government of Gujarat for Rs. 2,094.28 Crores** for the implementation of the Smart Metering project in PGVCL (Paschim Gujarat Vij Company Ltd.) under Phase 1 of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).
- In the strategic collaboration, the Government of Gujarat is set to facilitate RECPDCL in obtaining necessary permissions and clearances for their upcoming projects in the state. The MoU outlines a time-bound framework to streamline the establishment of RECPDCL's projects in Gujarat.



Explanation

- The MoU was signed ahead of Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2024 by MD, Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam (GUVNL), Shri Jai Prakash Shivahare and CEO, RECPDCL, Shri Rajesh Kumar Gupta in presence of Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel.
- REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise established in 1969, under Ministry of Power, provides long-term loans and other finance products for Power-Infrastructure sector comprising Generation, Transmission, Distribution, Renewable Energy and new technologies like Electric Vehicles, Battery Storage and Green Hydrogen.



Explanation

- More recently, REC has also diversified into the Non-Power Infrastructure sector comprising 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 Lakh Crore.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Gujarat:

Capital: Gandhinagar

Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

Governor: Acharya Devvrat



➤ **REC Limited and Bank of Baroda have collaborated to finance projects in which sectors?**

- A) Education and Healthcare
- B) Information Technology and Telecommunications
- C) Power, Infrastructure, and Logistics
- D) Agriculture and Rural Development
- E) Tourism and Hospitality



Answer

C) Power, Infrastructure, and Logistics



Explanation

- **REC Limited** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bank of Baroda** in order to facilitate joint sanctions of **loans to fund power, infrastructure and logistics projects in the country over the next three years**. Recognizing the pressing need to fortify these critical domains, REC Limited and Bank of Baroda unite with a shared vision of advancing sustainable growth and bolstering the nation's infrastructural backbone.
- By pooling resources and expertise, both entities endeavor to champion initiatives that will invigorate economic development and enhance accessibility to essential services nationwide.



Explanation

- The MoU was signed on January 3, 2024 in the presence of Chairperson and Managing Director (CMD), REC Limited, Shri Vivek Kumar Dewangan and Managing Director & CEO, Bank of Baroda, Shri Debadatta Chand along with Executive Director, Bank of Baroda, Shri Lalit Tyagi.
- REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise established in 1969, under Ministry of Power, provides long-term loans and other finance products for Power-Infrastructure sector comprising Generation, Transmission, Distribution, Renewable Energy and new technologies like Electric Vehicles, Battery Storage and Green Hydrogen.



Explanation

- More recently, REC has also diversified into the Non-Power Infrastructure sector comprising 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 Lakh Crore.



Explanation

- Founded on 20th July, 1908 by Sir Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III, Bank of Baroda is one of the leading commercial banks in India. At 63.97% stake, it is majorly owned by the Government of India. The Bank serves its global customer base of ~165 million through over 70,000 touch points spread across 17 countries in five continents and through its various digital banking platforms, which provide all banking products and services in a seamless and hassle-free manner. The Bank's vision matches the aspirations of its diverse clientele base and seeks to instill a sense of trust and security in all their dealings with the Bank.



Titbits

Rural Electrification Corporation Limited:

HQ: New Delhi

CMD: Vivek Kumar Dewagan



➤ **The Ratle Hydroelectric Project in Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir, is set to provide power to which organization in Rajasthan for a period of 40 years under a Power Purchase Agreement?**

- A) Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited
- B) Rajasthan Power Distribution Corporation Limited
- C) Rajasthan Urja Vikas and IT Services Limited
- D) Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Limited
- E) Rajasthan State Electricity Board



Answer

C) Rajasthan Urja Vikas and IT Services Limited



Explanation

- **Ratle Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited (RHPCL)**, a joint venture company of NHPC Limited and Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC), has entered into a **Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)** with Rajasthan Urja Vikas and IT Services Limited, for offtake of power generated from 850 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project, Kishtwar in the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The agreement has been signed for offtake of power for a period of 40 years from the Commercial Operation Date (COD) of the project and as per power allocation to be notified by Ministry of Power, Govt. of India.



