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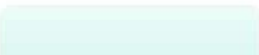


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Important Days



➤ **What is the primary theme of the 2024 International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (IDEI) Global Commemoration?**

- A) Promoting Press Freedom
- B) Safety of Journalists in Crises and Emergencies
- C) Combating Financial Threats to Journalists
- D) 20th Anniversary of African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- E) Gender Equality in Journalism



Answer

B) Safety of Journalists in Crises and Emergencies



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (IDEI)** will be marked globally with the theme Safety of Journalists in Crises and Emergencies.
- **Location:** African Union (AU) Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- **Date:** November 6–7, 2024.



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Organizers:** The African Union (AU) and UNESCO will host the event.
- **Theme Focus:** Addressing the safety of journalists in crisis and emergency settings, covering physical threats as well as legal and financial pressures.
- **Day of Action:** Scheduled for November 7, 2024, providing a platform for discussions, workshops, strategic partnerships, and initiatives like report releases and exhibitions.
- **Commemorations:**
 - 10th Anniversary of IDEI, initiated in 2014 by UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/163.
 - 20th Anniversary of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression for the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.



Important Days



Significance of the Day

- **Background:** IDEI on November 2 was established by the UN to honor two French journalists killed in Mali in 2013.
- **UNESCO Findings:** More than 1,700 journalists killed globally between 2006 and 2024, with approximately 90% of cases remaining unresolved.
- **Goal:** To ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms by addressing the cycle of violence and impunity against journalists.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **IDEI (International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists):** Established by UN General Assembly Resolution 68/163 to highlight crimes against journalists and call for accountability.
- **Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression (African Commission):** Established in 2004 to protect freedom of expression and journalists' safety in Africa.
- **Agenda 2063 (AU):** The African Union's strategic framework for peace, governance, and human rights, including journalist protection.
- **UNESCO Observatory of Killed Journalists:** A database documenting global instances of journalist killings and levels of impunity.



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **UNESCO**
 - **Headquarters:** Paris, France
 - **Founded:** 1945
 - **Director-General:** Audrey Azoulay
- **African Union (AU)**
 - **Headquarters:** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
 - **Founded:** 2002
 - **Chairperson (2024):** Azali Assoumani
- **International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (IDEI)**
 - **Date Observed:** November 2 annually
 - **Established by:** UN General Assembly in 2013
 - **Significance:** Honors journalists who face crimes for their work and calls for accountability.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

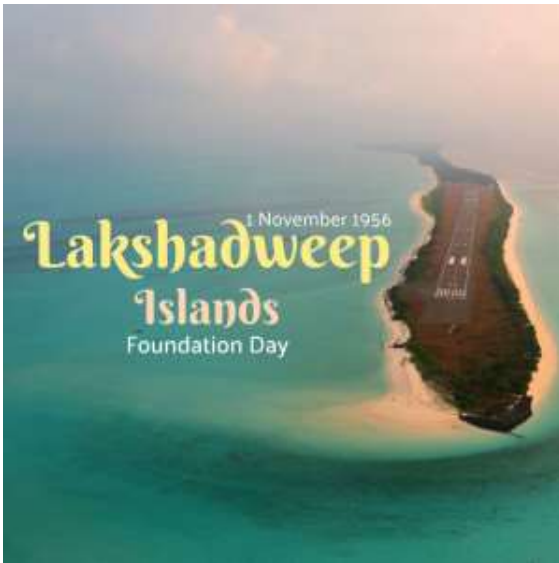
Event	Details
Date	November 6–7, 2024
Location	African Union (AU) Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Theme	Safety of Journalists in Crises and Emergencies
Organizers	African Union (AU) and UNESCO
Day of Action	November 7, 2024 - includes workshops, reports, exhibitions, and partnership meetings
Significance of IDEI	Commemorates journalists killed for their work and highlights the importance of journalist safety
Important Anniversaries	10th Anniversary of IDEI (since 2014), 20th Anniversary of Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression
Related AU Initiative	Agenda 2063 (supports journalist safety under human rights, good governance, and peace objectives)



Important Days



- Which of the following states or union territories does NOT celebrate its formation day on November 1?



- A) Kerala
- B) Haryana
- C) Lakshadweep
- D) Maharashtra
- E) Karnataka

Answer
D) Maharashtra



Important Days



States and Union Territories Celebrating Formation Day:

1. **Andhra Pradesh** - Formed on November 1, 1956, as the first linguistic state for Telugu speakers.
2. **Karnataka** - Originally Mysore State, formed on November 1, 1956, renamed in 1973.
3. **Kerala** - Created for Malayalam speakers on November 1, 1956, as Kerala Piravi.
4. **Madhya Pradesh** - Formed on November 1, 1956, from several regions in central India.
5. **Chhattisgarh** - Carved out of Madhya Pradesh on November 1, 2000.
6. **Haryana** - Created from Punjab on November 1, 1966, as a Hindi-speaking state.
7. **Punjab** - Reorganized on November 1, 1966, to create a Punjabi-speaking state.
8. **Lakshadweep** - Established as a Union Territory on November 1, 1956.



