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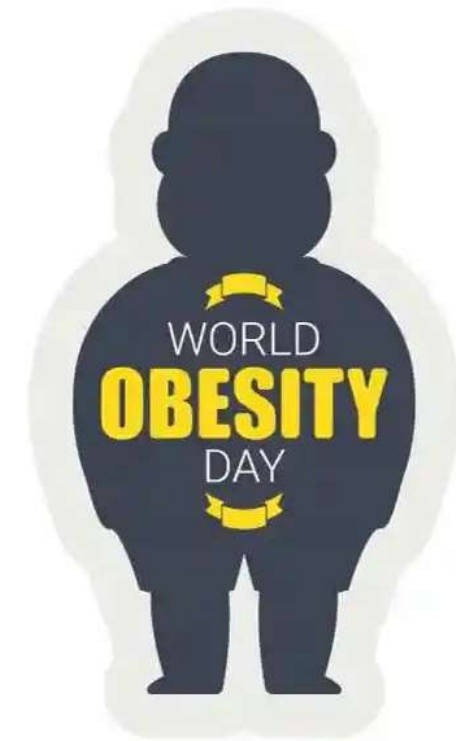
Important Days



➤ **When is World Obesity Day 2024 scheduled to be celebrated?**

- A) March 4
- B) April 4
- C) May 4
- D) June 4
- E) July 4

Answer
A) March 4



Important Days



Explanation

- **World Obesity Day 2024 will be celebrated on March 4.**
- **Statistics from 2022 indicate that around 1.25 crore children aged 5 to 19 years are overweight compared to normal.**
- **This number was 40 lakh in 1990.**
- **According to a study published in The Lancet Journal, out of this 1.25 crore, 73 lakh are boys and 52 lakh are girls suffering from this issue.**



Important Days



Note:

- **According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the rate of obesity among the world's children and adolescents in 2022 is four times higher than it was in 1990.**
- The adult obesity rate in India was expected to increase from 1.2% in 1990 to 9.8% for women and from 0.5% to 5.4% for men by 2022.
- It was reported that around 4.4 crore women and 2.6 crore men were affected by obesity in 2022.
- The rate of obesity among girls rose from 0.1% in 1990 to 3.1% in 2022.
- For boys, it increased from 0.1% to 3.9% in the same period.



Important Days



➤ In which year was Zero Discrimination Day first celebrated?

- A) 2010
- B) 2012
- C) 2014
- D) 2016
- E) 2018

Answer
C) 2014



Important Days



Explanation

- **Zero Discrimination Day is observed every year on March 1** to promote inclusion, equality, and peace and raise awareness about the impact of discrimination worldwide.
- **The theme for Zero Discrimination Day 2024 is "To protect everyone's health, protect everyone's rights."**
- The day was **first celebrated on March 1, 2014.**
- Ten years ago, **UNAIDS had launched its Zero Discrimination Campaign on 'World AIDS Day' in December 2013.**
- **UNAIDS is a joint United Nations program on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).**



Important Days



World Seagrass Day' is celebrated every year on 1 March

- **World Seagrass Day' is celebrated every year on 1 March**
- **Theme: "Healthy Seagrass, Healthy Planet".**
- It was declared by the United Nations General Assembly after a resolution was passed by Sri Lanka to emphasize the conservation of seagrass in the marine environment.
- **On 23 May 2022, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 1 March as World Seagrass Day.**
- It is celebrated annually by UNGA.
- The UNEP was also invited to facilitate the observance of the day.
- **In this way the first World Seagrass Day was organized in 2023.**



Important Days



➤ **What is the theme for World Wildlife Day this year?**

- A) "Protecting Endangered Species"
- B) "Conserving Biodiversity"
- C) "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation"
- D) "Sustainable Wildlife Management"
- E) "Preserving Habitat for Future Generations"



Answer

C) "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation"



Important Days



Explanation

- **World Wildlife Day is observed every year on March 3.**
- **This year's theme for World Wildlife Day is "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation".**
- **March 3 was announced as the United Nations World Wildlife Day (WWD) at the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) which was held on December 20, 2013.**
- **This day is celebrated to create awareness of the world's wild flora and fauna.**



OBITUARY



➤ **What position did Brian Mulroney hold in Canadian politics?**

- A) President
- B) Prime Minister
- C) Governor
- D) Mayor
- E) Senator

Answer

B) Prime Minister



OBITUARY



Explanation

- **Former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who led his country from 1984 to 1993, has died at the age of 84.**
- Mulroney led Canada through the closing days of the Cold War and forged a free trade agreement with the US.
- Among the measures he passed, the most significant was the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) between Mexico and the United States.
- The agreement helped boost the country's exports.
- Internationally, he pushed for Reagan to sign a treaty to curb acid rain and an agreement to modernise Canada's air defence systems.



