



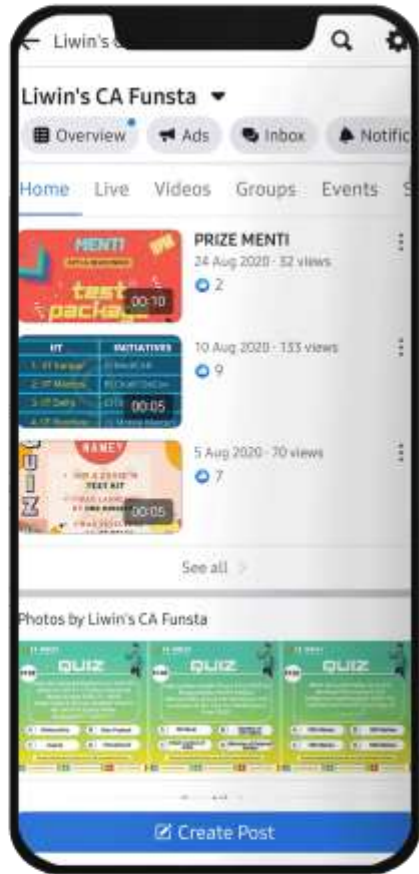
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Important Days



➤ **When is the International Day of the Markhor celebrated?**

- A) 10 April
- B) 15 June
- C) 24 May
- D) 30 July
- E) 12 August

Answer
C) 24 May



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** International Day of the Markhor
- **Date:** 24 May
- **First Celebration:** 2024



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The UN General Assembly proclaimed the International Day of the Markhor through resolution A/RES/78/278.
- **Objectives:**
 - Raise awareness about the conservation of the markhor.
 - Highlight the ecological significance and economic value of the markhor.
 - Promote international and regional cooperation to conserve the markhor and its habitat.
 - Foster conservation efforts and sustainable tourism to benefit the ecosystem and local economies.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Markhor (*Capra falconeri*):**
 - Ecologically significant species found in Central and South Asia.
 - Threatened by habitat loss, illegal hunting, and climate change.
 - Categorized as “near threatened” on the IUCN Red List.
 - Included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) since 1992.
 - Different subspecies include flare-horned, straight-horned, and Bukharan markhor.



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):**
 - **Founded Year:** 1948
 - **Headquarters:** Gland, Switzerland
 - **CEO:** Bruno Oberle
- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):**
 - **Founded Year:** 1975
 - **Secretary-General:** Ivonne Higuero
 - **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	International Day of the Markhor
Location	Central and South Asia (Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)
Date	24 May
First Celebration	2024
Proclaiming Authority	UN General Assembly (Resolution A/RES/78/278)
Significance	Raise awareness and promote conservation efforts for the markhor
Major Threats	Habitat loss, illegal hunting, poaching, and climate change
Ecological and Economic Value	Ecological significance and contribution to the local economy
Horn Variations	Flare-horned (<i>C. f. falconeri</i>), Straight-horned (<i>C. f. megaceros</i>), Bukharan (<i>C. f. heptneri</i>)
Conservation Status	Near threatened on the IUCN Red List, included in Appendix I of CITES



Important Days



➤ **What is a key difference between turtles and tortoises?**

- A) Turtles live on land, tortoises live in water.
- B) Turtles have shorter lifespans than tortoises.
- C) Tortoises can fly, turtles cannot.
- D) Turtles are mammals, tortoises are reptiles.
- E) Tortoises eat fish, turtles do not.

Answer

B) Turtles have shorter lifespans than tortoises.



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** World Turtle Day
- **Date:** 23 May 2024
- **Location:** Worldwide



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - Raise awareness about the habitat and lifestyle of turtles and tortoises.
 - Encourage people to contribute to their well-being and conservation.
- **Objectives:**
 - Clarify the differences between turtles and tortoises.
 - Highlight their significant roles in ecosystems.
 - Celebrate their resilience and contributions to the planet.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Turtles:** Aquatic creatures that primarily live in water, have shorter lifespans (up to 40 years), and feed on dead fish.
- **Tortoises:** Land creatures that can live up to 300 years, help maintain ecological balance by digging holes which are used by other creatures.
- **World Turtle Day:** An annual event to spread awareness and promote conservation efforts for turtles and tortoises.



