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Important Days



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

- A) November 25
- B) November 29
- C) December 1
- D) October 15
- E) December 31

Answer

B) November 29



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** International Jaguar Day
- **Location:** Observed globally to raise awareness about jaguar conservation.



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- Educates people about the ecological significance of jaguars.
- Highlights initiatives like **protected reserves** and **wildlife corridors** to safeguard jaguar habitats.
- Encourages governments and individuals to take action against threats such as habitat destruction and poaching.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

1. Panthera (Organisation):

- Focused on the conservation of wild cats worldwide.
- Collaborated in establishing International Jaguar Day in 2018.

2. Jaguar Corridor Initiative:

- A landmark program adopted on November 29, 2018.
- Aims to protect jaguar habitats across 18 countries from Mexico to Argentina.

3. Keystone Species:

- Jaguars are considered keystone species as they regulate prey populations and maintain ecological balance.



Important Days



Threats Faced by Jaguars:

- **Deforestation:** Habitat loss due to agriculture, logging, and urban expansion.
- **Human-Wildlife Conflict:** Retaliatory killings when jaguars prey on livestock.
- **Poaching:** Illegal hunting for pelts, bones, and teeth.
- **Climate Change:** Disruption of ecosystems from altered weather patterns and water scarcity.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Barriers like roads and dams prevent jaguar movement.



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **Panthera (Organisation):**
 - **Headquarters:** New York, United States
 - **Founded:** 2006
 - **CEO:** Frederick Launay
- **Jaguar (Panthera onca):**
 - **Habitat:** Tropical rainforests, grasslands, and wetlands of the Americas.
 - **Conservation Status:** Near Threatened (IUCN Red List).



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Event	International Jaguar Day
Date Observed	November 29
Established By	Panthera and conservation partners
Significance	Raises awareness about jaguar conservation and threats they face
Current Threats	Deforestation, poaching, human-wildlife conflict, and climate change
Keystone Initiative	Jaguar Corridor Initiative (2018)



Important Days



➤ **What date is observed as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People by the United Nations?**

- A) November 28
- B) November 29
- C) December 10
- D) September 28
- E) January 5

Answer

B) November 29

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
SOLIDARITY
WITH THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
- **Location:** Global observance organized by the United Nations.



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- Commemorates the UN General Assembly's 1947 resolution to partition Palestine into Arab and Jewish states.
- Aims to highlight the ongoing struggles of the Palestinian people and reaffirm global solidarity.
- Promotes cultural and educational events focusing on Palestinian history and rights.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

1. United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181 (II):

- Adopted in 1947 to partition Palestine into an Arab state and a Jewish state.
- Jerusalem was placed under a special international regime.

2. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP):

- Established in 1975 to promote Palestinian rights and assist in awareness campaigns.
- Organizes exhibitions and events in collaboration with the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

3. Palestine's Status in the UN:

- Granted observer status in 1974 via the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).
- Recognized as a non-member observer state on November 29, 2012.

4. Gaza Exhibition:

- Current exhibition titled "Gaza, Palestine: A Crisis of Our Humanity" held from November 26, 2024, to January 5, 2025, at the UN General Assembly building in New York.



Important Days



Historical Context:

- **Balfour Declaration (1917):** British support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine.
- **Post-WWI Period (1922):** Palestine placed under British mandate by the League of Nations.
- Post-WWII conflicts involved Arab resistance to Jewish immigration and demands for a Jewish state by Zionists, leading to UN intervention in **1947**.



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **United Nations (UN):**
 - **Founded:** 24 October 1945
 - **Headquarters:** New York City, United States
 - **Secretary-General:** António Guterres
- **Palestine:**
 - **Capital:** East Jerusalem (claimed)
 - **Currency:** Palestinian pound (unofficial), Israeli new shekel in use
 - **President:** Mahmoud Abbas
 - **Prime Minister:** Mohammad Shtayyeh



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Event	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
Date Observed	November 29
Established By	United Nations
Significance	Marks the 1947 UN resolution to partition Palestine; solidarity with Palestine
Current Highlight (2024)	Exhibition on Gaza at UN Headquarters from Nov 26, 2024 to Jan 5, 2025



Important Days

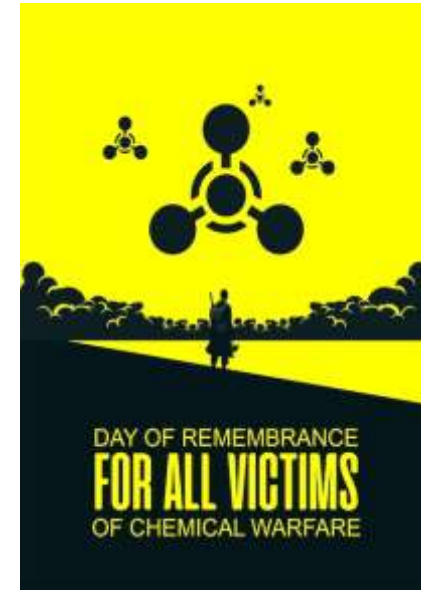


➤ **When is the Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare observed annually?**

- A) April 29
- B) November 30
- C) January 15
- D) August 6
- E) December 10

Answer

B) November 30



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare
- **Location:** Observed globally under the framework of **the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)**.