Important Days



States Not Celebrating on November 1

- Maharashtra does not celebrate its formation on **November 1**. Maharashtra's formation day is observed on May 1 as Maharashtra Day.



Important Days



Common Themes Across Celebrations

- **These celebrations emphasize linguistic and cultural identity:**
 - **Traditional Arts and Culture:** States feature local music, dance, and regional art forms such as Yakshagana in Karnataka, Kathakali in Kerala, and Bhangra in Punjab.
 - **Cultural Legacy and Heritage:** The formation days highlight the historical achievements and regional pride, showcasing India's unity in diversity.



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **Kerala**
 - **Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram
 - **Chief Minister:** Pinarayi Vijayan
 - **Governor:** Arif Mohammed Khan
- **Karnataka**
 - **Capital:** Bengaluru
 - **Chief Minister:** Siddaramaiah
 - **Governor:** Thaawarchand Gehlot
- **Punjab**
 - **Capital:** Chandigarh
 - **Chief Minister:** Bhagwant Mann
 - **Governor:** Banwarilal Purohit
- **Madhya Pradesh**
 - **Capital:** Bhopal
 - **Chief Minister:** Shivraj Singh Chouhan
 - **Governor:** Mangubhai C. Patel



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

State/UT	Formation Date	Background
Andhra Pradesh	November 1, 1956	First linguistic state for Telugu-speaking people
Karnataka	November 1, 1956	Formed by unifying Kannada-speaking regions, originally named Mysore
Kerala	November 1, 1956	Created for Malayalam-speaking people as Kerala Piravi
Madhya Pradesh	November 1, 1956	Formed from Central Provinces and Berar, Vindhya Pradesh, and Madhya Bharat
Chhattisgarh	November 1, 2000	Separated from Madhya Pradesh to focus on tribal development
Haryana	November 1, 1966	Separated from Punjab as a Hindi-speaking state
Punjab	November 1, 1966	Reorganized to create a Punjabi-speaking state
Lakshadweep	November 1, 1956	Union Territory formed, known for coral islands and unique cultural blend



OBITUARY



➤ **What was Bibek Debroy widely recognized for apart from his role as Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister?**

- A) Translating ancient Sanskrit texts
- B) Leading the Reserve Bank of India
- C) Writing about modern technology
- D) Serving as India's Chief Economic Advisor
- E) Developing India's space policy



Answer

A) Translating ancient Sanskrit texts



OBITUARY



Event and Position

- **Personality:** Bibek Debroy, a prominent Indian economist, passed away on November 1, 2024, at the age of 69.
- **Position at Passing:** Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).



OBITUARY



Key Contributions and Achievements

- **Literary and Cultural Impact:** Known for his translations of ancient Sanskrit texts, including the Mahabharata and Puranas, which helped make Indian epics accessible to modern readers.
- **Professional Background:**
 - Extensive experience across academia and policy institutions like Presidency College, Kolkata, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, and NITI Aayog.
- **Educational Background:** Alumni of Presidency College, Kolkata, Delhi School of Economics, and Trinity College, Cambridge.



OBITUARY



Important Terms Explained:

- **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM):** A council that advises the Prime Minister on economic and policy matters.
- **NITI Aayog:** National think-tank focused on policy-making and cooperative federalism in India.



OBITUARY



Static GK Information:

- **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)**
 - **Formed:** 2017
 - **Role:** Advisory body on economic matters
 - **Previous Chairman:** Bibek Debroy
- **NITI Aayog**
 - **Abbreviation:** National Institution for Transforming India
 - **Founded:** 2015
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - **Chairman:** Prime Minister of India
 - **Vice Chairman:** Suman Bery



OBITUARY



Tabular Summary:

Event	Details
Name	Bibek Debroy
Position at Passing	Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)
Date of Passing	November 1, 2024
Age	69
Educational Background	Ramakrishna Mission School, Presidency College Kolkata, Delhi School of Economics, Trinity College, Cambridge
Key Areas of Expertise	Economics, history, culture, politics, spirituality
Notable Contributions	Authored books on ancient Sanskrit texts, including translations of the Mahabharata
Condolences	PM Narendra Modi, FM Nirmala Sitharaman praised his intellectual and cultural contributions



➤ **By how much did IIFL Finance's gold loan portfolio grow after the RBI lifted its lending ban?**

- A) ₹1,000 crore
- B) ₹1,500 crore
- C) ₹2,000 crore
- D) ₹3,000 crore
- E) ₹4,000 crore



Answer

C) ₹2,000 crore



Event and Portfolio Growth

- **Company:** IIFL Finance
- **Portfolio Growth:** Following the lifting of the RBI's lending ban, IIFL Finance's gold loan portfolio grew by ₹2,000 crore.
- **Background:** The gold loan portfolio had previously shrunk significantly from ₹26,000 crore in March 2024 to ₹10,000 crore by September 2024 due to restrictions.