OBITUARY



Titbits

Canada:

Capital: Otawwa

Currency: Canadian Dollar

Prime Minister: Justin Trudeau



➤ What is the total worth of the bonds listed by REC Limited on the NSE and BSE?

- A) Rs 5,375 crores
- B) Rs 5,375 lakhs
- C) Rs 5.375 billion
- D) Rs 5.375 trillion
- E) Rs 5.375 million

Answer

A) Rs 5,375 crores



Explanation

- **REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, has successfully listed two bonds on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).**
- **One bond is worth Rs 2,500 crores of 10-year maturity, with a redemption date of February 28, 2034 and yield of 7.47%.**
- **The other one is worth Rs 2,875 crores with a maturity period of 3 years, 2 months, with a redemption date of April 30, 2027 and a yield of 7.64%.**



Note:

- REC Ltd. provides loans of various maturities to State, Central and Private Companies for creation of infrastructure assets in the country.
- REC Ltd. continues to play a key strategic role in the flagship schemes of the Government for the power sector and has been a nodal agency for Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGAYA), Deen Dayal Upadhaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), National Electricity Fund (NEF) Scheme which resulted in strengthening of last-mile distribution system, 100% village electrification and household electrification in the country.



Note:

- REC has also been made the nodal agency for certain States and Union Territories for the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).
- The loan book of REC stands at Rs 4.97 Lakh Crores and Net Worth at Rs. 64,787 crores as on 31st December, 2023.



Titbits

REC Limited:

HQ: New Delhi

CMD: Vivek Kumar Dewagan



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



➤ What is the title of Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri's debut book?



- A) Shining in Shadows
- B) Swallowing the Sun
- C) Embracing the Moon
- D) Dancing with Stars
- E) Chasing the Horizon

Answer

B) Swallowing the Sun



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Explanation

- **Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri, Former Assistant Secretary General, UN and wife of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched her debut book "Swallowing the Sun" in Mumbai.**
- The novel is set up during the time of independence and the book is inspired by her parents and her roots from Maharashtra.
- The book highlights women empowerment through the protagonist of the novel.



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **What is Daljit Singh Chaudhary's current position before being appointed as the DG of NSG?**

- A) DG of National Security Guard (NSG)
- B) DG of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- C) DG of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- D) DG of Border Security Force (BSF)
- E) DG of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)



Answer

B) DG of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **The Centre appointed 1990 batch IPS officer, Daljit Singh Chaudhary as the director general (DG) of National Security Guard (NSG).**
- **Chaudhary, who is currently the DG of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), has been given the additional charge of heading the NSG.**



APPOINTMENTS



➤ Who has been approved as the part-time chairman of the Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank by the RBI?

- A) S Ravindran
- B) Ramesh Sharma
- C) Arjun Patel
- D) Priya Verma
- E) Karthik Menon



Answer
A) S Ravindran



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **The RBI has approved the appointment of S Ravindran as the part-time chairman of the Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank.**
- The approval is subject to Ravindran stepping down from his directorships in Shriram Finance Limited and Bandhan AMC Limited, prior to assuming charge as the part-time chairman of the bank.
- **His appointment is effective from Feb 29, 2024, till Aug 2, 2026.**
- He has **29 years of work experience at SEBI, including being an executive director and advisor to the Central Bank of Bahrain.**



APPOINTMENTS



Titbits

Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank:

HQ: Thoothukudi

CEO: K V Ramamoorthy



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



➤ Which country has become the first Spanish-speaking nation to officially recognize the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) or Indian Pharma standards?

- A) Mexico
- B) Spain
- C) Nicaragua
- D) Argentina
- E) Colombia

Answer

C) Nicaragua



Explanation

- **Nicaragua has become the first Spanish-speaking nation to officially recognise the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) or Indian Pharma standards.**
- This development follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Pharmacopoeia Cooperation between the governments of India and Nicaragua.
- **The MoU was signed by Dr Sumit Seth, the Indian Ambassador to Nicaragua, and Dr Martha Reyes, Nicaragua's Minister of Health.**



Explanation

- The Memorandum of Understanding underscores a shared commitment to collaboration in the regulation of medicines, marking a crucial step towards international harmonisation of pharmaceutical standards.



