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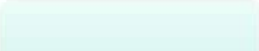
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Important Days



➤ **On which date was the Indian National Congress (INC) founded?**

- A) January 1, 1885
- B) December 28, 1885
- C) August 15, 1885
- D) November 14, 1885
- E) December 31, 1885

Answer

B) December 28, 1885



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Indian National Congress (INC) Foundation Day
- **Date:** December 28, 1885



Important Days



Historical Background:

- **Formation:**
 - The Indian National Congress (INC) was founded on December 28, 1885 during British colonial rule.
 - Its aim was to provide Indian representation under British rule and promote social reforms.
- **Role in Freedom Movement:**
 - INC played a crucial role in India's anti-imperialist struggle, uniting people from diverse ideological backgrounds.
 - Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi ensured the party remained inclusive and accommodative.



Important Days



Key Eras of Leadership:

- **Jawaharlal Nehru Era (1947–1964):**
 - Significant strides in space research and education.
- **Lal Bahadur Shastri Era (1964–1966):**
 - Known for his slogan “Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan”, embodying the spirit of service and welfare.
- **Indira Gandhi Era (1966–1984):**
 - India’s first woman Prime Minister, serving nearly 16 years.
 - Known for her leadership during significant events like the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.



Important Days



Key Eras of Leadership:

- **Rajiv Gandhi Era (1984–1991):**
 - Introduced modern technology and welfare schemes.
 - Enacted key reforms, emphasizing India's transition into the technology era.



Important Days



Congress at Present:

- **Healthcare:**
 - The first party to introduce healthcare schemes and supports the Right to Health.
- **Education:**
 - Enacted the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, ensuring free education for children aged 6–14.
- **Environment:**
 - Advocates for sustainable development while protecting ecosystems and biodiversity.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009:**
 - Mandates free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 in India.
- **Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan:**
 - A slogan coined by Lal Bahadur Shastri, symbolizing the importance of soldiers and farmers in India's development.



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **Indian National Congress (INC)**
 - **Founded:** December 28, 1885
 - **Current President:** Mallikarjun Kharge
 - **First Session:** Held in Bombay (now Mumbai), presided over by W.C. Bonnerjee.
- **Mahatma Gandhi**
 - **Role:** Key leader of INC and the Indian freedom struggle.
 - **Philosophy:** Non-violence and inclusivity.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

| Aspect | Details |
|---------------------|---|
| Event | Indian National Congress (INC) Foundation Day |
| Founded On | December 28, 1885 |
| First President | W.C. Bonnerjee |
| Significant Leaders | Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi |
| Present Leader | Mallikarjun Kharge |
| Key Contributions | Right to Education (RTE), healthcare schemes, commitment to sustainable development |



Important Days



➤ **What is the theme of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2025?**

- A) Building Resilient Economies
- B) Collaboration for the Intelligent Age
- C) Navigating Geopolitical Challenges
- D) Reimagining Sustainable Growth
- E) Ethical AI and Global Economy



Answer

B) Collaboration for the Intelligent Age



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2025
- **Date:** January 20-25, 2025
- **Location:** Davos, Switzerland
- **Theme:**
 - **Collaboration for the Intelligent Age:**
 - Focuses on leveraging emerging technologies (AI, quantum computing, biotech, etc.) to drive productivity, address global challenges, and build resilient economies.



Important Days



Key Highlights of the Meeting:

- **Indian Delegation:**
 - **Union Ministers:** Ashwini Vaishnaw, C.R. Patil, Chirag Paswan, K. Ram Mohan Naidu, Jayant Chaudhary.
 - **Chief Ministers:**
 - **Devendra Fadnavis** (Maharashtra),
Chandrababu Naidu (Andhra Pradesh),
Revant Reddy (Telangana).
 - Andhra CM Naidu's delegation includes his son **Nara Lokesh**, a senior minister.
 - **Other state ministers:** D.K. Shivakumar (Karnataka), T.R.B. Rajaa (Tamil Nadu), and Suresh Khanna (Uttar Pradesh).



Important Days



Key Highlights of the Meeting:

- **Global Leaders and Organizations:**
 - Over 50 heads of states and leaders from organizations like United Nations, IMF, World Bank, Interpol, and WTO.
- **Focus on India:**
 - Session titled 'India's Economic Blueprint' to explore India's role as one of the fastest-growing major economies.
 - Discussions on promoting local innovation, technology startups, and manufacturing.



Important Days



Key Discussion Topics:

- **Geopolitical and Geo-economic Issues:**
 - Fragmentation and polarization due to events like the Ukraine War and West Asia crisis.
- **Technological Advancements:**
 - Exponential innovation in AI, quantum tech, energy tech, and biotech to address economic and societal challenges.



Important Days



Key Discussion Topics:

- **Global Economic Growth:**
 - Strategies to shift from low-growth, high-debt economies towards a collaborative, innovation-driven future.
- **Ethical Use of AI:**
 - Debates on balancing productivity with ethics in AI and emerging technologies.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **World Economic Forum (WEF):**
 - An international organization for public-private cooperation, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
 - Organizes the Davos summit annually to discuss global challenges.
- **India's Economic Blueprint:**
 - A vision focusing on local innovation, technology-driven growth, and resilient manufacturing sectors to support global economic growth.