Future Outlook

- **Growth Expectations:** The company's management, led by CEO Nirmal Jain, anticipates the portfolio will return to its prior level by the end of the fourth quarter of FY25.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Gold Loan Portfolio:** The total value of loans secured against gold collateral held by a financial institution.
- **RBI Lending Ban:** Temporary restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on lending activities, lifted in October 2024, allowing IIFL Finance to resume gold loans.



Static GK Information:

- **IIFL Finance**
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Founded:** 1995
 - **CEO:** Nirmal Jain
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**
 - **Founded:** 1935
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das



Tabular Summary:

Event	Details
Company	IIFL Finance
Growth in Gold Loan Portfolio	₹2,000 crore
Portfolio Shrinkage (March to September 2024)	From ₹26,000 crore to ₹10,000 crore
RBI Ban Lifted	October 2024
Expected Full Recovery	By Q4 FY25



➤ How many UPI transactions were conducted in India in October 2024?

- A) 15.04 billion
- B) 16.58 billion
- C) 20.61 billion
- D) 14.96 billion
- E) 535 million

Answer

B) 16.58 billion



Event and Transaction Record

- **Technology:** Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
- **New Record:** In October 2024, UPI set a new record with 16.58 billion transactions, totaling ₹23.50 lakh crore.
- **Year-on-Year Growth:** UPI transactions saw a 45% year-on-year (y-o-y) increase, driven by increased spending during the festival season.



Average Daily Transactions and Amount

- **Daily Average:** An average of **535 million transactions** were conducted daily in October.
- **Average Daily Transaction Value:** The daily transaction amount averaged **₹75,801 crore**.



Comparison with Previous Months

- **September 2024:** 15.04 billion transactions amounting to ₹20.64 lakh crore.
- **August 2024:** 14.96 billion transactions amounting to ₹20.61 lakh crore.



Other Digital Payment Modes (Operated by NPCI)

- **FASTag:** Saw 345 million transactions in October, an 8% y-o-y increase.
- **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS):** Declined by 5% y-o-y to 467 million transactions.
- **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS):** Increased 26% y-o-y to 126 million transactions.



Important Terms Explained:

- **UPI (Unified Payments Interface):** A real-time payment system developed by NPCI, facilitating inter-bank transactions via mobile.
- **NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India):** Governing body for retail payments and settlements in India, responsible for managing digital payment systems like UPI, FASTag, and IMPS.



Static GK Information:

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**
 - **Founded:** 2008
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **MD & CEO:** Dilip Asbe
- **State Bank of India (SBI)**
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Chairman:** Dinesh Kumar Khara
 - **Tagline:** "The Banker to Every Indian"



Tabular Summary:

Event	Details
Technology	Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
October 2024 Record	16.58 billion transactions, ₹23.50 lakh crore
Average Daily Transactions	535 million
Average Daily Transaction Value	₹75,801 crore
Top Banks in UPI	State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, YES Bank
Comparison (September 2024)	15.04 billion transactions, ₹20.64 lakh crore
Other Payment Modes	FASTag (345 million transactions), IMPS (467 million), AePS (126 million)



➤ **What was the percentage increase in GST collections in India in October 2024?**

- A) 5%
- B) 8%
- C) 9%
- D) 12%
- E) 15%

Answer
C) 9%



Event and Collection Growth

- **Month:** October 2024
- **GST Collection:** ₹1.87 lakh crore
- **Growth Rate:** The GST collection rose by 9% year-on-year, marking the second consecutive month of single-digit growth.



Implications of Growth

- **Consumer Spending Trends:** The single-digit growth suggests a potential slowdown in consumer spending, indicating a cooling-off period in economic activity after previous higher growth rates.



GST Collection Sources

- The increase was primarily driven by **domestic transactions** rather than imports, suggesting steady internal economic activity.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Goods and Services Tax (GST):** A unified indirect tax system in India, levied on the supply of goods and services, collected at various points of sale.



Static GK Information:

- **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**
 - **Implemented:** July 1, 2017
 - **Administered by:** Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
 - **Rate Structure:** Divided into 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28% slabs



Tabular Summary:

Event	Details
Month of Collection	October 2024
GST Collection Amount	₹1.87 lakh crore
Year-on-Year Growth Rate	9%
Significance	Indicates a potential slowdown in consumer spending
Main Source of Collection	Domestic transactions



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has recently assumed the position of Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance of the Indian Air Force?**

- A) Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar
- B) Air Marshal Ajay Kumar Arora
- C) Air Marshal Anil Khosla
- D) Air Marshal Rajesh Singh
- E) Air Marshal SK Ghotia



Answer

B) Air Marshal Ajay Kumar Arora



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Position

- **Appointment:** Air Marshal Ajay Kumar Arora has taken over as Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance at the Indian Air Force (IAF) Headquarters, Vayu Bhawan.
- **Date of Appointment:** November 1, 2024



