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Important Days

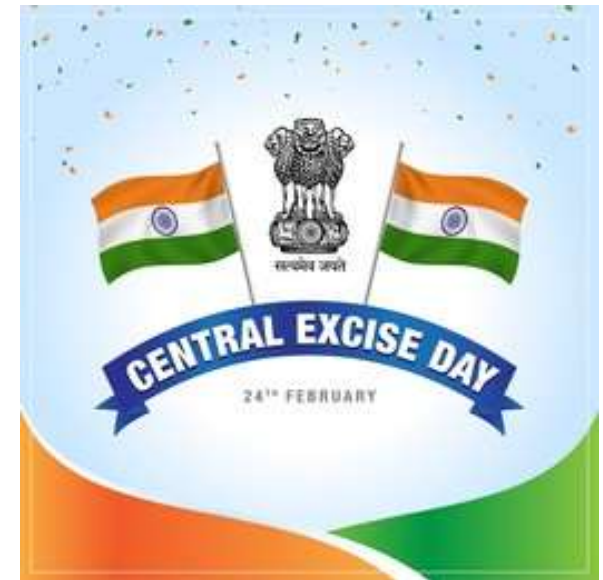


➤ When is Central Excise Day observed annually in India?

- A) January 26
- B) February 24
- C) March 15
- D) April 1
- E) May 5

Answer

B) February 24



Important Days



Explanation

- **The Central Excise Day is observed on February 24 every year in India.**
- **The day commemorates the establishment of the Central Excise and Salt Act, which came into effect in 1944.**
- **This day is observed to commemorate the legislation of the Central Excise and Salt Act, aimed at monitoring the production and regulation of salt and other manufactured goods.**
- **The Act was a combination of 11 Acts concerning excise duties and was passed to make changes in the law related to salt and central duties.**
- **Later, in 1966, the name of this Act was changed to The Central Excise Act, 1944.**



Important Days



➤ **When is World Peace and Understanding Day observed annually?**

- A) January 1
- B) February 14
- C) February 23
- D) March 8
- E) April 22

Answer

C) February 23



Important Days



Explanation

- **World Peace and Understanding Day is observed on February 23.**
- **The day commemorates the first meeting of Rotary International –an NGO dedicated to humanitarian service, peace, and goodwill across the world –that took place in Chicago, US.**
- **Every year, this Special Day is observed to remind people of the ways that they can bring peace, harmony and goodwill to the world and contribute positively.**



Important Days



History:

- In 1908, the first Rotary Club was officially incorporated.
- Later the Rotary Clubs were established in other cities of America like San Francisco, Seattle, Oakland, and Los Angeles.
- By 1925, the Rotary Club spread to other countries and became one of the important organisations – hence, the name of the organisation was changed to Rotary International.
- The organisation is dedicated to humanitarian service, peace, and goodwill, and its members work to improve the lives of others through a variety of projects and initiatives.



APPOINTMENTS



➤ Who has been appointed as the Vigilance Commissioner by the government?

- A) A S Rajeev
- B) Ramesh Kumar
- C) Priya Gupta
- D) Sunil Sharma
- E) Deepak Verma

Answer

A) A S Rajeev



- The government has appointed Bank of Maharashtra MD and CEO A S Rajeev as Vigilance Commissioner.



APPOINTMENTS



Central Vigilance Commission:

- **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is an apex Indian governmental body created in 1964 to address governmental corruption.**
- **It was set up by the Government of India Resolution on 11 February 1964, on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by K. Santhanam, to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance**
- **In 2003, the Parliament enacted a law conferring statutory status on the CVC.**



APPOINTMENTS



Central Vigilance Commission:

- **The Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners are appointed by the President on recommendation of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Minister of Home Affairs (Member) and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.**
- **Central Vigilance Commissioner: Praveen Kumar Srivatsava**
- **Vigilance Commissioner: A S Rajeev**



➤ Which country was the first in Asia to ratify the Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (No. 190)?

