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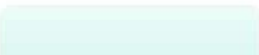


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Important Days



➤ **When is International Volunteer Day observed annually?**

- A) 5 January
- B) 12 December
- C) 5 December
- D) 15 November
- E) 10 October

Answer

C) 5 December



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** International Volunteer Day (IVD)
- **Date:** 5 December 2024
- **Global Participation:** Recognized and celebrated globally by volunteers and communities.



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandate:** Initiated by the **United Nations General Assembly** in 1985.
- **Objective:**
 - Recognize volunteer contributions to solving **social, economic, and environmental challenges**.
 - Promote the role of volunteerism in achieving **the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
 - Encourage inclusive participation at all levels for community-driven solutions.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**
 - Adopted in 2015 by the UN, they comprise 17 global goals aimed at ending poverty and ensuring global sustainability.
- **United Nations Volunteers (UNV):**
 - Supports global peace and development through volunteering efforts in collaboration with partners.



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)**
 - **Headquarters:** Bonn, Germany
 - **Founded:** 1970
- **United Nations**
 - **Founded:** 24 October 1945
 - **Headquarters:** New York City, USA
 - **Secretary-General:** António Guterres



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	International Volunteer Day (IVD)
Date	5 December 2024
Theme for 2024	Diverse Volunteers, Stronger Communities
Significance	Recognizes volunteerism's role in addressing global challenges and achieving SDGs.
Founded By	United Nations General Assembly
Launched Year	1985
Key Initiatives	Social media campaigns (#IVD2024), UN system partnerships, and community-driven actions.



Important Days

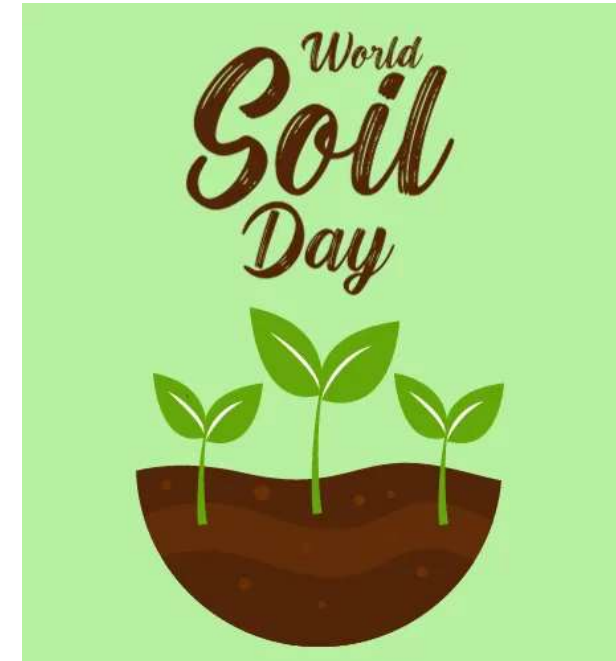


➤ **What is the theme of World Soil Day 2024?**

- A) Caring for Water Resources
- B) Measure, Monitor, and Conserve Soil
- C) Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage
- D) Sustainable Soil Practices for Climate
- E) Soils and Sustainable Development

Answer

C) Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** World Soil Day 2024
- **Date:** 5 December 2024
- **Global Significance:** Focused on advocating for sustainable soil management and soil health improvement.



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Theme for 2024:** Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage.
- **Objective:**
 - Raise awareness about the critical role of soil in food security and climate action.
 - Promote sustainable practices to improve soil health, biodiversity, fertility, and carbon sequestration.
 - Emphasize the need for accurate soil data to make informed decisions for sustainable soil management.



Important Days



Importance of Soils:

- **Food Security:**
 - Over 95% of food depends on soil.
 - Soils supply 15 of 18 essential nutrients needed for plant growth.
- **Challenges:**
 - Soil degradation caused by climate change and unsustainable human activities.
 - Issues such as erosion, reduced water infiltration, and lower nutritional value in food.
- **Sustainable Practices:**
 - **Minimum Tillage:** Reduces soil disturbance.
 - **Crop Rotation:** Maintains nutrient balance.
 - **Organic Matter Addition:** Enhances fertility.
 - **Cover Cropping:** Prevents erosion and preserves biodiversity.



Important Days



Background of World Soil Day:

- **Origin:**
 - Proposed by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) in 2002.
- **Adoption:**
 - Led by the Kingdom of Thailand with support from the FAO under the Global Soil Partnership.
 - Officially adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2013.
- **First Celebration:**
 - Observed on 5 December 2014 as the inaugural World Soil Day.



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**
 - **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy
 - **Founded:** 16 October 1945
 - **Director-General:** Qu Dongyu
- **Thailand**
 - **Capital:** Bangkok
 - **Currency:** Thai Baht
 - **Prime Minister:** Srettha Thavisin
 - **King:** Maha Vajiralongkorn



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	World Soil Day 2024
Date	5 December 2024
Theme	Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage
Significance	Advocates for sustainable soil management and raises awareness about soil health.
First Observed	5 December 2014
Proposed By	International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS)
Adopted By	UN General Assembly in 2013
Key Practices	Minimum tillage, crop rotation, organic matter addition, and cover cropping.