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- To honor the victims of chemical warfare.
- To reaffirm commitment to the **elimination of chemical weapons** and support global peace.
- Promotes **multilateralism** and international security.



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW):**
 - Established to oversee the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).
 - Ensures compliance, international verification, and cooperation among States Parties.
- **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC):**
 - Adopted in 1993 and came into force on April 29, 1997.
 - Aims to completely eliminate chemical weapons.
 - Includes international verification and provisions for cooperation.



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Third Review Conference:**
 - Held in April 2013 in The Hague, Netherlands.
 - Reaffirmed the commitment of State Parties to a global ban on chemical weapons.



Important Days



Historical Background:

- Chemical weapons caused over 100,000 deaths in World War I.
- **Post-World War II:** Nations realized the limited strategic value of chemical weapons, leading to the comprehensive ban through the CWC.



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW):**
 - **Founded:** 1997
 - **Headquarters:** The Hague, Netherlands
 - **Head:** Fernando Arias
- **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC):**
 - **Adopted:** 1993
 - **Came into Force:** 29 April 1997



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Event	Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare
Date Observed	November 30 (or first day of the OPCW Conference session)
Established By	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
Significance	Honors victims and promotes the elimination of chemical weapons
Historic Decision Date	Adopted during the 20th session of the States Parties to CWC
Location	Global observance under OPCW's framework



Important Days



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

- A) "Ending AIDS by 2030"
- B) "Youth Health Matters"
- C) "Take the Rights Path: My Health, My Right!"
- D) "HIV Awareness for All"
- E) "Health Equity for the Future"



Answer

C) "Take the Rights Path: My Health, My Right!"



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Observance of World AIDS Day 2024.
- **Location:** Commemorated globally with a focus on HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention, and rights-based healthcare.



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Theme:** “Take the Rights Path: My Health, My Right!” emphasizes a rights-based approach to healthcare.
- **Focus Areas:**
 - Confronting inequalities that hinder progress in ending AIDS.
 - Empowering individuals affected by HIV/AIDS to access healthcare without discrimination.
 - Strengthening global collaboration to meet the 2030 target of ending AIDS.



Important Days



Key Challenges and Insights:

- **Global Statistics:**
 - 39.9 million people live with HIV globally, with 1.3 million new infections reported in 2023.
 - WHO South-East Asia Region accounts for 3.9 million HIV cases (10% of global burden).
- **Youth and Key Populations:**
 - High infection rates among young people (15–24 years) and marginalized groups such as MSM, sex workers, and trans individuals.
 - Limited access to comprehensive sexual education and stigma-related challenges restrict healthcare access.



Important Days



Key Challenges and Insights:

- **Mother-to-Child Transmission:**
 - Vertical transmission remains a concern, with WHO championing the 'triple elimination' initiative to eradicate HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B.



Important Days



Initiatives and Innovations:

- **Adolescent-Responsive Health Systems:**
 - Ministerial Declaration (October 2024) emphasizes inclusive health services for young people.
- **Biomedical Advances:**
 - Tools like PrEP, PEP, and long-acting antiretrovirals aim to reduce transmission.
- **Technological Innovations:**
 - Mobile apps, telemedicine, and virtual support groups enhance accessibility to healthcare.
- **Stigma Reduction:**
 - Training for healthcare providers and public campaigns to create supportive environments.



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **World AIDS Day:**
 - **Date:** December 1 (observed annually)
 - **Established by:** World Health Organization (WHO)
 - **First Observed:** 1988
 - **Objective:** Raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and advocate for the rights and health of individuals affected by the disease.



Important Days



Static GK Information:

- **WHO South-East Asia Region:**
 - **Countries:** Includes India, Thailand, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and others.
 - **Regional Director:** Saima Wazed (2024).
 - **Goal:** Achieve 95-95-95 targets by 2030:
 - 95% of people with HIV diagnosed.
 - 95% of those diagnosed on sustained treatment.
 - 95% of those on treatment achieving viral suppression.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Event	World AIDS Day 2024
Theme	“Take the Rights Path: My Health, My Right!”
Global Cases of HIV	39.9 million people living with HIV globally
Regional Cases (SEARO)	3.9 million (10% of global HIV cases)
Focus Areas	Rights-based healthcare, stigma reduction, youth-focused initiatives
Innovative Tools	PrEP, PEP, mobile apps, telemedicine
Target	End AIDS by 2030 through 95-95-95 goals



➤ In which year did Siddarth Kaul receive his T20I cap for India?

- A) 2017
- B) 2018
- C) 2019
- D) 2020
- E) 2016

Answer
B) 2018



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Siddarth Kaul announces retirement from Indian cricket.
- **Location:** Announcement made via Instagram, ending a professional cricket career spanning 17 years.



