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MARCH
23 and 24

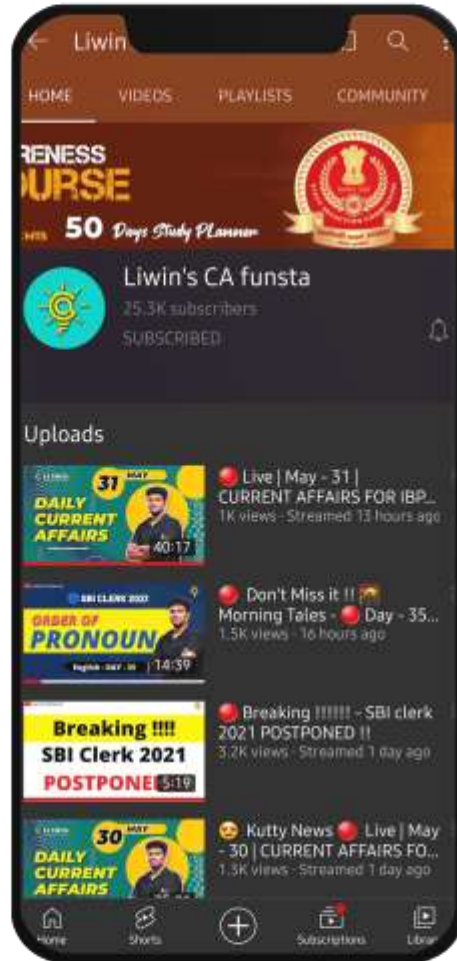
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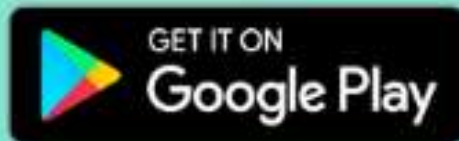
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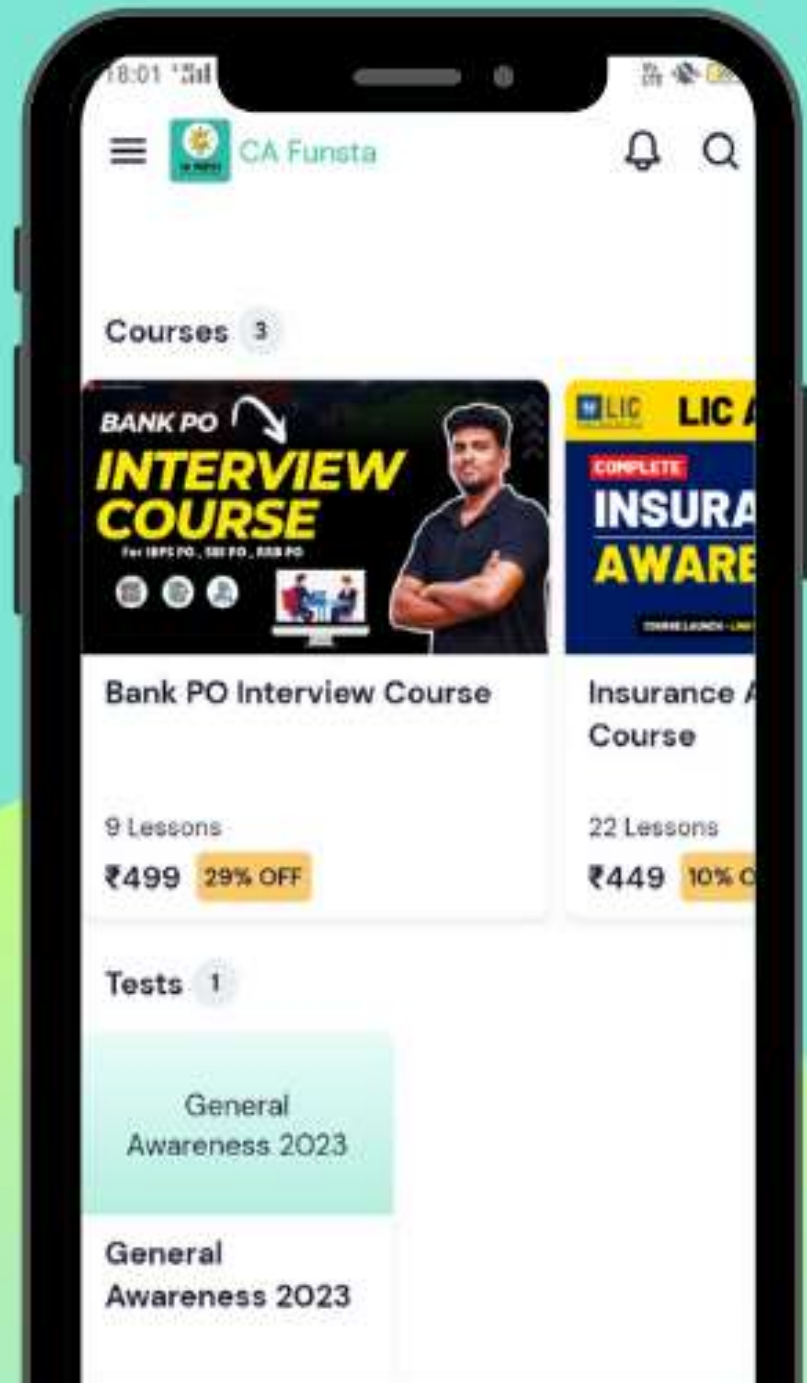
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Important Days