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **World Economic Forum (WEF)**
 - **Founded:** 1971
 - **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
 - **Founder:** Klaus Schwab
- **Davos**
 - **Location:** Swiss Alpine resort town in Switzerland.
 - **Significance:** Host of WEF's annual meetings, bringing together global leaders from various sectors.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

| Aspect | Details |
|------------------------|---|
| Event | World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2025 |
| Date | January 20-25, 2025 |
| Location | Davos, Switzerland |
| Theme | Collaboration for the Intelligent Age |
| Indian Delegation | Union Ministers, 3 CMs, state ministers, and over 100 CEOs |
| Focus Topics | Geopolitical fragmentation, ethical AI, collaborative innovation |
| India-Specific Session | India's Economic Blueprint: Promoting innovation, startups, and manufacturing |



➤ **Which prestigious institution has offered Sachin Tendulkar an Honorary Cricket Membership?**

- A) Lord's Cricket Ground
- B) Melbourne Cricket Club
- C) Marylebone Cricket Club
- D) Sydney Cricket Ground Association
- E) Cricket Australia

Answer

B) Melbourne Cricket Club



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Sachin Tendulkar Accepts MCC's Prestigious Membership
- **Date:** December 28, 2024



About MCC and the Honorary Membership:

- **Institution:**
 - **The Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC)** is a globally renowned institution managing **the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)**, one of the most iconic sporting venues in the world.
- **Membership Significance:**
 - **Honorary Cricket Membership** is awarded to individuals who have made **outstanding contributions** to the sport.
 - Tendulkar's acceptance of this membership highlights his **unparalleled impact** on the game.



Sachin Tendulkar's Cricketing Achievements:

- **Test Career:**
 - **Debut:** Against Pakistan in Karachi (November 1989) at the age of 16.
 - **Stats:**
 - **Matches:** 200
 - **Runs:** 15,921
 - **Average:** 53.78
 - **Centuries:** 51
 - **Half-centuries:** 68
 - **Wickets:** 46 (earning the nickname "golden arm").



Sachin Tendulkar's Cricketing Achievements:

- **ODI Career:**
 - **Debut:** Against Pakistan in Gujranwala (December 1989).
 - **Stats:**
 - **Matches:** 463
 - **Runs:** 18,426
 - **Average:** 44.83
 - **Centuries:** 49
 - **Half-centuries:** 96.
 - **Last ODI:** Against Pakistan (March 2012).



Sachin Tendulkar's Cricketing Achievements:

- **T20 Career:**
 - Played one T20I against South Africa in Johannesburg (December 2006).
- **Retirement:**
 - **Final Test:** Against West Indies at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai (November 2013).
- **Post-Retirement Contributions:**
 - Plays charity matches with other retired players.
 - Serves as a global ambassador for cricket, inspiring the next generation of cricketers.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC):**
 - A prestigious sports club known for managing the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).
- **Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG):**
 - Located in Melbourne, Australia, it is one of the most iconic cricket venues globally, hosting numerous historic matches, including World Cup finals.
- **Honorary Cricket Membership:**
 - A recognition awarded by MCC for exceptional contributions to cricket, celebrating the sport's legends.



Static GK Information:

- **Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC)**
 - **Founded:** 1838
 - **Location:** Melbourne, Australia
 - **Key Venue Managed:** Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)
- **Sachin Tendulkar**
 - **Nickname:** Master Blaster
 - **Awards:** Bharat Ratna, ICC Hall of Fame, and numerous other honors.



SPORTS



Tabular Summary:

| Aspect | Details |
|-------------|---|
| Event | Sachin Tendulkar accepts MCC's Honorary Cricket Membership |
| Institution | Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) |
| Recognition | Outstanding contributions to cricket |
| Test Career | 15,921 runs in 200 matches, 51 centuries, 46 wickets |
| ODI Career | 18,426 runs in 463 matches, 49 centuries, 96 half-centuries |
| T20 Career | Played one T20I against South Africa in 2006 |
| Retirement | Final Test: November 2013 (Wankhede, Mumbai); Final ODI: March 2012 (vs. Pakistan) |



➤ **Which of the following has been recently allowed by the RBI for full-KYC PPI holders?**

- A) Opening bank accounts using third-party apps
- B) Making and receiving UPI payments via third-party apps
- C) Availing loans through UPI-linked PPIs
- D) Using PPIs for cryptocurrency transactions
- E) None of the above



Answer

B) Making and receiving UPI payments via third-party apps



Event and Location:

- **Event:** RBI Allows UPI Payments via Third-Party Apps for PPI Holders
- **Date:** December 28, 2024



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Policy Change:**
 - The RBI has permitted full-KYC prepaid payment instrument (PPI) holders to make and receive UPI payments through third-party apps like Google Pay and PhonePe.
- **Purpose of the Move:**
 - Enhance payment interoperability.
 - Promote the adoption of digital payments.
 - Aligns with RBI's Payments Vision 2025.



Key Features of the Regulation:

- **PPI Integration with UPI:**
 - PPIs such as digital wallets, gift cards, and metro rail cards can now be linked to UPI handles.
 - Authentication of transactions will rely on the existing PPI credentials.
- **Ease of Access:**
 - Users no longer depend on issuer-specific platforms for UPI transactions.
 - The process integrates PPIs into mainstream UPI apps for greater flexibility.



Impacts of the Decision:

- **Improved User Experience:**
 - Simplifies transactions for online shopping, bill payments, and fund transfers.
 - Ensures a smoother and more convenient digital payment experience.
- **Addressing Limitations:**
 - Resolves compatibility issues between PPIs and mainstream UPI platforms.
 - Makes PPIs more versatile for everyday transactions.