Mandates and Objectives:

- Aspired to represent India, fulfilling his dream in 2018 by receiving India Cap Number 75 in T20I cricket and 221 in ODIs.
- Excelled in domestic cricket, particularly in white-ball formats for Punjab.
- Contributed significantly to India's 2008 Under-19 World Cup victory under Virat Kohli's captaincy.



Career Highlights:

- **International Debut: Represented India in 3 ODIs and 3 T20Is.**
- **Domestic Cricket:**
 - Leading wicket-taker for Punjab in the 2023-24 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy with 16 wickets in 10 matches.
 - Topped the charts for Punjab in the 2022-23 Vijay Hazare Trophy.
- **Indian Premier League (IPL):**
 - Played 55 IPL games for franchises including Delhi Daredevils, Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), and Royal Challengers Bengaluru.
 - Took 37 wickets for SRH in the 2017 and 2018 seasons, earning a national call-up.



Notable Statistics:

- **First-Class Matches:** 297 wickets in 88 games at an average of 26.77.
- **International Career:** Last appearance for India was in February 2019.



Static GK Information:

- **Siddarth Kaul:**
 - **Born:** May 19, 1989
 - **Domestic Team:** Punjab
 - **Major Achievements:**
 - Part of India's 2008 Under-19 World Cup-winning team.
 - Played in India's 2018 Asia Cup-winning campaign.



SPORTS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Siddarth Kaul retires from Indian cricket
Retirement Announcement	November 29, 2024
T20I Debut (India Cap 75)	2018
ODI Debut (India Cap 221)	2018
Domestic Highlight	Leading wicket-taker in 2023-24 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy
IPL Franchises	Delhi Daredevils, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Royal Challengers Bengaluru
First-Class Career	297 wickets in 88 matches at an average of 26.77



RANKING



➤ Which company topped the Wizikey News Score ranking for media visibility in 2024?

- A) Tata Group
- B) Adani Group
- C) Infosys
- D) Reliance Industries
- E) HDFC Bank

Answer

D) Reliance Industries



RANKING



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Reliance Industries ranked as the most visible corporate in media for 2024 by Wizikey News Score rankings.
- **Location:** Announcement made in New Delhi.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Wizikey News Score:** Measures a company's media visibility through metrics such as news mentions, sentiment analysis, and media coverage.
- **Reliance's Performance:**
 - Scored 97.43 out of 100 on the Wizikey News Score for 2024.
 - Consistently ranked #1 since 2021, with scores showing significant growth:
 - **2021:** 84.9
 - **2022:** 92.56
 - **2023:** 96.46
 - **2024:** 97.43



RANKING



Significance:

- Reliance Industries, India's largest corporate by revenues, profits, market value, and social impact, continues to dominate media visibility rankings.
- Reflects Reliance's consistent performance, expansive media presence, and relevance in economic and corporate domains.



Static GK Information:

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL):**
 - **Founded:** 1973
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
 - **Chairman & MD:** Mukesh Ambani
 - **Key Sectors:** Energy, petrochemicals, retail, telecommunications, and digital services.
- **Wizikey News Score:**
 - **Platform:** AI-powered media intelligence firm measuring corporate media visibility.
 - **Methodology:** Combines frequency of mentions, sentiment analysis, and news impact to calculate rankings.



RANKING



Tabular Summary:

Event	Reliance Industries tops Wizikey News Score ranking for 2024
Rank	1st
Score (2024)	97.43
Previous Scores	96.46 (2023), 92.56 (2022), 84.9 (2021)
Key Metrics	Media visibility, news mentions, sentiment analysis
Organized By	Wizikey (AI-powered media intelligence firm)



- **What is the primary focus of SBI's nation-wide drive launched in November 2024?**
- A) Opening new fixed deposit accounts
 - B) Increasing loan disbursements to rural areas
 - C) Reactivating inoperative accounts, including PMJDY accounts
 - D) Promoting digital banking services
 - E) Launching new credit card schemes



Answer

**C) Reactivating inoperative accounts,
including PMJDY accounts**



Event and Location:

- **Event:** SBI launches a nation-wide drive to re-activate inoperative accounts, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts.
- **Location:** Initiative launched across India by the State Bank of India.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Primary Goal:** Improve the proportion of Current Account Savings Account (CASA) deposits in SBI's domestic deposits.
- **Target Accounts:** Focuses on reactivating dormant accounts, particularly those under the PMJDY scheme, to enhance account utilization.



Significance:

- As of September-end 2024, SBI's:
 - **Domestic Deposits:** ₹49,10,528 crore.
 - **Total Deposits (Domestic + Foreign):** ₹51,17,285 crore.
- CASA deposits are critical to maintaining low-cost funds, supporting SBI's financial stability and growth.