➤ **What is the theme of World Meteorological Day 2024?**

- A) Climate Change: A Global Challenge
- B) Weather and Society
- C) At the Frontline of Climate Action
- D) Meteorology and Sustainable Development
- E) Innovations in Weather Forecasting

Answer

C) At the Frontline of Climate Action



Important Days



Explanation

- **The World Meteorological Day is observed every year on 23 March**
- **The theme of World Meteorological Day 2024 is “At the Frontline of Climate Action.”**
- It commemorates the formal establishment of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
- The day highlights the essential role that the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) plays towards the safety and well-being of society.



Important Days



Explanation

- **On March 23, 1950, the World Meteorological Organisation Convention came into force and became a UN specialised agency in 1951 for meteorology, operation hydrology, and related geophysical sciences. Ever since, WMO has been observing World Meteorological Day.**



Important Days



Shaheed Diwas is observed on March 23

- **Shaheed Diwas is observed on March 23 to commemorate the fateful day when three freedom fighters - Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar – were hanged by the British Government.**
- **On April 8, 1929, they threw bombs at the Central Legislative Assembly while shouting the slogan – Inquilab Zindabad.**
- **They were soon arrested and charged with murder.**



Important Days



Shaheed Diwas is observed on March 23

- **On March 23, 1931, Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar were hanged.**
- **Shaheed Diwas is observed to celebrate the sacrifices of the freedom fighters and remind us of the martyrs who fought for the nation and helped us gain the independence that we enjoy today.**



Important Days



➤ **When is World Tuberculosis (TB) Day celebrated annually?**

- A) March 20
- B) March 21
- C) March 22
- D) March 23
- E) March 24

Answer

E) March 24

WORLD TB DAY



24 MARCH



Important Days



Explanation

- **World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is celebrated on March 24 annually to spread awareness around the deadly disease.**
- **Theme: “Yes! We can end TB”**
- **March 24, 1882 is considered a significant date in the battle against tuberculosis as it is on this day that Dr Robert Koch discovered the bacteria that causes TB.**
- This groundbreaking announcement led to better understanding, diagnosis, and eventual treatment of the disease.



Important Days



Explanation

- It was not before the year 1982, on the centenary of Dr. Koch's discovery that the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD) proposed observing March 24 as World TB Day to raise awareness about TB and its global impact.
- **The first World TB Day was officially observed in 1983, and since then, it has become an annual event.**
- **As per WHO (World Health Organisation), about a quarter of the global population is estimated to have been infected with TB bacteria.**
- **About 5–10% of people infected with TB will eventually get symptoms and develop TB disease**



Important Days



➤ **What is observed annually on March 24?**

- A) International Day for Human Rights
- B) International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
- C) International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
- D) International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- E) International Day of Peace

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



Answer

B) International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims



Important Days



Explanation

- Each year, on 24 March, the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed.
- This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was murdered on 24 March 1980.
- Monsignor Romero was actively engaged in denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador.