➤ **Who was the standout player for India in the Men's Junior Asia Cup 2024 final?**

- A) Sufyan Khan
- B) Dilraj Singh
- C) Araijeet Singh Hundal
- D) Hannan Shahid
- E) Harmanpreet Singh

Answer

C) Araijeet Singh Hundal



SPORTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Men's Junior Hockey Asia Cup 2024 Final
- **Date:** 4 December 2024
- **Location:** Muscat, Oman



Match Highlights:

- **Teams Involved:** India vs Pakistan
- **Result:** India defeated Pakistan 5-3 to win the title.
- **Indian Comeback:**
 - After trailing 1-3, India showcased resilience to equalize at 3-3.
 - Star player Araijeet Singh Hundal scored four goals, with Dilraj Singh contributing the fifth.
- **Pakistan's Performance:**
 - Goals by Sufyan Khan (2) and Hannan Shahid gave Pakistan an early lead.
 - Despite a spirited effort, Pakistan could not withstand India's counterattack.



Significance of the Victory:

- **Historic Achievement:**
 - This is India's fifth Men's Junior Asia Cup title, the most by any nation.
 - Further solidifies India's dominance in junior international hockey.
- **Key Player:**
 - Araijeet Singh Hundal's clinical finishing was pivotal in India's win.
- **Mental Toughness:**
 - The win demonstrated India's ability to overcome early setbacks with determination and teamwork.



Static GK Information:

- **India**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee (INR)
 - **President:** Droupadi Murmu
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi
- **Pakistan**
 - **Capital:** Islamabad
 - **Currency:** Pakistani Rupee
 - **President:** Arif Alvi
 - **Prime Minister:** Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar



SPORTS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Men's Junior Hockey Asia Cup 2024 Final
Date	4 December 2024
Venue	Muscat, Oman
Result	India defeated Pakistan 5-3
Indian Highlights	Arajeet Singh Hundal scored 4 goals; Dilraj Singh added the fifth.
Pakistan Highlights	Sufyan Khan (2) and Hannan Shahid scored for Pakistan.
Significance	India claimed their record-extending fifth Men's Junior Asia Cup title.



OBITUARY



➤ **Which Grand Slam singles titles did Neale Fraser win during his tennis career?**

- A) French Open and Australian Open
- B) Wimbledon and U.S. Open
- C) Australian Open and French Open
- D) U.S. Open and French Open
- E) Wimbledon and Australian Open



Answer

B) Wimbledon and U.S. Open



OBITUARY



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Passing of Neale Fraser, Australian tennis legend.
- **Date:** 4 December 2024.
- **Location:** Melbourne, Australia.



OBITUARY



Career Highlights of Neale Fraser:

- **Grand Slam Success:**
 - Won three Grand Slam singles titles, including Wimbledon in 1960 and the U.S. Open in 1959 and 1960.
 - Secured 11 Major men's doubles titles, with victories at least twice in all four Grand Slam tournaments.
- **Davis Cup Contributions:**
 - Helped Australia win four consecutive Davis Cup titles as a player.
 - Served as Davis Cup captain from 1970 to 1993, leading Australia to four additional Davis Cup victories.



OBITUARY



Career Highlights of Neale Fraser:

- **Legacy:**
 - World No. 1 and a key figure in the golden era of Australian tennis.
 - Known for his dedication to the sport and his pivotal role in mentoring Australian tennis talent.



OBITUARY



Tributes from the Tennis World:

- **Rod Laver:**
 - Remembered Fraser as a "true gem" of the sport.
 - Credited Fraser for his impact on the game and for inspiring Laver to elevate his own performance.
- **Tennis Australia Statement:**
 - Highlighted Fraser's legacy as an icon of Australian tennis and a cornerstone of its Davis Cup success.



OBITUARY



Static GK Information:

- **Australia**
 - **Capital:** Canberra
 - **Currency:** Australian Dollar (AUD)
 - **Prime Minister:** Anthony Albanese
 - **Governor-General:** David Hurley



OBITUARY



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Passing of Australian tennis legend Neale Fraser
Date	4 December 2024
Grand Slam Titles	Wimbledon (1960), U.S. Open (1959, 1960)
Doubles Achievements	Won 11 Major doubles titles across all four Grand Slam tournaments
Davis Cup Contributions	Won 4 Davis Cups as a player; led Australia to 4 Davis Cup victories as captain (1970–1993)
Legacy	Renowned as a World No. 1, a Grand Slam champion, and a Davis Cup icon
Tributes	Rod Laver and Tennis Australia paid homage to Fraser's enduring impact on tennis.



➤ **What is the primary aim of the \$50 million loan project signed between India and ADB for Meghalaya?**

- A) To build large dams across Meghalaya
- B) To promote urban development in Shillong
- C) To enhance water security through climate-adaptative water harvesting
- D) To set up power plants in the Khasi region
- E) To implement mass afforestation programs

Answer

C) To enhance water security through climate-adaptative water harvesting



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Signing of a \$50 million loan agreement between India and Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- **Location:** Meghalaya, India.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandate:**
 - Improve water security and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts.
 - Support the Meghalaya State Water Policy (MSWP) 2019 through sustainable and integrated water resource management.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:**
 - Construct 532 small water-storage facilities across 12 districts.
 - Develop 3,000 hectares of command area to ensure reliable irrigation for farmers.
 - Install 50 weather stations for climate data monitoring.
 - Pilot micro-hydropower systems in three water-harvesting systems (WHS).
 - Promote micro-irrigation systems in the Garo, Jaintia, and Khasi regions.



