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Important Days



➤ **What is the theme for the International Day of Action for Rivers 2024?**

- A) "Save Our Rivers"
- B) "Protect Our Water Bodies"
- C) "Water for All"
- D) "Clean Water, Happy Planet"
- E) None of the above



Answer

C) "Water for All"



Important Days



Explanation

- **International Day of Action for Rivers is observed on March 14 to spread awareness about the importance of rivers and climate change.**
- **This year's theme is "Water for All".**
- **The International Day of Action Against Dams and For Rivers, Water, and Life was approved at the first International Meeting of People Impacted by Dams in March 1997 in Curitiba, Brazil.**
- **On March 14, river experts from 20 different nations announced the "Day of Action for Rivers".**
- **The aim of the participants was to form a coalition against the degradation of ecologically sensitive water bodies, rivers and watersheds**



Important Days



➤ **When is World Kidney Day observed?**

- A) Second Tuesday of March
- B) Second Wednesday of March
- C) Second Thursday of March
- D) Second Friday of March
- E) None of the above

Answer

C) Second Thursday of March



Important Days



Explanation

- **Second Thursday in the month of March is observed as World Kidney Day.**
- **This year, the day falls on March 14.**
- **The theme of WKD 2024 is 'Kidney Health for All - Advancing Equitable Access to Care and Optimal Medication Practice'.**
- **It is an occasion to raise awareness about the importance of our kidneys to overall health.**
- **The origin of the global health awareness campaign lies in a joint initiative between the International Society of Nephrology and the International Federation of Kidney Foundation.**
- **World Kidney Day was first observed in the year 2006 and the theme was 'Are your kidneys okay?'**



RANKING



➤ What rank did India achieve in the Gender Inequality Index (GII) in 2022?

- A) 86
- B) 94
- C) 108
- D) 122
- E) None of the above

Answer
C) 108



RANKING



Explanation

- India has registered a significant jump of 14 ranks in Gender Inequality Index 2022.
- **According to the Human Development Report 2023-24 released by the UNDP, the country ranked 108 out of 193 countries with a score of 0.437 in GII 2022.**
- This shows a notable jump of 14 ranks compared to the GII 2021 rank which was 122 out of 191 countries with a score of 0.490.



- **What is the purpose of the \$23 million loan agreement between the Centre and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)?**
- A) To enhance access to quality healthcare services
 - B) To strengthen fintech education, research, and innovation
 - C) To fund infrastructure projects in rural areas
 - D) To support agricultural development initiatives
 - E) To improve transportation systems



Answer

B) To strengthen fintech education, research, and innovation



Explanation

- **The Centre and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$23 million loan agreement to enhance access to quality fintech education, research, and innovation at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT-City).**
- This project will establish an International Fintech Institute (IFI) to strengthen fintech education, boost start-up success rates, and drive fintech research and innovation.



Explanation

- The IFI, set to be established in partnership with globally reputed institutes and universities, will offer industry-aligned fintech training programmes that meet international standards.
- GIFT City is an initiative of the Centre and the State Government of Gujarat to foster India's financial services and fintech ecosystem.



Titbits

ADB:

HQ: Mandaluyong, Philippines
Members: 68 Countries
President: Masatsugu Asakawa



➤ **What are the variants of the co-branded credit card offered by South Indian Bank in partnership with State Bank of India (SBI)?**

- A) SimplySAVE and Platinum
- B) Gold and Silver
- C) Classic and Premium
- D) Standard and Elite
- E) None of the above

Answer

A) SimplySAVE and Platinum



Explanation

- **Following the directions by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), private sector lenders Federal Bank and South Indian Bank stopped issuing co-branded credit cards to new customers on account of regulatory deficiencies, according to exchange filings.**
- The RBI released a Master Direction on “Amendment to the Master Direction – Credit Card and Debit Card – Issuance and Conduct Directions, 2022.



Explanation

- According to the notification, co-branded cards should explicitly indicate that the card has been issued under a co-branding arrangement with clear mention of the card-issuer.”
- “The co-branding partner shall not advertise/market the co-branded card as its own product. In all marketing/ advertising material, the name of the card-issuer shall be clearly shown,” the amended directions noted.



