



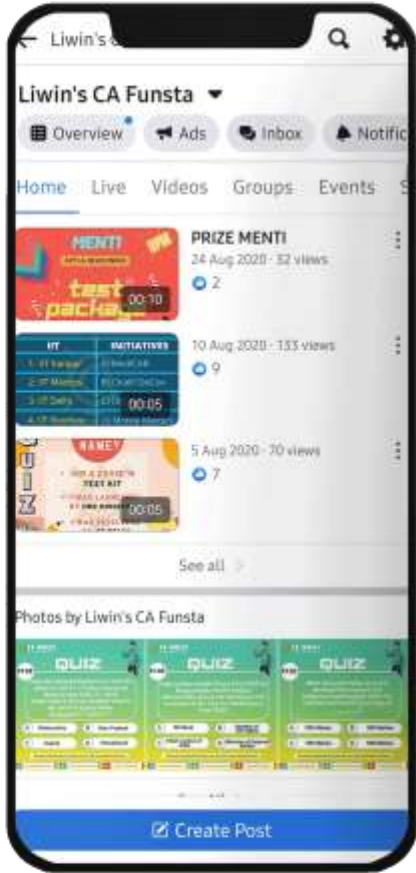
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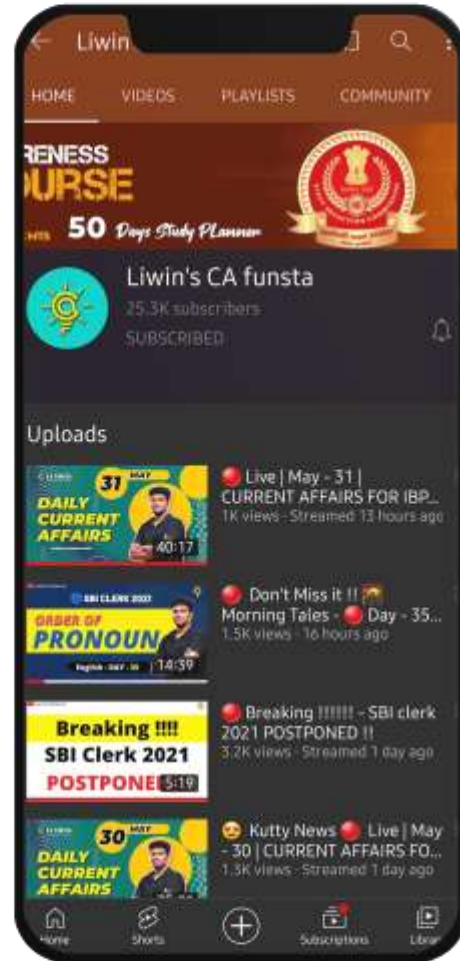
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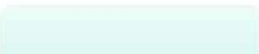


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Important Days



- **What is the main focus of National Farmers' Day, celebrated on December 23?**
- A) Promoting urban development and food security policies.
 - B) Honoring Chaudhary Charan Singh and recognizing farmers' contributions to the economy.
 - C) Celebrating advances in technology for industrial growth.
 - D) Highlighting the global importance of Indian exports.
 - E) Introducing subsidies for industrial development.



Answer

B) Honoring Chaudhary Charan Singh and recognizing farmers' contributions to the economy.



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** National Farmers' Day, or Kisan Diwas.
- **Location:** India.
- **Date of Observation:** December 23, 2024.



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Historical Context:**
 - Observed annually to honor Chaudhary Charan Singh, India's fifth Prime Minister (1979–1980).
 - Recognized for his contributions to farmer welfare, land reforms, and rural development.
- **Significance:**
 - Highlights the role of farmers as 'Annadatas' (providers of food).
 - Recognizes their contributions to India's economy, rural development, and food security.
 - Focuses on addressing farmers' challenges such as fair pricing, climate resilience, and access to modern technology.



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **2024 Theme:**
 - “Empowering ‘Annadatas’ for a Prosperous Nation”.
 - Emphasizes improving farmers’ livelihoods and enhancing agricultural productivity.
- **Government Initiatives:**
 - Promotes awareness about schemes like PM-KISAN, PMFBY, and Digital Agriculture Mission.
 - Encourages adoption of sustainable farming practices and technology-driven innovations.



Important Days



Key Government Initiatives:

- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN):** Direct income support to farmers.
- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):** Crop insurance for risk mitigation.
- **Digital Agriculture Mission:** Supporting digital innovations in agriculture.