Explanation

- The PPA was signed in Jaipur on 3rd January, 2024 in the presence of senior officers of RHPCL & Rajasthan Urja Vikas and IT Services Limited.



- **NHPC has signed an MoU with GPCL (Gujarat Power Corporation Limited) and the Government of Gujarat for a proposed 750 MW Kuppa Pumped Hydro Storage Project. Approximately how much investment is planned for this project?**

- A) Rs. 2,000 crores
- B) Rs. 3,500 crores
- C) Rs. 4,000 crores
- D) Rs. 5,500 crores
- E) Rs. 6,000 crores



Answer

- C) Rs. 4,000 crores**



Explanation

- Taking a step forward towards clean and green energy, **NHPC** has signed an MoU with **Gujarat Power Corporation Limited**, Government of Gujarat for investment in the proposed **750 MW Kuppa Pumped Hydro Storage Project**. **As per the MoU, NHPC will invest an estimated Rs. 4000 crores** in the proposed project, situated at Chhota Udaipur, Gujarat.
- NHPC and the Government of Gujarat plan to develop and utilize pumped hydro storage projects as an effective solution for energy storage. The implementation of this project will create significant employment opportunities and boost the local economy.



Explanation

- The MoU was signed at the Secretariat in Gandhinagar, Gujarat under the aegis of “Vibrant Gujarat”, on 3rd January, 2023. The agreement was signed by Managing Director, GPCL, Government of Gujarat, Shri Arun Mahesh Babu and Executive Director, Renewable Energy and Green Hydrogen, NHPC, Shri V.R. Srivastava; in the august presence of Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel and Energy Minister, Government of Gujarat, Shri Kanubhai Desai.



Titbits

National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC):

HQ: Faridabad, Haryana
CMD: Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi



QUICK RECALL



- **World Braille Day, marked annually on January 4**
- **One97 Communications Ltd (OCL), which owns the brand Paytm, has signed an MoU with Ayodhya Nagar Nigam to enable mobile payments in Ayodhya using the Paytm-pioneered QR code, Soundbox, and card machines.**
- **PayNearby and Star Health and Allied Insurance have recently formed a strategic collaboration aimed at enhancing the accessibility and affordability of health insurance coverage throughout the country, with a particular focus on the semi-urban and rural population.**
- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), The Mumbai-based conglomerate, which operates energy and petrochemical businesses, has become the first in India to produce ISCC-Plus certified chemically recycled polymers.**



QUICK RECALL



- **Shashi Singh has been elected as the president of the All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA), the apex body for rubber industries in India.**
- **Spain's Finance Minister Nadia Calviño become the head of the European Investment Bank**
- **The Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH), announced the appointment of Puneet Chhatwal as its chairman**
- **President Droupadi Murmu has nominated Justice Sanjiv Khanna, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, as the Executive Chairperson of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).**
- **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports announced 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar' 2023.**



QUICK RECALL



- **Hero MotoCorp's manufacturing facility in Gurugram bagged the CII National Award for Excellence in Water Management, securing the top position in the 'Within the Fence' category**
- **Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University's Vice Chancellor Prof. B.R. Kamboj has been honoured with the prestigious M.S. Swaminathan Award in recognition of his contributions as a scientist and extension specialist in the field of agronomy.**
- **Cooperation minister Amit Shah launched a portal through which farmers can sell tur dal to government procurement agencies, saying the move will be expanded to help India end its import dependency on pulses within three years.**



QUICK RECALL



- **Ministry of Defence inked two contracts for procurement of Qty-697 Bogie Open Military (BOM) Wagons at a cost of 473 Cr with M/s Jupiter Wagons Limited and procurement of Qty-56 Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment (MMME) Mark II at a cost of 329 Cr with M/s BEML Ltd, under Buy (Indian-IDDMM) category in New Delhi.**
- **Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India has launched 'Prerana: An Experiential Learning program', aiming to offer a meaningful, unique, and inspiring experience to all participants, thereby empowering them with leadership qualities.**
- **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary Shri S Krishnan launched ERNET India's newly developed integrated web portal for educational institutes in the country, at its head office.**