APPOINTMENTS



Career and Qualifications

- **Background:** Commissioned into the Aeronautical Engineering stream of the IAF in August 1986.
- **Education:**
 - Graduate of Air Force Technical College
 - Studied at Air Command and Staff College, USA and College of Defence Management, Secunderabad
 - Holds a doctorate in Management from University of Pune
 - Alumnus of IIT Kharagpur
- **Previous Position:** Served as Director General (Aircraft) before his current appointment.
- **Awards:**
 - **Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM)** – 2018
 - **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM)** – 2024



APPOINTMENTS



Significance of Position

- **The Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance** is responsible for overseeing all maintenance activities and ensuring operational readiness of the IAF's aircraft and equipment.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance (IAF):** Senior position in the Indian Air Force responsible for managing and maintaining aircraft and associated equipment.
- **Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM):** Indian military decoration awarded for distinguished service.
- **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM):** A higher honor awarded for exceptional service of high order to the nation.



APPOINTMENTS



Static GK Information:

- **Indian Air Force (IAF)**
 - **Headquarters:** Vayu Bhawan, New Delhi
 - **Founded:** October 8, 1932
 - **Chief of the Air Staff:** Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari
 - **Commander-in-Chief:** President of India, Droupadi Murmu



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Details
Position	Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance, Indian Air Force
Appointed Individual	Air Marshal Ajay Kumar Arora
Date of Appointment	November 1, 2024
Previous Role	Director General (Aircraft), Indian Air Force
Key Qualifications	Electronics and communication engineer, Alumnus of IIT Kharagpur, Doctorate in Management
Awards	Vishisht Seva Medal (2018), Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (2024)
Responsibilities	Overseeing maintenance activities to ensure operational readiness of IAF assets



APPOINTMENTS



➤ Who has recently been appointed as the CEO of the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX)?

- A) P S Reddy
- B) Ashishkumar Chauhan
- C) Praveena Rai
- D) Arundhati Bhattacharya
- E) Vishal Sikka

Answer
C) Praveena Rai



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Position

- **Position:** Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX)
- **Appointee:** Praveena Rai assumed the role on October 31, 2024.
- **Predecessor:** P S Reddy, who completed his five-year term in May 2024.



APPOINTMENTS



Professional Background of Praveena Rai

- **Previous Role:** Served as the CEO at National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), where she managed marketing, business development, product management, and operations strategy.
- **Banking Experience:** Rai has over 20 years of experience in banking, including positions such as:
 - Regional Head of Payments for Asia Pacific at HSBC
 - Led the cash management portfolio at Kotak Mahindra Bank, which is a major shareholder in MCX.
- **Expertise Areas:** Specialized in payments, cards, retail banking, and transaction banking.



APPOINTMENTS



About MCX

- **Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX):** India's largest commodity derivatives exchange, facilitating the trading of commodities such as gold, silver, and energy products.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Commodity Exchange:** A market where commodities, including metals, energy products, and agricultural goods, are traded through futures contracts.
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI):** An umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.



APPOINTMENTS



Static GK Information:

- **Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX)**
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Founded:** 2003
 - **Largest Shareholder:** Kotak Mahindra Bank
 - **CEO:** Praveena Rai
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank**
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **CEO:** Uday Kotak
 - **Tagline:** "Let's Make Money Simple"



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Details
Position	CEO and Managing Director, Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX)
Appointed Individual	Praveena Rai
Date of Appointment	October 31, 2024
Predecessor	P S Reddy
Previous Position	CEO at National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
Key Expertise	Payments, cards, retail banking, transaction banking
MCX Significance	India's largest commodity derivatives exchange



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the Secretary General of the World Agriculture Forum (WAF)?**

- A) Himanshu Pathak
- B) Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes
- C) P S Reddy
- D) Praveena Rai
- E) A Gopalakrishnan



Answer

B) Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Appointment

- **Appointee:** Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes, the outgoing Director General of International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- **New Position:** Secretary General of the World Agriculture Forum (WAF)
- **Effective Date:** Mid-November 2024



APPOINTMENTS



Transition and Succession

- **Successor at ICRISAT: Himanshu Pathak** will take over as the Director General of ICRISAT in Hyderabad following Hughes's transition.



APPOINTMENTS



Significance of the Role

- **The World Agriculture Forum (WAF)** focuses on addressing global agricultural challenges and promoting sustainable farming practices. Hughes's leadership is expected to bring valuable expertise in agricultural research and development to WAF.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics):** An international agricultural research organization dedicated to improving food security and farming practices in semi-arid regions.
- **World Agriculture Forum (WAF):** An international forum focused on addressing agriculture and food security issues globally.