- A) Japan
- B) South Korea
- C) Philippines
- D) China
- E) India

Answer
C) Philippines

ILO Convention 190



Explanation

- **The Philippines has been the first Asian country to ratify a convention to end workplace violence and harassment.**
- **Philippines deposited the instrument of ratification of the Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (No. 190) with ILO Deputy Director-General Celeste Drake.**
- **By depositing the instrument of ratification, the Philippines becomes the 38th country in the world and the first Asian country to ratify Convention No. 190.**
- **Convention No. 190 is the first international labor standard to address violence and harassment in the world of work comprehensively.**



Titbits

International Labour Organisation:

Founded: 11 April 1919

HQ: Geneva, Switzerland

Director General: Gilbert Houngbo

Members: 187 countries

Philippines:

Capital: Manila

Currency: Philippine Peso

President: Bongbong Marcos



➤ **What organization placed the United Arab Emirates on the grey list?**

- A) United Nations
- B) World Trade Organization
- C) International Monetary Fund
- D) Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- E) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Answer

D) Financial Action Task Force (FATF)



Explanation

- **The United Arab Emirates' exit from the the grey list, nearly two years after its inclusion by the Financial Action Task Force, will ease the road for the country's investors seeking to acquire significant influence in Indian NBFCs.**
- The exit will reduce the cost of funding for UAE-based banks and reduce their dependence on wealthy clients from the region.
- As cost reduces and the fund flow from other countries improves, some of it will find its way to India as FDI or portfolio flows.



Explanation

- The exit could enhance or reinstate UAE's reputation as a fund jurisdiction, potentially creating competition for the GIFT IFSC.
- India and the UAE recently signed eight pacts, including a bilateral investment treaty and a framework deal to foster regional connectivity.



FATF:

- **The Financial Action Task Force (on Money Laundering) (FATF), is an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering and to maintain certain interest.**
- **In 2001, its mandate was expanded to include terrorism financing.**
- **HQ: Paris, France**
- **President: T Raja Kumar**



FATF Grey List:

- **The FATF grey list outlines the countries or jurisdictions that the FATF deems as 'jurisdictions under increased monitoring.'**
- **These are countries that are actively working with the FATF to address the strategic deficiencies in their regimes to counter money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.**



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Countries under FATF Grey List as on Oct, 2023:

- Barbados
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- The Democratic Republic of Congo
- Croatia
- Gibraltar
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Nigeria
- Philippines
- Senegal
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Syria
- Tanzania
- Turkey
- Uganda
- Vietnam
- Yemen



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Note:

- **Nicaragua and Pakistan are no longer on the grey list.**



➤ **Where is Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' being conducted in 2024?**

- A) Hokkaido, Japan
- B) Rajasthan, India
- C) Tokyo, Japan
- D) Delhi, India
- E) Mumbai, India

Answer

B) Rajasthan, India



Explanation

- **The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self Defence Force commenced at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.**
- The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 25th February to 9th March 2024.
- Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is an annual exercise and conducted alternatively in India and Japan.
- **The Japanese contingent is being represented by troops from the 34th Infantry Regiment and Indian Army contingent is being represented by a Battalion from the Rajputana Rifles.**



Explanation

- **Aim of the Exercise is to foster Military Cooperation and enhance combined capabilities to execute joint operations in semi-urban environment under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter.**
- Lieutenant General TOGASHI Yuichi, Commanding General, Eastern Army, Japan Ground Self Defence Force is also scheduled to visit India on the sidelines of “Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN”.



➤ Which institute collaborated with EduRade to launch India's largest Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO)?

- A) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore
- B) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay
- C) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati
- D) Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad
- E) Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Kolkata



Answer

C) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati



Explanation

- **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati in collaboration with EduRade, a brand owned by RC HobbyTech Solutions Pvt Ltd, have launched India's largest Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO), spanning across 18 acres and boasting the capability to fly 9 medium-class drones simultaneously.**
- **The primary objective of this RPTO is to promote the advancement of drone technology.**
- **Initially, the RPTO will introduce a DGCA-Certified Medium Class Drone Pilot Training Course, tailored to enhance the skills of youth in North east and other regions of India.**



Explanation

- It will also cater specifically to women from self-help group engaged in agriculture, identified under the Nammo Drone Didi Yojna.
- Upon completion of the course, students will be awarded a Remote Pilot Certificate (RPC) sanctioned by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Government of India.
- Graduates from this initiative will be awarded a Remote Pilot Certificate (RPC) on medium class approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Government of India, allowing them to embark on a career as Certified Drone Pilots.



