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Current Affairs

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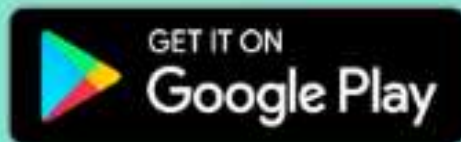
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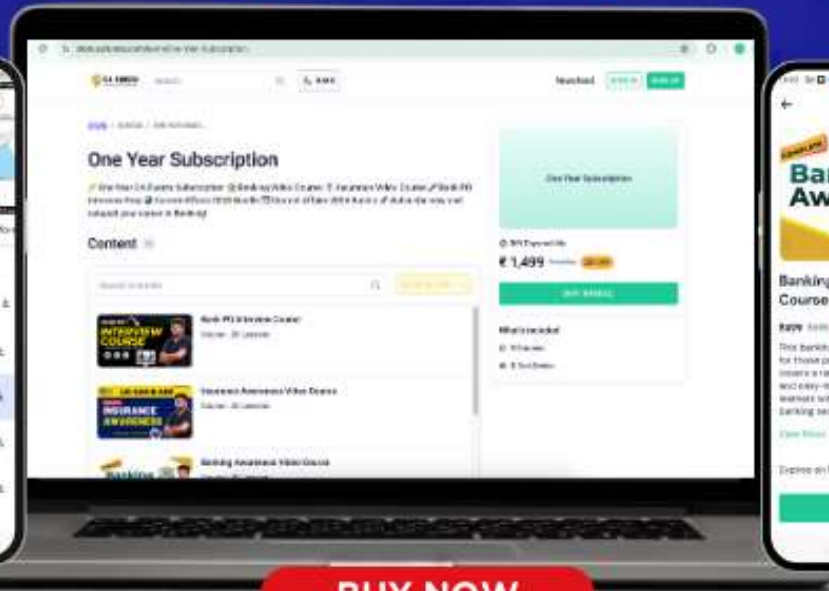
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Important Days



➤ **What was a key highlight of the first 'Mann Ki Baat' of 2025 by PM Modi?**

- A) Celebration of India's first space docking achievement
- B) Commemoration of the 75th Republic Day
- C) Launch of Start-Up India initiative
- D) Release of the Virgin Coconut Oil GI tag
- E) Inauguration of new tiger reserves



Answer

B) Commemoration of the 75th Republic Day



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** First 'Mann Ki Baat' of 2025
- **Date and Location:** January 20, 2025, aired nationwide



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- Commemorate significant national milestones, including **the 75th Republic Day** and **National Voters' Day**.
- Encourage unity, cultural heritage preservation, and citizen participation in democratic and national development activities.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Mann Ki Baat:**
 - A monthly radio program where PM Modi addresses the nation on various issues, highlighting governance, traditions, and achievements.
- **75th Republic Day:**
 - Marks 75 years of the Indian Constitution's adoption, symbolizing India's democratic journey and unity.
- **Kumbh Mela:**
 - A religious congregation emphasizing inclusivity, unity in diversity, and India's cultural richness.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Start-Up India Initiative:**
 - Government initiative launched in 2016 to support startups, especially in Tier 2 and 3 cities, with an emphasis on innovation and women-led enterprises.
- **Haathi Bandhu Program:**
 - A conservation initiative in Assam aimed at reducing human-animal conflicts through sustainable solutions.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Key Points	Details
Event	First 'Mann Ki Baat' of 2025 aired early to accommodate Republic Day celebrations.
Special Date for Broadcast	Aired on January 20, 2025, instead of the last Sunday of the month.
75th Republic Day	Tribute to Constitution makers and their vision for unity, peace, and equality.
Space Achievements	Pixxel's satellite constellation launch and India's first space docking.
Kumbh Mela	Highlights India's cultural unity and global recognition of traditions.
Haathi Bandhu Program	Assam's conservation initiative reducing human-elephant conflicts.
Economic Empowerment	Virgin Coconut Oil from Andaman & Nicobar Islands received GI tag to benefit tribal women.
Honoring Netaji Bose	Parakram Diwas celebrated on January 23, emphasizing his contributions and legacy.



SPORTS



- Which country won both the men's and women's titles at the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup 2025?