Note:

- **South Indian Bank has one co-branded credit card in partnership with State Bank of India (SBI), which is available in two variants SimplySAVE and Platinum.**
- **Federal Bank has three co-branded credit cards – Federal Onecard, Federal Scapia, Federal FI**



Titbits

South Indian Bank:
HQ: Thrissur, Kerala
Chairman: V J Kurian
MD and CEO: P R Seshadri



➤ **Which banks will act as Payment System Provider (PSP) banks to One97 Communications according to NPCI?**

- A) ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab National Bank, IDFC First Bank
- B) Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, YES Bank
- C) Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, Bank of India
- D) IndusInd Bank, RBL Bank, Federal Bank, IDBI Bank
- E) None of the above



Answer

B) Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, YES Bank



Explanation

- **Paytm gets a third-party application provider licence from the National Payments Corporation of India, a day before the March 15 deadline of the Paytm Payments Bank to shut its operations.**
- **The licence will provide Paytm's customers another option to use its app for payments after its banking arm Paytm Payments Bank, ceases operations by March 15, following regulatory action due to non-compliance with certain norms.**
- **According to the NPCI, four banks (Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, YES Bank) shall act as PSP (Payment System Provider) banks to One97 Communications.**



Explanation

- Earlier, the fintech's Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) held the Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) licence.
- The existence of PPBL enabled Paytm to shed away the need for a separate TPAP license, like its rival apps like Google Pay, PhonePe, Cred and Amazon Pay.
- Paytm's maximum transactions (approximately 75% of gross merchandise value (GMV) are from customers using the UPI for transactions on its app.



Titbits

Paytm:

Founder: Vijay Shekar Sharma

Founded: August 2010

HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh



➤ **What organizations have collaborated to develop and support spice value chains in the North Eastern Hill region?**

- A) ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research and Tata Motors
- B) ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research and Reliance Industries
- C) ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research and Tata Trusts
- D) ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research and Amazon
- E) None of the above



Answer

C) ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research and Tata Trusts



Explanation

- **ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode and Tata Trusts have come together to develop and support spice value chains in the North Eastern Hill region.**
- **In a pilot study, the joint project with pan India coverage will focus on Assam, Nagaland and Mizoram in the NEH region for transforming ginger and turmeric value chain.**



Explanation

- As part of the programme, a detailed baseline study has been completed in the **project locations at Kamrup (Assam), Kiphire (Nagaland) and Aizwal (Mizoram)**.
- IISR is working closely with the **Centre for Microfinance and Livelihood (CML) and North East Initiative Development Agency**, two associate organizations of Tata Trusts, for implementing the programme.



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the new Election Commissioners by the government?**

- A) Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Sandhu
- B) Ramesh Sharma and Priya Patel
- C) Amit Shah and Sonia Gandhi
- D) Manoj Tiwari and Mamata Banerjee
- E) None of the above



Answer

A) Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Sandhu



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **The government appointed former IAS officers Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Sandhu as the new election commissioners.**
- **In exercise of powers conferred by section 4 of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023 (Act No 49 of 2023), the President is pleased to appoint Gyanesh Kumar, IAS (Retd) and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, IAS (Retd) as Election Commissioners in the Election Commission of India, with effect from the date they assume charge of their office.**



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- Kumar is a retired bureaucrat of the Kerala cadre and Sandhu worked as an officer of the Uttarakhand cadre.
- **Kumar served as the Secretary of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and later as Secretary in the Ministry of Cooperation.**
- **Sandhu has served as the Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand.**
- **The two former bureaucrats were chosen by a panel chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and included Union Home Minister Amit Shah and leader of Congress party in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury as members.**



APPOINTMENTS



➤ Who has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of Union Asset Management Company?