➤ **Where is India's largest Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) located by Solar Energy Corporation of India?**

- A) Jaipur, Rajasthan
- B) Hyderabad, Telangana
- C) Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh
- D) Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
- E) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Answer

C) Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh



Explanation

- **The Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), under the aegis of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has successfully commissioned India's largest Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which stores energy using solar energy.**
- **The 40 megawatts (MW) / 120MWh BESS with a solar photovoltaic (PV) plant which has an installed capacity of 152.325 megawatt hour (MWh) and dispatchable capacity of 100MW AC (155.02 MW peak DC) is located in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh.**



Explanation

- The project has deployed bifacial modules, which reflect the light from the ground, thus generating more electricity than monofacial modules, hence setting a new standard for large-scale renewable energy projects.
- A unique aspect of this project is its strategic use of previously unused land.



Explanation

- Through a tripartite land-use permission agreement among the Energy Department of the Government of Chhattisgarh, Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited (CSPDCL), and SECI, 451 acres of waste land across 9 villages in Tehsil Dongargarh and Dongargaon, District Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh, have been repurposed.
- **The project has been constructed with funding from the World Bank and Clean Technology Fund under Innovation in Solar Power & Hybrid Technologies Project as well as leveraged financing from domestic lending agencies.**



➤ **What was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in the agricultural sector?**

- A) World's Largest Dairy Farm
- B) World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector
- C) World's Largest Fishery Project
- D) World's Largest Poultry Farm
- E) World's Largest Horticulture Initiative



Answer

B) World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector



Explanation

- **The Prime Minister inaugurated the pilot project of 'World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector', which is being done in 11 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) of 11 States.**
- **The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for additional 500 PACS across the country for construction of godowns & other agri infrastructure under this initiative.**



Explanation

- This initiative aims to seamlessly integrate PACS godowns with the food grain supply chain, fortifying food security and fostering economic development in the country with a collaborative effort supported by NABARD and spearheaded by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- **The Prime Minister also inaugurated a project for computerization in 18,000 PACS across the country which has a target of completion by August 2024 at a cost of Rs 2400 Crore, aligning with the government's vision of "Sahakar se Samridhi" aimed at rejuvenating the cooperative sector and empowering small and marginal farmers.**



Note:

- **The world's largest storage plan of 700 lakh metric tons initiated by the government and to be completed in the next 5 years at a cost of Rs 1.25 lakh crores.**
- **in India, storage capacity with regards to food grain production is only 47%, whereas in USA it is 161%, Brazil 149%, Canada 130% and China 107%.**



➤ **What is the primary objective of the Press Sewa Portal?**

- A) To promote digital literacy among journalists
- B) To facilitate easy access to newspapers for citizens
- C) To streamline the process of newspaper registration and related procedures
- D) To regulate the content published in newspapers
- E) To provide financial assistance to newspaper publishers



Answer

C) To streamline the process of newspaper registration and related procedures



Explanation

- **The Minister of Information and Broadcasting Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, launched four transformatory portals.**



Press Sewa Portal: Streamlining Newspaper Registration

- The Press Sewa Portal, developed under the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023 (PRP Act, 2023) by the Press Registrar General of India (PRGI - erstwhile RNI), is a monumental step towards complete automation of the process for newspaper registration and other related processes.
- This portal, designed under the PRP Act 2023, aims to simplify the cumbersome registration procedures that were prevalent under the colonial PRB Act, 1867.



Transparent Empanelment Media Planning and eBilling System: Revolutionizing Media Planning

- The Ministry is introducing the Transparent Empanelment, Media Planning and eBilling System for Central Bureau of Communication.
- CBC provides comprehensive 360 degree media and communication solutions to Ministries, Departments, PSUs, and autonomous bodies.
- The new system of CBC is designed to enhance transparency and efficiency in media planning processes, and provide an end-to-end ERP solution for the media industry for doing business in a paperless and faceless environment.



NaViGate Bharat Portal: National Video Gateway of Bharat:

- The 'NaViGate Bharat' portal i.e., the National Video Gateway of Bharat, developed by the New Media Wing of the Ministry, is a unified bilingual platform which hosts videos on the entire gamut of Government's development-related and citizen welfare-oriented measures.
- 'NaViGate Bharat' empowers citizens by providing a single platform with an interactive user interface to search, stream, share, and download videos related to various Government schemes, initiatives, and campaigns, with filter-based advanced search option.