- A) Nepal
- B) Iran
- C) India
- D) Bangladesh
- E) South Africa

Answer
C) India



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India wins inaugural Kho Kho World Cup 2025
- **Date and Location:** January 13-19, 2025, Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi



Mandates and Objectives:

- Showcase India's dominance in Kho Kho by clinching both men's and women's titles.
- Promote Kho Kho on the global stage and inspire young athletes to pursue this traditional sport.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Kho Kho World Cup 2025:**
 - The first international tournament for Kho Kho, featuring 23 countries from six continents.
- **Seven-a-side Format:**
 - Each team fields seven players, emphasizing agility, strategy, and teamwork in this traditional Indian sport.
- **Dream Run:**
 - A defensive maneuver where a player avoids being touched for a prolonged duration, scoring valuable points.



Tabular Summary:

Key Points	Details
Event	India won both men's and women's titles at the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup 2025.
Location	Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi
Event Dates	January 13-19, 2025
Men's Final	India defeated Nepal 54-36; key players: Pratik Waikar (Captain), Ramji Kashyap.
Women's Final	India defeated Nepal 78-40; key players: Priyanka Ingle (Captain), B Chaithra.
Teams Participated	23 countries (20 men's teams, 19 women's teams).
Significant Leadership	PM Narendra Modi congratulated the teams for their historic victories.
Historical Significance	First-ever Kho Kho World Cup showcased India's traditional game on a global stage.



SPORTS



➤ Who won the men's singles title at the India Open 2025?



- A) Lee Cheuk Yiu
- B) Goh Sze Fei
- C) Viktor Axelsen
- D) Thom Gicquel
- E) Kim Won Ho

Answer

C) Viktor Axelsen



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India Open 2025 – Viktor Axelsen and An Se-young triumph
- **Date and Location:** January 2025, New Delhi, India



Mandates and Objectives:

- Showcase world-class badminton talent through **the BWF World Tour Super 750 Series**.
- Highlight the dominance of global players like Viktor Axelsen and An Se-young in singles competitions.



Important Terms Explained:

- **BWF World Tour Super 750 Series:**
 - A prestigious series of badminton tournaments organized by the Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- **Viktor Axelsen:**
 - A two-time world champion and three-time India Open winner (2017, 2019, 2025).
- **An Se-young:**
 - A rising star from South Korea, known for her consistent performances and growing dominance in women's singles.



Tabular Summary:

Key Points	Details
Event	Viktor Axelsen and An Se-young won men's and women's singles titles at India Open 2025.
Tournament	India Open 2025 – Part of BWF World Tour Super 750 Series.
Venue	New Delhi, India.
Men's Singles Winner	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark).
Women's Singles Winner	An Se-young (South Korea).
Men's Doubles Winners	Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin (Malaysia).
Women's Doubles Winners	Arisa Igarashi and Ayako Sakuramoto (Japan).
Mixed Doubles Winners	Jiang Zhen Bang and Wei Ya Xin (China).
Viktor Axelsen's Feat	Secured his third India Open title (2017, 2019, 2025).
An Se-young's Feat	Demonstrated continued dominance in women's singles globally.



➤ Which team won the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2024-25 final?

- A) Vidarbha
- B) Karnataka
- C) Mumbai
- D) Tamil Nadu
- E) Baroda



Answer
B) Karnataka



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Karnataka Wins Vijay Hazare Trophy for the Fifth Time
- **Date and Location:** January 19, 2025, at Kotambi Stadium, Vadodara



Mandates and Objectives:

- Showcase Karnataka's dominance in domestic cricket with **a record fifth Vijay Hazare Trophy title.**
- Highlight key individual performances that contributed to Karnataka's victory.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Vijay Hazare Trophy (VHT):**
 - India's premier domestic one-day cricket competition, organized by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
 - Named after cricketing legend Vijay Hazare.
- **List A Cricket:**
 - A limited-overs format with matches typically consisting of 50 overs per side.
- **Ravichandran Smaran:**
 - Karnataka's batter who scored his second List A century (101 runs off 92 balls) in the final.



