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OBITUARY



➤ In which year was Sadhu Meher honored with the Padma Shri award?

- A) 2015
- B) 2016
- C) 2017
- D) 2018
- E) 2019



Answer
C) 2017

Veteran actor Sadhu Meher who essayed key characters in films made by directors such as Mrinal Sen, Shyam Benegal and Tapan Sinha passed away.



OBITUARY



His Cinema Career:

- He also acted, directed and produced several Odia movies.
- Meher acted in Mrinal Sen's 'Bhuban Shome' (1969) and 'Mrigaya' (The Royal Hunt, 1977) and Shyam Benegal's 'Ankur' (The Seeding, 1974).
- He acted in several episodes of Doordarshan's popular detective series Byomkesh Bakshi.
- He has also acted in Anil Kapoor and Kajol starrer Bollywood movie 'Hum Aapke Dil Mein Rehte Hai' (1999).



OBITUARY



His Cinema Career:

- The popular Odia films under his direction include 'Abhimaan', 'Aparichita', 'Desire' and 'Abhilasha', He acted in the critically-acclaimed movie 'Bhukha'.
- Meher also acted in several Bengali films including those directed by Buddhadev Dasgupta, Sandip Ray and Utpalendu Chakraborty.



OBITUARY



Awards:

- He bagged the National Film Award for Best Actor for 'Ankur'.
- He was also honoured with Padma Shri in 2017 for lifetime contribution to the field of entertainment.
- He was felicitated by the Odisha government with Jaydev Samman in 2011.



➤ Which public sector bank recorded the highest growth rate in deposit mobilization?

- A) State Bank of India (SBI)
- B) Central Bank of India
- C) Punjab National Bank
- D) Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)
- E) Bank of India

Answer

D) Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)



Explanation

- **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has recorded the highest growth rate in terms of deposit mobilisation among public sector lenders .**
- **Out of 12 public sector banks, only BoM and State Bank of India (SBI) could log a double-digit growth in deposits in the third quarter ended December 2023.**
- **The Pune-based lender BoM reported a 17.89 per cent growth in deposits followed by SBI at 12.84 per cent during the quarter, according to published quarterly numbers of the public sector banks (PSBs).**



Explanation

- **SBI's total deposits were about 18.5 times higher at Rs 45,67,927 crore, as compared to Rs 2,45,734 crore of BoM in absolute terms.**
- **Central Bank of India was the third by clocking a 9.53 per cent growth in deposits while Punjab National Bank recorded a 9.10 per cent increase.**
- **In terms of low-cost CASA deposits, BoM continued to top the chart with 50.19 per cent followed by Central Bank of India with 48.98 per cent.**
- **On the asset quality side, BoM and SBI reported the lowest gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) with 2.04 per cent and 2.42 per cent, respectively, as of December 31, 2023.**



Explanation

- In terms of **Net NPAs, BoM and Indian Bank reported the lowest net NPA with 0.22 per cent and 0.53 per cent, respectively.**
- **Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR), BoM with 16.85 per cent is the highest amongst PSBs followed by IOB at 16.80 per cent and Punjab & Sind Bank at 16.13 per cent at the end of the third quarter of the current fiscal.**
- During nine months of FY'24, all 12 PSBs cumulatively reported a net profit of Rs 98,355 crore as against a total profit of Rs 104,649 crore for the full year of FY'23.



Explanation

- **PNB had the highest quarterly net profit growth with 253 per cent (Rs 2,223 crore) followed by Bank of India with 62 per cent growth (Rs 1,870 crore) and Union Bank of India with 60 per cent (Rs 3,590 crore).**
- However, three lenders – SBI, UCO Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank – reported a fall in net profit by 35.49 per cent, 22.97 per cent and 69.44 per cent, respectively



Titbits

Bank of Maharashtra:
HQ: Pune, Maharashtra
MD and CEO: A S Rajeev



- **What is NISAR, the collaborative project between NASA and ISRO, scheduled to launch in 2024?**
- A) A weather forecasting satellite.
 - B) A space station for international research.
 - C) A synthetic aperture radar for earth resource observation.
 - D) A satellite for monitoring wildlife migration.
 - E) A communication satellite for rural areas.