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **World Turtle Day:**
 - **First Observed:** 2000
 - **Organized By:** American Tortoise Rescue
 - **Purpose:** To protect and advocate for the survival of turtles and tortoises.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	World Turtle Day
Date	23 May 2024
Location	Worldwide
Significance	Raise awareness about turtles and tortoises and their roles in ecosystems
Major Differences	Turtles live in water, shorter lifespan; Tortoises live on land, longer lifespan
Roles in Ecosystem	Turtles feed on dead fish; Tortoises dig holes that benefit other creatures
Celebration Methods	Adopting turtles or tortoises, donating to conservation centers, volunteering at rescue centers



SPORTS



➤ Which country has been chosen to host the 2026 Women's Asian Cup?

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

Answer
D) Australia



SPORTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Hosting of the 2026 Women's Asian Cup
- **Location:** Australia (NSW, Queensland, and Western Australia)



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - Australia was the only member nation to submit a bid to host the 2026 Women's Asian Cup.
- **Objectives:**
 - Provide an opportunity for local fans to support the Matildas on home soil.
 - Build on the success of the 2023 Women's World Cup co-hosted by Australia.
 - Promote and celebrate women's football.



Important Terms Explained:

- **AFC Women's Asian Cup:** The premier women's football competition in Asia organized by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).
- **Matildas:** The nickname for the Australian women's national soccer team.
- **Asian Football Confederation (AFC):** The governing body of football in Asia, responsible for organizing the Asian Cup among other competitions.



Static GK Information:

- **Football Australia:**
 - **CEO:** James Johnson
 - **Founded Year:** 1961
 - **Headquarters:** Sydney, Australia
 - **Primary Role:** Governing body for football in Australia, responsible for the national teams and domestic leagues.



SPORTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	Hosting of the 2026 Women's Asian Cup
Host Nation	Australia
Decision Location	AFC executive committee meeting in Bangkok
Bidding Status	Australia was the only bidder
Previous Tournament	2023 Women's World Cup co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand
Last Asian Cup in Australia	2006
Participating Teams	12-nation tournament
Match Locations	NSW, Queensland, Western Australia
Significance	Reflects confidence in Australia's capability to host outstanding football events
Statement by Football Australia	CEO James Johnson emphasized the opportunity to inspire a new generation and celebrate women's football



➤ How much did HDFC Bank sell its entire stake in Protean eGov Technologies for?

- A) Rs 100 crore
- B) Rs 120 crore
- C) Rs 150 crore
- D) Rs 200 crore
- E) Rs 250 crore

Answer

C) Rs 150 crore



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Event and Location:

- **Event:** HDFC Bank's Sale of Stake in Protean eGov Technologies
- **Location:** Open market transaction via BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange), India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - HDFC Bank's sale of its stake in Protean eGov Technologies.
- **Objectives:**
 - Monetize its investment in Protean eGov Technologies.
 - Facilitate the transition of ownership to other investors.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Protean eGov Technologies:** A company focused on providing electronic governance solutions.
- **Open Market Transaction:** A method where shares are bought and sold freely on the stock exchange.
- **Bulk Deal:** A single transaction involving a large number of shares, typically 0.5% or more of a company's total equity.



Static GK Information:

- **HDFC Bank:**
 - **Founded Year:** 1994
 - **CEO:** Sashidhar Jagdishan
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, India
 - **Parent Company:** HDFC Ltd.
- **Nippon India Mutual Fund:**
 - **Founded Year:** 1995
 - **CEO:** Sundeep Sikka
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, India
 - **Former Name:** Reliance Mutual Fund



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	HDFC Bank's Sale of Stake in Protean eGov Technologies
Stake Sold	3.20%
Shares Sold	12,94,326 shares
Sale Price per Share	Rs 1,160.15
Total Transaction Value	Rs 150.16 crore
Buyer (Major)	Nippon India Mutual Fund
Shares Purchased by Nippon	12.78 lakh shares
Nippon's Stake Acquired	3.16%
Purchase Price per Share	Rs 1,160
Nippon's Total Purchase Value	Rs 148.28 crore
Closing Share Price of Protean	Rs 1,205.60 (up by 0.84%)