Impacts of the Decision:

- **Encouraging Digital Payment Growth:**
 - Expands the accessibility of UPI to a broader audience.
 - Contributes to building a unified digital payment ecosystem in India.



Past Context and Future Outlook:

- **Previous Restriction:**
 - UPI payments involving PPIs were limited to issuer-specific mobile applications.
- **Future Implications:**
 - This change will drive the wider adoption of digital payments.
 - Benefits customers by offering more options and businesses by increasing transaction volume.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs):**
 - Financial tools allowing the purchase of goods/services, bill payments, and fund transfers. Examples include digital wallets, gift cards, and metro rail cards.
- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI):**
 - A real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), enabling instant fund transfers.
- **Payments Vision 2025:**
 - A roadmap by the RBI to promote digital payments, interoperability, and financial inclusion.



Static GK Information:

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das
 - **Founded:** April 1, 1935
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Founded:** 2008
 - **Key Product:** Unified Payments Interface (UPI)



Tabular Summary:

| Aspect | Details |
|--------------------------|---|
| Event | RBI allows full-KYC PPI holders to use UPI through third-party apps |
| Third-Party Apps Allowed | Google Pay, PhonePe |
| Authentication Method | Using existing PPI credentials |
| Purpose of PPIs | Transactions, purchases, remittances |
| Aligned Vision | Payments Vision 2025 |
| Previous Limitation | UPI-PPI transactions restricted to issuer platforms |
| Developed By | NPCI |



➤ **What is the name of the DBS Bank program designed to support students studying abroad?**

- A) DBS Global Education Assist
- B) DBS Study Abroad Total Assist
- C) DBS International Education Program
- D) DBS Treasures Education Support
- E) DBS Overseas Education Solution

The logo for the DBS Study Abroad Total Assist program, featuring a red graduation cap icon, the text "DBS" in red, and "Study Abroad Total Assist" in large black font.

Answer

B) DBS Study Abroad Total Assist



Event and Location:

- **Event:** DBS Bank Launches Overseas Education Solutions
- **Date:** December 20, 2024



Program Overview:

- **Program Name:** DBS Study Abroad Total Assist.
- **Target Audience:**
 - Indian students pursuing higher education abroad.
 - Tailored for DBS Treasures customers, including NRIs and HNWI's (High Net-Worth Individuals).



Key Features:

- **Zero-Fee International Transfers:**
 - Parents can transfer funds overseas without any bank fees.
- **Comprehensive Coverage:**
 - Offers financial protection up to \$1 million for illness, accidents, or lost baggage.
- **Education Loans:**
 - Loans provided at competitive rates starting at 10.25% per annum in collaboration with Credila Financial Services Limited.



Key Features:

- **Forex Benefits:**
 - The DBS Treasures VISA Infinite Debit Card enables transactions abroad without forex markup fees.
- **Pre-Arrival Banking for Singapore:**
 - Students traveling to Singapore can open accounts remotely and receive debit cards before departure.



Technology Integration:

- **Fully Digital Process:**
 - The program leverages DBS's digibank app for a seamless, paperless experience.



Enhanced Benefits for DBS Treasures Customers

- **Global Banking Privileges:**
 - Access to exclusive lifestyle benefits in six key DBS markets:
 - **Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia, India, and China.**
- **Key Banking Benefits:**
 - **Preferential FX Rates:** Competitive exchange rates for fund transfers.
 - **Waived Service Fees:** No fees on select banking services.
 - **Zero ATM Withdrawal Fees:** Free withdrawals across DBS's markets.



Program Vision:

- Simplify the journey of students navigating **overseas education**.
- Enhance the banking experience for **families** supporting international students.



Important Terms Explained:

- **DBS Bank:**
 - A leading Singapore-based multinational bank, known for its innovative digital banking solutions.
- **High Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs):**
 - Clients with significant financial assets, often eligible for premium banking services.
- **Forex Markup Fees:**
 - Additional charges applied for currency conversion during international transactions.



Static GK Information:

- **DBS Bank**
 - **Headquarters:** Marina Bay, Singapore
 - **Founded:** 1968
 - **CEO:** Piyush Gupta
 - **Tagline:** Live More, Bank Less



Tabular Summary:

| Aspect | Details |
|------------------------|---|
| Program Name | DBS Study Abroad Total Assist |
| Target Audience | Indian students studying abroad, NRIs, and HNWIs |
| Key Features | Zero-fee transfers, education loans, travel insurance, forex benefits |
| Technology Integration | Fully digital, paperless process via digibank app |
| Enhanced Benefits | Lifestyle privileges, zero ATM fees, preferential FX rates across DBS markets |



➤ What was India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) as a percentage of GDP in Q2 FY2024-25?

- A) 1.1%
- B) 1.2%
- C) 1.3%
- D) 2.5%
- E) 2.7%

Answer
B) 1.2%



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Current Account Deficit Eases in Q2 FY2024-25
- **Date:** Q2 FY2024-25



Key Insights:

- **Current Account Deficit (CAD):**
 - Remained steady at \$11.2 billion, equivalent to 1.2% of GDP, down from 1.3% of GDP in Q2 FY2023-24.
 - Despite the higher merchandise trade deficit, robust services exports and improved net services receipts moderated the CAD.



Merchandise Trade Deficit:

- Grew to **\$75.3 billion** in Q2 FY2024-25 from **\$64.5 billion** in Q2 FY2023-24.
- Driven by increased import activity.