Significance of the Project:

- **Climate-Resilient Infrastructure:**
 - Capture and manage heavy rainfall and flash floods during monsoon.
 - Provide water security during the dry season to mitigate agricultural risks.
- **Village-Level Management:**
 - Develop a state-wide WHS master plan with village-level water security plans.
 - Enable local participation through village employment councils, watershed management committees, and water users' associations.



Significance of the Project:

- **Capacity Building:**
 - Strengthen the Meghalaya State Watershed and Wasteland Development Agency.
 - Train farmers, especially women, in horticulture and fishery techniques for enhanced livelihood productivity.



Static GK Information:

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB):**
 - **Headquarters:** Manila, Philippines
 - **Founded:** 1966
 - **President:** Masatsugu Asakawa
 - **Member Countries:** 68
- **Meghalaya:**
 - **Capital:** Shillong
 - **Chief Minister:** Conrad Sangma
 - **Governor:** Phagu Chauhan



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Signing of \$50 million loan for climate-adaptative water harvesting in Meghalaya
Partners	Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Project Goals	Improve water security, support irrigation, reduce vulnerability to climate impacts
Key Components	532 small water-storage facilities, 50 weather stations, 3,000 hectares of irrigated areas
Focus Regions	Garo, Jaintia, and Khasi regions
Capacity Building	Training for farmers, particularly women, in horticulture and fisheries
Alignment	Meghalaya State Water Policy 2019



➤ **What does RBI's approval allow Canara Bank to do in its AMC and insurance units?**

- A) Increase its stake in both companies
- B) Divest its stake through an Initial Public Offering (IPO)
- C) Merge the units with other banks
- D) Sell its stake to foreign investors directly
- E) Close operations of the units



Answer

B) Divest its stake through an Initial Public Offering (IPO)



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved Canara Bank's proposal for stake divestment.
- **Location:** India.



Details of the Approval:

- **Divestment Details:**
 - **Canara Robeco Asset Management Company Ltd:** 13% stake to be divested.
 - **Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Ltd:** 14.5% stake to be divested.
 - Divestment to be conducted through an Initial Public Offering (IPO).
- **Objective:**
 - Raise funds and unlock value for shareholders.
 - Enhance financial flexibility to focus on core banking operations.



Significance:

- Marks a strategic move to optimize Canara Bank's portfolio and attract potential investors.
- Supports broader financial goals aligned with market trends and regulatory guidance.
- Reflects RBI's approval for banking entities to pursue **asset monetization** initiatives.



Static GK Information:

- **Canara Bank**
 - **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka
 - **Founded:** 1906
 - **MD & CEO:** K. Satyanarayana Raju
 - **Tagline:** "Together We Can"
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Established:** 1 April 1935
 - **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	RBI approves Canara Bank's stake divestment in AMC and insurance units
Units Involved	Canara Robeco Asset Management Co. Ltd and Canara HSBC Life Insurance Co. Ltd
Stake Divestment	13% (AMC) and 14.5% (Insurance)
Mechanism	Initial Public Offering (IPO)
Purpose	Raise funds, unlock value, and focus on core banking operations
Regulatory Approval	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)



AWARDS



➤ **Which Indian organization received the ISSA Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific 2024?**

- A) Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)
- B) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- C) Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)
- D) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- E) Ministry of External Affairs

Answer

C) Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India received the ISSA Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific 2024.
- **Presented By:** Dr. Mohammed Azman, President of ISSA.
- **Location:** Regional Social Security Forum, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



AWARDS



Award Details:

- **Recipient:** Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO).
- **Achievements Recognized:**
 - Reformative and innovative efforts to align with **International Social Security Association (ISSA)** guidelines.
 - Adoption of good practices to enhance service quality and stakeholder engagement.



Key Initiatives Recognized:

1. Communication Channels:

- Adoption of ISSA Communication Guidelines with a comprehensive framework for stakeholder communication.
- Use of digital tools (webinars, SMS, social media) and outreach programs like Nidhi Aapke Nikat.

2. E-Proceedings:

- Transition to end-to-end online inquiry processes to ensure transparency and efficiency in determining dues.

3. Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0:

- Ensures last-mile service delivery by conducting monthly grievance resolution camps across India.



Key Initiatives Recognized:

4. Multilingual Call Centres:

- Provides information and grievance redressal in 12 major Indian languages to enhance accessibility and inclusivity.

5. Prayaas:

- Focuses on prioritizing pensioners by issuing Pension Payment Orders (PPO) on the day of retirement.



AWARDS



Special Mention:

- **Digital Life Certificate (Jeevan Pramaan Patra):**
 - Uses **Aadhaar-based biometric authentication** to ease the submission of life certificates for pensioners.



AWARDS



Static GK Information:

- **Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
 - **Founded:** 4 March 1952
 - **Ministry:** Ministry of Labour and Employment
 - **Current EPFO DG:** Ashok Kumar Singh
- **International Social Security Association (ISSA)**
 - **Founded:** 1927
 - **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
 - **President:** Dr. Mohammed Azman
- **Saudi Arabia**
 - **Capital:** Riyadh
 - **Currency:** Saudi Riyal
 - **Crown Prince:** Mohammed bin Salman



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	India honored with ISSA Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific 2024
Awarded To	Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)
Location	Regional Social Security Forum, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Recognized Practices	Communication Channels, E-Proceedings, Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0, Multilingual Call Centres, Prayaas
Special Mention	Digital Life Certificate (Jeevan Pramaan Patra)
Significance	Acknowledges EPFO's commitment to innovation, service quality, and stakeholder satisfaction.