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **India:**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee (INR)
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi
- **Chaudhary Charan Singh:**
 - **Tenure as PM:** 28 July 1979 – 14 January 1980.
 - Known as **the Champion of Farmers' Rights for advocating rural and agrarian reforms.**



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas)
Location	India
Date	December 23, 2024
Historical Context	Commemorates the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, India's fifth Prime Minister
2024 Theme	"Empowering 'Annadatas' for a Prosperous Nation"
Significance	Honors farmers' contributions to India's economy, rural development, and food security
Government Role	Awareness of schemes like PM-KISAN and promotion of sustainable farming practices
Celebrations	Discussions, showcasing innovations, and promoting agricultural productivity



➤ **Who scored the third-fastest century in List A cricket history, achieving the feat in just 35 balls?**

- A) AB de Villiers
- B) Jake Fraser-McGurk
- C) Anmolpreet Singh
- D) Corey Anderson
- E) Prabhsimran Singh

Answer

C) Anmolpreet Singh



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Anmolpreet Singh scored the third-fastest List A century.
- **Location:** Vijay Hazare Trophy match, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- **Date of Achievement:** December 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Historic Century:**
 - Scored a century in just 35 balls, the third-fastest in List A cricket history.
 - Achieved against Arunachal Pradesh in the Vijay Hazare Trophy.
 - Included 11 fours and 8 sixes, with a standout over yielding 31 runs.
- **Match Impact:**
 - Helped Punjab chase a target of 164 runs in just 12.5 overs.
 - Finished with 115 runs off 45 balls, adding one more four and six after the century.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Record Context:**
 - **Jake Fraser-McGurk:** Fastest List A century (29 balls) for South Australia in 2023.
 - **AB de Villiers:** Second-fastest List A century (31 balls) against West Indies in 2015.
 - **Corey Anderson:** Previously held the record (36 balls) for New Zealand in 2014.



Career Snapshot:

- Played in the IPL for Mumbai Indians (MI) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH).
- Despite his domestic achievements, he went unsold in the latest IPL auction.



Static GK Information:

- **Vijay Hazare Trophy:**
 - **Format:** One-Day (50-over) domestic tournament.
 - **Organized By:** Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
 - **Named After:** Vijay Hazare, one of India's cricket legends.



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Anmolpreet Singh scored the third-fastest List A century
Location	Ahmedabad, Gujarat, during Vijay Hazare Trophy
Achievement	Century in 35 balls, third-fastest in List A cricket
Record Holders Above Him	Jake Fraser-McGurk (29 balls), AB de Villiers (31 balls)
Final Score	115 runs off 45 balls, including 11 fours and 9 sixes
Match Result	Punjab defeated Arunachal Pradesh by 9 wickets in 12.5 overs
IPL Career	Played for Mumbai Indians and Sunrisers Hyderabad
List A Context	List A includes domestic and international 50-over matches



➤ **What is the significance of India hosting the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025?**

- A) It is the first international shooting event hosted by India.
- B) It is the first ISSF Junior World Cup hosted in India.
- C) India will compete in shooting sports for the first time.
- D) It marks the 20th ISSF event hosted by India in the last decade.
- E) It introduces a new category of air rifle events.



Answer

B) It is the first ISSF Junior World Cup hosted in India.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India will host the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025 in Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun events.
- **Location:** India.
- **Announcement Date:** December 20, 2024.
- **Event Year:** 2025.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Significance of Hosting:**
 - Marks India's first ISSF Junior World Cup, highlighting its rising stature in global shooting sports.
 - Becomes the ninth ISSF event hosted by India in the last decade, reinforcing India as a premier destination for shooting competitions.
 - Showcases India's world-class infrastructure and commitment to promoting shooting sports.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Support and Acknowledgments:**
 - Organized by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) with support from the Government of India and Ministry of Sports.
 - Praised by ISSF President Luciano Rossi for India's contributions to international shooting sports.
- **Upcoming Events in 2025:**
 - First-ever Shooting League of India (SLI) to be held in the first half of the year.
 - Regular national competitions and National Championships.



Historical Context:

- Previous ISSF Events Hosted by India:
 - **Senior ISSF World Cup (Bhopal, 2023).**
 - **ISSF World Cup Final (2024).**
 - Six other ISSF top-level shooting events in the last decade.



Static GK Information:

- **National Rifle Association of India (NRAI):**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - **Founded:** 1951
 - **President:** Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo
- **ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation):**
 - **Headquarters:** Munich, Germany
 - **Founded:** 1907
 - **President:** Luciano Rossi



SPORTS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	ISSF Junior World Cup 2025 in Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun Events
Location	India
Significance	First ISSF Junior World Cup hosted in India; Ninth ISSF event in a decade
Organizing Body	National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)
Supporting Bodies	Government of India and Ministry of Sports
Historical Context	Senior ISSF World Cup (Bhopal, 2023); ISSF World Cup Final (2024)
Future Plans	First-ever Shooting League of India (SLI), National Championships
Global Impact	Reinforces India's position as a hub for international shooting events



➤ **Why has the Indian government infused ₹500 crore into IFCI in December 2024?**

- A) To support infrastructure development projects.
- B) To stabilize its financial health and prepare for restructuring.
- C) To launch new industrial financing schemes.
- D) To repay international debts.
- E) To divest its stake in the organization.