Net Services Receipts:

- Increased to **\$44.5 billion**, compared to **\$39.9 billion** a year ago.
- Growth in **computer services, business services, travel, and transportation** contributed significantly.



Financial Account Trends:

- **Net FDI Outflow:** \$2.2 billion, compared to \$0.8 billion outflow a year ago.
- **Net FPI Inflow:** \$19.9 billion, a sharp increase from \$4.9 billion.
- **External Commercial Borrowings (ECB):** Inflows of \$5 billion, reversing outflows of \$1.9 billion last year.
- **NRI Deposits:** Doubled to \$6.2 billion from \$3.2 billion.



Outlook for Q3 and FY2024-25:

- Economists predict CAD will rise to **2.5-2.7%** of GDP in Q3 due to a record-high trade deficit in November.
- For FY2024-25, CAD is expected to stabilize at **1.1-1.2% of GDP.**



Important Terms Explained:

- **Current Account Deficit (CAD):**
 - A measure of a country's trade where the value of goods and services it imports exceeds the value of those it exports.
 - Expressed as a percentage of GDP, it reflects a nation's external financial health.
- **Merchandise Trade Deficit:**
 - The negative balance of trade where a country's imports of goods exceed its exports.
- **Net Services Receipts:**
 - The income generated from exporting services (e.g., IT services, travel, business services) minus the cost of importing services.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI):**
 - Investments by foreign investors in a country's securities, including stocks and bonds.
- **External Commercial Borrowings (ECB):**
 - Loans raised by Indian entities from non-resident lenders in foreign currency.



Static GK Information:

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das
 - **Founded:** April 1, 1935



Tabular Summary:

| Aspect | Details |
|---------------------------|--|
| Event | India's CAD remained flat in Q2 FY2024-25 |
| Current Account Deficit | 1.2% of GDP (\$11.2 billion) |
| Merchandise Trade Deficit | Increased to \$75.3 billion |
| Net Services Receipts | \$44.5 billion, driven by computer, business, travel, and transportation services |
| Financial Account | FPI: \$19.9 billion inflows; FDI: \$2.2 billion outflows; ECB inflows: \$5 billion |
| Economist Projection | Q3 CAD likely to rise to 2.5-2.7% of GDP; FY2024-25 CAD at 1.1-1.2% of GDP |



➤ **What GST rate has been decided for the sale of used electric vehicles (EVs) as per the 55th GST Council Meeting?**

- A) 12%
- B) 18%
- C) 5%
- D) 28%
- E) 0%

Answer
B) 18%



Event and Location:

- **Event:** 55th GST Council Meeting
- **Date:** December 21, 2024
- **Chaired By:** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman



Key Decisions

Items Becoming Costlier:

- **Used Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Other Old Vehicles:**
 - GST rate increased from 12% to 18%.
- **Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (ACC) Blocks:**
 - If containing over 50% fly ash, attract a 12% GST.
- **Pre-packed and Labeled Popcorn:**
 - 12% GST on plain, pre-packed popcorn.
 - 18% GST on caramelized popcorn.
- **Sponsorship Services by Corporates:**
 - Now under the Forward Charge Mechanism, increasing sponsor costs.



Key Decisions

Items Becoming Cheaper:

- **Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK):**
 - 5% GST reduction when supplied via the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- **Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) Assembly Systems:**
 - Exemption from IGST for sub-systems and tools used in manufacturing.
- **Gene Therapy:**
 - Full GST waiver to make treatment affordable.



Key Decisions

Items Becoming Cheaper:

- **Food Preparations for Free Distribution:**
 - 5% concessional GST rate for food inputs under welfare policies.
- **Pepper and Raisins Supplied by Agriculturists:**
 - Exempt from GST when sold directly by agriculturists.
- **Inspection Equipment for IAEA:**
 - IGST exemption on imported inspection equipment for the International Atomic Energy Agency.



Additional Changes

- **Penalties for Loan Non-Compliance:**
 - No GST applicable on penalties collected by banks and NBFCs.
- **Voucher Transactions:**
 - Declared neither a supply of goods nor services, exempt from GST.
- **Definition Update:**
 - Revised the definition of pre-packaged and labeled goods under the Legal Metrology Act.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Forward Charge Mechanism:**
 - A system where the service provider pays the GST instead of the recipient, increasing the cost for sponsors.
- **Public Distribution System (PDS):**
 - Government mechanism providing subsidized food grains to the economically weaker sections.
- **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):**
 - An international organization ensuring safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy.



Static GK Information:

- **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**
 - **Introduced:** July 1, 2017
 - **Structure:** Four tax slabs – 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%
 - **Administering Body:** GST Council
- **Union Finance Minister**
 - **Name:** Nirmala Sitharaman



Tabular Summary:

| Aspect | Details |
|--------------------|--|
| Event | 55 th GST Council Meeting |
| Date | December 21, 2024 |
| Cheaper Items | FRK (via PDS), LRSAM components, Gene Therapy, certain food preparations |
| Costlier Items | Used EVs (GST: 18%), ACC blocks (GST: 12%), labeled popcorn (12%-18%) |
| Additional Changes | GST exemption on penalties and vouchers, updated definition for labeling rules |



APPOINTMENTS



➤ Who has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)?