➤ **What recent license did Mahindra Finance receive from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)?**

- A) Investment Banking License
- B) Corporate Agency License
- C) Mutual Fund Distribution License
- D) Foreign Exchange Dealer License
- E) Microfinance License

Answer

B) Corporate Agency License

**Mahindra
FINANCE**



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Mahindra Finance secures a Corporate Agency License
- **Date of License Validity:** From May 21, 2024, to May 20, 2027
- **Location:** India, across Mahindra Finance's network of 1360+ branches



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - Mahindra Finance obtained a Corporate Agency License from IRDAI.
 - License permits Mahindra Finance to act as a corporate agent under the Insurance Act, 1938.
- **Objectives:**
 - Enhance service offerings for over 10 million customers.
 - Integrate insurance solutions to meet financial and insurance needs under a single entity.
 - Generate new revenue streams and provide personalized services.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Corporate Agency License:** A certification allowing entities to solicit, procure, and conduct business related to various insurance products including life, health, and general insurance.
- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):** The regulatory body for insurance in India, ensuring the orderly growth and development of the insurance industry.
- **Assets Under Management:** Refers to the total market value of the assets managed by Mahindra Finance, which is over USD 11 billion.



Static GK Information:

- **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services:**
 - **Founded Year:** 1991
 - **CEO:** Raul Rebello
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, India
 - **Primary Role:** Providing financial services including loans, insurance, and investment products.



BUSINESS AND ECONOMY



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	Mahindra Finance secures IRDAI Corporate Agency License
License Validity	From May 21, 2024, to May 20, 2027
Location	Across Mahindra Finance's 1360+ branches in India
Customer Base	Over 10 million customers
Assets Managed	Over USD 11 billion
Business Expansion	Enables solicitation, procurement, and business in life, health, and general insurance
Focus Areas	Enhancing insurance penetration in rural and semi-urban sectors
CEO's Statement	Diversification opens new revenue models and enhances personalized services
Compliance	Emphasis on adherence to IRDAI regulatory requirements
Industry Commitment	Reflects dedication to innovation and growth in the insurance industry



AWARDS



➤ **Who received the Shaw Prize in Astronomy for 2024?**

- A) Sudha Murty
- B) Srinivas R Kulkarni
- C) George Ellery Hale
- D) Zwicky Transient Facility
- E) Palomar Transient Factory



Answer

B) Srinivas R Kulkarni



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Shaw Prize in Astronomy 2024
- **Location:** Presented by the Shaw Prize Foundation, Hong Kong



AWARDS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The Shaw Prize recognizes outstanding contributions in the fields of astronomy, medicine and life sciences, and mathematical sciences.
- **Objectives:**
 - Honor Srinivas R Kulkarni for his groundbreaking discoveries in millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other transient astronomical phenomena.
 - Acknowledge his leadership in the Palomar Transient Factory (PTF) and the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF).



AWARDS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Shaw Prize:** A prestigious global award recognizing significant achievements in astronomy, medicine and life sciences, and mathematical sciences.
- **Millisecond Pulsars:** Rapidly rotating neutron stars that emit beams of electromagnetic radiation.
- **Gamma-ray Bursts:** Extremely energetic explosions observed in distant galaxies.
- **Supernovae:** Stellar explosions that occur at the end of a star's life cycle.
- **Palomar Transient Factory (PTF):** An astronomical project focused on detecting transient phenomena in the night sky.
- **Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF):** The successor to PTF, further enhancing the study of time-variable optical phenomena in the sky.



