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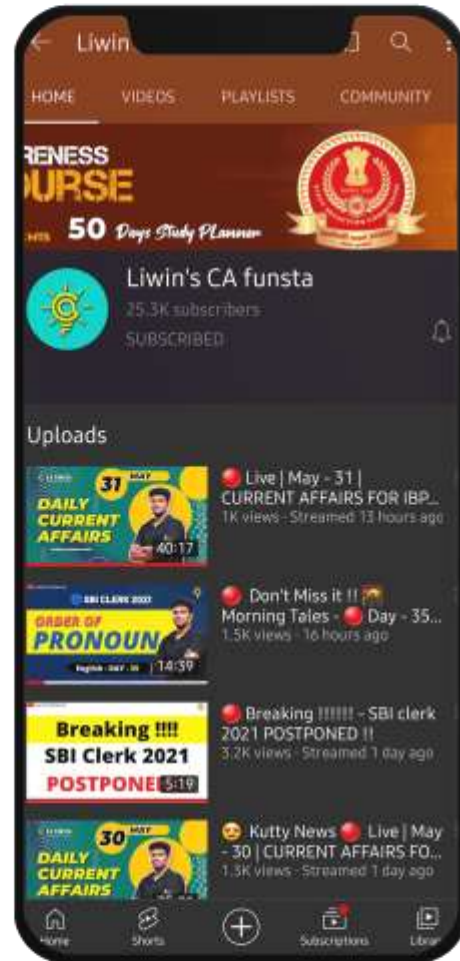
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Important Days



➤ **When was the first World Sparrow Day celebrated?**

- A) 2008
- B) 2009
- C) 2010
- D) 2011
- E) 2012

Answer
C) 2010



Important Days



Explanation

- **World Sparrow day is observed on March 20**
- **This international initiative aims to raise awareness about the house sparrow, a common bird in urban environments around the world.**
- **The Nature Forever Society, founded by Indian conservationist Mohammed Dilawar, is credited with coming up with the idea.**
- **Inspired by earlier local efforts to save the house sparrow, they proposed a day dedicated to raising awareness about the decline of these common birds.**
- **The first World Sparrow Day was celebrated on March 20, 2010.**



RANKING



➤ Which state's metropolitan area topped the list as the "Most Polluted Metropolitan area in 2023"?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Bihar
- D) Madhya Pradesh
- E) Gujarat

Answer
C) Bihar



RANKING



Explanation

- **India ranked third worst polluted country out of 134 countries trailing behind Bangladesh and Pakistan, as highlighted in World Air Quality Report 2023.**
- **Bihar's Begusarai topped the list as the “Most Polluted Metropolitan area in 2023”, while Delhi has been identified as the capital city with the “poorest air quality” among global nations, as per the findings of the World Air Quality Report 2023 by the Swiss organization IQAir.**
- **Ninty-six per cent of India's population reside in areas where air quality exceeds WHO guidelines by seven times, according to the report.**



RANKING



Worldwide air pollution status

- **IQAir discovered that 92.5 per cent of the 7,812 locations analysed across 134 countries, regions, and territories exceeded the WHO's PM2.5 guidelines for average air quality last year.**
- **Columbus, Ohio, emerged as the “most polluted major city in the United States”, while Beloit in Wisconsin, took the title of the “most polluted city overall”. Meanwhile, Las Vegas in Nevada, was recognised as the “cleanest major city in the US.”**
- **The report said that Africa continues to be the most underrepresented continent, with a third of its population lacking access to air quality data.**



RANKING



Worldwide air pollution status

- For the first time in the report's history, **Canada was identified as the most polluted country in Northern America, with its borders containing the 13 most polluted cities in the region.**
- Seven countries achieved compliance with the WHO annual PM2.5 guideline, which stipulates a yearly average of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or less: Australia, Estonia, Finland, Grenada, Iceland, Mauritius, and New Zealand.



RANKING



PM2.5:

- **PM stands for particulate matter, with 2.5 representing its size, specifically 2.5 microns, or 1/30th the diameter of a single strand of hair.**
- PM2.5 pollution has been linked to increased rates of heart attack and stroke.
- It can also cause oxidative stress, which is essentially damage to the body's cells at a rate faster than they can repair themselves, according to a Bloomberg report.