Tabular Summary:

Key Points	Details
Event	Karnataka won the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2024-25, defeating Vidarbha by 36 runs.
Venue	Kotambi Stadium, Vadodara
Final Score	Karnataka: 348/6 (50 overs), Vidarbha: 312 all out (48.2 overs)
Key Performers	Ravichandran Smaran (101 off 92), Krishnan Srijith (78 off 74), Abhinav Manohar (79 off 42).
Karnataka's Legacy	Fifth Vijay Hazare Trophy title after wins in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2017-18, and 2019-20.
Vidarbha's Top Scorer	Dhruv Shorey (100 runs)
Winning Margin	36 runs



RANKING



➤ **Who is the richest man in India in 2025?**

- A) Gautam Adani
- B) Shiv Nadar
- C) Mukesh Ambani
- D) Savitri Jindal
- E) Dilip Shanghvi



Answer

C) Mukesh Ambani



RANKING



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Richest Man in India – Mukesh Ambani Tops the List
- **Date and Source:** January 2025, Forbes India Billionaire List



RANKING



Mandates and Objectives:

- Highlight the financial and business achievements of India's top billionaires.
- Provide insights into the industries driving India's wealthiest individuals.



RANKING



Important Terms Explained:

- **Mukesh Ambani:**
 - **Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries**, leading sectors such as petrochemicals, oil & gas, retail, and telecom.
 - **Net Worth:** \$95.4 billion, the highest among Indian billionaires in 2025.
- **Gautam Adani:**
 - **Chairman of Adani Group**, with a diversified business portfolio including ports, airports, power, green energy, cement, and real estate.
 - **Net Worth:** \$62.3 billion.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Shiv Nadar:**
 - **Founder of HCL Technologies** and a philanthropist through the Shiv Nadar Foundation, focusing on education.
 - **Net Worth:** \$42.1 billion.



RANKING



Tabular Summary:

Rank	Name	Net Worth (in USD)	Source of Wealth
1	Mukesh Ambani	\$95.4 billion	Reliance Industries
2	Gautam Adani	\$62.3 billion	Adani Group
3	Shiv Nadar	\$42.1 billion	HCL Technologies Ltd.
4	Savitri Jindal & Family	\$38.5 billion	JSW Group
5	Dilip Shanghvi	\$29.8 billion	Sun Pharmaceutical Industries
6	Cyrus Poonawalla	\$22.2 billion	Serum Institute of India
7	Kumar Birla	\$21.4 billion	Aditya Birla Group
8	Kushal Pal Singh	\$18.1 billion	DLF Group
9	Ravi Jaipuria	\$17.9 billion	Varun Beverages
10	Radhakishan Damani	\$15.8 billion	Avenue Supermarts (DMart)



RANKING



➤ **Which country is the richest in the world by GDP per capita in 2025?**

- A) Singapore
- B) Macao SAR
- C) Ireland
- D) Luxembourg
- E) Qatar

Answer

D) Luxembourg



RANKING



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Richest Countries in the World by GDP Per Capita (2025)
- **Date and Context:** January 2025, global rankings by GDP-PPP per capita



RANKING



Mandates and Objectives:

- Highlight the top 10 richest countries globally based on GDP-PPP per capita.
- Showcase Luxembourg's position as the wealthiest country, followed by other economic leaders.



RANKING



Important Terms Explained:

- **GDP-PPP (Gross Domestic Product at Purchasing Power Parity) Per Capita:**
 - An economic metric that measures a country's average income per person, adjusted for purchasing power.
- **Luxembourg:**
 - Known for its financial sector, political stability, and high living standards, Luxembourg consistently leads global rankings in GDP per capita.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Singapore:**
 - A global financial hub with robust trade networks, emphasizing resilience in economic growth.
- **Macao SAR:**
 - Heavily reliant on tourism and gaming, making it a significant contributor to global wealth rankings.



RANKING



Tabular Summary:

Rank	Country	GDP-PPP Per Capita (USD)	Key Industries
1	Luxembourg	\$154,910	Finance, steel, technology
2	Singapore	\$153,610	Trade, finance, technology
3	Macao SAR	\$140,250	Tourism, gaming
4	Ireland	\$131,550	Pharmaceuticals, technology, finance
5	Qatar	\$118,760	Oil and gas
6	Norway	\$106,540	Oil, renewable energy
7	Switzerland	\$98,040	Banking, pharmaceuticals, watches
8	Brunei Darussalam	\$95,040	Oil and gas
9	Guyana	\$91,380	Oil, gold mining
10	United States	\$89,680	Technology, finance, consumer goods



➤ Which bank received RBI approval to open 20 new branches across India in 2025?