AWARDS



Static GK Information:

- **Shaw Prize Foundation:**
 - **Founded Year:** 2002
 - **Founder:** Run Run Shaw
 - **Headquarters:** Hong Kong
 - **Fields Recognized:** Astronomy, Medicine and Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	Shaw Prize in Astronomy 2024
Recipient	Srinivas R Kulkarni
Fields of Contribution	Millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and transient astronomical phenomena
Significance	Kulkarni's work revolutionized the understanding of the time-variable optical sky
Institutions	Palomar Transient Factory (PTF), Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF)
Current Position	George Ellery Hale Professor of Astronomy and Planetary Science at Caltech
Educational Background	Master of Science from IIT in 1978, PhD from the University of California in 1983
Awarding Body	Shaw Prize Foundation, Hong Kong



AWARDS



➤ **Who won the 2024 International Booker Prize?**

- A) Han Kang
- B) Natasha Walter
- C) Jenny Erpenbeck and Michael Hofmann
- D) Olga Tokarczuk
- E) Georgi Gospodinov and Angela Rodel



Answer

C) Jenny Erpenbeck and Michael Hofmann



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** International Booker Prize 2024
- **Location:** Tate Modern, London
- **Sponsor:** Maison Valentino (Italian luxury fashion house)



AWARDS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - Award exceptional translated fiction from around the world.
 - Recognize both the author and the translator with a shared prize.
- **Objectives:**
 - Highlight the literary and cultural value of translated works.
 - Celebrate the contributions of both authors and translators to global literature.



AWARDS



Important Terms Explained:

- **International Booker Prize:** A prestigious literary award recognizing the best translated fiction from around the world, with prize money shared equally between the author and translator.
- **Kairos:** Jenny Erpenbeck's novel set against the collapse of East Germany, exploring a personal and political narrative.
- **Michael Hofmann:** Translator known for capturing the eloquence and rhythm of Erpenbeck's writing.



AWARDS



Static GK Information:

- **International Booker Prize:**
 - **First Awarded:** 2005
 - **Founder:** Man Group
 - **Prize Money:** £50,000 (split equally between author and translator)
 - **Previous Winners:** Han Kang and Deborah Smith, Olga Tokarczuk and Jennifer Croft, Lucas Rijneveld and Michele Hutchison, Georgi Gospodinov and Angela Rodel



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	International Booker Prize 2024
Winners	Jenny Erpenbeck (author), Michael Hofmann (translator)
Prize Amount	£50,000 (split equally)
Award-Winning Novel	Kairos
Novel's Theme	Relationship set against the collapse of East Germany
Significance of Novel	Explores personal and national transformations
Judging Chair's Comments	Novel is a richly textured evocation of a tormented love affair and national changes
Translator's Contribution	Captures the eloquence and eccentricities of Erpenbeck's writing
Ceremony Location	Tate Modern, London
Sponsor	Maison Valentino



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Firsts Achieved	Erpenbeck: first German writer to win, Hofmann: first male translator to win
Previous Novels by Erpenbeck	The End of Days (2015 Independent Foreign Fiction Prize), Go, Went, Gone (2018 Booker longlist)
Notable Shortlisted Books	Not a River, The Details, Mater 2-10, What I'd Rather Not Think About, Crooked Plow



AWARDS



➤ **Which airport received the Zero Waste to Landfill (ZWL) accolade?**

- A) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- B) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
- C) Kempegowda International Airport
- D) Thiruvananthapuram International Airport
- E) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport



Answer

D) Thiruvananthapuram International Airport



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Thiruvananthapuram International Airport receives Zero Waste to Landfill accolade
- **Location:** Thiruvananthapuram, India



AWARDS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - The accolade was given by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development.
- **Objectives:**
 - Recognize the implementation of best waste management practices.
 - Achieve significant waste diversion from landfills.



AWARDS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Zero Waste to Landfill (ZWL):** An accolade for achieving high levels of waste diversion from landfills.
- **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC):** An organization that promotes sustainable development practices.
- **5R Principles:** Sustainable waste management principles including Reduce, Reuse, Reprocess, Recycle, and Recover.
- **Municipal Solid Waste (MSW):** Waste consisting of everyday items discarded by the public, including paper, food, and plastic.



AWARDS



Static GK Information:

- **Thiruvananthapuram International Airport:**
 - **Managed By:** Thiruvananthapuram International Airport Ltd (TIAL)
 - **Location:** Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
 - **Accolade:** First airport in India to receive the Zero Waste to Landfill accolade.