➤ **What is the primary mission objective of ESA's PROBA-3 satellites launched by PSLV-C59?**

- A) To deploy communication satellites in low-Earth orbit
- B) To demonstrate precision formation flying in space
- C) To conduct asteroid impact experiments
- D) To observe lunar craters for future exploration
- E) To test next-generation crew modules



Answer

B) To demonstrate precision formation flying in space



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Successful launch of PSLV-C59 carrying ESA's PROBA-3 satellites.
- **Date:** 6 December 2024.
- **Location:** Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR), Sriharikota, India.



Mission Objectives:

- **Primary Goal:**
 - Demonstrate precision formation flying and proximity operations.
 - Prove European technologies for autonomous spacecraft maneuvers.
- **Specific Operations:**
 - The two satellites, Coronagraph Spacecraft (CSC) and Occulter Spacecraft (OSC), will fly in formation with a fixed separation of 150 meters.
 - Create artificial solar eclipses to enable continuous observation of the Sun's corona.
 - Serve as an orbital laboratory for validating control algorithms and metrology sensors.



Key Milestones of the Mission:

- **Satellite Launch Details:**
 - Satellites launched into a highly elliptical orbit (600 km perigee, 60,000 km apogee) with a 59-degree inclination.
 - 61st mission of PSLV and 26th using the PSLV-XL configuration.
- **Technological Achievements:**
 - The mission demonstrates positioning accuracy down to a single millimeter.
 - Collaborative effort among 14 ESA member states, including Canada.



Key Milestones of the Mission:

- **Collaborations and Future Goals:**
 - Complements ISRO's Aditya L1 solar mission, focusing on heliophysics.
 - Paves the way for ISRO's SPADEX mission, focusing on space docking and formation flying technologies.



Significance:

- Highlights **India's contribution to global space science** through international collaboration.
- Strengthens **PSLV's reputation** as a reliable launch vehicle for complex missions.
- Advances understanding of solar phenomena, benefiting both ESA and ISRO's solar research efforts.



Static GK Information:

- **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation):**
 - **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka
 - **Founded:** 1969
 - **Chairman:** S. Somanath
- **European Space Agency (ESA):**
 - **Headquarters:** Paris, France
 - **Founded:** 1975
 - **Director General:** Josef Aschbacher



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Launch of PSLV-C59 carrying ESA's PROBA-3 satellites
Date	6 December 2024
Launch Vehicle	PSLV-C59 (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle)
Mission Objectives	Precision formation flying, solar corona observation
Orbit Details	Highly elliptical orbit (600 km perigee, 60,000 km apogee)
Payload	ESA's PROBA-3 satellites: Coronagraph Spacecraft and Occulter Spacecraft
Collaboration	ISRO, New Space India Ltd (NSIL), and ESA
Future Missions	ISRO's SPADEX mission to test docking and formation flying technologies



➤ **What is the primary purpose of the \$1.17 billion MH-60R equipment sale to India?**

- A) To promote US-built civil aviation technologies
- B) To enhance India's anti-submarine warfare capabilities
- C) To replace the INS Vikrant's fleet operations
- D) To reduce India's defence budget expenditures
- E) To develop India's commercial maritime fleet



Answer

B) To enhance India's anti-submarine warfare capabilities



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Approval of a \$1.17 billion equipment sale for MH-60R Seahawk helicopters to India
- **Location:** Strengthening India's naval capabilities in **the Indian Ocean region**



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandate:** Approved under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program of the United States.
- **Objective:**
 - Enhance India's anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and maritime capabilities.
 - Bolster defence modernization aligned with India's growing naval needs in the Indo-Pacific.



Features of the Sale Package:

1. Advanced Communication Systems:

- 30 Multifunctional Information Distribution System-Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS-JTRS) for secure communications.

2. Sensors and Infrared Systems:

- AN/AAS-44C(V) forward-looking infrared systems for enhanced surveillance.

3. Additional Equipment:

- External fuel tanks, data transfer systems, and operator interfaces.

4. Support Services:

- Training, spare parts, and technical assistance.



Key Features of the MH-60R Seahawk Helicopters:

- **Multi-mission Naval Role:**
 - Designed for both anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface warfare.
- **Advanced Sensors:**
 - Multi-mode radar, dipping sonar, and sonobuoys for underwater threat detection.
- **Combat Readiness:**
 - Equipped with Hellfire missiles, torpedoes, and rockets for versatile operations.



Strategic and Geopolitical Significance:

- **India-US Strategic Partnership:**
 - Reflects deepening defence ties between the two nations.
 - Reinforces Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) and Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) frameworks.
- **Indo-Pacific Stability:**
 - Supports India's goal to secure and stabilize the Indian Ocean amidst growing regional tensions.