Important Days



Explanation

- **On 21 December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 March as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims.**
- **The date was chosen because on 24 March 1980, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero of El Salvador was assassinated, after denouncing violations of human rights.**



➤ Who recently made history by becoming the first Indian to win the men's singles title at a WTT Feeder Series event in Beirut?

- A) Manav Thakkar
- B) Sathiyar Gnanasekaran
- C) Sharath Kamal
- D) Harmeet Desai
- E) Amalraj Anthony

Answer

B) Sathiyar Gnanasekaran



Explanation

- **Sathiyam Gnanasekaran, a renowned Indian table tennis player, has made history by becoming the first Indian to win the men's singles title at a WTT Feeder Series event in Beirut.**
- Despite facing strong competition from his fellow countryman Manav Thakkar in the final, Sathiyam's skills and resilience led him to victory.



➤ How much funding has NAB Samruddhi Finance Ltd (NSFL) provided for 'WASH' activities through 32 partner institutions?

- A) \$32 million
- B) \$45 million
- C) \$50 million
- D) \$60 million
- E) \$75 million

Answer
B) \$45 million



Explanation

- **The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) subsidiary, NAB Samruddhi Finance Ltd (NSFL), has provided \$45 million funding for 'WASH' (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) activities through 32 partner institutions.**
- **NFSL has been providing concessional wholesale WASH loans by availing of refinance from Nabard, blended technical support from its partners Water.org, FINISH Mondial, to foster sustainable livelihoods.**



Explanation

- Nabard, along with NFSL, has launched the first phase of a nationwide Climate Ready WASH funding awareness campaign for women JLG (joint liability group) borrowers of micro finance institutions, to take forward the common mandate of sustainable rural development.
- The campaign will cover 40 block-level camps in climate vulnerable areas in seven states in phase-1 through FINISH Mondial.



Titbits

NABARD:

Founded: 12 July 1982
HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra
Chairman: K V Shaji



- Which two housing finance companies have entered into a co-lending arrangement?
- A) Star Housing Finance and HDFC Ltd.
 - B) Tata Capital Housing Finance and LIC Housing Finance
 - C) Star Housing Finance and Tata Capital Housing Finance
 - D) ICICI Home Finance and Star Housing Finance
 - E) Axis Housing Finance and Tata Capital Housing Finance



Answer

**C) Star Housing Finance and
Tata Capital Housing Finance**



Explanation

- **Semi-urban and rural housing finance-focussed Star Housing Finance has entered into a co-lending arrangement with Tata Capital Housing Finance.**
- The co-lending pact aims to lend to economically weaker sections (EWS) and low-income group (LIG) at more affordable rates by leveraging the strength of Tata Capital Housing and the distribution network of Star Housing.
- With this technology-powered co-lending approach, the lenders aim to serve customers across multiple geographies with differential origination capabilities and differential level of franchise on the borrower base.



BANKING AND FINANCE



Key person:

- **Star Housing CEO - Kalpesh Dave**



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the chairperson of the Digital News Publishers' Association (DNPA) starting from April 1, 2024?**

- A) Tanmay Maheshwari
- B) Mariam Mammen Mathew
- C) Rajesh Sharma
- D) Sanjay Patel
- E) Ramesh Gupta

Answer

B) Mariam Mammen Mathew



APPOINTMENTS



Explanation

- **Mariam Mammen Mathew, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Manorama Online, has been appointed as the chairperson of the Digital News Publishers' Association (DNPA) for a two-year term starting from April 1, 2024.**
- **She will be succeeding Tanmay Maheshwari, the Managing Director (MD) of Amar Ujala.**
- **Mathew served as the vice-chairperson during Maheshwari's chairmanship.**