- A) Dr. Subbanna Ayyappan
- B) Dr. Sandip Shah
- C) Dr. Shivam Gupta
- D) Dr. Sanjay Desai
- E) Dr. Ramesh Patel

Answer

B) Dr. Sandip Shah



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Appointment of Dr. Sandip Shah as Chairperson of NABL
- **Date:** December 28, 2024



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Role of NABL:**
 - Ensures quality in testing and calibration services for consumer safety and global competitiveness.
 - Promotes trust among consumers, businesses, and regulators.
- **Focus Under Dr. Sandip Shah:**
 - Advance healthcare innovation and enhance quality assurance in testing.
 - Foster reliability in NABL-certified testing services.



APPOINTMENTS



Professional Background of Dr. Sandip Shah:

- **Education:**
 - Gold Medalist in MD Pathology and Bacteriology from B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- **Career Highlights:**
 - Over 35 years of experience in healthcare, pathology, molecular biology, and transplant immunology.
 - Founder of Neuberg Supratech Reference Laboratories and Joint Managing Director at Neuberg Diagnostics.
 - Honorary Director at the Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Center.



APPOINTMENTS



Professional Background of Dr. Sandip Shah:

- **Key Achievements:**
 - Launched India's first drive-through Covid testing facility, conducting over 3,500 tests at one site.
 - Chaired the Medical Labs Accreditation Improvement Committee (MLAIC) at NABL.



APPOINTMENTS



NABL and QCI Overview:

- **NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories):**
 - Focuses on improving quality and reliability in testing and calibration.
 - Supports India's global competitiveness by ensuring standards in testing.
- **QCI (Quality Council of India):**
 - NABL's parent organization.
 - Promotes a quality-centric approach to products and services in India.



APPOINTMENTS



Leadership Transition:

- **Predecessor:** Prof. Subbanna Ayyappan.
- **Expectations:** Dr. Shah is anticipated to bring innovation and a consumer-centric approach to the sector.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories):**
 - A board under QCI focusing on quality in testing and calibration services.
 - Vital for ensuring reliability and safety in consumer products and services.
- **QCI (Quality Council of India):**
 - An autonomous body promoting quality standards across industries and services in India.
- **Drive-Through Covid Testing Facility:**
 - An innovative concept to safely test individuals for Covid-19 without leaving their vehicles.



APPOINTMENTS



Static GK Information:

- **NABL**
 - **Full Form:** National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories
 - **Parent Organization:** Quality Council of India (QCI)
- **Quality Council of India (QCI)**
 - **Founded:** 1997
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - **Chairperson:** Jaxay Shah



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

| Aspect | Details |
|---------------------|---|
| Event | Appointment of Dr. Sandip Shah as Chairperson of NABL |
| Date | December 28, 2024 |
| New Chairperson | Dr. Sandip Shah |
| Predecessor | Prof. Subbanna Ayyappan |
| Key Achievements | India's first drive-through Covid testing facility |
| Focus Areas | Healthcare innovation, quality assurance, and consumer safety |
| Parent Organization | Quality Council of India (QCI) |
| NABL's Role | Quality assurance in testing and calibration services |



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as a board member of the Asian Boxing Body by World Boxing?**

- A) Lovlina Borgohain
- B) Hemanta Kumar Kalita
- C) Ajay Singh
- D) Narender Kumar Nirwan
- E) Digvijay Singh



Answer
C) Ajay Singh



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** BFI Chief Ajay Singh Joins Asian Body Board
- **Date:** December 28, 2024



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Formation of Asian Boxing Body:**
 - Asia has been welcomed as the newest member of World Boxing, aiming to secure the sport's Olympic future, including at LA 2028.
 - An interim body has been created to drive strategic initiatives for Asian boxing.
- **India's Strategic Involvement:**
 - India has secured seven influential positions in the new body, showcasing the country's leadership in the sport.
 - Active role in policy-making and talent development across Asia.



APPOINTMENTS



India's Representation:

- **Ajay Singh (BFI President):** Appointed as a board member.
- **Hemanta Kumar Kalita (BFI Secretary General):** Member of the Olympic Commission.
- **Digvijay Singh (BFI Treasurer):** Member of the Finance and Audit Committee.
- **Narender Kumar Nirwan (BFI Vice President):** Member of the Constitution Commission.
- **D.P. Bhatt (BFI Disciplinary Chairman):** Member of the Sports and Competition Commission.
- **Karanjeet Singh:** Member of the Medical Commission.
- **Lovlina Borgohain:** Appointed to the Athletes' Commission, ensuring athlete representation.



APPOINTMENTS



Recent Achievements:

- India will host **the World Boxing Cup Final** and **the World Boxing Congress in 2025**.
- Highlights India's growing leadership in advancing boxing globally.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **World Boxing:**
 - The global governing body for amateur boxing, overseeing the sport's growth and ensuring its inclusion in the Olympics.
- **Asian Boxing Body:**
 - The newest member of World Boxing, established to strengthen the region's influence and contribution to the sport.
- **Athletes' Commission:**
 - A committee representing athletes' voices, advocating for fair opportunities, and improving training and infrastructure.