RANKING



PM2.5:

- Even at modest concentrations, PM2.5 pollution has severe impacts.
- In 2021, the WHO tightened its recommended guidelines for PM 2.5 pollution from an average of 10 micrograms per cubic meter to 5 micrograms per cubic meter.



RANKING



➤ **What factors are considered while evaluating happiness levels in the World Happiness Report?**

- A) Social support, income, health
- B) Freedom, generosity, absence of corruption
- C) Social support, income, health, freedom, generosity, absence of corruption
- D) Social media engagement, job satisfaction, climate
- E) None of the above



Answer

C) Social support, income, health, freedom, generosity, absence of corruption



RANKING



Explanation

- **The 2024 World Happiness Report has been released, with Finland as the happiest country for the seventh consecutive year.**
- **India, on the other hand, ranked 126 out of the 143 countries listed.**
- **The annual report evaluates happiness levels across more than 140 nations, considering factors such as social support, income, health, freedom, generosity, and the absence of corruption.**
- **Data is sourced from various outlets, including the Gallup World Poll, and the report is published annually in celebration of the International Day of Happiness on March 20.**



RANKING



Explanation

- Collaborators include the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Gallup, and the Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre.
- **Denmark and Iceland retain their positions at second and third place, respectively, with Sweden following closely at fourth.**
- **Costa Rica and Lithuania have broken into the top 20 list for the first time, securing ranks 12 and 19, respectively.**



RANKING



Explanation

- **Afghanistan retained its status as the unhappiest country in the world** for yet another year.
- **Joining Afghanistan at the bottom of the list are Lebanon, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, and Congo.**
- **India ranked at 126 place, same as last year.**
- All of India's neighbouring countries ranked higher, with **China at 60, followed by Nepal at 93, Pakistan (108), Myanmar (118), Sri Lanka (128), and Bangladesh (129).**



RANKING



Titbits

Bihar:

Capital: Patna

Chief Minister: Nitish Kumar

Governor: Rajendra Arlekar



➤ How much penalty did the Reserve Bank of India impose on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank?

- A) Rs 1.2 crore
- B) Rs 1.3 crore
- C) Rs 1.4 crore
- D) Rs 1.5 crore
- E) Rs 1.6 crore



भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

TMB

Answer

B) Rs 1.3 crore



Explanation

- **Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of Rs 1.3 crore on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with directions on 'Interest Rate on Advances' and 'Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) - Revision in Reporting'.**
- **The supervisory inspection for FY22 showed that the bank had failed to benchmark interest rates on certain floating rate loans to MSMEs to an external benchmark lending rate; had adopted multiple benchmarks within the same loan category, and failed to price certain floating rate loans with reference to the actual benchmark rate applicable.**



Explanation

- It also wrongly reported external rating of certain borrowers to CRILC.
- **The central bank also fined DCB Bank Rs 63.6 lakh for breach of norms on 'Interest Rate on Advances'.**
- **The inspection for FY22 revealed that the bank failed to reset the interest rates at the prescribed periodicity in certain MCLR linked floating rate advances.**
- It also failed to benchmark the interest rate of certain floating rate retail and MSME loans to an external benchmark lending rate.



Titbits

Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank:

HQ: Thoothukudi, Tamilnadu

MD and CEO: S Krishnan

DCB Bank:

HQ: Mumbai

MD and CEO: Praveen Achuthan Kutty



APPOINTMENTS



➤ Who has been appointed as the Governor of Telangana, replacing Tamilisai Sounderarajan?

- A) CP Radhakrishnan
- B) Tamilisai Sounderarajan
- C) K. Rosaiah
- D) Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
- E) None of the above



Answer

A) CP Radhakrishnan



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Jharkhand governor CP Radhakrishnan got the additional charge of Telangana, replacing Tamilisai Sounderarajan.**



APPOINTMENTS



Titbits

Jharkhand:

Capital: Ranchi

Chief Minister: Champai Soren

Governor: C P Radha Krishnan



APPOINTMENTS



➤ Who has been named as the next Ambassador of India to Russia?