Answer

B) To stabilize its financial health and prepare for restructuring.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Indian government infused ₹500 crore into IFCI.
- **Location:** India.
- **Date of Approval:** December 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Financial Stability:**
 - Infusion aims to stabilize IFCI, which reported significant losses in FY24: ₹22 crore in Q2 and ₹170 crore in the first half of the fiscal year.
 - Part of the government's broader effort to strengthen the financial institution.
- **Restructuring Strategy:**
 - Consolidation of IFCI group companies, including Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd and IFCI Factors Ltd.
 - Objective is to create a unified, stronger entity to better serve India's industrial and infrastructure needs.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Stake Increase:**
 - Current government stake at 71.72% (as of September 2024). Infusion expected to increase this stake further.
- **Capital Allocation:**
 - Approved under the Supplementary Demand for Grants 2024-25 in the Lok Sabha.
 - Funded through savings in the capital section, ensuring no additional cash outflow.



Important Terms Explained:

- **IFCI (Industrial Finance Corporation of India):**
 - Established in 1948 as India's first Development Financial Institution to finance critical projects.
 - Transitioned from a statutory corporation (1948) to a company (1993) under the Companies Act.
 - Became a public sector company in 2015 with government ownership exceeding 51%.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Supplementary Demand for Grants:**
 - A process in the Indian Parliament allowing additional funds to be allocated beyond the annual budget.
- **Restructuring Plan:**
 - Consolidation of IFCI group companies for better financial performance and operational efficiency.



Static GK Information:

- **India:**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee (INR)
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi
- **IFCI:**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - **Founded:** July 1, 1948
 - **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD):**
Manish Kumar Gupta



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Indian government infuses ₹500 crore into IFCI
Location	India
Date	December 2024
Government Stake	71.72% as of September 2024; infusion likely to increase stake further
Objective	Stabilize IFCI's financial health and support its restructuring
Reported Losses	₹22 crore in Q2 FY24; ₹170 crore in first half of FY24
Restructuring Plan	Consolidation of group companies like Stock Holding Corporation of India and IFCI Factors Ltd
Year Established	1948 as India's first Development Financial Institution
Recent Fundraising	₹500 crore raised through equity shares earlier in FY24



➤ **What is the primary objective of the GST Council's newly approved "Track and Trace Mechanism"?**

- A) To simplify GST return filing for taxpayers.
- B) To monitor goods throughout the supply chain and reduce tax evasion.
- C) To promote cashless transactions among businesses.
- D) To streamline GST rates for essential commodities.
- E) To provide funding for accident victims through GST exemptions.



Answer

B) To monitor goods throughout the supply chain and reduce tax evasion.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** GST Council approves Track and Trace Mechanism and other updates.
- **Location:** India.
- **Date of Announcement:** December 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Track and Trace Mechanism:**
 - Introduces unique identification marks for goods.
 - Enhances accountability and reduces tax evasion by monitoring goods through the supply chain.
- **Tax Rate Adjustments:**
 - GST on fortified rice kernels (FRK) reduced from 18% to 5% to make them more accessible.
 - Gene therapy is now exempt from GST.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Exemptions for Imports and Supplies:**
 - GST exemptions for IAEA-related equipment to support nuclear safety initiatives.
 - Compensation cess reduced to 0.1% for merchant exporters, lowering their tax burden.
 - Contributions to the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund by general insurers are GST-exempt.
- **Clarifications on Goods and Services:**
 - Transactions involving vouchers no longer attract GST as they are not classified as goods or services.
 - Definition of pre-packaged and labeled goods clarified to include items up to 25 kg or 25 litres.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Financial Sector Adjustments:**
 - No GST on penal charges for loan non-compliance collected by banks or financial institutions.
 - Pre-deposit requirements for appealing penalty-related orders have been reduced.



Static GK Information:

- **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council:**
 - **Chairperson:** Union Finance Minister (Currently Nirmala Sitharaman).
 - **Established:** 2016 under Article 279A of the Constitution.
 - **Objective:** Make recommendations on GST-related matters.
- **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):**
 - **Headquarters:** Vienna, Austria
 - **Founded:** 1957
 - **Director General:** Rafael Mariano Grossi



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	GST Council approves Track and Trace Mechanism and other updates
Date	December 2024
Track and Trace Mechanism	Introduces unique IDs for goods to monitor supply chains and curb tax evasion
Tax Rate Adjustments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- GST on FRK reduced to 5%- Gene therapy GST-exempt
Exemptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- GST exemptions for IAEA imports- Contributions to Motor Vehicle Accident Fund GST-exempt
Clarifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Vouchers not classified as goods or services- Definition of pre-packaged goods clarified
Significance	Simplifies GST compliance, reduces tax evasion, and supports essential goods and services



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the United Nations Internal Justice Council (IJC)?**

- A) Justice Dipak Misra
- B) Justice Madan Lokur
- C) Justice Ranjan Gogoi
- D) Justice Indira Banerjee
- E) Justice S. Ravindra Bhat



Answer

B) Justice Madan Lokur



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Appointment of Justice Madan Lokur as Chairperson of the UN Internal Justice Council.
- **Location:** United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA.
- **Date of Appointment:** December 19, 2024.