- A) Standard Chartered
- B) Citi Bank
- C) HSBC India
- D) Barclays
- E) Deutsche Bank



Answer
C) HSBC India



Event and Location:

- **Event:** HSBC India receives RBI approval for 20 new branches
- **Date and Location:** January 2025, India



Mandates and Objectives:

- Expand HSBC India's physical presence to tap into the growing wealth market.
- Serve affluent, high-net-worth, and ultra-high-net-worth individuals.
- Enhance wealth management services for domestic and international clientele.



Important Terms Explained:

- **HSBC India:**
 - A subsidiary of HSBC, focusing on banking and wealth management services for affluent and globally mobile customers.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI):**
 - India's central banking institution that regulates monetary policy and grants operational approvals to banks.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Global Private Banking:**
 - A service launched by HSBC in 2023 in India, tailored for high-net-worth individuals to manage global wealth.
- **L&T Investment Management Acquisition (2022):**
 - HSBC's strategic purchase to strengthen its asset management capabilities in India.



Tabular Summary:

Key Points	Details
Event	HSBC India approved by RBI to open 20 new branches, increasing the total to 46 branches.
Targeted Cities	Amritsar, Surat, Lucknow, Mysuru, Vishakhapatnam, and more.
Strategic Shift	Reverses the 2016 consolidation strategy; focuses on physical presence and wealth management.
Wealth Market Focus	Aims to serve affluent and globally mobile Indians; projects 50% growth in ultra-wealthy clients by 2028.
Leadership Statement	Sandeep Batra highlights HSBC's goal to be the preferred international bank for affluent Indians.
Recent Initiatives	Global Private Banking launched (2023); L&T Investment Management acquisition (2022).



➤ **What GDP growth rate has the CII projected for India in 2025-26?**

- A) 6.4%
- B) 7.0%
- C) 8.2%
- D) 6.8%
- E) 7.5%

Answer
B) 7.0%



Event and Location:

- **Event:** CII Projects 7% GDP Growth for 2025-26
- **Date and Location:** January 2025, India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Economic Growth:** CII forecasts a 7% GDP growth rate for FY 2025-26, aligning with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) projection.
- **Private Investments:** Increased private sector participation, with 70% of firms planning new investments.
- **Employment Growth:** Positive employment trends, with 97% of firms planning workforce expansion.



Important Terms Explained:

- **CII (Confederation of Indian Industry):**
 - A leading industry association in India, focusing on policy advocacy and economic development.
- **GDP (Gross Domestic Product):**
 - A measure of the total economic output of a country, reflecting its overall economic health.
- **RBI (Reserve Bank of India):**
 - India's central bank, responsible for monetary policy and economic forecasting.



Tabular Summary:

Key Points	Details
Event	CII projects 7% GDP growth for FY 2025-26 amid rising investments and job creation.
Private Investments	70% of surveyed firms plan to invest; 75% find the economic climate favorable.
Employment Growth	97% of firms expect to increase workforce; 42%-46% foresee a 10%-20% rise in employment.
RBI's Growth Estimate	RBI also predicts a 7% GDP growth rate for FY 2025-26, with an 8% trend expected thereafter.
Government Projection for 2024-25	GDP growth pegged at 6.4%, with agriculture and allied sectors growing by 3.8%.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS

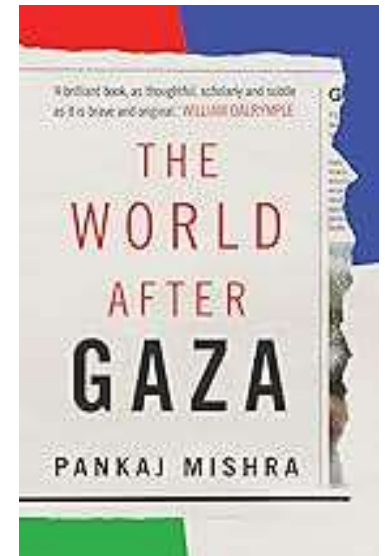


➤ **What is the central theme of Pankaj Mishra's book, The World After Gaza?**

- A) Advances in international diplomacy
- B) Reflections on the Gaza conflict and global moral decay
- C) Economic impact of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict
- D) Historical analysis of Zionism and the Holocaust
- E) Predicting technological advancements in war