National Register for LCOs: Strengthening Cable Sector:

- National Register for Local Cable Operators (LCOs) is the first step to bring registration of LCOs currently with Post Offices spread across the country under a Centralised Registration System.
- A web form has been designed to collect information from local cable operators for the purpose of National Register.
- The National Register for LCOs has also been published online and is being updated regularly. This promises a more organized cable sector with a National Registration Number for an LCO, making it easier to formulate new policies for responsible service and convenience for cable operators.



The Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023:

- **The Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023 (PRP Act, 2023) revolutionizes the registration process for periodicals, introducing a seamless online system for title allotment and registration without the need for physical submissions.**
- **This efficient approach, particularly advantageous for small and medium publishers, eliminates the requirement to file multiple declarations with District Magistrates. Instead, publishers will now submit a single online application through the Press Sewa Portal, streamlining the entire process that previously involved eight steps.**



The Press and Registration of Periodicals Act, 2023:

- **The Act will replace the existing Press and Registration of Books Act 1867.**
- **Under the act Registrar of Newspapers for India office will be replaced by the office of Press Registrar General of India.**



Central Bureau of Communication:

- **Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) is a unit of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, that has the mandate of providing 360 degrees communication solutions to Ministries, Departments, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), and autonomous bodies.**
- **HQ: New Delhi**



➤ **Where will the 'Gati Shakti Research Chair' be established?**

- A) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
- B) Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad
- C) Indian Institute of Management Shillong
- D) Indian Institute of Science Bangalore
- E) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi



Answer

C) Indian Institute of Management Shillong



Explanation

- **The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM Shillong) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to set up India's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair' on the campus.**
- The chair aims to foster collaboration with global experts in creating and developing knowledge and expertise while strengthening the links between the multimodal logistics research and capacity-building activities with key stakeholders such as the logistics industry, government bodies, local authorities, and other partners and associations.



Explanation

- The chair will also support the multimodal logistics research activities, capacity building and outputs to enable PM Gati Shakti Masterplan to power the East and north-east region's logistical capacity.



Titbits

IIM Shillong:

Established: 2007

Chairperson: Shishir Bajoria

Director: Prof D P Goyal



➤ What is the approximate length of the Sudarshan Setu?

- A) 1.5 km
- B) 2.32 km
- C) 3.5 km
- D) 1 km
- E) 4.2 km

Answer
B) 2.32 km



Explanation

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sudarshan Setu, the Signature Bridge between Okha and Beyt in the pilgrimage site of Dwarka.**
- **Sudarshan Setu is India's longest cable-stayed bridge of around 2.32 km.**
- **It is built at a cost of Rs 978 Crore.**



Explanation

- Beyt Dwarka is an island near Okha port which is approximately 30 km from Dwarka town, where the famous Dwarkadhish temple of Lord Krishna is situated.
- **The bridge, previously known as the 'Signature Bridge', has been renamed 'Sudarshan Setu' or Sudarshan Bridge.**
- The bridge aims to simplify access for devotees commuting between Okha and Bet Dwarka.



➤ **Where is the Central Research Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy (CRIYN) located?**

- A) Pune, Maharashtra
- B) Jhajjar, Haryana
- C) Delhi
- D) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- E) Chennai, Tamil Nadu



**Central Council for research
in Yoga & Naturopathy**

Answer

B) Jhajjar, Haryana



Explanation

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today, inaugurated virtually two institutes of Ministry of Ayush which will further promote holistic healthcare scenario in the country.**
- **The 'Central Research Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy' (CRIYN) at Jhajjar, Haryana, and the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) titled 'NISARG GRAM' in Pune, Maharashtra were inaugurated.**
- **Central Research Institute of Yoga & Naturopathy, Jhajjar (Haryana) built under the aegis of Ministry of Ayush.**



Explanation

- Through this project, tertiary level Yoga and Naturopathy health care infrastructure will be created.
- **The 19 Acre Project has been built with a cost of INR 63.88 CR.**
- **NISARG GRAM is a 250 bedded hospital with Multi-disciplinary Research and Extension Service Centre along with a Naturopathy Medical College for Under Graduate (UG)/Post Graduate (PG) /Para Medical Courses.**
- **The 25 acre project costs total of INR 213.55 Crore.**