- A) Madhu Nair
- B) G Pradeepkumar
- C) Ramesh Sharma
- D) Priya Patel
- E) None of the above

Answer

A) Madhu Nair



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Union Asset Management Company has appointed Madhu Nair as the Chief Executive Officer.**
- **He will replace G Pradeepkumar who tendered his resignation after 14 years of service.**



➤ **What is the subject of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Singapore?**

- A) Cooperation in defense and security
- B) Collaboration in healthcare research
- C) Cooperation in Law & Dispute Resolution
- D) Joint development of renewable energy projects
- E) None of the above



Answer

C) Cooperation in Law & Dispute Resolution



Explanation

- **India and Singapore have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of Law & Dispute Resolution.**
- The Memorandum of Understanding was signed in a virtual meeting of the **Minister of State for Law and Justice (I/C), Government of India, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal for the Indian side and the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, Government of Singapore, Mr. Edwin Tong for the Singapore side.**



Explanation

- The Memorandum of Understanding is on further cooperation between the two countries in the areas of common interest such as **international commercial dispute resolution; matters relating to promotion of robust alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in respective countries and establishment of Joint Consultative Committee to oversee the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding.**



Titbits

Singapore:

Capital: Singapore City

Currency: Singapore Dollar

President: Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Prime Minister: Lee Hsein Loong



➤ **What is the motto of the Sagar Parikrama journey?**

- A) "Jai Hind"
- B) "Incredible India"
- C) "KRANTI se SHANTI"
- D) "Unity in Diversity"
- E) None of the above

Answer

C) "KRANTI se SHANTI"



Explanation

- **Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry Dairying Shri Parshottam Rupala will release Book and Video on “Sagar Parikrama” at Engineering Association, Rajkot, Gujarat.**
- **The object of the book is to chronicle the Sagar Parikrama Yatra, encompassing content on diverse elements, such as the Maritime route, cultural and geographical explorations, and notable impacts from all 12 phases of Sagar Parikrama.**
- **The Book on Sagar Parikrama contains 7 chapters covering genesis of Sagar Parikrama, Overview and detailed coverage of the journey of West coast, East coast and the key take away.**