- A) Vinay Kumar
- B) S. Jaishankar
- C) Nirupama Rao
- D) Harsh Vardhan Shringla
- E) None of the above

Answer
A) Vinay Kumar



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Vinay Kumar, an Indian Foreign Service officer of the 1992 batch, has been named as the next Ambassador of India to Russia.**
- **Kumar currently holds the position of Ambassador of India to Myanmar.**



APPOINTMENTS



➤ Who is stepping down from the position of Chief Executive Officer at Procter & Gamble India?

- A) Kumar Venkatasubramanian
- B) LV Vaidyanathan
- C) Rajesh Kumar
- D) Priya Menon
- E) None of the above



Answer
B) LV Vaidyanathan



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Procter & Gamble India has announced the appointment of Kumar Venkatasubramanian as the Chief Executive Officer, effective from May 1, 2024.**
- **Kumar will assume responsibilities from LV Vaidyanathan, who is stepping down from the position after 28 years of service to the company.**



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who was given the additional charge of the Ministry of Food and Processing Industries?**

- A) Kiren Rijiju
- B) Pashupati Kumar Paras
- C) Droupadi Murmu
- D) Narendra Modi
- E) None of the above

Answer
A) Kiren Rijiju



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Union Minister Kiren Rijiju was given additional charge of Ministry of Food and Processing Industries following the resignation of Pashupati Kumar Paras from the Union Council of ministers.**
- **President Droupadi Murmu assigned Rijiju the food processing industries ministry, in addition to his existing portfolio of the Ministry of Earth and Sciences.**



AWARDS



- **Who is the poet of the Malayalam poem 'Roudra Sathwikam', which won the prestigious Saraswati Samman?**

- A) Ayyappa Paniker
- B) Prabha Varma
- C) Sugathakumari
- D) Kamala Surayya
- E) None of the above

Answer

B) Prabha Varma



AWARDS



Explanation

- **Malayalam poem 'Roudra Sathwikam', penned by poet Prabha Varma has been chosen for the prestigious Saraswati Samman.**
- **The award instituted by K K Birla Foundation carried a purse of Rs 15 lakh, a citation and a plaque.**
- Varma's 'Roudra Sathwikam' is a poetic work published in 2022 as a novel in poetic verse.
- It probes the conflict between power and politics, individual and state, art and power in a unique manner.



AWARDS



Explanation

- **Saraswati Samman is given every year to an outstanding literary work written in any Indian language mentioned in schedule VIII of the Indian Constitution, by any Indian citizen published during the last 10 years preceding the specified Samman year.**



➤ **What is the name of the campaign launched by YES Bank as part of its collaboration with the Indian Olympic Association?**

- A) YES Victory
- B) YES Glory
- C) YES Triumph
- D) YES Champion
- E) None of the above



Answer
B) YES Glory



Explanation

- **YES Bank announced its partnership with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024.**
- **As part of the collaboration, the bank launched the campaign 'Milkar Jitayengey' and introduced the 'YES Glory Debit Card,' specially designed for India's Olympic athletes.**



Explanation

- The bank also unveiled the **'YES Glory' savings account proposition, extending benefits to athletes and their immediate family members.**
- The YES Glory account offers a range of benefits tailored to the needs of champion athletes.
- These perks include a complimentary Welcome on-board Taj voucher, free orthopedic consultations, and zero cross-currency mark-up on international spends.



Titbits

YES Bank:

HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra

CEO: Prashant Kumar



- **What milestone did Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) achieve recently?**
- A) Status of Miniratna Category-II CPSE
 - B) Status of Miniratna Category-I CPSE
 - C) Status of Navratna CPSE
 - D) Status of Maharatna CPSE
 - E) None of the above



Answer

B) Status of Miniratna Category-I CPSE



Explanation

- **Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA)** achieved a significant milestone by being conferred with the status of **Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)**.
- **Established in 2009**, GRID-INDIA holds the crucial mandate of overseeing the seamless and uninterrupted operation of the Indian Power System, ensuring the efficient transfer of electric power within and across regions, facilitating trans-national power exchanges with a focus on reliability, economy, and sustainability.