Answer

B) Reflections on the Gaza conflict and global moral decay



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Publication of The World After Gaza by Pankaj Mishra
- **Date and Publisher:** January 2025, Juggernaut Books



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Mandates and Objectives:

- Provide a historical and moral critique of **the Gaza conflict** and its global repercussions.
- Examine the **erosion of human rights, morality, and political stability** worldwide.
- Highlight the role of **propaganda and historical manipulation** in justifying expansionist policies.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Gaza Conflict:**
 - Refers to the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip, marked by military actions, humanitarian crises, and international debates.
- **Holocaust Memory and Zionism Critique:**
 - Mishra critiques the instrumentalization of Holocaust memories to justify actions against Palestine, emphasizing the moral degradation this causes.
- **Global Moral Decay:**
 - The erosion of universal values like human rights and justice, exacerbated by divisive global politics.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Tabular Summary:

Key Points	Details
Event	Pankaj Mishra's <i>The World After Gaza</i> explores the Gaza war and global moral decay.
Book Objective	Critically examines the atrocities of the Gaza conflict and erosion of global morality.
Publisher	Juggernaut Books
Hisham Matar's Review	Describes it as a "humane inquiry into suffering."
Central Critique	Criticizes Israel's use of Holocaust memory for expansionist Zionism.
Warnings for the Future	Predicts rising extremism, moral decline, and political instability globally.
Call to Action	Encourages readers to prepare intellectually for turbulent times.



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who was reappointed as the chairperson of the Prime Ministers' Museum & Library (PMML) in 2025?**

- A) Smriti Irani
- B) Shekhar Kapur
- C) Rajiv Kumar
- D) Nripendra Mishra
- E) Anurag Thakur

Answer

D) Nripendra Mishra



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Smriti Irani and Shekhar Kapur Join PM Museum Council
- **Date and Context:** January 2025, reconstitution of the Prime Ministers' Museum & Library (PMML) leadership



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- Reconstitute the PMML council to bring in **diverse expertise** in politics, culture, economics, and defense.
- Preserve and promote the legacies of all Indian Prime Ministers.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Prime Ministers' Museum & Library (PMML):**
 - Formerly known as Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML), renamed in 2023 to honor all Indian Prime Ministers.
- **Nripendra Mishra:**
 - Former Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, reappointed as chairperson for a five-year term.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **New Members:**
 - **Smriti Irani:** Former Union Minister, known for her political and administrative acumen.
 - **Shekhar Kapur:** Renowned filmmaker, bringing cultural and artistic expertise.
 - **Rajiv Kumar:** Former Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, offering insights into policy and economics.
 - **Syed Ata Hasnain:** Retired General, contributing defense and strategic perspectives.
 - **Vasudev Kamath:** Associated with Sanskar Bharati, enhancing cultural representation.



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Points	Details
Event	PMML reconstituted its council, adding new members like Smriti Irani and Shekhar Kapur.
Chairperson	Nripendra Mishra reappointed for another five-year term.
New Members	Smriti Irani, Shekhar Kapur, Rajiv Kumar, Syed Ata Hasnain, Vasudev Kamath.
Expansion of Council	Increased from 29 to 34 members.
Renaming of Institution	Formerly NMML, renamed as PMML in 2023 to honor all Prime Ministers.
Purpose of PMML	Preserve and promote the legacies of all Indian Prime Ministers.



AWARDS



➤ **Who won the Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025 for contributions to quantum science?**

- A) Dr. Shantanu Sinha
- B) Professor Urbasi Sinha
- C) Dr. K. Sivan
- D) Professor Ashutosh Sharma
- E) Dr. Ajay Kumar



Answer

B) Professor Urbasi Sinha



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025 awarded to Professor Urbasi Sinha
- **Date and Location:** January 2025, Cambridge, UK



AWARDS



Mandates and Objectives:

- Recognize exceptional contributions in quantum science, including communication, computing, and optics.
- Highlight global innovation efforts addressing critical challenges through quantum technologies.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize:**
 - Award by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for impactful work in various fields.
- **Quantum Information and Computing (QuIC) Lab:**
 - A research lab at the Raman Research Institute (RRI), pioneering quantum communication and computing in India.
- **National Quantum Mission:**
 - India's national program for advancing quantum technologies to global leadership levels.
- **Open Quantum Institute (OQI):**
 - A multi-stakeholder initiative launched at CERN in 2024 for collaborative quantum research.