APPOINTMENTS



Static GK Information:

- **ICRISAT**
 - **Founded:** 1972
 - **Headquarters:** Hyderabad, Telangana, India
 - **Current DG:** Himanshu Pathak (following Hughes's departure)
- **World Agriculture Forum (WAF)**
 - **Focus:** Global agricultural issues and food security
 - **Headquarters:** St. Louis, Missouri, United States
 - **New Secretary General:** Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Details
New Role	Secretary General of the World Agriculture Forum (WAF)
Appointee	Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes
Previous Role	Director General of ICRISAT
Effective Date	Mid-November 2024
Successor at ICRISAT	Himanshu Pathak
WAF Focus	Addressing global agricultural and food security issues



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has recently taken over as the Defence Secretary of India?**

- A) Giridhar Aramane
- B) Ajay Kumar Arora
- C) Himanshu Pathak
- D) Rajesh Kumar Singh
- E) Rakesh Asthana

Answer

D) Rajesh Kumar Singh



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Appointment

- **Position:** Defence Secretary of India
- **Appointee:** Rajesh Kumar Singh, an IAS officer of the 1989 batch from the Kerala cadre.
- **Date of Appointment:** November 1, 2024
- **Predecessor:** Giridhar Aramane, who completed his term on October 31, 2024.



APPOINTMENTS



Background of Rajesh Kumar Singh

- **Previous Role:** Singh served as Officer on Special Duty (Defence Secretary-Designate) since August 20, 2024, to ensure a smooth transition into the role of Defence Secretary.



APPOINTMENTS



Significance of the Defence Secretary Role

- **The Defence Secretary** is a senior civil servant responsible for managing and overseeing the administrative and policy functions of the Ministry of Defence, coordinating with the armed forces and advising on defence policies.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Officer on Special Duty (OSD):** A temporary position often given to senior officials before taking over a prominent role, ensuring smooth transition and continuity.



APPOINTMENTS



Static GK Information:

- **Ministry of Defence (India)**
 - **Founded:** 1947
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - **Current Defence Secretary:** Rajesh Kumar Singh
 - **Minister of Defence:** Rajnath Singh



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Details
Position	Defence Secretary of India
Appointed Individual	Rajesh Kumar Singh
Date of Appointment	November 1, 2024
Predecessor	Giridhar Aramane
Previous Role	Officer on Special Duty (Defence Secretary-Designate)
Cadre and Batch	Kerala cadre, 1989-batch IAS



➤ **What is the primary objective of the joint military exercise 'Garud Shakti' between India and Indonesia?**

- A) Conduct air drills
- B) Develop interoperability and cooperation
- C) Test new military equipment
- D) Strengthen naval cooperation
- E) Conduct joint cybersecurity operations

Answer

B) Develop interoperability and cooperation



DEFENCE



Event and Location:

- **Exercise Name:** Garud Shakti 24
- **Location:** Cijantung, Jakarta, Indonesia
- **Dates:** November 1–12, 2024



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Participants:** Indian Army Special Forces (25 personnel from The Parachute Regiment) and 40 personnel from Indonesian Special Forces Kopassus.
- **Primary Objective:** Enhance interoperability and mutual cooperation between Indian and Indonesian special forces.
- **Focus Areas: The exercise includes:**
 - Planning and execution of special operations
 - Practicing tactical military drills in jungle terrain
 - Conducting strikes on simulated terrorist camps
 - Participating in a Validation Exercise to rehearse both basic and advanced special forces skills.
- **Secondary Objectives:** Improve mutual understanding of each other's techniques and procedures, and strengthen bilateral military relations.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Kopassus:** Indonesian Army Special Forces Command known for counter-terrorism and special operations.
- **The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces):** A specialized Indian Army regiment trained for rapid deployment in special operations, including hostage rescue, counter-terrorism, and jungle warfare.



Static GK Information:

- **The Indian Army**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - **Founded:** April 1, 1895
 - **Commander-in-Chief:** President of India, Droupadi Murmu
 - **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS):** General Manoj Pande
- **Indonesia**
 - **Capital:** Jakarta
 - **Currency:** Indonesian Rupiah
 - **President:** Joko Widodo



DEFENCE



Tabular Summary:

Event	Details
Exercise Name	Garud Shakti 24
Location	Cijantung, Jakarta, Indonesia
Date	November 1–12, 2024
Indian Contingent	25 personnel from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)
Indonesian Contingent	40 personnel from Indonesian Special Forces Kopassus
Objective	Develop interoperability, enhance cooperation and mutual understanding
Key Activities	Tactical drills, jungle operations, terrorist camp strikes, Validation Exercise
Significance	Strengthening India-Indonesia military ties, achieving shared security goals



➤ **What is the primary objective of the joint military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' between India and the United States?**

- A) Conducting high-altitude drills
- B) Enhancing interoperability in special operations
- C) Practicing maritime security
- D) Developing joint cybersecurity capabilities
- E) Strengthening medical evacuation procedures

Answer

B) Enhancing interoperability in special operations



DEFENCE



Event and Location:

- **Exercise Name:** Vajra Prahar 2024
- **Location:** Orchard Combat Training Centre, Idaho, USA
- **Dates:** November 2–22, 2024