Explanation

- **Comprising five Regional Load Despatch Centres (RLDCs) and the National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC), GRID-INDIA shoulders the immense responsibility of managing the All India synchronous grid, one of the world's largest and most intricate power systems.**



Titbits

Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID INDIA):

HQ: New Delhi

CMD: S R Narasimhan



➤ What is the name of the portal launched by the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) for the upcoming Universal Acceptance (UA) Day?

- A) BhashaPortal
- B) NetAcceptance
- C) BhashaNet
- D) UniversalConnect
- E) None of the above

Answer

C) BhashaNet



Explanation

- **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) announced the launch of the BhashaNet portal for the upcoming Universal Acceptance (UA) Day, scheduled to take place on March 21, 2024, at Dr Ambedkar International Centre in the National Capital.**
- **This will be the second event hosted between NIXI and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), underscoring their joint commitment to promote the UA and advancing digital inclusion across the nation.**



Explanation

- Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the Internet Governance division, MeitY, Government of India are actively supporting UA Day.
- **The theme of the event, "BhashaNet: Impetus Towards Universal Acceptance," highlights NIXI's dedication to ensuring that individuals, regardless of language or script, can fully participate in the digital world.**



Explanation

- Through UA Day, NIXI and MeitY aim to mobilise stakeholders and raise awareness about the importance of UA readiness in today's digital landscape.
- The event will feature engaging sessions, including keynote addresses, panel discussions and technical workshops, led by distinguished speakers from various sectors.
- These discussions will focus on the significance of UA and the steps needed to achieve widespread acceptance.



About NIXI:

- Set up on 19th June 2003, the National Internet Exchange of India is a not-for-profit (Section 8) company under the aegis of MeitY and is tasked to increase internet penetration and adoption in India by facilitating the various infrastructure aspects to enable the internet ecosystem to be managed and used by the masses.
- The four services which come under the NIXI are setting IXPs, towards building Internet Exchange Points, .IN Registry towards building the .in domain digital identity, IRINN towards IPv4 and IPv6 addresses adoption and Data Centre services under NIXI-CSC towards data storage services.
- Dr Devesh Tyagi, CEO of NIXI



➤ **What is the primary objective of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ICAR and Dhanuka Agritech Limited?**

- A) To promote agricultural research and development
- B) To enhance agricultural productivity through joint initiatives
- C) To provide financial support to farmers
- D) To establish agricultural training centers
- E) None of the above



Answer

B) To enhance agricultural productivity through joint initiatives



Explanation

- **The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Dhanuka Agritech Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).**
- **Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension), ICAR Dr. U.S. Gautam and Chairman, Dhanuka Agritech Limited Dr. R.G. Aggarwal signed this MoU on behalf of respective organizations.**
- **The objective of this agreement is to utilize the efficiency of both the institutions to deliver new technology to the farmers.**



➤ **Where was the Start-up Mahakumbh inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi?**

- A) Mumbai
- B) Kolkata
- C) New Delhi
- D) Chennai
- E) Bengaluru

Answer
C) New Delhi



Explanation

- **The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Start-up Mahakumbh at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.**
- **India is the third largest startup ecosystem with 1.25 lakh startups involving 12 lakh youth who are directly linked with them.**
- **GeM portal has provided more than 20,000 crore rupees to businesses and startups.**



➤ **What is the significance of the indigenously made 1500 HP engine for Main Battle Tanks (MBTs)?**

- A) It helps in improving communication systems for tanks
- B) It reduces the cost of tank production
- C) It enhances the firepower of tanks
- D) It reduces dependence on Russia for tank spares and systems
- E) None of the above

Answer

D) It reduces dependence on Russia for tank spares and systems



Explanation

- **Maiden test-firing of the first indigenously made 1500 Horsepower (HP) engine for Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) took place at the defence PSU Bharat Earth Movers Ltd's (BEML's) facility in Mysuru.**
- **It helps the country to come closer to completely getting rid of dependence on Russia for spares and systems of more than 4000 tanks Indian Army posses.**
- The 1500 HP engine represents a paradigm shift in military propulsion systems, possessing cutting-edge features such as a high power-to-weight ratio and operability in extreme conditions including high altitudes, sub-zero temperatures and desert environments.