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	Thiruvananthapuram International Airport receives Zero Waste to Landfill accolade
Recognition By	Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development
Significance	First airport in India to receive this accolade
Waste Diversion Rate	99.50%
Waste Types	100% diversion of plastic and municipal solid waste (wet and dry)
Assessment Period	Financial year 2022-2023
Primary Waste Sources	Paper, cutlery, food, and road waste
Waste Management Practices	Following ISO 14001:2015 standards, waste segregation, recycling, monitoring, and reduction
Environmental Management	Integrated Environmental Management System (EMS) to set and evaluate environmental goals



➤ **Who was awarded the First-Class Medal of Independence by the UAE President?**

- A) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- B) Reem Bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy
- C) Jose Agüero Avila
- D) Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- E) Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan



Answer

C) Jose Agüero Avila



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Awarding of the First-Class Medal of Independence
- **Location:** Abu Dhabi, UAE



AWARDS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan awarded the medal.
- **Objectives:**
 - Recognize Jose Aguerro Avila's contributions to enhancing UAE-Paraguay relations during his tenure as ambassador.



AWARDS



Important Terms Explained:

- **First-Class Medal of Independence:** A prestigious award given in appreciation of significant contributions to bilateral relations.
- **Bilateral Relations:** Diplomatic and cooperative interactions between two countries.
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** UAE's governmental body responsible for managing international relations and diplomacy.



AWARDS



Static GK Information:

- **UAE:**
 - **President:** Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
 - **Capital:** Abu Dhabi
 - **Minister of State for International Cooperation:** Reem Bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy
- **Paraguay:**
 - **President:** Mario Abdo Benítez
 - **Capital:** Asunción
 - **Ambassador to UAE:** Jose Agüero Avila



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	Awarding of the First-Class Medal of Independence
Recipient	Jose Aguero Avila, Ambassador of Paraguay to the UAE
Presented By	Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Conferred By	Reem Bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation
Occasion	End of Jose Aguero Avila's tenure as ambassador
Significance	Recognized for contributions to UAE-Paraguay bilateral relations
Ambassador's Appreciation	Expressed gratitude to UAE entities for cooperation during his mission
UAE's Commitment	Strengthening relations with Paraguay in various fields
Medal Presentation Location	Headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



➤ **Where is the world's highest observatory inaugurated by the University of Tokyo located?**

- A) Alps, Switzerland
- B) Rockies, USA
- C) Andes, Chile
- D) Himalayas, Nepal
- E) Pyrenees, France

Answer
C) Andes, Chile



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Inauguration of the world's highest observatory
- **Location:** Cerro Chajnantor, Atacama Region, Antofagasta, Chile



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - The University of Tokyo's Atacama Observatory (TAO) aims to study the universe using its state-of-the-art 6.5-meter optical-infrared telescope.
- **Objectives:**
 - Clarify the mysteries of the universe, such as dark energy and primordial stars.
 - Observe the sky with unparalleled clarity due to its unique altitude and minimal atmospheric humidity.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Atacama Observatory (TAO):** The highest observatory in the world, featuring a 6.5-meter optical-infrared telescope.
- **Cerro Chajnantor:** The mountain in the Andes, Chile, where TAO is located at 5,640 meters above sea level.
- **ALMA (Atacama Large Millimeter/Submillimeter Array):** A nearby large radio telescope project involving international cooperation for astronomical observations.



Static GK Information:

- **University of Tokyo:**
 - **Founded Year:** 1877
 - **Location:** Tokyo, Japan
 - **Primary Role:** Leading educational and research institution in Japan.
- **Chile:**
 - **Capital:** Santiago
 - **Currency:** Chilean Peso
 - **President:** Gabriel Boric



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Description
Event	Inauguration of the world's highest observatory
Location	Cerro Chajnantor, Atacama Region, Antofagasta, Chile
Altitude	5,640 meters above sea level
Telescope	6.5-meter optical-infrared telescope
Construction Duration	26 years
Project Director	Yuzuru Yoshii, Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo
Research Focus	Dark energy, primordial stars, mid-infrared wavelengths, environments around stars, planet-forming regions
Proximity to ALMA	Near ALMA radio telescope, one of the largest astronomical projects
Environmental Advantages	Low atmospheric humidity, clear mid-infrared observation capability
Research Potential	Observing distant galaxies, celestial activities hidden in dust and gas, dust surrounding stars