Note:

- The Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP), compiled by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in India, serves as the official compendium of standards for drugs.
- With the latest edition published in 2022, the IP comprises over 3,000 monographs, establishing precise limits and testing methods for both raw materials and finished pharmaceutical products.
- The legal significance of the IP within India, enshrined in the Second Schedule of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940, necessitates adherence to its standards for all imported, manufactured, and distributed drugs within the country.



Titbits

Nicargua:

Capital: Managua

Currency: Cordoba

President: Daniel Ortega



➤ Who will preside over the commissioning ceremony of Naval Detachment Minicoy as INS Jatayu?

- A) Adm R Hari Kumar
- B) Adm Karambir Singh
- C) Adm Sunil Lanba
- D) Adm Nirmal Kumar Verma
- E) Adm Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria

Answer

A) Adm R Hari Kumar



Explanation

- **Indian Navy will commission Naval Detachment Minicoy as INS Jatayu in the presence of Adm R Hari Kumar the, Chief of the Naval Staff on 06 Mar 2024.**
- **INS Jatayu is the second Naval base in Lakshadweep after INS Dweeprakshak in Kavaratti.**
- With the commissioning of INS Jatayu, the Indian Navy will strengthen its foothold in the Lakshadweep islands and along with extending operational surveillance, reach and sustenance.



Note:

- Naval Detachment Minicoy was set up in early 1980s under the operational command of Naval Officer-in-Charge (Lakshadweep).
- Minicoy is the southernmost island of Lakshadweep which straddles the vital Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs).



➤ Which organization developed the Ocean Grace tug under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways?

- A) Indian Navy
- B) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- C) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- D) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- E) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

Answer

B) Cochin Shipyard Limited



Explanation

- **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of MoPSW & AYUSH inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named 'Ocean Grace' and the Medical Mobile Unit (MMU), virtually.**
- **The Ocean Grace is the first make in India ASTDS Tug developed by the Cochin Shipyard Limited under MoPSW.**
- **The Medical Mobile Unit (MMU) is part of port's commitment to corporate social responsibility. This initiative highlights 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative of PM Modi.**



Note:

- The goal of the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) is to convert at least 50% of all tugs into Green Tugs by 2030 and to have Green Tugs operating at all major ports.
- There are 53 Sagarmala Projects worth Rs. 54,500 Crores in the state of Odisha.
- Paradip Port tops the list of Major Ports in productivity; in the fiscal year 2022–2023, it achieved 32,500 metric tons per ship berth day, enhancing its standing as a major participant in the Indian maritime sector.



➤ What is the primary objective of the 'one time scheme' (OTS) being implemented in the urban local bodies (ULBs) of Telangana?

- A) Boosting agricultural production
- B) Promoting industrial development
- C) Encouraging tourism initiatives
- D) Providing financial relief to property tax defaulters
- E) Enhancing educational infrastructure



Answer

D) Providing financial relief to property tax defaulters



Explanation

- **The Telengana state government has ordered the implementation of 'one time scheme' (OTS) in all the urban local bodies (ULBs) of Telangana state including the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).**
- **Under the OTS the government ordered a waiver of 90 per cent on accumulated arrears interest on property tax, provided taxpayer clear the principal amount of dues till the financial year 2022-2023 together with 10 per cent of interest at one go.**



Explanation

- The OTS applies to private and government properties.
- The scheme is also applicable to taxpayers who paid their dues including interest/ penalties up to March 2023 during the current financial year prior to coming into force of this scheme



Titbits

Telengana:

Capital: Hyderabad

Chief Minister: Revanth Reddy

Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan



➤ What is the primary focus of the 'Tawi Festival'?

- A) Showcasing Kashmiri art and culture
- B) Highlighting Ladakhi heritage
- C) Promoting Jammu's art, culture, and heritage
- D) Celebrating religious festivals
- E) Supporting local industries



Answer

C) Promoting Jammu's art, culture, and heritage



Explanation

- **In Jammu and Kashmir, the four-day-long 'Tawi Festival' to showcase the Jammu region's art, culture, and heritage will begin on March 1, 2024.**
- It focused on the promotion of Jammu's rich, diverse art forms and cultural heritage where the youth will also get a platform to give a vent to their creativities besides sharing thoughts with experts.



Explanation

- The festival comprises Seminars, workshops, and talks, performances of folk music and street theatre, classical and folk dance and music, and a Mela, with an emphasis on showcasing entrepreneurship, innovation, local cuisines, and organic products sourced from women's NGO groups across the Himalayan region.
- The last day is being hosted at the University of Jammu



➤ What is the estimated cost of the Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) fertilizer plant in Barauni?