Static GK Information:

- **Lockheed Martin**
 - **Headquarters:** Bethesda, Maryland, USA
 - **Founded:** 1995
 - **CEO:** James D. Taiclet
- **United States**
 - **Capital:** Washington, D.C.
 - **Currency:** United States Dollar (USD)
 - **President:** Joe Biden
- **Indian Navy**
 - **Founded:** 26 January 1950
 - **Chief of Naval Staff:** Admiral R. Hari Kumar
 - **Motto:** "Sam No Varunah" (May the Lord of the Water be auspicious unto us)



DEFENCE



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Approval of \$1.17 billion equipment sale for MH-60R Seahawk helicopters to India
Approved By	United States, under Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program
Purpose	Enhance India's anti-submarine warfare and maritime capabilities
Key Features	Communication systems, advanced sensors, infrared systems, combat-ready weaponry
Strategic Importance	Bolsters Indo-Pacific maritime security and India's naval strength
Delivery Status	Nine MH-60Rs delivered, remaining 15 expected by late 2025
Principal Contractor	Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems



➤ **What is the primary function of the unmanned surface vessel (USV) 'Jaldoot'?**

- A) Underwater mining
- B) Survey and communication missions
- C) Missile deployment
- D) Passenger transportation
- E) Offshore oil drilling

Answer

B) Survey and communication missions



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Handover of the 'Jaldoot' USV by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) to DRDO's Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL).
- **Location:** Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandate:**
 - Jointly designed and developed by GRSE and NSTL (DRDO) with support from start-up Rekise Marine.
 - Delivered after successful acceptance trials conducted between October 17-21, 2024.
- **Objective:**
 - Survey and communication missions.
 - Supports various military and research applications.



Key Features of 'Jaldoot':

1. Compact and Efficient Design:

- Powered by a rechargeable lithium-ion battery.
- Supports advanced features like waypoint navigation and station-keeping.

2. Sensor Integration:

- **Can host multiple sensors, such as:**
 - Acoustic positioning systems for underwater vehicle tracking.
 - Side scan sonar for search and rescue (SAR) missions.
 - 1080p HD camera with night vision for surveillance.



Key Features of 'Jaldoot':

3. Failsafe Behaviours:

- Engineered with advanced safety protocols for operational reliability.

4. Collaboration:

- Developed in partnership with indigenous start-ups, showcasing India's Make in India initiative in defence technologies.



Significance of the Project:

- Demonstrates joint R&D efforts between PSUs like GRSE and DRDO's NSTL.
- Marks a step forward in indigenous unmanned maritime technology, critical for future warfare and coastal security.



Similar Innovations in the Sector:

1. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL):

- Developed a Zero Emission USV for hydrographic surveying and coastal surveillance.

2. Sagar Defence Engineering:

- Completed a 1,500-km voyage of an autonomous surface vessel from Mumbai to Thoothukudi with Indian Navy support.

3. Dronobotics:

- Developed Jalchar USV for disaster management, search and rescue, and scientific research.



Static GK Information:

- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**
 - **Headquarters:** Kolkata, West Bengal
 - **Founded:** 1884
 - **Chairman & Managing Director:** Commodore P R Hari
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**
 - **Abbreviation:** Defence Research and Development Organisation
 - **Founded:** 1958
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
 - **Chairman:** Samir V Kamat



DEFENCE



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Handover of unmanned surface vessel 'Jaldoot' to DRDO's NSTL
Developed By	Joint effort by GRSE, NSTL (DRDO), and Rekise Marine
Primary Function	Survey and communication missions
Key Features	Lithium-ion battery, night-vision HD camera, side scan sonar, acoustic positioning system
Trials	Successfully conducted from October 17-21, 2024
Collaborators	Rekise Marine, DRDO, GRSE
Sector Growth	Similar developments by Bharat Electronics, Sagar Defence, and Dronobotics



➤ **What is the primary objective of the India-Kuwait MoU on the Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC)?**

- A) To establish a trade-only agreement
- B) To enhance bilateral ties and monitor cooperation in key areas
- C) To facilitate student exchange programs exclusively
- D) To replace the Gulf Cooperation Council framework
- E) To focus solely on energy security



Answer

B) To enhance bilateral ties and monitor cooperation in key areas



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC).
- **Location:** India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandate:** Strengthen bilateral ties between India and Kuwait across diverse sectors.
- **Objectives of the JCC:**
 - Set up new Joint Working Groups in trade, investment, education, technology, agriculture, security, and culture.
 - Oversee existing working groups in hydrocarbons, health, and consular matters.
 - Review and monitor bilateral relations comprehensively.



Highlights of the Visit:

- **Abdullah Ali Al Yahya's Visit:**
 - First official visit of Abdullah Ali Al Yahya, Kuwait's Foreign Minister, to India.
 - Met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who lauded Kuwait's leadership for ensuring the welfare of Indian nationals.
- **Bilateral Talks:**
 - Reviewed ties in political, trade, investment, energy, food security, and people-to-people relations.
 - Discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest.



Significance of the MoU:

- Enhances cooperation across multiple sectors.
- Establishes a structured institutional mechanism to strengthen relations.
- Reinforces Kuwait's role as a valued partner in India's foreign relations.



Static GK Information:

- **India**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee (INR)
 - **President:** Droupadi Murmu
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi
- **Kuwait**
 - **Capital:** Kuwait City
 - **Currency:** Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD)
 - **Crown Prince:** Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah
 - **Prime Minister:** Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Signing of MoU to establish Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC)
Date	4 December 2024
Key Signatories	EAM S. Jaishankar (India) and Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al Yahya (Kuwait)
Primary Objective	Enhance and monitor cooperation across sectors like trade, energy, technology, and culture.
Significant Outcome	Creation of new Joint Working Groups; strengthening historical and people-centric ties.
Kuwait's Role	Recognized for leadership in the Gulf and support for Indian nationals in Kuwait.