Static GK Information:

- **State Bank of India (SBI):**
 - **Founded:** July 1, 1955
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - **Chairman:** Dinesh Kumar Khara
 - **Tagline:** The Banker to Every Indian
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY):**
 - **Launched:** August 28, 2014
 - **Objective:** Provide financial inclusion by offering affordable access to banking, savings, and deposit accounts.



Tabular Summary:

Event	SBI launches drive to reactivate inoperative accounts
Focus	Reactivating inoperative accounts, including PMJDY accounts
Objective	Improve CASA deposit proportion in domestic deposits
SBI Domestic Deposits (Sept 2024)	₹49,10,528 crore
SBI Total Deposits (Sept 2024)	₹51,17,285 crore
Tagline	The Banker to Every Indian



➤ **Where was the 13th edition of the joint military exercise “Agni Warrior 2024” conducted?**

- A) Pune, Maharashtra
- B) Devlali, Maharashtra
- C) Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- D) Hyderabad, Telangana
- E) Leh, Ladakh

Answer

B) Devlali, Maharashtra



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Conclusion of the 13th edition of Joint Military Exercise Agni Warrior 2024 (XAW-2024).
- **Location:** Field Firing Ranges, Devlali, Maharashtra, from 28th to 30th November 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Primary Aim:**
 - Enhance mutual understanding of drills and procedures between the Indian Army and Singapore Armed Forces (SAF).
 - Achieve joint operational efficiency under the United Nations Charter.
- **Focus Areas:**
 - Joint firepower planning and execution.
 - Use of New Generation Equipment and niche technologies.
 - Exchange of best practices and evolution of common artillery procedures.



Participants and Dignitaries:

- **Indian Contingent:**
 - 114 personnel from the Regiment of Artillery.
- **Singapore Contingent:**
 - 182 personnel from the Singapore Artillery.
- **Dignitaries:**
 - **Lieutenant General Adosh Kumar**, Director General of Artillery (India).
 - **Lieutenant General NS Sarna**, Commandant, School of Artillery.
 - **Colonel Ong Chiou Perng**, Chief Artillery Officer, Singapore Armed Forces.



DEFENCE



Significance:

- Strengthened cooperation between India and Singapore in artillery operations.
- Enhanced understanding of each other's capabilities and procedures.
- Facilitated integration of niche technologies in firepower operations.



Static GK Information:

- **Indian Army:**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
 - **Founded:** April 1, 1895
 - **Chief of Army Staff (COAS):** General Manoj Pande
- **Singapore Armed Forces:**
 - **Headquarters:** Bukit Gombak, Singapore
 - **Established:** 1965
 - **Commander-in-Chief:** President Tharman Shanmugaratnam



DEFENCE



Tabular Summary:

Event	Agni Warrior 2024 (13th Edition)
Location	Field Firing Ranges, Devlali, Maharashtra
Date	28th–30th November 2024
Participants	114 Indian personnel, 182 Singapore Armed Forces personnel
Key Dignitaries	Lt. Gen. Adosh Kumar, Lt. Gen. NS Sarna, Col. Ong Chiou Perng
Objective	Enhance joint operational efficiency and mutual understanding
Key Activities	Joint firepower planning, use of new technologies, exchange of best practices



➤ Which organization signed a ₹1207 Cr contract for the refit and dry docking of INS Vikramaditya?

- A) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- B) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- C) Cochin Shipyard Limited
- D) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- E) Goa Shipyard Limited

Answer

C) Cochin Shipyard Limited



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Contract signed for Short Refit and Dry Docking (SRDD) of INS Vikramaditya.
- **Location:** Agreement finalized with Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) on November 30, 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objective:** Enhance the combat capability of INS Vikramaditya, an Indian Aircraft Carrier commissioned in November 2013.
- **Scope:** Refitting and dry docking to ensure readiness for rejoining the active Indian Navy fleet.
- **Strategic Importance:**
 - Positions CSL as a hub for Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) of naval assets.
 - Supports the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives by engaging local resources and MSMEs.



DEFENCE



Key Highlights:

- **Cost of Project:** ₹1207.5 Cr.
- **Industrial Impact:** Involves nearly 50 MSMEs and creates over 3500 jobs.
- **National Vision:** Aligns with the Government's focus on self-reliance in defense manufacturing and service capabilities.



Static GK Information:

- **INS Vikramaditya:**
 - **Type:** Aircraft Carrier
 - **Commissioned:** November 16, 2013
 - **Displacement:** 45,400 tons
 - **Home Port:** Karwar, Karnataka
- **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL):**
 - **Headquarters:** Kochi, Kerala
 - **Founded:** 1972
 - **Chairman & MD:** Madhu S Nair
- **Ministry of Defence (India):**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - **Union Minister:** Rajnath Singh



DEFENCE



Tabular Summary:

Event	Contract for SRDD of INS Vikramaditya
Contract Signed By	Ministry of Defence with Cochin Shipyard Limited
Date	November 30, 2024
Cost	₹1207.5 Cr
Objective	Enhance INS Vikramaditya's combat capabilities through refit and dry docking
Impact	Involves 50 MSMEs and generates 3500+ jobs



➤ For which term has India been re-elected to the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)?