APPOINTMENTS



Static GK Information:

- **Boxing Federation of India (BFI)**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
 - **President:** Ajay Singh
 - **Founded:** 1949
- **World Boxing**
 - **Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland
 - **Founded:** 2023



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

| Aspect | Details |
|--------------------------|--|
| Event | BFI Chief Ajay Singh joins the Asian Boxing Body Board |
| Asian Boxing Body | Asia joins World Boxing to enhance boxing's Olympic future |
| India's Representation | 7 key positions for Indian officials, including Ajay Singh as board member |
| Lovlina Borgohain's Role | Member of the Athletes' Commission advocating for athlete development |
| Recent Achievements | Hosting World Boxing Cup Final and Congress in 2025 |



➤ **Which organizations have launched India's first Undergraduate Minor Programme in Quantum Technologies?**

- A) IIT and AICTE
- B) NIT and NQM
- C) AICTE and NQM
- D) IIT and NQM
- E) NIT and IIT

Answer
C) AICTE and NQM



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India Launches UG Minor in Quantum Technologies
- **Date:** Academic session starting 2024



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose:**
 - Introduced by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the National Quantum Mission (NQM), this program aims to create a skilled workforce in quantum technologies, aligning with India's National Quantum Mission goals.
- **Significance:**
 - Establishes India as a leader in quantum computing, cryptography, and other high-tech fields like cybersecurity and artificial intelligence (AI).



Programme Overview:

- **Target Audience:**
 - Engineering students in their third or fourth semester.
- **Curriculum Focus:**
 - Covers core subjects like quantum mechanics, quantum computing, quantum cryptography, and quantum algorithms.
 - Students select 18 credits from over 30 courses, ensuring flexibility and alignment with institutional resources.
- **Collaborating Institutions:**
 - Curriculum developed in partnership with IITs, IIITs, and NITs, ensuring global standards.



Hands-on Learning and Training:

- **Practical Learning:**
 - Includes project-based learning, exposure to quantum simulators, and access to advanced quantum laboratories for research.
- **Faculty Development:**
 - AICTE's Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) train educators to deliver quality education in quantum technologies.



Infrastructure and National Vision:

- **Infrastructure Development:**
 - Establishment of advanced quantum labs to enhance research and innovation capabilities.
- **National Vision:**
 - Aligns with National Quantum Mission (NQM) objectives to advance quantum technologies, foster employability, and boost India's global competitiveness.



Important Terms Explained:

- **National Quantum Mission (NQM):**
 - A Government of India initiative focusing on advancing quantum computing, cybersecurity, AI, and high-performance computing.
- **Quantum Computing:**
 - A type of computing that uses the principles of quantum mechanics, enabling faster problem-solving for certain complex computations.
- **Quantum Cryptography:**
 - A secure communication method using the principles of quantum mechanics to encrypt and decrypt data.



Static GK Information:

- **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - **Founded:** 1945
 - **Chairman:** T. G. Sitharam
- **National Quantum Mission (NQM)**
 - **Launched:** 2023
 - **Objective:** Strengthening quantum technologies in cybersecurity, AI, and computing



Tabular Summary:

| Aspect | Details |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Event | Launch of India's first UG Minor in Quantum Technologies |
| Collaborating Organizations | AICTE and NQM |
| Target Students | Engineering students (third or fourth semester) |
| Focus Areas | Quantum Computation, Communication, Sensing, and Materials |
| Hands-on Learning | Quantum simulators, project-based learning, and advanced labs |
| Faculty Training | FDPs to equip educators with quantum expertise |
| National Vision | Aligned with NQM to boost India's global competitiveness in quantum science |



➤ **What caused the recent oil spill along Russia's Black Sea coast?**

- A) Industrial pipeline leakage
- B) Damage to two Russian-flagged oil tankers
- C) Explosion at an offshore oil rig
- D) Oil storage facility fire
- E) Natural seepage of oil



Answer

B) Damage to two Russian-flagged oil tankers



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Russia Declares Federal Emergency Over Black Sea Oil Spill
- **Date:** December 15, 2024



Incident Details:

- **Cause:**
 - On December 15, 2024, two Russian-flagged oil tankers were severely damaged during a storm near the Kerch Strait, releasing thousands of tons of heavy fuel oil (mazut) into the Black Sea.
- **Extent of Pollution:**
 - Approx. 55 km (34 miles) of coastline polluted.
 - 200,000 tons of soil contaminated with mazut.
- **Impact:**
 - Severe damage to marine and coastal ecosystems.
 - Devastating effects on local communities reliant on tourism.



Government Response:

- **Initial Cleanup:**
 - Local efforts were insufficient due to lack of equipment and personnel.
 - The southern Krasnodar region declared a regional emergency.
- **Federal Emergency Declaration:**
 - On December 21, 2024, Russia's Emergency Situations Minister Alexander Kurenkov declared a federal-level emergency.
 - Mobilized federal resources and funds for cleanup and restoration.
 - Coordination between local, regional, and federal agencies intensified.



Environmental Impact:

- **Ecosystem Damage:**
 - Marine life and biodiversity severely affected.
 - Long-term contamination of soil and water threatens habitability.
- **Economic Consequences:**
 - Coastal communities risk losing tourism revenue for spring and summer seasons.



Key Challenges Ahead:

- **Cleanup Complexity:**
 - Removing mazut requires advanced technology and skilled personnel.
 - Health risks for volunteers and workers due to exposure to toxic substances.
- **Restoration Plans:**
 - Long-term efforts needed to rehabilitate ecosystems and monitor recovery.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Mazut:**
 - A heavy fuel oil used in shipping and industrial applications, difficult to clean and highly toxic.
- **Kerch Strait:**
 - A strategic waterway connecting the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, critical for shipping and trade.
- **Federal Emergency:**
 - A declaration that allows the national government to allocate additional funds, resources, and expertise to address a crisis.