➤ **What is the main objective of the Unified Legal Metrology Portal eMaap?**

- A) To regulate international trade policies
- B) To create awareness about global metrology standards
- C) To simplify compliance and enhance consumer protection
- D) To replace the Legal Metrology Act, 2009
- E) To monitor foreign exchange compliance



Answer

C) To simplify compliance and enhance consumer protection



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of the Unified Legal Metrology Portal, eMaap
- **Location:** Nationwide in India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandate:** Developed by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India.
- **Objectives:**
 - **Streamline Processes:** Integrates state-level legal metrology systems into a unified national platform.
 - **Ease of Doing Business:** Simplifies compliance procedures for industries and traders.
 - **Consumer Protection:** Ensures accuracy in weighing and measuring instruments to enhance consumer trust.
 - **Digital Transformation:** Supports India's move toward a digitized regulatory ecosystem.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Legal Metrology Act, 2009:**
 - Governs the standardization of weights and measures, ensuring accuracy in commercial transactions.
 - Protects consumer interests and promotes fair trade practices.
- **eMaap:**
 - A unified digital platform for legal metrology operations such as licensing, compliance, and enforcement.
 - Enhances transparency and efficiency by integrating processes across states.



Important Terms Explained:

- **FICCI, CII, PHDCCI, ASSOCHAM:**
 - Major Indian industry associations that provide inputs to improve the platform's functionality and user-friendliness.



Static GK Information:

- **Department of Consumer Affairs**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
 - **Minister:** Piyush Goyal
 - **Secretary:** Rohit Kumar Singh
- **Legal Metrology Act, 2009**
 - **Introduced:** 2009
 - **Purpose:** Regulation of weights and measures, ensuring fair trade and consumer protection.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Launch of the Unified Legal Metrology Portal eMaap
Developed By	Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India
Objective	Simplify compliance, enhance transparency, and improve consumer protection
Key Stakeholders	Industry associations (FICCI, CII, PHDCCI, ASSOCHAM), National Informatics Centre, State Bodies
Launch Framework	Discussed in meetings on August 30, 2024, and November 28, 2024
Key Benefits	Reduces compliance burdens, strengthens enforcement, and boosts consumer confidence
Act Supported	Legal Metrology Act, 2009



➤ **What is the purpose of the 'Anna Chakra' tool launched by Shri Pralhad Joshi?**

- A) To increase the price of essential commodities
- B) To optimize the Public Distribution System supply chain
- C) To establish new Fair Price Shops across India
- D) To distribute free food grains to all citizens
- E) To monitor agricultural subsidies directly



Answer

B) To optimize the Public Distribution System supply chain



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of 'Anna Chakra' and SCAN Portal.
- **Date:** 5 December 2024.
- **Location:** India, under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution.



Key Highlights:

1. Anna Chakra:

- A PDS Supply Chain Optimization Tool developed by the Department of Food and Public Distribution in collaboration with World Food Programme (WFP) and IIT-Delhi (FITT).
- Utilizes advanced algorithms for route optimization to streamline logistics for 81 crore beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act (NFSA).



Key Highlights:

1. Anna Chakra:

- **Benefits:**

- Estimated cost savings of ₹250 crores annually.
- Reduces fuel consumption, logistics costs, and transportation-related carbon emissions.
- Covers 4.37 lakh Fair Price Shops, 6,700 warehouses, and interstate supply routes.
- Integrated with PM Gati Shakti and Railways' FOIS portal for real-time logistics data.



Key Highlights:

2. SCAN Portal (Subsidy Claim Application for NFSA):

- A single-window system for subsidy claims under the NFSA.
- Facilitates automated processing of claims, scrutiny, and approvals for timely settlement.
- Aims to ensure efficient and transparent handling of food subsidies for states.



Significance:

- Modernizes **the Public Distribution System (PDS)** by leveraging technology.
- Enhances **efficiency**, reduces costs, and ensures timely delivery of food grains.
- Strengthens India's **food security network**, the largest in the world.



Static GK Information:

- **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
 - **Minister:** Shri Pralhad Joshi
- **World Food Programme (WFP):**
 - **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy
 - **Established:** 1961
 - **Executive Director:** Cindy McCain
- **PM Gati Shakti Platform:**
 - **Launched:** 2021
 - **Aim:** Infrastructure integration for improved logistics and supply chain management.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Launch of 'Anna Chakra' and SCAN Portal
Objective of Anna Chakra	Optimize PDS logistics and improve efficiency, saving ₹250 crores annually
SCAN Portal Objective	Streamline subsidy claims under NFSA through end-to-end automation
Key Stakeholders	Department of Food and Public Distribution, WFP, IIT-Delhi (FITT)
Integration Platforms	PM Gati Shakti and Railways' FOIS portal
Environmental Impact	Reduces carbon footprint by minimizing transportation-related emissions



➤ **What is the primary goal of the renewed MoU between MEA and the Department of Posts?**

- A) To establish private passport offices in rural areas
- B) To enhance accessibility of passport services via POPSKs
- C) To introduce digital passports across India
- D) To privatize the passport issuance process
- E) To reduce the number of Passport Seva Kendras



Answer

B) To enhance accessibility of passport services via POPSKs



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Renewal of a five-year MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Department of Posts.
- **Date:** 5 December 2024.
- **Location:** Nationwide India.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandate:** Extend passport services through **Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs)** for wider accessibility, particularly in rural and underserved regions.
- **Objective:**
 - Strengthen collaboration to ensure **world-class passport services** across India.
 - Expand POPSK network to **600 centres by 2028-29**, up from 442 operational centres currently.
 - Serve **1 crore citizens annually** by 2028-29, compared to 35 lakh citizens currently served.