AWARDS



➤ **Who are the joint recipients of the 2024 GiRA Prize?**

- A) Bina Agarwal and James K. Boyce
- B) Amartya Sen and Esther Duflo
- C) Thomas Piketty and Naomi Klein
- D) Joseph Stiglitz and Angela Davis
- E) Daron Acemoglu and Sheryl Sandberg

Answer

A) Bina Agarwal and James K. Boyce



AWARDS



Explanation

- **The World Inequality Lab (WIL) and Sciences Po's Center for Research on Social Inequalities (CRIS) have joined forces for the first edition of the Global Inequality Research Award (or GiRA), which aims to recognize every two years researchers from all disciplines who have made a significant contribution to the understanding of global inequalities.**
- **The 2024 GiRA Prize is jointly awarded to Bina Argawal and James K. Boyce for their groundbreaking work in the field of social and environmental inequalities.**



AWARDS



Explanation

- Bina Agarwal (University of Manchester), an economist, is the author of pioneering work on gender inequalities, environmental governance, ecofeminism and environmental inequalities.
- James K. Boyce (University of Massachusetts Amherst), an economist, is the author of seminal work on the relationship between social inequality and environmental degradation, and has made a major contribution to structuring the field of environmental political economy.



AWARDS



➤ Who received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hyderabad Management Association (HMA)?

- A) D Sridhar Babu
- B) Ajit Rangnekar
- C) Anand Mahindra
- D) Arundhati Bhattacharya
- E) Chanda Kochhar

Answer

B) Ajit Rangnekar



AWARDS



Explanation

- **Ajit Rangnekar, Director-General of Research and Innovation Circle (RICH), has received the Life Time Achievement Award from the Hyderabad Management Association (HMA) for his contribution to the business management education, entrepreneurship and to the ecosystem of research and innovation in Hyderabad.**
- **D Sridhar Babu, Telangana Minister for IT, Industry and Commerce, gave away the awards to the winners.**
- **Cyient Limited received the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Award for its 100-days-100-women project.**



AWARDS



Other winners with categories in brackets:

Winner	Title
Manne Satyanarayana, Chairman of MSN group	Entrepreneur of the Year
Yeshwanth Bonthu, Director of Drogo Drones	Small Scale Entrepreneur of the Year
Karthik Tarase, Assistant General Manager – Marketing Creamline Dairy Products Limited	Young Manager of the Year
Padmanabhan S, Head CHRO MSN Group	HR Manager of the Year
Sangeetha C R Head - Corporate Communication GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited	Woman Achiever Award of Excellence
Suraj V Meiyur, Founder & CEO Next Skills 360 Edtech Private Limited	IT Professional of the Year Award
Rishi UBR College	Women Best Student Chapter Award



➤ What prestigious award was conferred upon the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for its achievements with the Chandrayaan-3 mission?

- A) Nobel Prize in Physics
- B) Bharat Ratna
- C) Aviation Week Laureates Award
- D) Padma Bhushan
- E) Fields Medal



Answer

C) Aviation Week Laureates Award



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Explanation

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) has been honoured with the prestigious Aviation Week Laureates Award for its achievements with the historic Chandrayaan-3 mission.**
- **The award was received on behalf of Isro by Sripriya Ranganathan, Deputy Ambassador at the Indian Embassy in the US.**
- **This mission, which cost a modest \$75 million, achieved a historic milestone by making a successful landing at the lunar South Pole.**
- Chandrayaan 3 confirmed the presence of water in the region, a discovery that has profound implications for future lunar exploration and the possibility of sustaining life on the Moon.



Explanation

- Additionally, the mission detected sulfur nearby, adding another layer to our understanding of the Moon's composition and resources.
- The mission's lander, Vikram, equipped with the Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE), provided valuable data on the lunar surface temperature, reaching a depth of 10 centimeters below the surface.
- Additionally, the Pragyan rover conducted in-situ experiments, further contributing to the wealth of knowledge about the Moon.