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Role of the IJC:**
 - Advises the UN on its internal justice system.
 - Ensures impartiality, professionalism, and independence within the UN's internal legal framework.
- **Significance of the Appointment:**
 - Recognizes Justice Lokur's judicial expertise and global legal stature.
 - Strengthens India's representation in international legal governance.
- **Term of Appointment:**
 - Justice Lokur will serve until November 12, 2028.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **UN Internal Justice Council (IJC):**
 - A five-member advisory body.
 - Focuses on overseeing the UN's internal justice system and ensuring its independence.
- **Justice Madan Lokur:**
 - Former Supreme Court Judge of India.
 - Known for rulings on social justice, environmental protection, and human rights.
- **Significance for India:**
 - Highlights the growing global recognition of Indian jurists.
 - Reflects India's contribution to international governance and legal frameworks.



APPOINTMENTS



Static GK Information:

- **India:**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee (INR)
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi
- **United Nations:**
 - **Founded:** 24 October 1945
 - **Headquarters:** New York, USA
 - **Secretary-General:** António Guterres



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Justice Madan Lokur Appointed Chairperson of UN Internal Justice Council
Location	United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA
Date of Appointment	December 19, 2024
Role	Chairperson of the UN Internal Justice Council
Other Members	Carmen Artigas (Uruguay), Rosalie Balkin (Australia), Stefan Brezina (Austria), Jay Pozenal (USA)
Term	Till November 12, 2028
Significance	Highlights Justice Lokur's judicial expertise and strengthens India's global legal representation



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as Senior Policy Advisor for AI by US President-elect Donald Trump?**

- A) Elon Musk
- B) Sriram Krishnan
- C) Sundar Pichai
- D) David Sacks
- E) Satya Nadella

Answer

B) Sriram Krishnan



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Appointment of Sriram Krishnan as Senior Policy Advisor for AI.
- **Location:** White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Washington, D.C., USA.
- **Date of Announcement:** December 23, 2024.



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Role and Responsibilities:**
 - Shape and coordinate AI policy across the US government.
 - Ensure America's leadership in AI innovation.
 - Collaborate with the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.
- **Key Collaborator:**
 - Work closely with David Sacks, the White House AI & Crypto Czar.
- **Significance of the Appointment:**
 - Highlights America's focus on dominating the AI space globally.
 - Recognizes the importance of experienced leaders in emerging technologies.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **AI Policy Advisor Role:**
 - Strategic position to develop national AI policies and coordinate intergovernmental AI initiatives.
- **David Sacks:**
 - A prominent entrepreneur and venture capitalist tasked with leading AI and cryptocurrency efforts for the White House.
- **Andreessen Horowitz (a16z):**
 - A leading venture capital firm where Sriram Krishnan has been a general partner since 2021.



APPOINTMENTS



Static GK Information:

- **United States of America:**
 - **Capital:** Washington, D.C.
 - **Currency:** United States Dollar (USD)
 - **President (Elect):** Donald Trump
 - **Vice President (Elect):** TBD
- **Andreessen Horowitz:**
 - **Headquarters:** Menlo Park, California, USA
 - **Founded:** 2009
 - **Founders:** Marc Andreessen, Ben Horowitz



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Sriram Krishnan Appointed Senior Policy Advisor for AI
Location	White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Washington, D.C., USA
Date of Announcement	December 23, 2024
Role	Senior Policy Advisor for AI
Collaborator	David Sacks, White House AI & Crypto Czar
Career Start	Began at Microsoft, contributing to Windows Azure
Notable Highlights	- Worked at Facebook, Snap, and Twitter - General Partner at a16z since 2021
Community Recognition	Widely celebrated by Indian-American community for expertise in AI and public policy



AWARDS



➤ **What is the significance of the Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer awarded to PM Narendra Modi?**

- A) It recognizes PM Modi's contribution to India's economic policies.
- B) It is Kuwait's highest civilian honor, symbolizing strong India-Kuwait ties.
- C) It is an award for excellence in environmental sustainability.
- D) It is a cultural honor for promoting Indian art in Kuwait.
- E) It acknowledges PM Modi's work in technological innovation.



Answer

B) It is Kuwait's highest civilian honor, symbolizing strong India-Kuwait ties.



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** PM Narendra Modi conferred Kuwait's highest civilian honor, Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer.
- **Location:** Bayan Palace, Kuwait.
- **Date of Award Ceremony:** December 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **About the Award:**
 - Kuwait's highest knighthood order.
 - Conferred upon Heads of State, foreign dignitaries, and members of royal families.
 - Past recipients include Bill Clinton, Prince Charles, and George Bush.
- **Purpose of PM Modi's Visit:**
 - Strengthen India-Kuwait bilateral relations.
 - Focus on trade, energy cooperation, labour welfare, and engaging with the Indian diaspora.
 - Held discussions with Kuwait's leadership, including the Amir, Crown Prince, and Prime Minister.