- A) 2024-2025
- B) 2023-2024
- C) 2025-2026
- D) 2022-2023
- E) 2026-2027

Answer

C) 2025-2026



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India re-elected to the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).
- **Location:** Announcement made by the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations.



Mandates and Objectives:

- The PBC is an intergovernmental advisory body established in 2005 to support peace efforts in conflict-affected regions.
- Provides strategic advice to the UN General Assembly and UN Security Council on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
- Promotes collaboration among humanitarian, development, and peace-focused actors.



India's Role:

- Founding member of the PBC and significant contributor to UN Peacekeeping operations.
- Actively engages in country-specific and regional discussions, emphasizing nationally led efforts in peacebuilding.
- Aims to foster global peace and stability through active participation and the sharing of best practices.



Static GK Information:

- **United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC):**
 - **Founded:** December 2005
 - **Headquarters:** New York City, United States
 - **Function:** Advisory body to assist in post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery efforts.
- **India and UN Peacekeeping:**
 - India has been a major contributor of personnel to UN Peacekeeping Operations since 1948.
 - Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations represents the country in UN-related engagements.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	India re-elected to the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)
Term	2025-2026
Established Year of PBC	December 2005
India's Contribution	Founding member and active supporter of UN Peacekeeping
Key Role of PBC	Advisory body for peacebuilding and sustaining peace
Focus Areas	Conflict-affected regions, nationally led peacebuilding efforts



➤ **What is the primary focus of the recent India-UK agreement on naval technology?**

- A) Development of stealth submarines
- B) Integration of electric propulsion systems in naval ships
- C) Creation of advanced radar systems
- D) Joint production of aircraft carriers
- E) Development of underwater drones



Answer

B) Integration of electric propulsion systems in naval ships



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India and the UK sign an agreement to advance electric propulsion technology for the Indian Navy.
- **Location:** Portsmouth, England, during the third joint working group meeting.



Mandates and Objectives:

- The agreement focuses on **designing, creating, and producing electric propulsion systems** tailored for Indian naval ships.
- Aims to integrate **full electric propulsion systems** into Landing Platform Docks (LPDs) to be constructed in Indian shipyards.
- Supports the **Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India)** initiative by fostering indigenous development of advanced naval technologies.



Significance:

- Enhances the operational capabilities of the Indian Navy.
- Promotes environmentally friendly propulsion systems, reducing the naval fleet's environmental footprint.
- Strengthens bilateral defence ties between India and the UK.



Key Participants:

- **India:** Represented by Rajeev Prakash, Joint Secretary (Naval Systems), Ministry of Defence.
- **UK:** Represented by Rear Admiral Steve McCarthy, Director of Ships Operations & Capability Integration, Ministry of Defence.



Static GK Information:

- **Indian Navy:**
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - **Founded:** 26 January 1950
 - **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS):** Admiral R. Hari Kumar
- **UK Royal Navy:**
 - **Headquarters:** Portsmouth, England
 - **Founded:** 1546
 - **Chief of the Naval Staff:** Admiral Sir Ben Key



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	India-UK Agreement on Electric Propulsion Technology for Naval Ships
Date Signed	November 28, 2024
Location	Portsmouth, England
Focus	Design, creation, and integration of electric propulsion systems
Key Participants	Rajeev Prakash (India) and Rear Admiral Steve McCarthy (UK)
Significance	Enhances Indian Navy's capabilities and aligns with Atmanirbhar Bharat



➤ **What is the primary focus of the recently passed Australian legislation concerning social media use?**

- A) Ban on social media use for users under 13 years
- B) Requirement for parental consent for social media access
- C) Prohibition of social media accounts for children under 16 years
- D) Imposition of fines on parents of underage social media users
- E) Government monitoring of all social media accounts



Answer

C) Prohibition of social media accounts for children under 16 years



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Australian Parliament passes a world-first law banning children under 16 from holding social media accounts.
- **Location:** Legislation passed in Australia with final amendments approved on November 29, 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Core Focus:** Prevent social media platforms from allowing children under 16 to create accounts.
- **Fines:** Platforms face penalties of up to AU\$50 million (\$33 million) for non-compliance.
- **Timeline for Compliance:** Platforms have one year to implement the ban before penalties are enforced.



Key Features of the Law:

- 1. Privacy Protections:** Platforms cannot compel users to provide government-issued identity documents for verification.
- 2. Exemptions:** Educational and health-related platforms like YouTube, Messenger Kids, WhatsApp, Kids Helpline, and Google Classroom are exempted.
- 3. Opposition Concerns:** Critics argue the ban could isolate vulnerable children, especially in regional and LGBTQI communities, and discourage platforms from improving online safety.