Static GK Information:

- **Russia**
 - **Capital:** Moscow
 - **Currency:** Russian Ruble
 - **President:** Vladimir Putin
 - **Prime Minister:** Mikhail Mishustin



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

| Aspect | Details |
|------------------------|--|
| Event | Oil spill along Black Sea coast due to tanker damage |
| Date of Incident | December 15, 2024 |
| Pollution Extent | 55 km of coastline polluted, 200,000 tons of soil contaminated |
| Federal Emergency Date | December 21, 2024 |
| Government Response | Federal resources deployed; emergency commission led by Alexander Kurenkov |
| Environmental Impact | Severe marine damage; long-term contamination |
| Economic Consequences | Tourism losses for coastal communities |
| Challenges Ahead | Cleanup complexity, health risks, ecosystem restoration |



➤ Who chaired the review meeting of Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) to strengthen cooperative agriculture?

- A) Shri Narendra Modi
- B) Shri Amit Shah
- C) Shri Rajnath Singh
- D) Shri Nitin Gadkari
- E) Shri Piyush Goyal

Answer

B) Shri Amit Shah



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Review meeting of Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSSL)
- **Date and Location:** December 28, 2024, in New Delhi



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Expansion Goals:**
 - BBSSL to connect with 20,000 additional cooperatives by 2025-26.
 - Expand its cooperative network and seed distribution.
- **Focus on Sustainable Seeds:**
 - Promoting traditional seeds requiring less water and pesticides while improving yields.
- **Nutritional Assessment:**
 - Organizations like IFFCO and KRIBHCO tasked to evaluate the nutritional value of indigenous and hybrid seeds.



Production Highlights:

- **Rabi 2024 Seed Production:**
 - Certified seeds on 5,596 hectares across 6 states, targeting 1,64,804 quintals of 49 varieties from 8 crops.
- **Sales Achievement:**
 - BBSSL sold 41,773 quintals of seeds worth ₹41.50 crore.
 - Focused crops include wheat, groundnut, oats, and berseem.



Future Roadmap:

- **Revenue Target:** ₹18,000 crore by 2032-33.
- **Research and Development:**
 - Prepare a 10-year roadmap to advance seed research and innovation.
 - Collaborate with government university scientists and laboratories.



Important Terms Explained:

- **BBSSL (Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited):**
 - A cooperative entity promoting sustainable, traditional seeds and certified seed production to empower farmers.
- **Sehkar Se Samriddhi:**
 - A vision of PM Narendra Modi to achieve agricultural prosperity through cooperative empowerment.
- **IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited) and KRIBHCO (Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited):**
 - Organizations involved in evaluating the nutritional quality of seeds and improving laboratory standards.



Static GK Information:

- **Union Home Minister**
 - **Name:** Shri Amit Shah
 - **Ministries:** Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Cooperation
- **BBSSL**
 - **Focus:** Traditional seeds, certified seed production, and cooperative agricultural enhancement.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

| Aspect | Details |
|----------------------------|--|
| Event | Review meeting chaired by Shri Amit Shah |
| Date and Location | December 28, 2024, in New Delhi |
| Turnover Target | ₹18,000 crore by 2032-33 |
| Cooperative Network Goal | Connecting 20,000 more cooperatives by 2025-26 |
| Rabi 2024 Seed Production | 5,596 hectares, targeting 1,64,804 quintals of 8 crops |
| Sales Achievement | ₹41.50 crore from 41,773 quintals of seeds sold |
| Linked Initiative | Sehkar Se Samridhhi |
| Key Organizations Involved | IFFCO and KRIBHCO |



➤ **What is the purpose of the newly inaugurated Climate Smart Agro-Textile Demonstration Center in Navsari, Gujarat?**

- A) To provide financial subsidies for farmers
- B) To demonstrate and educate about Agro-Textile technologies
- C) To train farmers in organic farming techniques
- D) To promote the export of Agro-Textile products
- E) To test water conservation technologies



Answer

B) To demonstrate and educate about Agro-Textile technologies



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Inauguration of Climate Smart Agro-Textile Demonstration Center
- **Date:** December 21, 2024
- **Location:** Navsari, Gujarat



Purpose of the Demonstration Center:

- **Primary Objective:**
 - Promote the adoption of Agro-Textile technologies for sustainable and innovative agricultural solutions.
 - Educate and empower farmers through live demonstrations, practical training modules, and real-time IoT monitoring systems.



Purpose of the Demonstration Center:

- **Facilities and Features:**
 - Spread over 15,000 sq. meters, showcasing applications like:
 - **Shade nets:**
 - Par-perfect, photo-selective, and vertical farming applications.
 - Medicinal nurseries and vermicomposting under shade nets.
 - **Ground covers:**
 - Natural and HDPE-based.
 - Pond liners and crop covers.
 - IoT-based monitoring systems to track crop yield and growth conditions.



Significance of Agro-Textiles:

- Enhance **crop productivity**.
- Conserve resources like **water** and **soil nutrients**.
- Support **sustainable farming practices**.

Alignment with National Vision:

- Part of **the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)**, promoting **technical textiles** in agriculture.
- Contributes to India's goal of sustainable and innovative agricultural development.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Agro-Textiles:**
 - Specialized textiles designed for agricultural applications, including shade nets, crop covers, and pond liners.
 - Help enhance productivity, conserve resources, and support sustainable farming.
- **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM):**
 - A government initiative promoting the adoption of technical textiles in various sectors, including agriculture.
- **IoT-Based Monitoring Systems:**
 - Technology that uses sensors to collect real-time data on crop growth, soil conditions, and environmental parameters.