Answer

C) A synthetic aperture radar for earth resource observation.



Explanation

- **The Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) has partnered with ISRO for NISAR Phase II research programme.**
- **NASA and ISRO are collaboratively developing a space-borne synthetic aperture radar (NISAR), scheduled for launch in 2024.**
- **NISAR aims to revolutionise earth resource observation by providing high-resolution data for extensive areas.**
- **This project holds significant potential for the systematic monitoring of agriculture, forestry, wetlands, and soil moisture estimation.**



Explanation

- **The first phase involved the validation of ground truth data in the forest biomass of Shimoga, Hoshangabad (MP), and Nilambur regions.**
- **The second phase will concentrate on optimizing drone-mounted optical and LIDAR data for forest biomass stock estimation in the study areas of Shimoga, Nilambur, and Hoshangabad (MP) within a larger inventory plot.**
- The project will validate NISAR forest biomass products using ground-measured inventory data, processed LIDAR data, and optical images of Airborne data.



KUFOS:

- **The Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) is a university established by the Government of Kerala devoted to studies in fisheries and ocean sciences.**
- **The College of Fisheries, established in 1979, was a constituent college of the Kerala Agricultural University.**
- **KUFOS is the first university in India exclusively dedicated to studies in fisheries and allied disciplines.**
- **Chancellor: Government of Kerala**
- **Vice Chancellor: M Rosalind George**



Titbits

ISRO:

Founded: 15 August 1969
HQ: Bengaluru, Karnataka
Chairman: Sreedhara Somnath



- **What is the primary purpose of the mutual support agreement between Adani Total Gas and INOX India?**
- A) To compete with each other in the distribution of LNG and LCNG equipment.
 - B) To limit access to advanced scheduling and opportunities for LNG/LCNG stations.
 - C) To establish a partnership for the distribution of LNG and LCNG equipment and services.
 - D) To exclude other companies from entering the LNG and LCNG market.
 - E) To focus solely on developing small-scale liquid hydrogen solutions.



Answer

- C) To establish a partnership for the distribution of LNG and LCNG equipment and services.**



Explanation

- **Adani Total Gas and INOX India have entered into a mutual support agreement, under which both companies will be “preferred partner” for each other to distribute LNG and LCNG equipment and services and other collaboration opportunities.**
- Adani Total Gas will get preferential treatment and access to advanced scheduling, and opportunities to establish LNG/LCNG stations, LNG satellite stations, LNG logistics, as well as developing small-scale liquid hydrogen solutions for the industry.
- Gujarat based INOX India is a cryogenic liquid storage, distribution and re-gas solutions provider.



Adani Total Gas:

- **The Company is engaged in the development of city gas distribution networks to supply piped natural gas to industrial, commercial, domestic (residential) customers and compressed natural gas to the transport sector.**
- **HQ: Ahmedabad, Gujarat**



INOX India:

- **INOX India Ltd manufactures vacuum insulated cryogenic equipment.**
- **The Company offers cryogenic liquid storage and transport tanks for medical and healthcare, chemicals, fertilizers, aviation, aerospace, pharmaceuticals, construction, green hydrogen, energy, steel, and gas companies. INOX India serves customers worldwide.**
- **HQ: Vadodara, Gujarat**
- **CEO: Deepak Acharya**



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **What is the significance of Radha Raturi's appointment as the chief secretary of Uttarakhand?**

- A) She is the first person from Uttarakhand to hold the position.
- B) She is the youngest chief secretary in the history of Uttarakhand.
- C) She is the first woman to hold this top administrative post in the state.
- D) She has previously served as the chief minister of Uttarakhand.
- E) She is the longest-serving chief secretary in the history of Uttarakhand.



Answer

C) She is the first woman to hold this top administrative post in the state



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Radha Raturi, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officer from the 1988 batch, has been appointed as the first woman chief secretary of Uttarakhand.**
- She is the first woman to hold the top administrative post in the state, replacing Sukhbir Singh Sandhu.
- She served as the Chief Electoral Officer of Uttarakhand for an impressive tenure of 10 years.