Explanation

- **ISRO had previously received the Leif Erikson Lunar Prize from the Husavik Museum for its unwavering commitment and significant contributions to lunar exploration.**



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

ISRO:

Founded: 15 August 1969
Chairman: Sreedhara Somnath



➤ **How much support will India provide to Bhutan over the next five years?**

- A) Rs 5,000 crore
- B) Rs 7,500 crore
- C) Rs 10,000 crore
- D) Rs 15,000 crore
- E) Rs 20,000 crore



Answer

C) Rs 10,000 crore



Explanation

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart Tshering Tobgay inaugurated a modern hospital built with Indian assistance which will be a shining example of India-Bhutan development cooperation.**
- **The Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuk Mother and Child Hospital is a state-of-the-art 150-bedded facility that has been built with the assistance of the Government of India in Thimphu.**



Explanation

- **India has supported the development of the hospital in two phases.**
 - The first phase was constructed at a cost of Rs 22 crore and has been operational since 2019.
 - The construction of the second phase was taken up in 2019, as part of the 12th Five Year Plan at a cost of Rs 119 crore, and was completed recently.



Note:

- India will provide support of Rs 10,000 crore to Bhutan over the next five years.
- Bhutan's King Wangchuck conferred the 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo' to Prime Minister Modi at a public ceremony, making him the first foreign Head of the Government to receive the honour.
- India and Bhutan established diplomatic relations in 1968.
- The basic framework of India- Bhutan relations has been the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1949 between the two countries, which was revised in February 2007.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Titbits

Bhutan:

Capital: Thimphu

Currency: Ngultrum

King: Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

Prime Minister: Tshering Tobgay



➤ **When was Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) introduced?**

- A) 1990
- B) 2000
- C) 1995
- D) 1985
- E) 1975

Answer
C) 1995



Explanation

- **The Centre has approved a simple reversionary bonus for Postal Life Insurance Scheme and Rural Postal Life Insurance Scheme for fiscal year 2024-25.**
- **There is no change in the rate.**



Rural Postal Life Insurance:

- According to a notification, under the Postal Life Insurance Scheme, rate of bonus will be Rs 76 per thousand of sum assured for whole life assurance (WLA).
- Similarly, for endowment assurance (EA) (including joint life and children policies), it will be Rs 52 per thousand of sum assured.
- Anticipated endowment assurance (AEA) will fetch Rs 48 per thousand of sum assured.
- In case of convertible whole life assurance (CWLA), whole life bonus rate would be applicable, but on conversion, endowment assurance bonus rate will be applicable.



Rural Postal Life Insurance:

- Rate of terminal bonus will be Rs 20 per sum assured of Rs 10,000, subject to maximum of Rs 1,000 for WLA and EA policies with term of 20 years or more.
- The rates of bonus for the Financial Year 2024-25 will be applicable from April 1, 2024.



Rural Postal Life Insurance Scheme:

- Another notification gave bonus rate for Rural Postal Life Insurance.
- According to the notification, the rate for WLA will be Rs 60 per thousand of sum assured. Similarly, for EA (including children policy), rate will be Rs 48 per thousand of sum assured.
- It will be Rs 45 per thousand for AEA (including gram priya policies).
- In case of CWLA, whole life bonus rate would be applicable, but on conversion, EA bonus rate will be applicable.
- Similarly, terminal bonus of Rs 20 per sum assured of Rs 10,000, subject to maximum of Rs 1,000 for WLA and EA policies with term of 20 years or more.



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Note:

- **Postal Life Insurance (PLI), the oldest in the country, was introduced on February 01, 1884 as a welfare scheme for the benefit of postal employees and later extended to the employees of Telegraph Department in 1888.**
- **In 1894, PLI extended insurance cover to female employees of P&T Department when no other insurance company covered female life.**



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Note:

- It now covers employees of Union Government and State governments, Central and State public sector undertakings, universities, government aided educational institutions, nationalised banks, local bodies, autonomous bodies, joint ventures having a minimum of 10 per cent government/PSU stake, credit cooperative societies, etc. PLI also extends insurance cover to the officers and staff of the defence services and paramilitary forces.
- Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) was introduced on March 24, 1995 for rural people on recommendations of the Official Committee for Reforms in the Insurance Sector headed by ex-RBI Governor RN Malhotra.