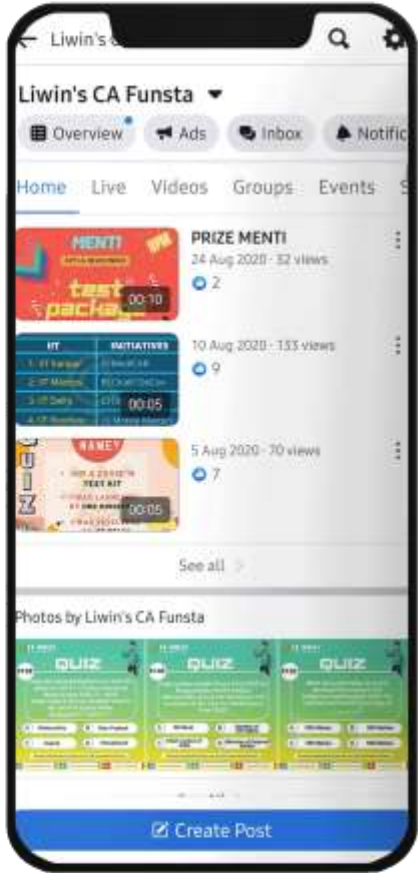
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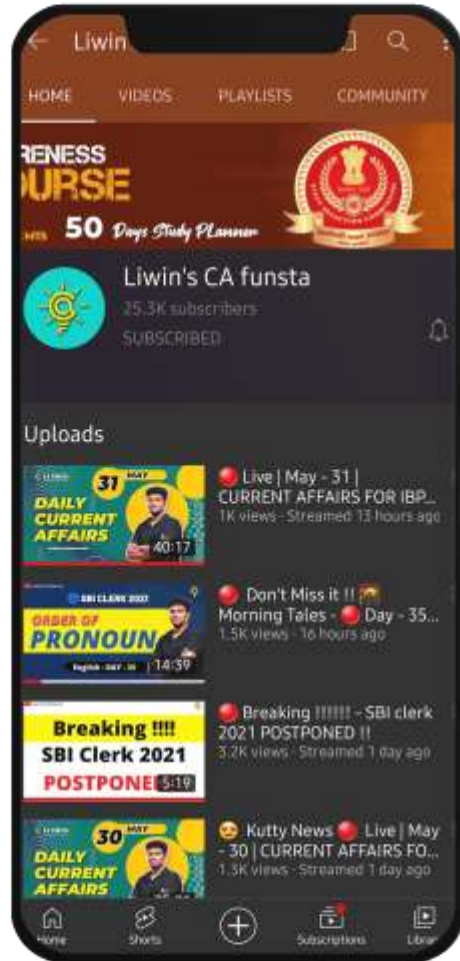
- **REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Gujarat for Rs. 2,094.28 Crores**
- **REC Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bank of Baroda in order to facilitate joint sanctions of loans to fund power, infrastructure and logistics projects in the country over the next three years.**
- **Ratle Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited (RHPCL), a joint venture company of NHPC Limited and Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC), has entered into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Rajasthan Urja Vikas and IT Services Limited, for offtake of power generated from 850 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project**
- **Taking a step forward towards clean and green energy, NHPC has signed an MoU with Gujarat Power Corporation Limited, Government of Gujarat for investment in the proposed 750 MW Kuppa Pumped Hydro Storage Project.**



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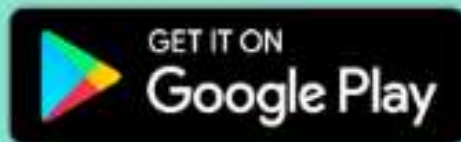
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