Support and Opposition:

- **Supporters:**
 - Prime Minister Anthony Albanese emphasizes the law's role in prioritizing children's safety.
 - Advocates like Sonya Ryan and Wayne Holdsworth view the law as essential to prevent online harm.
- **Opposition:**
 - Critics like Christopher Stone argue it overlooks the positive aspects of social media.
 - Industry groups and platforms like Meta and Snapchat believe the legislation was rushed and is impractical.



Static GK Information:

- **Australia:**
 - **Capital:** Canberra
 - **Currency:** Australian Dollar (AUD)
 - **Prime Minister:** Anthony Albanese
 - **Governor-General:** David Hurley
- **Key Agencies Involved:**
 - **eSafety Commissioner:** Regulates online safety and implementation of the new law.
 - **Digital Industry Group Inc. (DIGI):** Represents platforms like Meta, TikTok, and Snapchat in Australia.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Social Media Ban for Under-16s in Australia
Legislation Passed	November 29, 2024
Key Provision	Bans social media accounts for users under 16 years
Platforms Affected	TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Reddit, X
Fines for Non-Compliance	Up to AU\$50 million (\$33 million)
Exemptions	YouTube, Messenger Kids, WhatsApp, Kids Helpline, Google Classroom
Implementation Timeline	Platforms have one year to comply before penalties are enforced



➤ **What is the primary focus of the MoU between UST and Western Sydney University (WSU)?**

- A) Developing AI solutions for the healthcare sector
- B) Advancing agri-tech solutions to enhance global food security
- C) Promoting student exchange programs in technology
- D) Establishing research labs for space exploration
- E) Creating cybersecurity solutions for the financial industry



Answer

B) Advancing agri-tech solutions to enhance global food security



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Signing of MoU between UST and Western Sydney University (WSU) to collaborate on agri-tech innovation.
- **Location:** Bengaluru, India.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Primary Aim:** Leverage WSU's research expertise and UST's technology solutions to:
 - Address global food security challenges.
 - Develop sustainable and innovative agri-tech solutions.
- **Additional Focus Areas:**
 - Conduct focused research tailored to agriculture industry needs.
 - Nurture future leaders through mentoring programs.
 - Engage in knowledge-sharing initiatives to promote sustainable agricultural practices.



Significance:

- Aligns with UST's mission of "Transforming Lives" by driving change in the agriculture sector.
- Provides UST access to WSU's world-class research, talent, and facilities in Australia.
- Strengthens global collaboration to address challenges like food security and sustainability.



Key Participants at the Signing Ceremony:

- **UST:**
 - Kirankumar Doreswamy, Vice-President and Centre Head, Bengaluru.
 - Jaison Sebastian, Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives.
 - Tinu Cherian Abraham, Director and Head of global PR & Media Relations.
- **WSU:**
 - Deborah Sweeney, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor.
 - Nicolene Murdoch, Pro Vice-Chancellor.
 - Nisha Rakhesh, Head, International Strategy and Partnerships.
 - Kopal Chaube, Lead Research Collaborations and Partnerships, South Asia.



Key Participants at the Signing Ceremony:

- **Australian Representation:**
 - Hilary McGeachy, Australian Consul General, Bengaluru.



Static GK Information:

- **UST:**
 - **Headquarters:** Aliso Viejo, California, USA.
 - **Founded:** 1999.
 - **Focus Areas:** Digital transformation, technology solutions, and sustainable innovation.
- **Western Sydney University (WSU):**
 - **Location:** Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.
 - **Established:** 1989.
 - **Vice-Chancellor:** Distinguished Professor George Williams AO.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	MoU between UST and Western Sydney University (WSU)
Location	Bengaluru, India
Focus	Advancing agri-tech solutions for sustainable agriculture and food security
Key Participants	UST and WSU leaders, Australian Consul General
Significance	Collaboration to address global food security challenges
Key Initiatives	Joint research, mentoring programs, and knowledge-sharing efforts



➤ **What was recently inaugurated by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Rome, Italy?**

- A) Indian Community Centre
- B) New Chancery of the Indian Embassy
- C) India-Italy Trade Office
- D) Maritime Security Facility
- E) Indian Cultural Institute

Answer

B) New Chancery of the Indian Embassy



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Inauguration of the new Chancery of the Indian Embassy in Rome, Italy.
- **Location:** Rome, Italy, during Jaishankar's official visit from November 24 to 26, 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- Strengthens the Embassy's ability to serve the Indian diaspora in Italy.
- Reflects the expanding India-Italy partnership and growing bilateral ties.
- Highlights the historical and maritime connections between the two nations.



Key Highlights of the Visit:

- **Historical Perspective:**
 - Emphasized deep historical ties between India and Italy, especially as key trade partners for centuries.
 - Both nations share a maritime perspective on global affairs and commitments to freedom of navigation.
- **Strategic Collaboration:**
 - Discussed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), a transformative initiative strengthening connectivity and commerce.
 - Highlighted coordination on maritime security in areas like the Gulf of Aden.