QUICK RECALL



- **Central Excise day is observed on February 24**
- **World Peace and Understanding Day is observed on February 23**
- **Govt appoints Bank of Maharashtra MD A S Rajeev as Vigilance Commissioner**
- **Philippines becomes first Asian country to ratify ILO convention**
- **UAE's exit from FATF grey list to boost FPI flows, investment into Indian NBFCs**
- **IIT Guwahati launches India's largest drone pilot training organization**
- **SECI unveils India's largest solar-battery project, pioneering renewable energy innovation in Chhattisgarh**
- **PM inaugurates and lays foundation stone of multiple key initiatives for Cooperative sector**



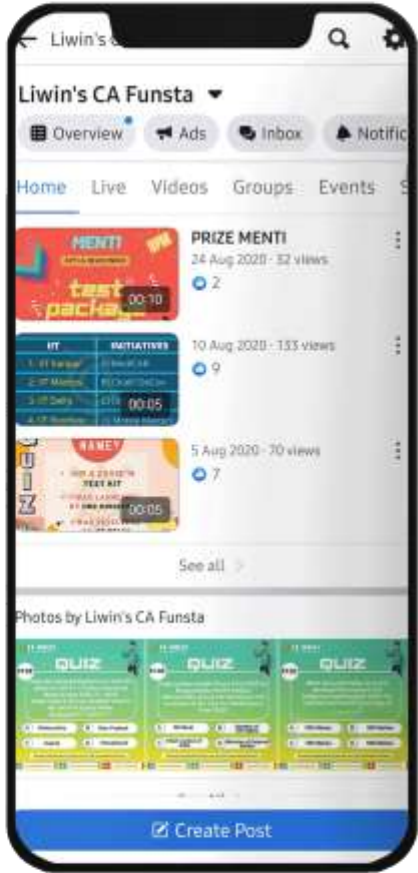
QUICK RECALL



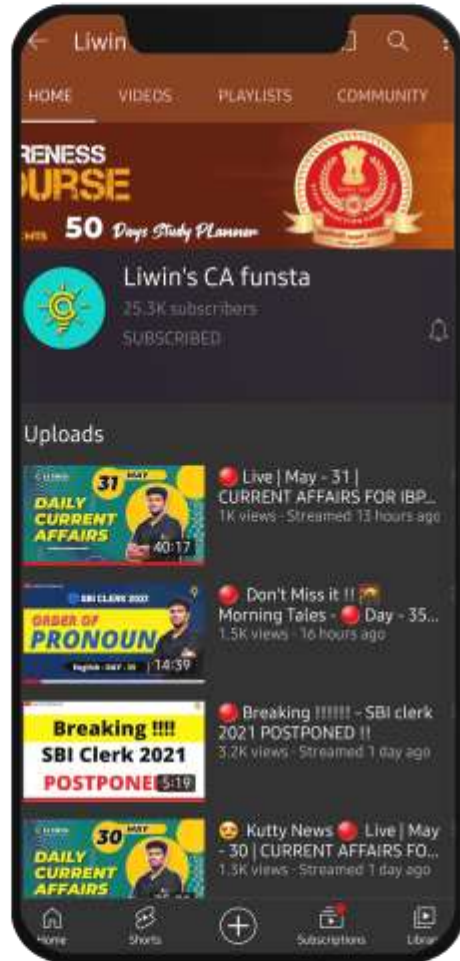
- **Transformative Portals for a Modernized Media Landscape unveiled by Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur**
- **India's first GatiShakti research chair established at IIM Shillong**
- **INDIA-JAPAN JOINT EXERCISE 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' COMMENCES IN RAJASTHAN**
- **PM Modi inaugurates Sudharsgan Setu in Dwarka**
- **Prime Minister Inaugurates two 'Ayush Projects' in Jhajjar and Pune**



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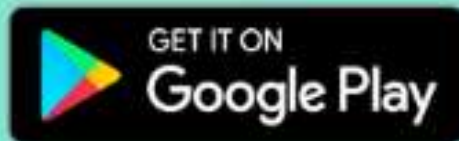
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