Key Achievements and Features of POPSK:

1. Significant Milestones:

- Launched in 2017.
- Provided passport services to over 1.52 crore citizens, particularly benefiting rural areas.

2. Enhanced Citizen Experience:

- Provides accessible, reliable, and convenient passport-related services.
- Aims to streamline operations to meet increasing demand.

3. Future Expansion Plans:

- **Target:** 600 POPSKs operational by 2028-29.
- Annual capacity expansion from 35 lakh to 1 crore citizens.



Significance:

- Facilitates passport services **in rural and remote areas**, reducing the need for citizens to travel long distances.
- Strengthens India's postal network, ensuring a seamless and efficient passport issuance process.
- Reflects a **collaborative governance model** between MEA and the Department of Posts.



Static GK Information:

- **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
 - **Minister:** Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
- **Department of Posts**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
 - **Founded:** 1854
 - **Secretary (Postal Services):** Vineet Pandey



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Renewal of MoU for POPSK Service Enhancement
Signatories	Ms. Manisha Bansal Badal (Department of Posts), Dr. K.J. Srinivasa (MEA)
Objective	Expand POPSK network to ensure wider accessibility to passport services
Key Milestones	1.52 crore citizens served since 2017; current network of 442 POPSKs
Future Target	Expand POPSKs to 600 centres, serving 1 crore citizens annually by 2028-29
Significance	Benefits rural and underserved areas; enhances citizen convenience and accessibility



➤ **What is the primary objective of the BharatNet Last Mile Connectivity project in Tamil Nadu?**

- A) To provide free internet access to urban areas
- B) To connect rural households with high-speed internet
- C) To establish satellite communication systems in schools
- D) To increase mobile network coverage in cities
- E) To replace all local cable operators



Answer

B) To connect rural households with high-speed internet



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Tejas Networks selected as the broadband equipment supplier for the Tamil Nadu BharatNet Last Mile Connectivity (LMC) project.
- **Location:** Tamil Nadu, India.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandate:** Implemented under the Tamil Nadu Fibernet Corporation (TANFINET) with Polycab India Limited as the Master System Integrator.
- **Objective:**
 - Enable Fiber to the Home (FTTH) services in rural Tamil Nadu.
 - Extend high-speed broadband connectivity to approximately 50,000 government institutions, public health centers, and schools.
 - Partner with local cable operators and telecom service providers to improve digital access.



Significance of the Project:

- Supports the Government of India's **Digital India Mission** by bridging the digital divide in rural areas.
- Facilitates access to high-speed internet for education, healthcare, and e-governance in rural communities.
- Boosts economic and social development through improved connectivity in underserved areas.



Static GK Information:

- **Tamil Nadu**
 - **Capital:** Chennai
 - **Chief Minister:** M.K. Stalin
 - **Governor:** R.N. Ravi
- **Tejas Networks**
 - **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka
 - **Founded:** 2000
 - **Chairman:** Sanjay Nayak



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Tejas Networks wins BharatNet Last Mile Connectivity project in Tamil Nadu
Implemented By	TANFINET with Polycab India Limited as Master System Integrator
Key Objective	Provide FTTH services in rural Tamil Nadu via BharatNet
Scope of Connectivity	High-speed internet to 50,000 government institutions, schools, and public health centers
Significance	Strengthens rural internet infrastructure to support education, healthcare, and governance



➤ **What is the key advantage of IFFCO's nano-NPK fertiliser for farmers?**

- A) Reduced dependency on traditional fertilisers
- B) Increase in labour costs
- C) Higher demand for DAP and urea
- D) Promotes inorganic farming techniques
- E) Reduces the need for irrigation

Answer

A) Reduced dependency on traditional fertilisers



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of nano-NPK fertiliser by IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited).
- **Location:** Production at IFFCO's Kandla plant, Gujarat.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandate:**
 - Use nanotechnology to create advanced, eco-friendly fertiliser options.
- **Objective:**
 - Provide farmers with an alternative to traditional fertilisers like urea and DAP.
 - Reduce costs, enhance soil health, and improve crop yields.



Significance of Nano-NPK Fertiliser:

1. Benefits to Farmers:

- Promises significant cost savings by reducing dependency on traditional fertilisers.
- Improves soil health through precision nutrient delivery.
- Enhances crop yield and quality.

2. Innovative Technology:

- Follows the success of nano-urea and nano-DAP.
- Uses nanotechnology for efficient nutrient uptake by plants.

3. Launch Timeline:

- Pending government approval, IFFCO plans a commercial launch by the Kharif season.



Static GK Information:

- **IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited)**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
 - **Founded:** 1967
 - **MD & CEO:** U.S. Awasthi



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Launch of IFFCO's nano-NPK fertiliser
Developed By	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)
Technology Used	Nanotechnology
Benefits	Reduces dependency on traditional fertilisers, enhances soil health, and improves crop yields
Production Plant	Kandla, Gujarat
Launch Timeline	Planned for Kharif season pending government approval



➤ **What is the primary objective of the MoU signed between GHAL and Young India Skill University?**

- A) To build a new airport in Telangana
- B) To enhance aviation skill development for Telangana's youth
- C) To provide scholarships for engineering students
- D) To introduce commercial aviation services in rural areas
- E) To establish an aviation university in Hyderabad



Answer

B) To enhance aviation skill development for Telangana's youth



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) and Young India Skill University.
- **Location:** Hyderabad, Telangana.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandate:** Collaborate to enhance aviation-related skills for the youth of Telangana.
- **Objective:**
 - Provide training programs and certifications in aviation.
 - Equip students with skills needed for employment in the aviation and airport management sectors.