QUICK RECALL



- **World Sparrow day is observed on March 20**
- **Bihar's Begusarai, 'world's most polluted city in 2023'; India ranks 3rd globally: Swiss report**
- **Finland tops 2024 World Happiness Report again; India ranks 126**
- **RBI fines TMB, DCB nearly Rs 2 crore for violating norms on lending rates**
- **Jharkhand governor CP Radhakrishnan given additional charge of Telangana**
- **Vinay Kumar Appointed As Next Ambassador Of India To Russia**
- **P&G India appoints Kumar Venkatasubramanian as CEO; LV Vaidyanathan exits**
- **Kiren Rijiju gets additional charge after Pashupati Kumar Paras resigns from Union cabinet**
- **Prabha Varma bags Saraswati Samman**



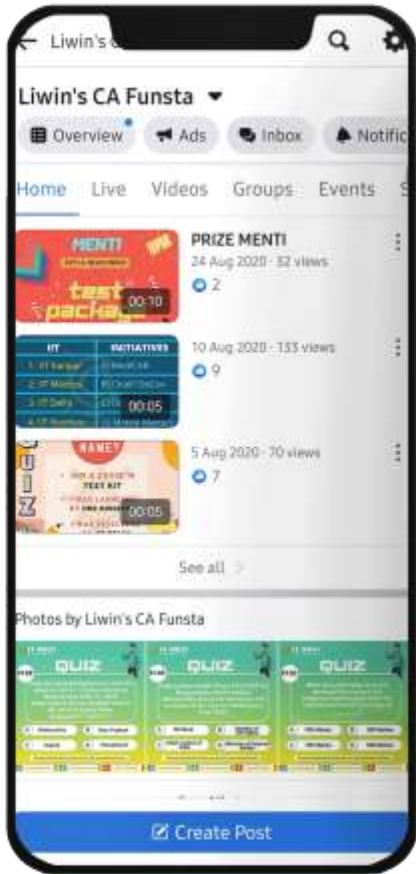
QUICK RECALL



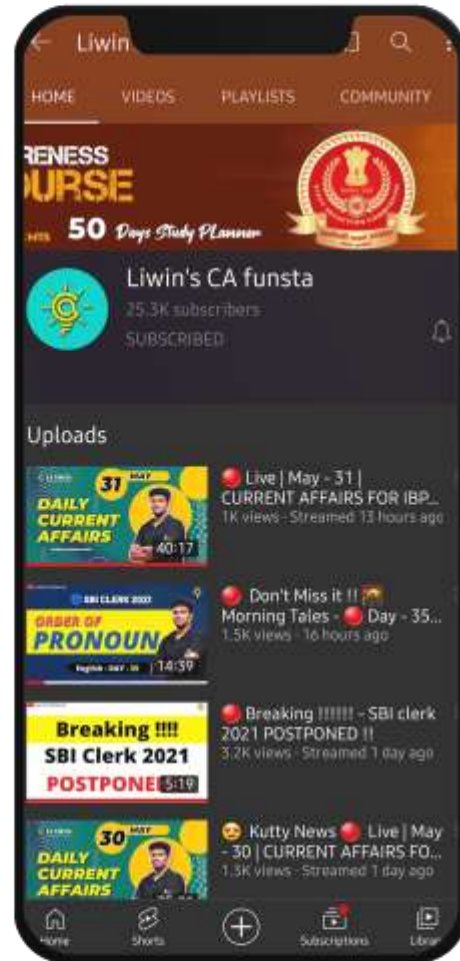
- **YES Bank partners with Indian Olympic Association for Paris Olympics 2024**
- **GRID-INDIA is now a Miniratna Company**
- **NIXI and MeitY to unveil BhashaNet portal at Universal Acceptance Day for Digital Inclusion across the nation**
- **MoU signed between Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Dhanuka Agritech Limited**
- **PM inaugurates Start-up Mahakumbh at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**
- **Maiden successful test-firing of first indigenously made 1500 HP tank engine**



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