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Key Points	Details
Event	Professor Urbasi Sinha won the Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025.
Award	Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025, by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
Date and Location	January 2025, Cambridge, UK.
Recipient	Professor Urbasi Sinha, Head of QuIC Lab at Raman Research Institute.
Associated Institution	Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru, India.
Contributions	Advancements in quantum communication, computing, and optics; research on entangled photons.
National Role	Leadership in India's National Quantum Mission.
International Role	Contributor to Open Quantum Institute launched at CERN in 2024.
Past Recognition	Canada Excellence Research Chair in Photonic Quantum Science and Technologies.



AWARDS



➤ **What is the prize money for the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2024?**

- A) Rs. 10 lakh
- B) Rs. 15 lakh
- C) Rs. 20 lakh
- D) Rs. 25 lakh
- E) Rs. 30 lakh

Answer
C) Rs. 20 lakh



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of Web-Portal for Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2024
- **Date and Context:** January 20, 2025, launched by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances



AWARDS



Mandates and Objectives:

- Recognize and reward outstanding contributions of **civil servants** across three categories with a total of **16 awards**.
- Encourage **innovation, good governance, and last-mile connectivity** in public administration.



AWARDS



Award Categories and Details:

- **Category 1:** Holistic Development of Districts under 11 priority sector programs (5 awards).
- **Category 2:** Aspirational Blocks Programme (5 awards).
 - **New Inclusion:** Aspirational Blocks Programme added to boost initiatives in Aspirational Districts.
- **Category 3:** Innovations for Central Ministries/Departments, States, and Districts (6 awards).



Evaluation and Prize Details:

- **Evaluation Process:**
 - Short-listing by Screening Committees.
 - Expert Committee evaluation.
 - Empowered Committee recommendations (final approval by PM).
- **Award Components:**
 - **Trophy, Scroll, and Rs. 20 lakh prize** money for the winning district/organization.
 - Prize money must be used for project implementation or bridging resource gaps in public welfare.



AWARDS



Period of Consideration:

- From **1st April 2022 to 31st December 2024.**



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Key Points	Details
Event	Web-portal for PM's Awards 2024 launched to recognize excellence in public administration.
Categories of Awards	1) Holistic Development of Districts, 2) Aspirational Blocks Programme, 3) Innovations.
Total Awards	16 awards across three categories.
Prize Money	Rs. 20 lakh for each awarded district/organization.
Period of Consideration	1st April 2022 to 31st December 2024.
Evaluation Process	Screening Committees → Expert Committee → Empowered Committee → PM's Approval.
Web Portal	www.pmawards.gov.in



➤ **What recent recognition has Virgin Coconut Oil from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands received?**

- A) Export Excellence Award
- B) Geographical Indication (GI) Tag
- C) National Quality Certification
- D) Women Empowerment Award
- E) UNESCO Heritage Certification



Answer

B) Geographical Indication (GI) Tag



Event and Location:

- **Event:** GI Tag for Virgin Coconut Oil of Andaman
- **Date and Location:** January 19, 2025, during the 118th episode of "Mann Ki Baat"



Mandates and Objectives:

- Promote **Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO)** from Nicobar district as a high-quality, globally recognized product.
- Empower women in Andaman and Nicobar Islands through self-help groups (SHGs) for financial independence.
- Provide specialized training in **marketing and branding** to enhance product visibility and sales.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag:**
 - A designation that identifies a product as originating from a specific region, ensuring its unique quality, reputation, or characteristics.
- **Self-Help Groups (SHGs):**
 - Small voluntary groups formed to promote mutual help and financial independence, particularly among women.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO):**
 - Oil extracted from fresh coconuts using traditional methods without chemicals or preservatives, ensuring high-quality standards.
- **Mann Ki Baat:**
 - A monthly radio program hosted by PM Narendra Modi to address significant national issues and initiatives.