Note:

- **The prime objective of the scheme is to provide insurance coverage to the rural public in general and to benefit weaker sections and women workers of rural areas in particular and also to spread insurance awareness among the rural population.**



QUICK RECALL



- **The World Meteorological Day is observed every year on 23 March**
- **World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is celebrated on March 24**
- **The International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed on March 24**
- **Sathiyar Gnanasekaran makes history in Beirut, wins first-ever WTT Feeder title**
- **Nabard arm provides \$45 mn funding for water, sanitation activities to 75,000 borrowers**
- **Star Housing Finance inks co-lending pact with Tata Capital Housing Finance**



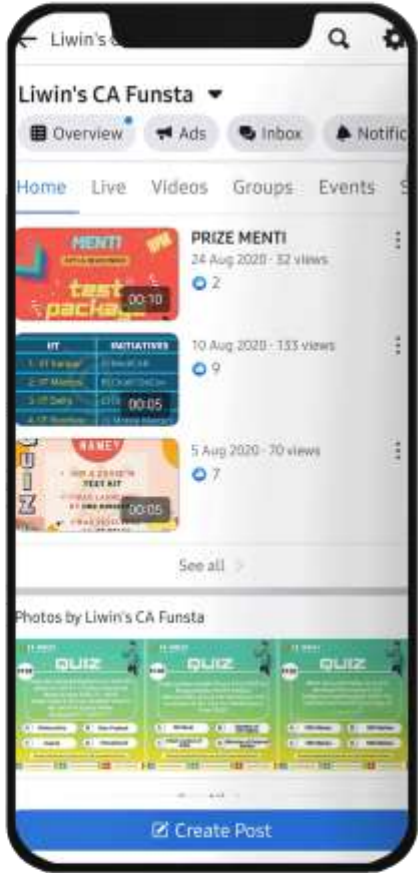
QUICK RECALL



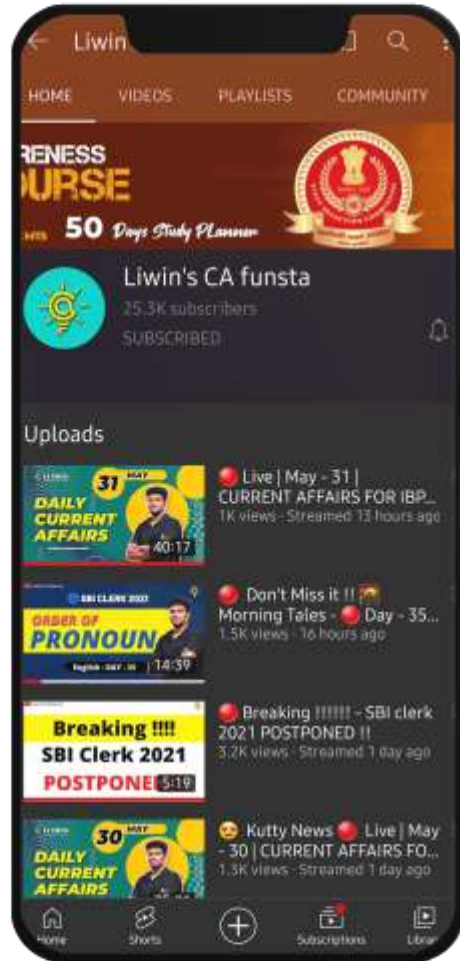
- **Manorama Online CEO Mariam Mammen Mathew appointed DNPA chairperson**
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- **Ajit Rangnekar gets HMA’s lifetime achievement award**
- **ISRO gets Aviation Week Laureates Award for historic Chandrayaan-3 mission**
- **PM Modi inaugurates modern hospital built with Indian assistance in Bhutan**
- **Govt notifies bonus for Postal Life Insurance, Rural Postal Life Insurance schemes for FY25**



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