AWARDS



Static GK Information:

- **Kuwait:**
 - **Capital:** Kuwait City
 - **Currency:** Kuwaiti Dinar
 - **Prime Minister:** Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al Sabah
 - **Monarch:** Emir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah
- **India:**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee (INR)
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	PM Modi conferred Kuwait's highest civilian honor, Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer
Location	Bayan Palace, Kuwait
Award Significance	Highlights strong India-Kuwait ties and PM Modi's contributions to global diplomacy
Type of Award	Kuwait's highest knighthood, given to Heads of State and foreign dignitaries
Previous Recipients	Bill Clinton, Prince Charles, George Bush
Purpose of Visit	Strengthen bilateral ties in trade, energy, labour welfare, and diaspora engagement
PM Modi's Recent Awards	The Order of Excellence (Guyana), Dominica Award of Honour (Dominica)
PM Modi's Statement	Dedicated the honor to 140 crore Indians and India-Kuwait friendship



➤ **What is the primary objective of the agreement between ISRO and ESA signed in December 2024?**

- A) Development of satellite technology for global communication.
- B) Collaboration on human space exploration and astronaut training.
- C) Joint ventures in Mars exploration missions.
- D) Establishment of a permanent lunar research base.
- E) Building space launch facilities in Europe.



Answer

B) Collaboration on human space exploration and astronaut training.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** ISRO and ESA sign an agreement for advancements in human space exploration.
- **Location:** Agreement signed between ISRO (India) and ESA (Europe).
- **Date of Agreement:** December 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Astronaut Training:**
 - Development of joint programs to train astronauts from both agencies.
- **Experiment Development:**
 - Integration of research experiments using ESA facilities on the International Space Station (ISS).
 - Human and biomedical experiments, physiological studies, and technology demonstrations.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Axiom-4 Mission Collaboration:**
 - Participation of ISRO's Gaganyatri astronaut and an ESA astronaut in the mission.
 - Implementation of experiments proposed by Indian researchers for the ISS.
- **Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS):**
 - ISRO's planned space station, aimed at enhancing interoperability between human spaceflight platforms.



Important Terms Explained:

- **International Space Station (ISS):**
 - A multinational collaborative space station used for research and experiments in low Earth orbit.
- **Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS):**
 - A proposed Indian space station, demonstrating India's growing self-reliance and international collaboration in space missions.
- **Axiom-4 Mission:**
 - A commercial spaceflight mission involving astronauts from multiple agencies, focusing on research and technology demonstrations.



Static GK Information:

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



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	ISRO and ESA signed an agreement for advancements in human space exploration
Location	Agreement signed between ISRO (India) and ESA (Europe)
Date	December 2024
Key Focus Areas	Astronaut training, experiment development, ISS usage, and human biomedical research
Axiom-4 Mission	Collaboration includes ISRO's Gaganyatri astronaut and ESA astronaut
Future Plans	ISRO's Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) to enhance human spaceflight interoperability
Signatories	S. Somanath (ISRO) and Dr. Josef Aschbacher (ESA)
Significance	Strengthens international cooperation in human space exploration



➤ **What is the primary objective of ISRO's SpaDeX mission?**

- A) Launching the Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS).
- B) Demonstrating in-space docking technology.
- C) Sending a human crew to space.
- D) Enhancing GPS accuracy with new satellites.
- E) Developing a reusable launch vehicle.



Answer

B) Demonstrating in-space docking technology.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** ISRO's launch of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX).
- **Location:** Low-Earth orbit aboard **PSLV-C60**.
- **Launch Date:** December 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Primary Objective:**
 - Demonstrate rendezvous, docking, and undocking technologies using two small spacecraft.
- **Secondary Objectives:**
 - Power transfer between docked spacecraft.
 - Composite spacecraft control and payload operations post-undocking.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Technological Features:**
 - **Indigenous Docking Systems:** Includes autonomous algorithms, sensors, and power transfer mechanisms.
 - **Advanced Sensors:**
 - Laser Range Finder.
 - Proximity and Docking Sensors.
 - GNSS-based Relative Orbit Determination and Propagation (RODP).



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Technological Features:**
 - **Post-Docking Payloads:**
 - **SDX01:** High-Resolution Camera for surveillance and imaging.
 - **SDX02:** Multi-Spectral Payload for resource monitoring and Radiation Monitor for space studies.



Significance for India's Space Sector:

- Positions India as **the fourth nation** after the US, Russia, and China to achieve space docking.
- Paves the way for ambitious missions like **Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS), Gaganyaan, and Chandrayaan-4.**
- Supports satellite servicing, space station assembly, and debris management.



Static GK Information:

- **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation):**
 - **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka
 - **Founded:** 1969
 - **Chairman:** S. Somanath
- **PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle):**
 - Known as India's workhorse rocket.
 - Used for launching satellites into polar orbits with high reliability.



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	ISRO to launch the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX)
Location	Low-Earth orbit, aboard PSLV-C60
Date	December 2024
Mission Name	Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX)
Primary Objective	Demonstrate in-space docking capabilities
Technological Features	Advanced sensors, docking mechanisms, and indigenous software
Potential Applications	Satellite servicing, space station assembly, and human space exploration
Significance	Positions India as the fourth nation to achieve in-space docking



➤ **What is the primary purpose of India's planned quantum satellite initiative?**

- A) To enhance traditional encryption techniques.
- B) To secure communications using quantum technology.
- C) To compete in the global satellite industry.
- D) To establish a communication network for space exploration.
- E) To provide free internet access to rural areas.