QUICK RECALL



- **International Day of the Markhor is celebrated on 24 May to promote conservation efforts for the species.**
- **World Turtle Day on 23 May raises awareness about the importance and conservation of turtles and tortoises.**
- **Australia will host the 2026 Women's Asian Cup, marking its second time hosting the tournament.**
- **HDFC Bank sold its 3.20% stake in Protean eGov Technologies for Rs 150 crore via open market transaction.**
- **Mahindra Finance secures IRDAI Corporate Agency License to offer insurance solutions across its extensive branch network.**
- **Srinivas R Kulkarni wins the Shaw Prize in Astronomy 2024 for his discoveries on transient astronomical phenomena.**



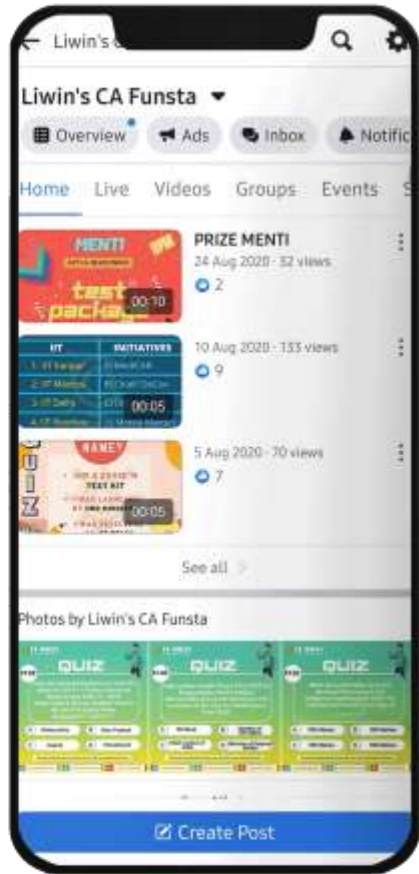
QUICK RECALL



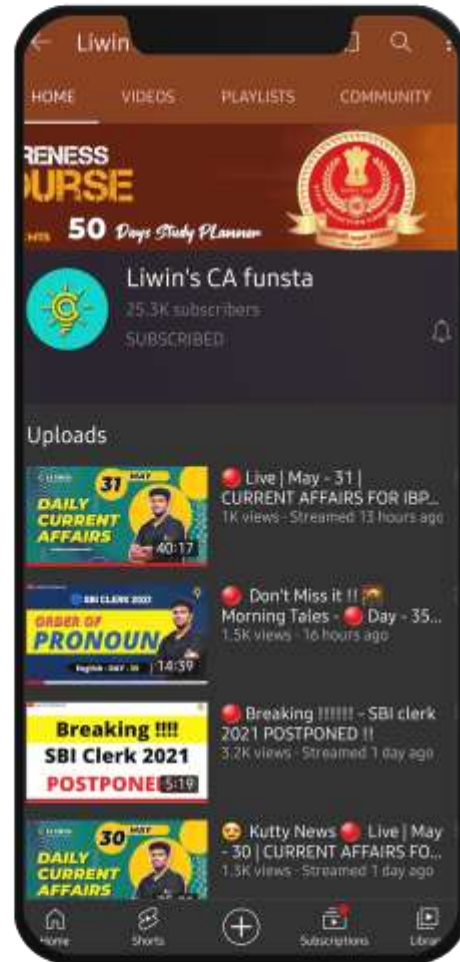
- **Jenny Erpenbeck and Michael Hofmann win the 2024 International Booker Prize for the novel Kairos, exploring the collapse of East Germany.**
- **Thiruvananthapuram International Airport is the first in India to achieve Zero Waste to Landfill recognition by CII-ITC.**
- **UAE President awards the First-Class Medal of Independence to Paraguay's ambassador Jose Aguero Avila for enhancing bilateral relations.**
- **University of Tokyo inaugurates the world's highest observatory, TAO, at 5,640 meters in the Andes, Chile.**



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