Significance of the MoU:

- Addresses the demand for skilled professionals in the growing aviation sector.
- Contributes to Telangana's economic development by creating job opportunities for its youth.
- Strengthens public-private collaboration in skill development initiatives.



Static GK Information:

- **GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL)**
 - **Headquarters:** Hyderabad, Telangana
 - **CEO:** Pradeep Panicker
- **Telangana**
 - **Capital:** Hyderabad
 - **Chief Minister:** K. Chandrashekar Rao
 - **Governor:** Tamilisai Soundararajan



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Signing of MoU between GHIAL and Young India Skill University
Objective	Enhance aviation skill development for youth in Telangana
Location	Hyderabad, Telangana
Significance	Addresses demand for skilled aviation professionals
Stakeholders	GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL), Young India Skill University



QUICK RECALL



- **International Volunteer Day (IVD) is observed on 5 December annually.**
- **World Soil Day 2024 focuses on sustainable soil management under the theme Measure, Monitor, Manage.**
- **India defeated Pakistan 5-3 to win their fifth Men's Junior Hockey Asia Cup title.**
- **Neale Fraser, a legendary Australian tennis player, passes away at 91.**
- **India and ADB signed a \$50 million loan for water harvesting in Meghalaya.**
- **RBI approves Canara Bank's stake divestment in AMC and insurance units via IPO.**
- **EPFO wins ISSA Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific 2024 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.**
- **PSLV-C59 successfully launches ESA's PROBA-3 satellites into a highly elliptical orbit.**



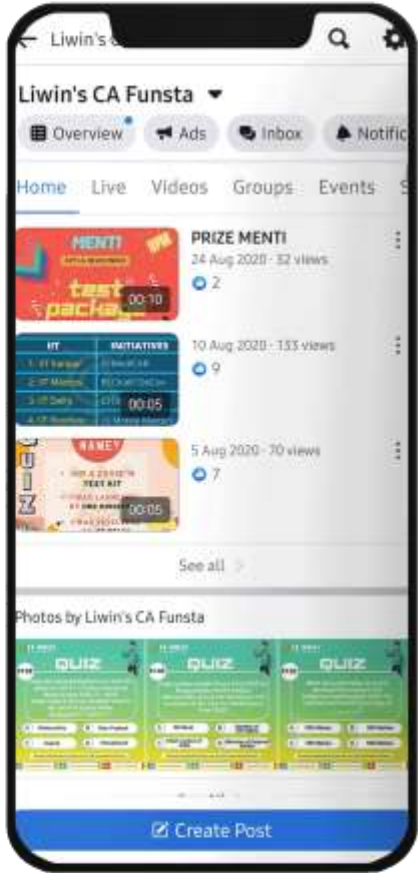
QUICK RECALL



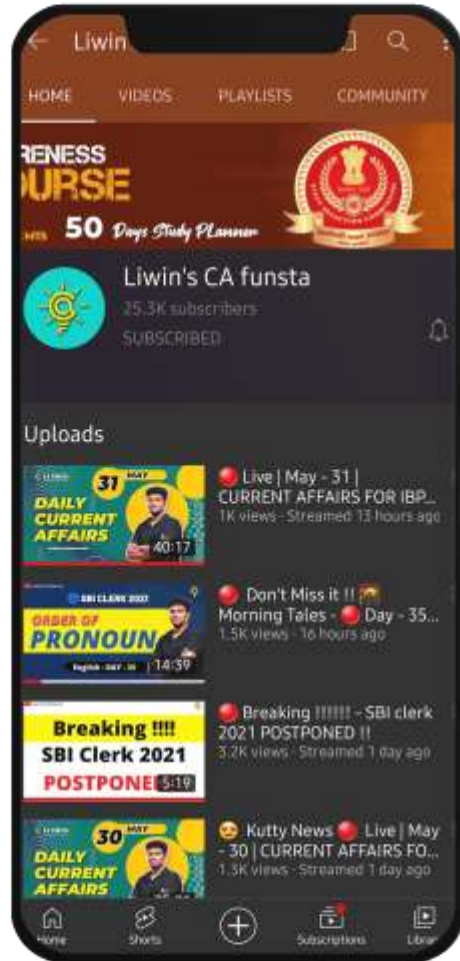
- **US approves \$1.17 billion equipment sale for India's MH-60R Seahawk helicopters.**
- **GRSE hands over unmanned surface vessel 'Jaldoot' to DRDO's NSTL for survey missions.**
- **India and Kuwait signed an MoU to establish a Joint Commission for Cooperation.**
- **Government launches eMaap, a unified legal metrology portal for compliance and consumer protection.**
- **Shri Pralhad Joshi launched 'Anna Chakra' and SCAN Portal for PDS modernization.**
- **MEA and Department of Posts renew MoU to enhance Post Office Passport Seva Kendras.**
- **Tejas Networks to supply broadband equipment for BharatNet in Tamil Nadu.**
- **IFFCO unveils nano-NPK fertiliser after nano-urea and nano-DAP successes.**
- **GHIAL collaborates with Young India Skill University for aviation skill development in Telangana.**



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