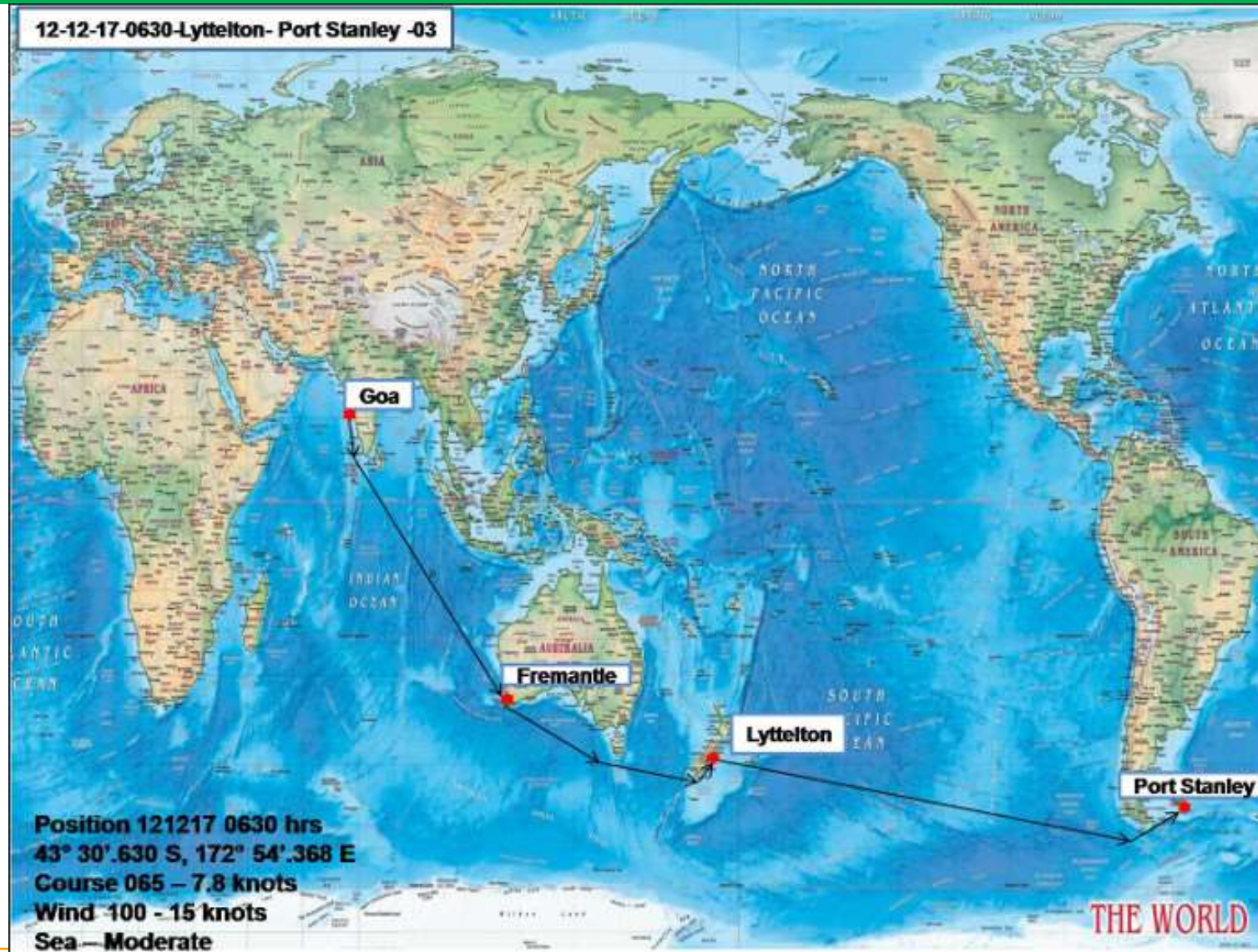


Explanation

- This document will provide an insight into the challenges of coastal fishermen, their culture, religious and traditional fisheries heritage of India.
- The entire Sagar Parikrama has been documented in the form of short films, exhibiting all the activities, events, and interactions of Union Minister with the beneficiaries.
- The video also captures the challenges faced during the Sagar Parikrama.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Sagar Parikrama:

- The Sagar Parikrama journey embarked on 5th March, 2022, with the motto "KRANTI se SHANTI", covering Mandvi, Gujarat to Porbandar in Phase-I, followed by Phase-II in September 2022, spanning locations like Mangrol and Surat.
- Phase-III commenced from Hazira Port, Gujarat, concluding at Sasson Dock, Mumbai, exploring Maharashtra's coastal line.
- Phase-IV extended from Surat to Mumbai, followed by Phase-V in Goa and Karnataka, exploring coastal areas like Murudeshwar and Mangalore.
- Phase-VI ventured into Andaman & Nicobar Islands, while Phase-VII explored Kerala's coastal regions, including Thrissur and Kochi.



Sagar Parikrama:

- Phase-VIII traversed through Kerala and Tamil Nadu, touching areas like Thoothukudi and Rameswaram.
- Phase-IX journeyed through Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, concluding in Chennai, through various locations like Nagapattinam and Karaikal.
- Phase-X spanned Andhra Pradesh, including Visakhapatnam and Kakinada, before transitioning to Puducherry.
- Phase-XI delved into Odisha's coastal districts, such as Ganjam and Bhadrak, engaging with communities in locales like Paradeep and Balasore.
- The final Phase-XII ventured into West Bengal, encompassing Digha and Ganga Sagar.



Sagar Parikrama:

- During all twelve phases of Sagar Parikrama, Union Minister Shri Parshottam Rupala along with Dr. L. Murugan in the presence of other esteemed dignitaries led the Sagar Parikrama interacted with beneficiaries such as fishermen, fisherwomen, fish farmers and other stakeholders.
- Beneficiaries were felicitated with Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and other assets (such as two-wheelers and four-wheelers with ice box etc.) under the PMMSY scheme



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Note:

- **With 8% share in global fish production, India is the 3rd largest fish producer, 2nd largest aquaculture producer, largest shrimp producer and 4th largest top seafood exporter in the world.**



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Gujarat:

Capital: Ahmedabad

Chief Minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel

Governor: Acharya Devvrat



➤ How much funding has been approved by the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the establishment of the Centre of Jain Manuscriptology at Gujarat University?

- A) Rs. 10 Crore
- B) Rs. 20 Crore
- C) Rs. 30 Crore
- D) Rs. 40 Crore
- E) Rs. 50 Crore

Answer

D) Rs. 40 Crore



Explanation

- **The Ministry of Minority Affairs has approved the 'Centre of Jain Manuscriptology (GUCJM) at Gujarat University amounting to Rs. 40 Crore.**
- **The Ministry of Minority Affairs under PMJVK scheme approves for the establishment of Jain knowledge centre with an aim of academic support for development of Apabharansh and Prakrit language of Jainism in the University.**



Explanation

- This centre would facilitate collaboration between the University and the Ministry to enhance educational opportunities for minority communities in India to carry out research in the field of Jain Studies in the languages and text that on living traditions of Jainism through establishment and strengthening of the required infrastructure and thereby encouraging Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Ph.D and research programs.