- A) Rs 5000 crore
- B) Rs 7500 crore
- C) Rs 8500 crore
- D) Rs 9500 crore
- E) Rs 10,000 crore

Answer

D) Rs 9500 crore



Explanation

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated and dedicated to the nation the Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) fertilizer plant in Barauni.**
- **Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) fertilizer plant in Barauni developed at more than Rs 9500 crore, the plant will provide affordable urea to farmers and lead to an increase in their productivity and financial stability.**
- **This will be the fourth fertilizer plant to be revived in the country.**
- **Barauni Fertilizer Plant of Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL) started urea production in Oct 2022.**



Explanation

- The state-of-the-art gas based Barauni Plant is part of the initiative taken by the Government to revive the closed urea units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Ltd (HFCL) in order to achieve self-sufficiency in urea sector.
- **Government mandated Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL) to revive Barauni unit with an estimated investment of Rs. 9512 crores with urea production capacity of 12.7 LMTPA.**



Note:

- **HURL, incorporated on 15th June, 2016 is a Joint Venture Company by Coal India Limited (CIL), NTPC Limited (NTPC), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and FCIL/HFCL mandated to revive Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni units with an estimated investment of Rs. 25,000 crores.**
- The start of all the three plants of HURL will add 38.1 LMTPA indigenous urea production in the country and help to realize the vision of Prime Minister to make India 'Aatmanirbhar' (self-reliant) in the urea production.



➤ What is the estimated size of the drugs and pharmaceuticals industry in India for the year 2022-23?

- A) US\$20 billion
- B) US\$30 billion
- C) US\$40 billion
- D) US\$50 billion
- E) US\$60 billion

Answer
D) US\$50 billion



Explanation

- **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Health & Family Welfare virtually inaugurated 27 greenfield bulk drug park projects and 13 greenfield manufacturing plants for medical devices.**



Note:

- **The drug and pharmaceutical industry in India witnessed a 12% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) in the last 10 years.**
- Under the PLI scheme, as many as 1800 pharmaceutical products and formulations and 22 bulk drugs will be manufactured in India.
- After the introduction PLI Scheme, **India imported 90% of medical devices.**
- The net imports of medical devices decreased for the first time in 2023.



Note:

- **India is the 3rd largest player in drugs and pharmaceuticals by volume with an estimated industry size of US\$50 billion in 2022-23 and exports accounting for 50% of the production.**
- **It is anticipated to reach a size of around US\$130 billion by 2030.**
- **The scheme envisages manufacturing of 41 bulk drugs with a total outlay of Rs. 6,940 cr. during the tenure of the scheme i.e. 2020-21 to 2029-30.**



Note:

- The scheme envisages incentive at the rate of 20% for first four years, 15% for fifth year and 5% for sixth year on eligible sales of fermentation based bulk drugs.
- In respect of chemical synthesis based bulk drugs, incentive is to be given at the rate of 10% for six years on the eligible sales



➤ What was the total worth of the development projects dedicated to the nation and for which foundation stones were laid by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Aurangabad, Bihar?

- A) Rs 15,200 crores
- B) Rs 18,400 crores
- C) Rs 20,600 crores
- D) Rs 21,400 crores
- E) Rs 24,800 crores

Answer

D) Rs 21,400 crores



Explanation

- **The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth Rs 21,400 crores in Aurangabad, Bihar.**
- He inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for several **National Highway projects worth more than Rs 18,100 crores.**



Explanation

- He laid the foundation stone for **six National Highway projects including the construction of 55 km long four-lane access-controlled Greenfield National Highway from Amas to village Shivrampur; 54 km long four-lane access-controlled Greenfield National Highway from Shivrampur to Ramnagar; 47 km long four-lane access controlled greenfield National Highway from village Kalyanpur to village Balbhadarpur; 42 km long four-lane access controlled greenfield National Highway from Balbhadarpur to Bela Nawada; 25 km long four lane elevated corridor from Danapur – Bihta Section; and upgradation of existing two lane to four lane carriageway of Bihta - Koilwar section.**



Explanation

- He also laid the foundation stone of the **six lane bridge across River Ganga that will be developed as a part of Patna Ring Road.**
- He inaugurated **twelve projects under Namami Gange in Bihar that have been developed at a cost of about Rs 2,190 crore.**
- He laid the foundation stone of **Unity Mall in Patna.**



Explanation

- To be constructed **at a cost of more than Rs 200 crore**, the project is envisioned as a state-of-the-art facility, encompassing international design practices, technology, comfort, and aesthetics.
- He also dedicated to the nation **three railway projects in Bihar including the project for doubling of Patliputra to Pahleza railway line; 26 km long new rail line between Bandhua – Paimar; and a MEMU Shed in Gaya.**