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Participants: 45 personnel each from Indian and US Special Forces.**
 - **Indian Contingent:** Represented by Special Forces units.
 - **US Contingent:** Represented by the Green Berets.
- **Objective:** Promote military cooperation and interoperability by exchanging tactics and experiences in special operations.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Key Focus Areas:**
 - **Joint Tactical Drills:** Practicing reconnaissance missions, planning joint operations, using Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), and special operations in desert and semi-desert terrains.
 - **Specialized Techniques:** Joint Terminal Attack Controller actions, psychological warfare in special operations, and high physical fitness standards.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Vajra Prahar:** An annual special forces exercise aimed at improving operational coordination and enhancing interoperability between Indian and US special forces.
- **Green Berets (US):** Special forces unit of the United States Army trained in unconventional warfare, direct action, and counter-terrorism.



Static GK Information:

- **The Indian Army**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - **Founded:** April 1, 1895
 - **Commander-in-Chief:** President of India, Droupadi Murmu
 - **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS):** General Manoj Pande
- **United States of America**
 - **Capital:** Washington, D.C.
 - **Currency:** United States Dollar (USD)
 - **President:** Joe Biden



DEFENCE



Tabular Summary:

Event	Details
Exercise Name	Vajra Prahar 2024
Location	Orchard Combat Training Centre, Idaho, USA
Date	November 2–22, 2024
Indian Contingent	45 personnel from Indian Army Special Forces
US Contingent	45 personnel from US Army Green Berets
Objective	Enhance interoperability, jointness, and tactical exchange for special operations
Key Activities	Reconnaissance missions, joint tactical drills, UAS employment, psychological warfare
Significance	Strengthens India-US defense relations, improves operational coordination



- Which of the following sectors is India exploring for collaboration with Saudi Arabia as part of the Saudi-India Strategic Partnership Council?

- A) E-commerce
- B) Clean hydrogen
- C) Agriculture
- D) Space research
- E) Pharmaceuticals

Answer

B) Clean hydrogen



Event and Purpose

- **Meeting:** Second Ministerial Meeting of the Economy and Investment Committee under the Saudi-India Strategic Partnership Council (SPC)
- **Location:** Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- **Date:** October 30, 2024
- **Participants:**
 - **India:** Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal
 - **Saudi Arabia:** Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud



Key Areas of Collaboration Discussed

- **Emerging Sectors:** India and Saudi Arabia aim to collaborate in sectors such as:
 - Fintech
 - New Technologies
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Clean Hydrogen
 - Textiles
 - Mining
- **Investment Appeal:** At the Future Investment Initiative (FII) event, Minister Piyush Goyal encouraged global investors to consider high-growth sectors in India, including artificial intelligence, renewable energy, digital infrastructure, and advanced manufacturing.



Bilateral Trade Highlights

- **Trade Relations:** India is the second-largest trade partner for Saudi Arabia, while Saudi Arabia ranks as India's fourth-largest trading partner.
- **Trade Volume:** The bilateral trade between India and Saudi Arabia reached \$43 billion in 2023-24.
- **Investments:**
 - **Indian investments in Saudi Arabia:** Approximately \$2 billion by over 2,700 Indian companies.
 - **Saudi investments in India:** \$3.22 billion from April 2000 to June 2024.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Clean Hydrogen:** Hydrogen produced through renewable energy sources with minimal carbon emissions, considered crucial for a sustainable energy future.
- **Saudi-India Strategic Partnership Council (SPC):** Established to enhance cooperation and deepen economic ties across multiple sectors between India and Saudi Arabia.



Static GK Information:

- **Saudi Arabia**
 - **Capital:** Riyadh
 - **Currency:** Saudi Riyal
 - **Crown Prince:** Mohammed bin Salman
 - **Minister of Energy:** Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud
- **Future Investment Initiative (FII)**
 - **Founded:** 2017
 - **Location:** Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
 - **Purpose:** Annual event for global investors to explore investment opportunities, especially in emerging sectors



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Details
Meeting Name	Ministerial Meeting of the Economy and Investment Committee under SPC
Location	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Date	October 30, 2024
Indian Representative	Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal
Saudi Representative	Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud
Key Sectors for Collaboration	Fintech, new technologies, energy efficiency, clean hydrogen, textiles, and mining
Bilateral Trade	\$43 billion in 2023-24
Investment Highlights	\$2 billion Indian investments in Saudi Arabia; \$3.22 billion Saudi investments in India



➤ **Which zoological park in India is set to become the first to receive IGBC certification?**

- A) Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Tamil Nadu
- B) Nandankanan Zoological Park, Odisha
- C) Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park, Himachal Pradesh
- D) Kanpur Zoological Park, Uttar Pradesh
- E) Mysuru Zoo, Karnataka

Answer

**C) Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park,
Himachal Pradesh**



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Himachal Pradesh's Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park is set to become India's first zoo to achieve certification from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for its sustainable and eco-friendly features.
- **Location:** Bankhandi in the Dehra assembly constituency, Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Sustainability Focus:** The IGBC certification will validate the zoo's adherence to environmental standards, focusing on eco-friendly construction and landscape design.
- **Project Scope:** The first phase of the project covers 25 hectares, costing approximately Rs 230 crore and targeted for completion by Q3 2025. The total investment for the park is Rs 619 crore.
- **Ecotourism and Employment:** Aimed at making Kangra a premier tourist destination, this project will boost tourism, generate employment opportunities for local youth, and strengthen the local economy.