➤ What is the total estimated cost of the projects approved by the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the Centre for Jain Studies in Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV), Indore Campus?

- A) Rs. 10 Crore
- B) Rs. 15 Crore
- C) Rs. 20 Crore
- D) Rs. 25 Crore
- E) Rs. 30 Crore

Answer

D) Rs. 25 Crore



Explanation

- **The Ministry of Minority Affairs has approved projects under PMJVK Scheme for 'Establishment of Centre for Jain Studies in Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV), Indore Campus with the total estimated cost of Rs. 25.Cr.**
- **Ministry of Minority Affairs has approved these projects for an assured financial assistance of Rs. 25 Crores for strengthening infrastructural development pertaining to development of Jain philosophy, fostering academic collaboration, promoting interdisciplinary research, preservation of language via digitization of manuscripts, community outreach via hubs establishment.**



Explanation

- The project by the university will be undertaken for preservation and promotion of Jain Heritage, fostering interdisciplinary research in same, enhancing global understanding of Jainism and its principles and practices and developing a support for community engagement



➤ **Who signed the protocol on behalf of the Dominican Republic during the establishment of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO)?**

- A) H.E. Mr. Roberto Álvarez, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- B) Mr. Ramu Abbagani, Ambassador of India to the Dominican Republic
- C) H.E. Mr. Roberto Álvarez, Minister of Commerce
- D) Mr. Ramu Abbagani, Ambassador of Dominican Republic to India
- E) None of the above



Answer

**A) H.E. Mr. Roberto Álvarez,
Minister of Foreign Affairs**



Explanation

- **The protocol for establishment of Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) between India and Dominican Republic was signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX) of Dominican Republic at Santo Domingo.**
- **The protocol was signed by H.E. Mr. Roberto Álvarez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Dominican Republic and Mr. Ramu Abbagani, Ambassador of India to the Dominican Republic on behalf of the Department of Commerce.**



Explanation

- **The protocol envisages to strengthen and develop cooperation on trade, services, industrial technologies and various other sectors by means of technical assistance, training programmes and capacity building.**
- **India primarily imports gold from the Dominican Republic and exports pharmaceuticals, marine products, motor vehicles, two and three wheelers etc. to them.**



Titbits

Dominican Republic:

Capital: Santo Domingo

President: Luis Abinader



➤ Who inaugurated the 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ) national portal?

- A) President Ram Nath Kovind
- B) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- C) Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
- D) Minister of Health and Family Welfare
- E) None of the above

Answer

B) Prime Minister Narendra Modi



Explanation

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ) national portal during an event organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**
- **Additionally, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment distributed Ayushman health cards and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits to sewer and septic tank workers (Safai Mitras) under the National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) program.**



Explanation

- **The Ayushman health card, issued under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), grants beneficiaries access to cashless healthcare services at empanelled hospitals.**
- **Meanwhile, PPE kits are crucial for ensuring the safety of frontline workers, providing them with necessary protection against health hazards and infections.**



➤ What is the estimated cost of the approved project for Infrastructural Development at CIHCS?

- A) Rs. 20 Crore
- B) Rs. 30 Crore
- C) Rs. 40 Crore
- D) Rs. 50 Crore
- E) None of the above

Answer

C) Rs. 40 Crore



Explanation

- **The Ministry of Minority Affairs has approved the infrastructure support for CIHCS.**
- **'Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram' and 'Buddhist Development Plan', has approved a project for Infrastructural Development at the Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies (CIHCS) at an estimated cost of Rs. 40 Cr. for strengthening infrastructural development pertaining to Buddhist development, academic collaboration, promoting research, preservation of language, translation of transcripts etc., of Buddhist population.**



Explanation

- **The objective is to develop CIHCS into a knowledge partner with respect to the matters relating to the Buddhist Development Plan in the Himalayan and North-Eastern Bharat.**