Key Highlights of the Visit:

- **Diplomatic Engagement:**
 - Frequent interactions at various levels reflect deepening bilateral ties.
 - India regards Italy as a key European and Mediterranean partner.



Static GK Information:

- **Italy:**
 - **Capital:** Rome
 - **Currency:** Euro
 - **Prime Minister:** Giorgia Meloni
 - **President:** Sergio Mattarella
- **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC):**
 - Agreed in principle during India's G20 Presidency (2023).
 - Aims to boost trade, connectivity, and economic collaboration between India, Europe, and the Middle East.
- **New Chancery in Rome:**
 - Enhances services for the Indian community in Italy.
 - Facilitates India's growing diplomatic, cultural, and economic presence in Europe.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Inauguration of New Chancery of the Indian Embassy in Rome
Inaugurated By	External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar
Location	Rome, Italy
Date	November 24, 2024
Key Initiative Discussed	India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)
Significance	Expands India-Italy partnership and strengthens services for the diaspora



➤ **What is the primary objective of the "Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman Portal"?**

- A) To promote cultural festivals across India
- B) To enhance citizens' awareness of fundamental rights and duties
- C) To organize sports competitions for constitutional awareness
- D) To distribute free copies of the Constitution
- E) To build infrastructure for legal aid centers



Answer

B) To enhance citizens' awareness of fundamental rights and duties



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of the 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' Portal as part of a nationwide campaign.
- **Location:** Launched during the second regional event in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, on July 16, 2024.



Mandates and Objectives:

- Commemorates the 75th year of India as a Republic and the adoption of the Constitution.
- The portal serves as a knowledge repository for citizens to learn about their legal rights and responsibilities.
- Encourages public engagement through interactive activities like quizzes, crossword puzzles, and pledge-taking.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Key Features of the Campaign:

- **Nationwide Campaign:** Launched on January 24, 2024, by the Vice-President of India.
- **Three Regional Events:** Organized in Bikaner (Rajasthan), Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh), and Guwahati (Assam) for decentralized outreach.
- **Interactive Engagement:** Activities include Panch Pran Pledge, Nyaya Sewa Melas, and online competitions via MyGov.



Sub-Campaigns:

1. Sabko Nyaya Har Ghar Nyaya:

- Promotes justice at the grassroots through Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs).
- Organized Nyaya Sewa Melas and door-to-door awareness in 500 Aspirational Blocks.

2. Nav Bharat Nav Sankalp:

- Includes competitions like Samvidhan Quiz, Panch Pran Rangotsav (poster-making), and Panch Pran Anubhav (reel-making).
- Winners were felicitated during the Prayagraj regional event.



Sub-Campaigns:

3. Vidhi Jagriti Abhiyan:

- Promotes legal literacy through grassroots initiatives.
- Engages students in driving awareness via Gram Vidhi Chetna programs in villages.
- Includes targeted activities for marginalized groups (Vanchit Varg Sammam) and gender issues (Nari Bhagidaari).



Achievements:

- Over **1.29 lakh citizens** have participated in the Panch Pran activity.
- Reached **65.80 lakh citizens** through various legal literacy and educational initiatives.



Static GK Information:

- **Ministry of Law & Justice, India:**
 - **Minister of State (Independent Charge):** Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal
 - **Headquarters:** Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
 - **Established:** 1833 (as the Legislative Department, Government of India)



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	Launch of 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' Portal
Launch Date	July 16, 2024
Launched By	Vice-President of India
Objective	Enhancing public awareness of fundamental rights, duties, and legal protections
Regional Events Locations	Bikaner, Prayagraj, Guwahati
Sub-Campaigns	Sabko Nyaya Har Ghar Nyaya, Nav Bharat Nav Sankalp, Vidhi Jagriti Abhiyan
Total Outreach	65.80 lakh citizens



➤ **What is the primary purpose of the Independent Director Databank (IDDB)?**

- A) To maintain a record of all company directors
- B) To facilitate the appointment of qualified Independent Directors
- C) To train directors on financial reporting standards
- D) To monitor the performance of corporate boards
- E) To evaluate the effectiveness of executive management



Answer

B) To facilitate the appointment of qualified Independent Directors



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** MoU signing ceremony hosted by the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA).
- **Location:** National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) Headquarters, New Delhi.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Independent Director Databank (IDDB):**
 - Repository of professionals eligible to serve as Independent Directors, mandated by the Companies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Rules, 2014.
 - Provides companies with access to skilled professionals, ensuring boardrooms meet modern governance standards.
 - Requires registration and proficiency assessment for all Independent Directors.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **MoU Purpose:**
 - Enhance selection and appointment processes for Independent Directors.
 - Signed with six executive search firms: Korn Ferry, ABC Consultants, EMA Partners Limited, DHR Global, Sheffield Haworth, and Vahura.



Key Launches:

1. IICA Note on Board Evaluation:

- Analysis of board evaluation practices in global and Indian contexts.
- Provides tools, methodologies, and trends to strengthen governance frameworks.