APPOINTMENTS



Titbits

Uttarakhand:

Capital: Dehradun

Chief Minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami

Governor: Gurmit Singh



AWARDS



➤ **Who received the "Maha Gaurav 2024" award recently, and from whom?**

- A) Nikhil Mukund Wagh from Goa Shipyard Limited, presented by the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Ajit Pawar.
- B) Shri Ajit Pawar from Goa Shipyard Limited, presented by Nikhil Mukund Wagh.
- C) Nikhil Mukund Wagh from Maharashtra Public Relations Department, presented by the Chief Minister of Goa.
- D) The Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Ajit Pawar, from Goa Shipyard Limited, presented by Nikhil Mukund Wagh.
- E) The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Ajit Pawar, from Goa Shipyard Limited, presented by Nikhil Mukund Wagh.

Answer

A) Nikhil Mukund Wagh from Goa Shipyard Limited, presented by the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Ajit Pawar.



AWARDS



Explanation

- **Goa Shipyard Limited's Nikhil Mukund Wagh, a public relations officer, has received the "Maha Gaurav 2024" award by the Digital Media Editor Journalist Association Maharashtra.**
- At a ceremony held at Kaneri Math in Kolhapur, Shri Ajit Pawar, the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, presented him with this award.
- **The award was given to him for his outstanding achievements and contributions in the field of public relations.**



➤ Which organization is partnering with IIT Madras for the development of the 155 Smart Ammunition?

- A) Indian Army
- B) Bharat Electronics Limited
- C) Munitions India Limited
- D) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- E) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)



Answer

C) Munitions India Limited



Explanation

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has partnered with Munitions India Limited, a Defence Public Sector Enterprise, to develop India's first indigenously-designed 155 Smart Ammunition to achieve indigenisation in the defence sector.**
- **The objective is to increase the accuracy of 155 mm shell within a Circular Error Probable (CEP) of 10 m.**
- **At present, ammunitions developed in India has a CEP of 500 m.**



Explanation

- **Munitions India** is the country biggest manufacturer and market leader engaged in the production, testing, research and development and marketing of a comprehensive range of ammunition and explosives for the Army, Navy, Air force and Paramilitary Forces.



Munitions India Limited:

- Munitions India Limited (MIL) is an Indian state-owned defence company, headquartered in Pune, India, established in 2021 as part of the restructuring and corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board into seven different Public Sector Undertakings.
- Munitions India primarily manufactures ammunition, explosives, rockets and bombs for the use of the Indian Armed Forces, foreign militaries and domestic civilian use.
- CMD: Ravi Kant



➤ **Why has the Indian Navy declared 2024 as the 'Year of Naval Civilians'?**

- A) To celebrate the anniversary of the Indian Navy's establishment.
- B) To focus on improving the efficiency and well-being of Naval Civilians.
- C) To commemorate a historical event involving naval civilians.
- D) To emphasize military training for civilian personnel.
- E) To reduce the number of naval civilian employees.



Answer

B) To focus on improving the efficiency and well-being of Naval Civilians.



Explanation

- **The Indian Navy has declared 2024 as the 'Year of Naval Civilians' to improve administration, efficiency and well-being of Naval Civilians by addressing all facets of Civilian HR Management in a time bound manner.**
- **Major focus areas towards maximising administrative efficiency, digital initiatives, generic and specific training programmes and welfare activities have been identified for implementation in 2024.**



➤ Who launched the "Digital India FutureLABS" initiative?

- A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B) Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Jal Shakti, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar
- C) Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
- D) Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal
- E) Minister of Defence, Shri Rajnath Singh



Answer

B) Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Jal Shakti, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar



Explanation

- **Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Jal Shakti, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched the "Digital India FutureLABS".**
- **It focused on 'Catalyzing the Next-generation Electronics System Design through Digital India FutureLABS.'**
- **The Summit also witnessed an announcement of 22 MoUs of C-DAC with Industry for implementation of the futureLABS.**



Explanation

- **Companies like NXP Semiconductors, Tenstorrent and Qualcomm India have signed MoUs in areas like High Performance Computing space, Design & Innovation in Compute space and Indian Telecom Stack.**
- The Digital India FutureLABS, coordinated by C-DAC, aims to tap into the trillion-dollar opportunity presented by the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector.