Answer

B) To secure communications using quantum technology.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India to launch a quantum satellite under the National Quantum Mission (NQM).
- **Location:** Hanle, Ladakh identified as a prime site for satellite-based QKD experiments.
- **Announcement Date:** December 2024.
- **Planned Launch Timeline:** Within 2-3 years.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **National Quantum Mission (NQM):**
 - Launched in April 2023 with a ₹6,000 crore budget, running until 2031.
 - Aims to advance quantum communication and sensing technologies.
- **Quantum Satellite:**
 - Utilizes quantum physics principles to secure communication signals.
 - Leverages Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) for safe encryption key sharing.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD):**
 - Ensures encryption key integrity by alerting users to eavesdropping attempts.
 - Changes in quantum states during interception abort communication, ensuring security.
- **Post-Quantum Cryptography:**
 - Complements QKD by strengthening traditional encryption against quantum computing threats.



Static GK Information:

- **National Quantum Mission (NQM):**
 - **Launch Year:** 2023
 - **Budget:** ₹6,000 crore
 - **Duration:** 2023–2031
- **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD):**
 - **Definition:** Secure key-sharing method based on quantum principles.
 - **Global Leader:** China, with three quantum satellites and a large QKD network.
- **Hanle, Ladakh:**
 - Identified as a prime location for satellite-based QKD experiments in India.



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	India to launch quantum satellite under National Quantum Mission
Location	Hanle, Ladakh identified for satellite-based QKD experiments
Timeline	Launch planned within 2-3 years
Budget	₹6,000 crore allocated under NQM
Primary Technology	Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) for secure communications
Global Context	India joins the global race in quantum communication alongside China
Complementary Tech	Post-quantum cryptography to strengthen classical encryption methods
Challenges	High costs, hardware limitations, and vulnerability to denial-of-service attacks



➤ **What is the primary objective of the high-level committee formed by the Indian government concerning the Indian Air Force (IAF)?**

- A) To negotiate a new deal for additional Rafale aircraft.
- B) To assess and enhance IAF's capability development amid regional threats.
- C) To review global advancements in aviation technology.
- D) To promote international military collaborations.
- E) To establish an aerospace command center.



Answer

B) To assess and enhance IAF's capability development amid regional threats.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Formation of a high-level committee to assess the Indian Air Force's capability development.
- **Location:** India.
- **Date of Formation:** December 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of the Committee:**
 - Evaluate fighter aircraft shortages and missile capability gaps.
 - Focus on indigenous projects for design, development, and acquisition.
 - Provide recommendations within 2-3 months to address critical gaps.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Key Challenges Reviewed:**
 - Limited number of Rafale aircraft and delays in projects like LCA Mark 1A.
 - Widening gaps in air-to-air and air-to-ground missile capabilities.
 - Regional threats posed by China's expanding air power and Pakistan's bolstering air force.
- **Indigenous Development Plans:**
 - Plans to manufacture 114 fighter aircraft in India in collaboration with foreign manufacturers.



Important Terms Explained:

- **LCA Mark 1A (Light Combat Aircraft):**
 - An indigenously developed fighter aircraft designed to modernize the IAF.
 - Faces delays due to supply chain issues but remains central to India's defence strategy.
- **DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation):**
 - Responsible for developing technology for India's defence sector.
 - Provides inputs for indigenous weapon systems and air defence solutions.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Regional Threats:**
 - **China:** Rapid air power advancements and support to Pakistan's Air Force.
 - **Pakistan:** Strengthening air capabilities with Chinese support.
 - **Bangladesh:** Possible military cooperation with China raises strategic concerns.



Static GK Information:

- **India:**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee (INR)
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi
- **DRDO:**
 - **Abbreviation:** Defence Research and Development Organisation
 - **Founded:** 1958
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - **Chairman:** Dr. Samir V Kamat



DEFENCE



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Government forms committee to assess IAF's capability development
Location	India
Date of Formation	December 2024
Committee Head	Rajesh Kumar Singh (Defence Secretary)
Key Members	- Sanjeev Kumar (Secretary, Defence Production) - Dr. Samir V Kamat (DRDO Chief) - Air Marshal T Singh
Purpose	Address IAF's fighter aircraft shortages, missile gaps, and long-term capability upgrades
Key Challenges	- Only 36 Rafale aircraft inducted - Missile capability gaps - Delays in LCA Mark 1A project
Strategic Importance	Tackling regional threats from China and Pakistan and ensuring air defence readiness



➤ **What significant milestone was achieved during PM Narendra Modi's visit to Kuwait in December 2024?**

- A) Signing of a Free Trade Agreement between India and Kuwait.
- B) India and Kuwait elevating their ties to a Strategic Partnership.
- C) Establishment of an Indian cultural center in Kuwait.
- D) Kuwait agreeing to supply oil exclusively to India.
- E) Launch of a joint space exploration program.