Key Features of Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park

- **Animal Enclosures:** With permission from the Central Zoo Authority (CZA), the park's first phase will establish 34 enclosures showcasing 73 species including Asiatic lions, monitor lizards, crocodiles, and more.
- **Notable Additions:** A nocturnal house for viewing elusive species and a wetland aviary featuring indigenous bird species in a natural environment.
- **Tourism Capital:** This project aligns with the state's vision to position Kangra district as the "Tourism Capital" of Himachal Pradesh through eco-tourism and sustainable development.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC):** An organization that promotes sustainable and eco-friendly building practices in India, offering certification based on compliance with green standards.
- **Central Zoo Authority (CZA):** A statutory body under India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, overseeing the functioning and approval of zoos.



Static GK Information:

- **Himachal Pradesh**
 - **Capital:** Shimla
 - **Chief Minister:** Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
 - **Governor:** Shiv Pratap Shukla
- **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)**
 - **Founded:** 2001
 - **Headquarters:** Hyderabad, Telangana
 - **Parent Organization:** Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Details
Zoo Name	Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park
Location	Bankhandi, Dehra assembly constituency, Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh
Certification	First Indian zoo to receive Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) certification
Project Cost	Rs 230 crore (Phase 1), Rs 619 crore (total)
Completion Timeline	Phase 1 by Q3 2025
Key Features	Nocturnal house, wetland aviary, 34 animal enclosures, eco-friendly infrastructure
Approval Authority	Central Zoo Authority (CZA)
Significance	Boost tourism, create employment, position Kangra as tourism capital of Himachal Pradesh



➤ **What innovative ingredient has CMFRI used to develop eco-friendly fish feed?**

- A) Earthworms
- B) Black soldier fly larvae
- C) Soybean meal
- D) Algae
- E) Spirulina



Answer

B) Black soldier fly larvae



Event and Development:

- **Organization:** ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)
- **Innovation:** CMFRI has developed an eco-friendly fish feed using black soldier fly (BSF) larvae meal.
- **Objective:** To make the aquaculture industry more sustainable by reducing reliance on traditional fishmeal, which often contributes to overfishing and faces price fluctuations.



Technology Transfer

- **Commercial Production:** The technology has been transferred to Amala Ecoclean, a start-up specializing in sustainable waste management and environmental solutions, for large-scale production.



Significance

- **Environmental Impact:** Black soldier fly larvae serve as an excellent, sustainable protein source, minimizing the need for fishmeal derived from wild fish.
- **Economic Benefit:** This alternative feed can help stabilize costs in the aquaculture industry by providing a cost-effective and reliable protein source.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Black Soldier Fly (BSF) Larvae:** Known for high protein content, BSF larvae are increasingly used in animal and fish feeds, as they can be cultivated on organic waste, contributing to waste reduction.
- **Fishmeal:** A common fish feed ingredient derived from processed fish; it is associated with environmental concerns due to overfishing.



Static GK Information:

- **ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)**
 - **Founded:** 1947
 - **Headquarters:** Kochi, Kerala
 - **Director:** Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan
- **Amala Ecoclean**
 - **Focus:** Sustainable waste management and environmental solutions



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Details
Innovation	Eco-friendly fish feed using black soldier fly (BSF) larvae
Developed by	ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)
Technology Transfer	Transferred to Amala Ecoclean for large-scale commercial production
Environmental Impact	Reduces dependency on fishmeal, alleviating overfishing concerns
Economic Impact	Provides a cost-effective protein source for aquaculture, reducing feed costs



➤ Under the newly launched scheme by Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu, how many free cooking gas cylinders will be provided per year?

- A) One
- B) Two
- C) Three
- D) Four
- E) Six

Answer
C) Three



Event and Scheme Launch

- **Scheme Name:** Deepam 2
- **Launched By:** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu
- **Launch Location:** Eedupuram, Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh
- **Benefit:** Three free LPG (cooking gas) cylinders per year for eligible households



Scheme Background

- **Promise by NDA Government:** This scheme is one of the Super Six promises made by the ruling NDA government to provide essential support to low-income households by reducing cooking fuel costs.
- **Objective:** To make cooking fuel accessible and affordable, reducing the economic burden on families and promoting cleaner fuel usage.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Deepam 2:** An extension of the original Deepam scheme, launched to provide free cooking gas cylinders to financially support households.
- **Super Six Promises:** A set of six welfare initiatives promised by the ruling NDA government in Andhra Pradesh, aiming to improve the standard of living for underprivileged communities.