Static GK Information:

- **Ministry of Textiles**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - **Union Minister:** Piyush Goyal
- **Navsari Agricultural University**
 - **Location:** Navsari, Gujarat
 - **Key Focus:** Research and education in sustainable agriculture.
- **SASMIRA (Synthetic & Art Silk Mills' Research Association)**
 - **Founded:** 1950
 - **Location:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Objective:** Promote research and development in textiles and related fields.



Tabular Summary:

| Aspect | Details |
|---------------------|--|
| Event | Inauguration of Climate Smart Agro-Textile Demonstration Center |
| Date | December 21, 2024 |
| Location | Navsari, Gujarat |
| Objective | Educate farmers on sustainable Agro-Textile applications |
| Key Technologies | Shade nets, ground covers, crop covers, IoT-based monitoring systems |
| Aligned Initiative | National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) |
| Key Leaders Present | Shri C.R. Patil, Shri Raghavjibhai Patel, Dr. Z.P. Patel, Shri Rajeev Saxena |



QUICK RECALL



- **INC was founded on December 28, 1885, during British colonial rule.**
- **WEF Annual Meeting 2025 to focus on "Collaboration for the Intelligent Age."**
- **Sachin Tendulkar honored with MCC's Honorary Cricket Membership for his cricketing legacy.**
- **RBI allows UPI payments for full-KYC PPI holders via apps like Google Pay and PhonePe.**
- **DBS launches "Study Abroad Total Assist" for Indian students pursuing higher education abroad.**
- **India's Q2 CAD stayed at 1.2% of GDP despite a rising trade deficit.**
- **GST on used EVs increased to 18% during the 55th GST Council Meeting.**
- **Dr. Sandip Shah appointed NABL Chairperson under QCI.**
- **Ajay Singh appointed board member of Asian Boxing Body by World Boxing.**



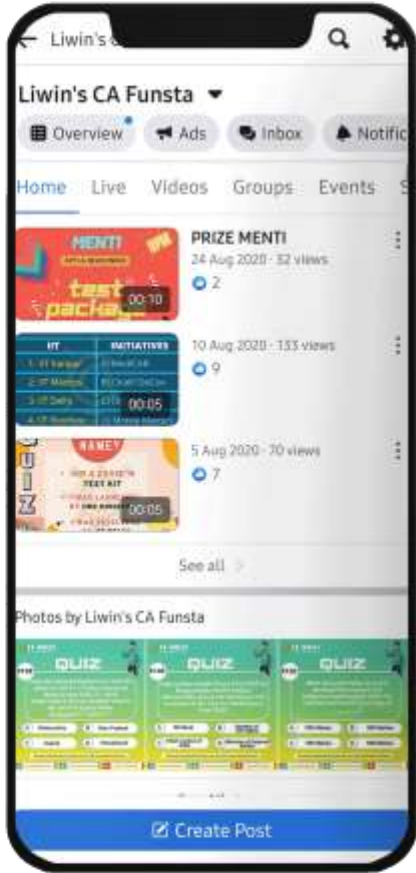
QUICK RECALL



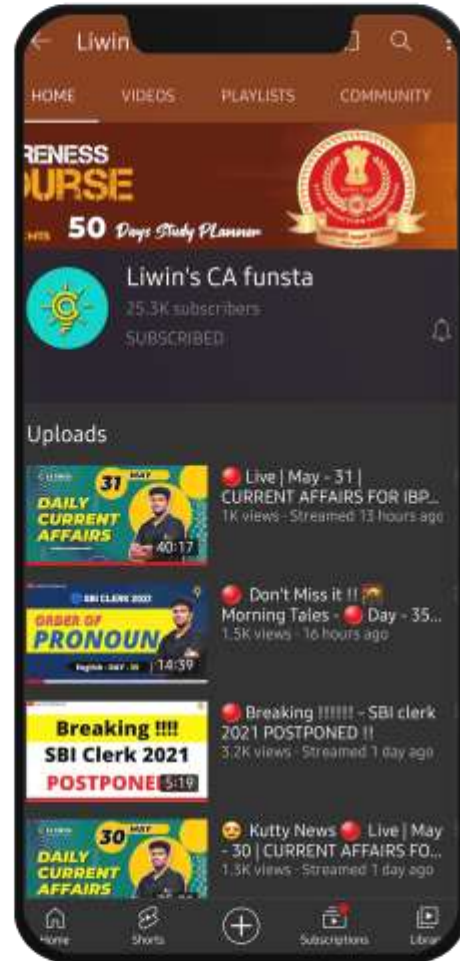
- **AICTE and NQM launched UG Minor in Quantum Technologies for engineering students.**
- **Oil spill in Russia's Black Sea caused by damaged tankers, polluting 55 km of coastline.**
- **Shri Amit Shah reviewed BBSSL's role in New Delhi for cooperative agriculture.**
- **Climate Smart Agro-Textile Center inaugurated in Navsari to promote Agro-Textiles in farming.**



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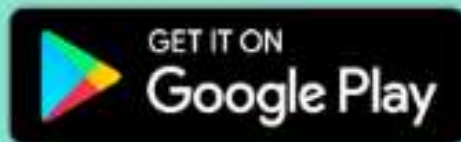
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