Answer

B) India and Kuwait elevating their ties to a Strategic Partnership.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India and Kuwait elevated their ties to a Strategic Partnership.
- **Location:** Kuwait City, Kuwait.
- **Date of Event:** December 21-22, 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Strategic Partnership:**
 - Collaboration in trade, defence, technology, energy, and cultural sectors.
 - Establishment of Joint Working Groups (JWGs) to enhance cooperation in education, defence, and trade.
- **Defence Cooperation:**
 - Signing of an MoU for joint military exercises, maritime safety, and co-production of defence equipment.
 - Strengthened cybersecurity collaboration.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Trade and Investment:**
 - Kuwait showed interest in Indian infrastructure and food security sectors.
 - Plans to expedite the Bilateral Investment Treaty for enhanced trade ties.
- **Energy Collaboration:**
 - Expansion of energy ties to include India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve Program and renewable energy projects.
- **Cultural and Educational Exchanges:**
 - Renewal of the Cultural Exchange Programme (2025-2029).
 - Strengthening sports collaboration through the Executive Programme on Sports (2025-2028).



Important Terms Explained:

- **The Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer:**
 - Kuwait's highest civilian honor awarded to PM Modi for his contributions to India-Kuwait relations.
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA):**
 - A global initiative promoting solar energy cooperation, with Kuwait recently becoming a member.
- **Strategic Partnership:**
 - A formalized collaboration across key sectors to enhance mutual interests and regional stability.



Static GK Information:

- **Kuwait:**
 - **Capital:** Kuwait City
 - **Currency:** Kuwaiti Dinar
 - **Prime Minister:** Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah
 - **Monarch:** Emir Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah
- **India:**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee (INR)
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	India and Kuwait elevated ties to a Strategic Partnership
Location	Kuwait City, Kuwait
Date of Event	December 21-22, 2024
Key Achievements	Elevated relationship to strategic partnership; MoUs on trade, defence, energy, and culture
Award to PM Modi	'The Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer,' Kuwait's highest civilian honor
Energy Cooperation	Expansion to renewable energy projects and Strategic Petroleum Reserve Program
Cultural Collaboration	Renewal of Cultural Exchange Programme (2025-2029) and Sports Executive Programme (2025-2028)
Defence MoU	Focus on joint exercises, maritime safety, and cybersecurity
Kuwait's ISA Membership	Signals increased collaboration in solar energy initiatives



➤ **What is the primary significance of India's first bio-bitumen-based National Highway stretch?**

- A) It uses a fossil-based bitumen for higher durability.
- B) It utilizes lignin-based bio-bitumen technology for sustainability.
- C) It is a toll-free highway built to international standards.
- D) It connects all major cities in Maharashtra.
- E) It was constructed entirely using imported technologies.



Answer

B) It utilizes lignin-based bio-bitumen technology for sustainability.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Inauguration of India's first bio-bitumen-based National Highway stretch.
- **Location:** Mansar, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- **Date:** December 23, 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- Promote sustainability in road construction with **bio-bitumen technology**.
- Support **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** by reducing dependency on imported fossil-based bitumen.
- Address environmental challenges like **greenhouse gas emissions** and **stubble burning**.
- Create new economic opportunities for farmers and bio-refineries.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Bio-Bitumen Technology:**
 - Developed using lignin, a plant biomass by-product.
 - Reduces emissions by 70% compared to fossil-based bitumen.
 - Offers an eco-friendly alternative to traditional road construction materials.
- **Lignin:**
 - A polymer from plant biomass, utilized as a sustainable binder.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat:**
 - A government initiative to make India self-reliant across industrial and technological sectors.
- **Stubble Burning:**
 - The practice of burning agricultural residue, which this innovation seeks to mitigate by utilizing parali (rice straw).



Static GK Information:

- **India:**
 - **Capital:** New Delhi
 - **Currency:** Indian Rupee (INR)
 - **Prime Minister:** Narendra Modi
- **Maharashtra:**
 - **Capital:** Mumbai
 - **CM:** Eknath Shinde
 - **Governor:** Ramesh Bais
- **Praj Industries:**
 - **Headquarters:** Pune, Maharashtra
 - **Founded:** 1983
 - **Chairman:** Dr. Pramod Chaudhari



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	India's First Bio-Bitumen Stretch Inaugurated
Location	Mansar, Nagpur, Maharashtra, NH-44
Date	December 23, 2024
Key Technology	Lignin-based bio-bitumen developed by Praj Industries with CSIR-CRRI
Environmental Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 70%- Mitigates stubble burning
Economic Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reduces import dependency- Additional revenue for farmers
Sustainability Goals	Promotes Aatmanirbhar Bharat, sustainable industrial practices
Agricultural Benefits	Creates value for parali and supports farmers
CNG from Biomass	400 projects using biomass; 60 lakh tonnes of parali utilized



➤ **What is the primary purpose of the Dr Ambedkar Samman Scholarship launched by Arvind Kejriwal?**

- A) To fund Dalit students from all over India for education abroad.
- B) To provide financial support for Dalit students from Delhi for studying at top foreign universities.
- C) To sponsor government employees for higher education abroad.
- D) To establish foreign campuses for Indian universities.
- E) To provide scholarships for technical education within India.