Explanation

- Focusing on key growth areas such as Compute, Communication, Automotive & Mobility, Strategic Electronics, and Industrial IoT, the FutureLABS initiative is strategically positioned to leverage futuristic technologies, including AI, Big Data, and Quantum Computing, marking a transformative phase in Indian research.



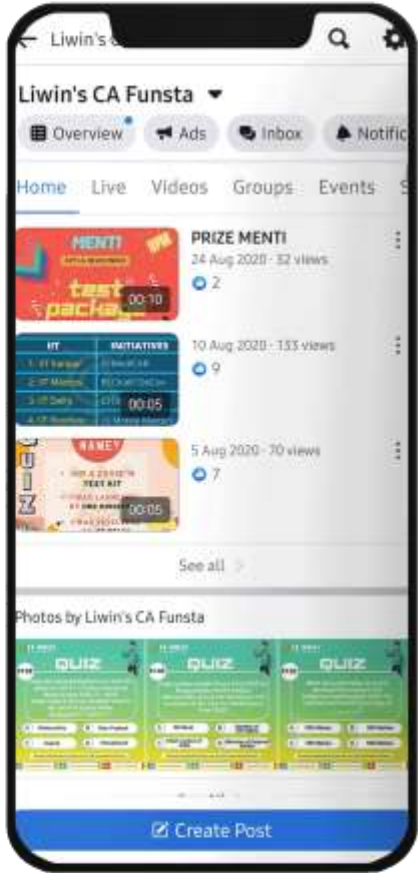
QUICK RECALL



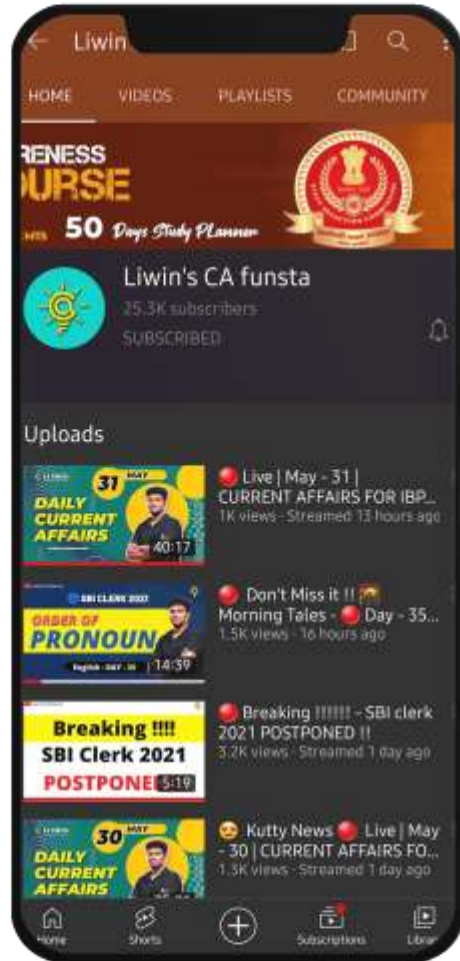
- **Veteran Actor Sadhu Meher, acted in Shyam Benegal Films, passed away at 84**
- **BoM records highest growth in deposit mobilisation among PSU banks in Q3**
- **KUFOS partners with ISRO for NISAR phase II research programme**
- **Adani Total Gas, INOX India join hands to distribute LNG**
- **Radha Raturi appointed as the first woman chief secretary of Uttarakhand**
- **Maha Gaurav 2024 award presented to Nikhil Wagh by Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar**
- **IIT-Madras to collaborate with Munitions India to develop India's first indigenously designed 155 mm smart ammunition**
- **Indian Navy declares 2024 as 'Year of Naval Civilians'**
- **Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar Inaugurates Digital India FutureLABS at IIIT in New Delhi**



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