2. Board Evaluation Services Deck:

- Highlights IICA's expertise in corporate governance assessments and actionable insights for board improvement.



Significance:

- Advances corporate governance excellence by aligning Indian boardrooms with global standards.
- Supports the Make in India initiative by strengthening accountability and transparency in corporate leadership.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Static GK Information:

- **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA):**
 - **Established:** 2008
 - **Headquarters:** Manesar, Haryana
 - **Director General:** Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA):**
 - **Established:** 2018
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - **Chairman:** Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Event	MoU Signing Ceremony with Executive Search Firms
Hosted By	Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)
Location	NFRA Headquarters, New Delhi
Key Objective	Strengthen appointment processes for Independent Directors
MoUs Signed With	Korn Ferry, ABC Consultants, EMA Partners Limited, DHR Global, Sheffield Haworth, Vahura
New Initiatives Launched	IICA Note on Board Evaluation, Board Evaluation Services Deck



QUICK RECALL



- **International Jaguar Day** observed on November 29 to promote jaguar conservation.
- **International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People** observed on November 29 annually.
- **Day of Remembrance for Victims of Chemical Warfare** observed on November 30 annually.
- **World AIDS Day 2024** theme: “Take the Rights Path: My Health, My Right!”
- **Siddarth Kaul** retires after a 17-year cricket career, debuting for India in 2018.
- **Reliance Industries** tops Wizikey News Score rankings for the fourth consecutive year.
- **SBI** launches drive to reactivate inoperative accounts, focusing on PMJDY accounts.
- **Agni Warrior 2024** conducted at Devlali, Maharashtra, from 28th to 30th November.
- **Ministry of Defence** inks ₹1207 Cr contract with Cochin Shipyard for INS Vikramaditya’s refit.



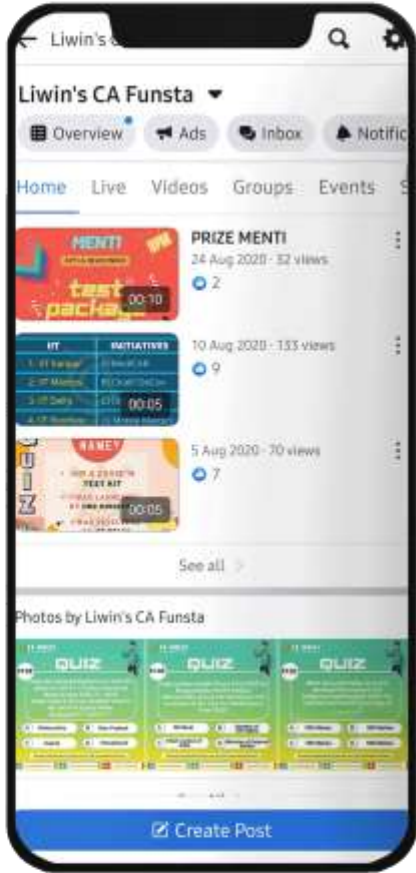
QUICK RECALL



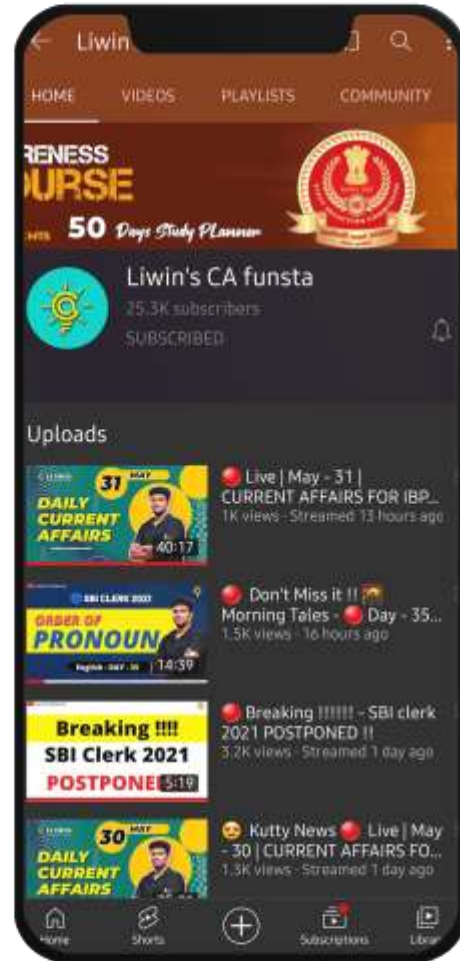
- **India re-elected to UN Peacebuilding Commission for the 2025-2026 term.**
- **India-UK agreement focuses on electric propulsion systems for future Indian naval ships.**
- **Australia bans social media accounts for children under 16 in a world-first law.**
- **UST partners with WSU to drive agri-tech innovation for global food security.**
- **S. Jaishankar inaugurated the new Chancery of the Indian Embassy in Rome.**
- **'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' Portal launched to enhance constitutional awareness.**
- **IICA partners with six executive search firms to strengthen Independent Director appointments.**



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