Answer

B) To provide financial support for Dalit students from Delhi for studying at top foreign universities.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of the Dr Ambedkar Samman Scholarship.
- **Location:** Delhi, India.
- **Date of Announcement:** December 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objective of the Scheme:**
 - Provide full financial support for Dalit students from Delhi to pursue higher education abroad.
 - Covers tuition fees, travel, and accommodation costs for eligible students.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Open to Dalit students residing in Delhi.
 - Children of government employees are also eligible if they secure admission to top foreign universities.
- **Political Context:**
 - Launched ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, honoring Babasaheb Ambedkar and countering BJP's alleged disrespect toward him.



Static GK Information:

- **Delhi:**
 - **Capital:** Delhi
 - **CM:** Arvind Kejriwal
 - **Governor (Lt. Governor):** Vinai Kumar Saxena
- **Dr B.R. Ambedkar:**
 - Known as the Father of the Indian Constitution.
 - Championed the rights of Dalits and marginalized communities.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Launch of Dr Ambedkar Samman Scholarship for Dalit students
Location	Delhi, India
Date of Announcement	December 2024
Objective	Fully fund Dalit students from Delhi for education at top global universities
Eligibility	Dalit students from Delhi and children of government employees admitted to premier institutions
Coverage	Tuition fees, travel, and accommodation costs
Political Context	Honors Babasaheb Ambedkar and counters BJP's remarks about him



QUICK RECALL



- **National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) observed on December 23 honors Chaudhary Charan Singh.**
- **Anmolpreet Singh scored the third-fastest List A century in just 35 balls.**
- **India to host the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025, its first for junior shooters.**
- **Indian government infused ₹500 crore into IFCI to boost financial health.**
- **GST Council introduces Track and Trace Mechanism to monitor goods and reduce tax evasion.**
- **Justice Madan Lokur appointed Chairperson of UN Internal Justice Council.**
- **Sriram Krishnan appointed Senior AI Policy Advisor by Donald Trump.**
- **PM Modi received Kuwait's highest civilian honor, Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer.**
- **ISRO and ESA signed an agreement to collaborate on human space exploration.**



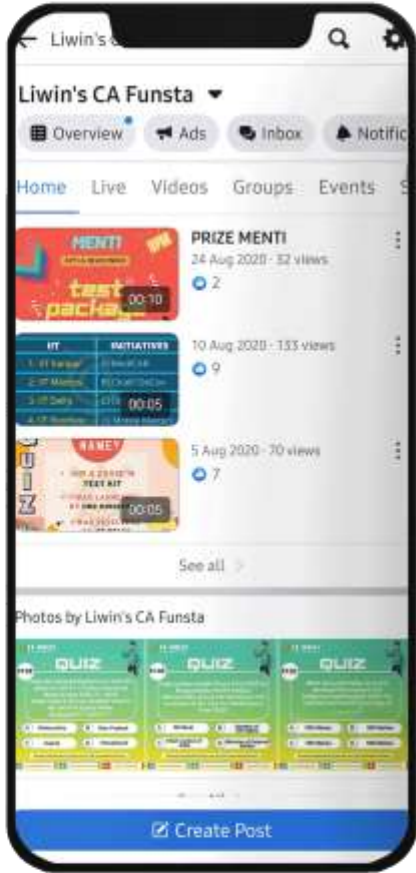
QUICK RECALL



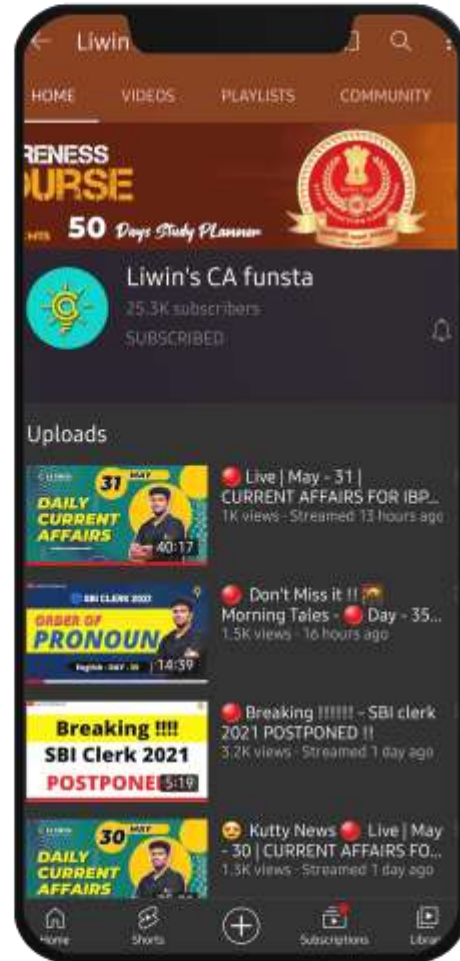
- **ISRO to launch the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) aboard PSLV-C60 in December 2024.**
- **India plans to launch a quantum satellite within 2-3 years under the National Quantum Mission (NQM).**
- **Government formed committee under Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh to enhance IAF's capabilities.**
- **PM Modi's first visit to Kuwait elevated ties to a Strategic Partnership.**
- **India's first bio-bitumen-based highway stretch inaugurated in Mansar, Nagpur.**
- **Arvind Kejriwal launched the Dr Ambedkar Samman Scholarship for Dalit students from Delhi.**



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