QUICK RECALL



- **International Day of Action for Rivers is observed on March 14**
- **World Kidney day is observed on second Thursday of March**
- **India Jumps 14 Ranks In Gender Inequality Index 2022: UNDP Report**
- **Centre, ADB sign \$23 million loan agreement to strengthen fintech ecosystem**
- **RBI bars Federal, South Indian Bank from issuing co-branded credit cards**
- **Paytm NPCI Licence: Paytm gets third-party licence before March 15 deadline**
- **IISR, Tata Trusts set to strengthen spice value chains in NEH region**
- **Govt appoints former bureaucrats Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Sandhu as election commissioners**
- **Union AMC appoints Madhu Nair as CEO**



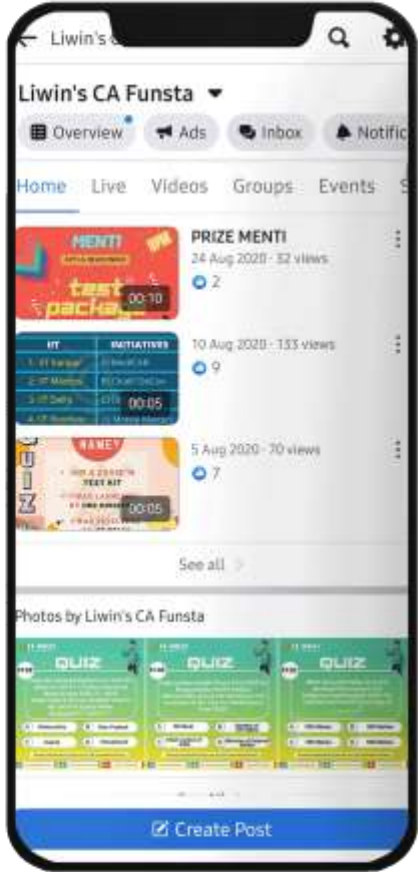
QUICK RECALL



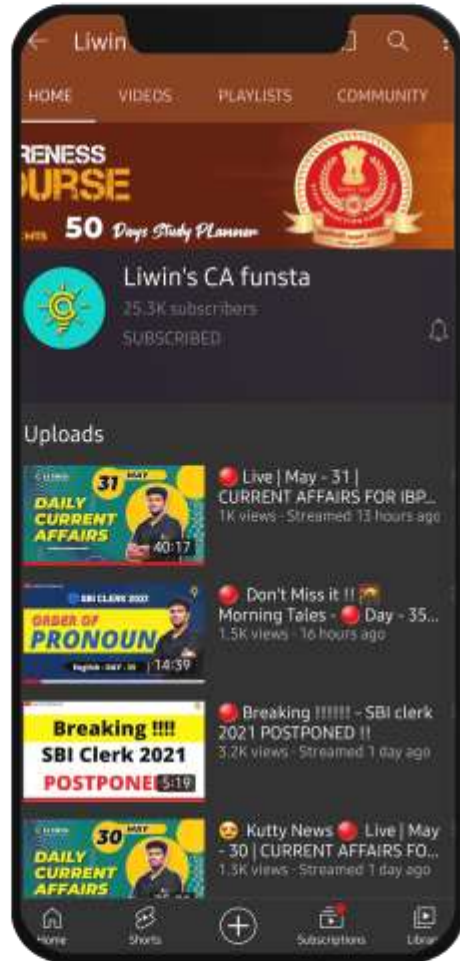
- **India and Singapore sign Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the sphere of Law & Dispute Resolution**
- **Union Minister Shri Parshottam Rupala will release Book and Video on Sagar Parikrama at Rajkot, Gujarat**
- **Ministry of Minority Affairs approves 'Centre of Jain Manuscriptology' (GUCJM) at Gujarat University**
- **Ministry of Minority Affairs approves projects under PMJVK Scheme for 'Establishment of Centre for Jain Studies in Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV), Indore Campus**
- **India signs protocol for establishment of its first bilateral institutional mechanism with Dominican Republic on trade and commerce**
- **PM Modi Launches PM-SURAJ Portal To Empower Marginalized Communities By Extending Credit Support**
- **Ministry of Minority Affairs approves infrastructure support for CIHCS**



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