Static GK Information:

- **Andhra Pradesh**
 - **Capital:** Amaravati
 - **Chief Minister:** N Chandrababu Naidu
 - **Governor:** S. Abdul Nazeer



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Details
Scheme Name	Deepam 2
Launched By	Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu
Location of Launch	Eedupuram, Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh
Benefit Provided	Three free LPG cylinders per year
Scheme Category	Part of Super Six promises by the NDA government



QUICK RECALL



- **IDEI 2024 focuses on Safety of Journalists in Crises and Emergencies.**
- **November 1 marks the Formation Day for Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Punjab, and Lakshadweep.**
- **Bibek Debroy, Chairman of EAC-PM and noted Sanskrit translator, passed away at age 69.**
- **IIFL Finance's gold loan portfolio grows by ₹2,000 crore after RBI lifts lending restrictions.**
- **UPI hit a record 16.58 billion transactions in October 2024, totaling ₹23.50 lakh crore.**
- **GST collection in October 2024 increased by 9%, totaling ₹1.87 lakh crore.**
- **Air Marshal Ajay Kumar Arora appointed as Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance, IAF.**
- **Praveena Rai appointed as CEO and MD of MCX, succeeding P S Reddy.**



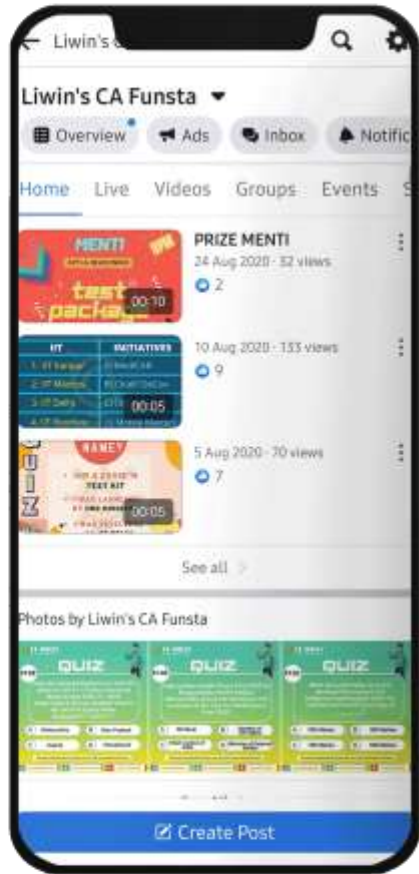
QUICK RECALL



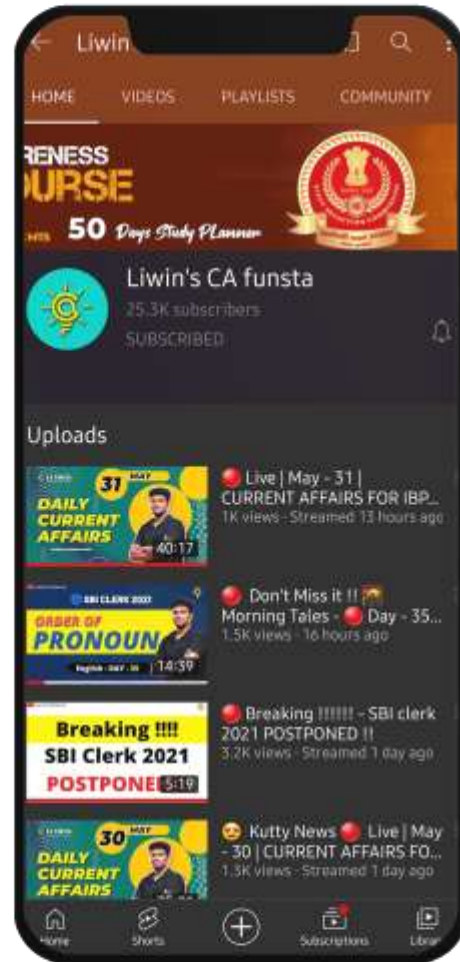
- **Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes to become Secretary General of the World Agriculture Forum.**
- **Rajesh Kumar Singh appointed as India's new Defence Secretary, succeeding Giridhar Aramane.**
- **Garud Shakti 24 aims to improve cooperation and interoperability between Indian and Indonesian special forces.**
- **Vajra Prahar 2024 focuses on interoperability between Indian and US Special Forces in joint operations.**
- **India and Saudi Arabia explore collaboration in fintech, clean hydrogen, and new technologies.**
- **Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park will be India's first IGBC-certified zoo, promoting eco-tourism in Himachal.**
- **CMFRI develops eco-friendly fish feed from black soldier fly larvae, reducing reliance on traditional fishmeal.**
- **Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu launches Deepam 2 scheme, providing three free LPG cylinders annually.**



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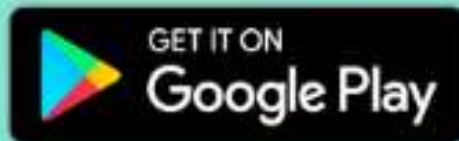
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