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Bihar:

Capital: Patna

Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar

Governor: Rajendra Arlekar



QUICK RECALL



- **World Obesity day is observed on March 4**
- **Zero Discrimination day is observed on March 1**
- **World Wildlife Day is celebrated every year on March 3**
- **Former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney dies at 84**
- **REC Limited successfully lists two bonds on NSE and BSE, worth Rs 2,500 crores and Rs 2,875 crores**
- **Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri Former Assistant Secretary General, UN launches her book "Swallowing the Sun" in Mumbai**
- **IPS officer Daljit Singh Chaudhary appointed as new director general of NSG**
- **RBI approves ex-Sebi director as TMB's part time chairman**
- **Nicaragua becomes first Spanish-speaking nation to recognise Indian pharma standards**



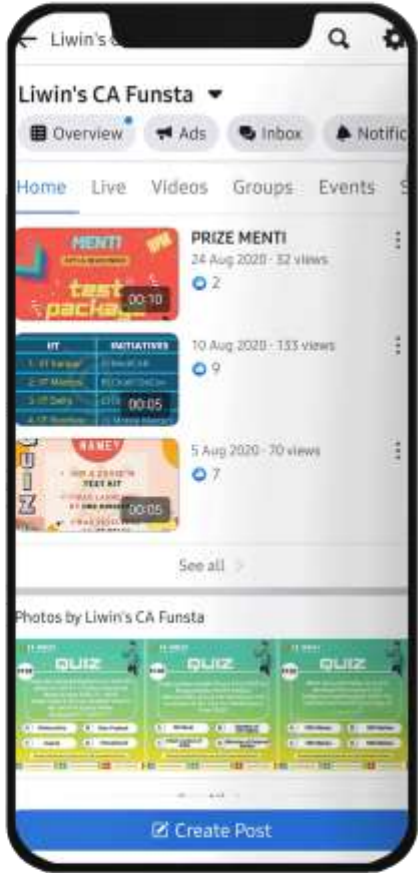
QUICK RECALL



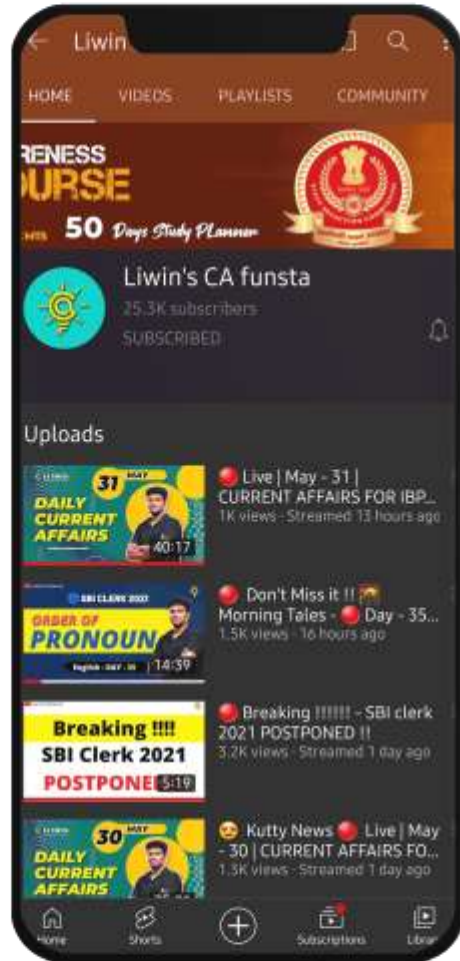
- **INDIAN NAVY TO ENHANCE ITS OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY WITH COMMISSIONING OF INS JATAYU AT MINICOY ISLAND (LAKSHADWEEP)**
- **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal dedicates first-ever Made-in-India ASTDS tug**
- **Telangana Govt Announces One Time Scheme Nation**
- **J&K: Four-day-long 'Tawi Festival' to begin on March 1, 2024**
- **Prime Minister Inaugurates Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) fertilizer plant in Barauni**
- **Dr Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurates 27 Greenfield Bulk Drug Park projects and 13 Greenfield Manufacturing Plants for Medical Devices under the PLI Scheme**
- **PM dedicates to nation and lays foundation stone for multiple development projects worth Rs 21,400 crores in Aurangabad, Bihar**



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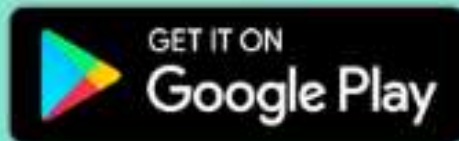
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