Tabular Summary:

Key Points	Details
Event	Virgin Coconut Oil from Andaman received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
GI Tag	Recognizes Nicobar district's Virgin Coconut Oil, promoting it on a global platform.
Women Empowerment	Women are organized into self-help groups to lead the production and economic initiatives.
Specialized Training	SHGs receive training in marketing and branding to enhance global competitiveness.
Traditional Methods	VCO is unrefined and chemical-free, maintaining natural and high-quality standards.
Global Contribution	PM Modi highlighted the potential for VCO to bring international recognition to the region.



➤ Which country has partnered with Uttarakhand for geothermal energy development in 2025?

- A) Norway
- B) Iceland
- C) Sweden
- D) Finland
- E) Denmark

Answer
B) Iceland



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Uttarakhand-Iceland Partnership for Geothermal Energy
- **Date and Location:** January 2025, Uttarakhand



Mandates and Objectives:

- Support India's commitment to achieving **carbon neutrality by 2070**.
- Harness geothermal energy for **sustainable electricity generation** and direct heating applications.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Geothermal Energy:**
 - A renewable energy source that utilizes heat from the Earth's subsurface for electricity generation or heating applications.
- **Verkis Consulting Engineers:**
 - An Iceland-based firm specializing in geothermal energy development, providing expertise and technical solutions.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):**
 - A formal agreement outlining the collaboration between Uttarakhand and Iceland for geothermal energy exploration and development.
- **Feasibility Study:**
 - A technical and financial assessment to determine the practicality of geothermal energy extraction.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Points	Details
Event	Uttarakhand partnered with Iceland for geothermal energy development.
Objective	Achieve carbon neutrality by 2070 through geothermal energy harnessing.
Geothermal Sites	40 sites identified in Uttarakhand by GSI and Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology.
Partnership	MoU signed with Iceland's Verkis Consulting Engineers.
Feasibility Study	Funded by Iceland; evaluates technical viability of geothermal energy extraction.
Approvals	Received clearance from Ministry of Environment, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, and MEA.
Energy Potential	Can be used for electricity generation, direct heating, and geothermal heat pumps.



➤ Which Indian state is set to become the first to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)?

- A) Himachal Pradesh
- B) Gujarat
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Uttarakhand
- E) Karnataka

Answer

D) Uttarakhand



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Uttarakhand Clears Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Rules
- **Date and Context:** January 2025, under Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's leadership



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Unified Legal Framework:** UCC aims to unify laws across all communities in areas such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and live-in relationships.
- **Digital and Offline Accessibility:** Ensure inclusivity through online platforms and Common Service Centres (CSCs) for those without digital literacy.
- **Women's Equality:** Equal inheritance rights, bans on polygamy, and rights to adoption and divorce are key features.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Uniform Civil Code (UCC):**
 - A legal framework that seeks to provide uniform personal laws across all citizens irrespective of their religion or community.
- **Common Service Centres (CSCs):**
 - Physical centers designed to help citizens in remote or rural areas access government services digitally.
- **Mock Drill:**
 - A preparatory exercise planned for January 21, 2025, to ensure system readiness for UCC implementation.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Points	Details
Event	Uttarakhand approved UCC rules manual, becoming the first Indian state to implement UCC.
Purpose of UCC	Unify laws on marriage, divorce, inheritance, and live-in relationships across all communities.
Equality Provisions	Equal inheritance and adoption rights for women; bans on polygamy.
Registration Services	Marriage, divorce, live-in relationships, and inheritance registrations.
Digital and Physical Access	Portal and app for digital access; CSCs for offline registration support.
Training and Mock Drill	Official training underway; statewide mock drill scheduled for January 21, 2025.
Implementation Timeline	UCC's implementation date to be announced after training completion.



➤ How many companies were selected under the third round of the PLI Scheme for White Goods (ACs and LED Lights)?

- A) 18
- B) 24
- C) 6
- D) 38
- E) 10

Answer
B) 24



Event and Location:

- **Event:** 24 Companies Selected Under PLI Scheme for White Goods (ACs and LED Lights)
- **Date and Context:** January 2025, initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)



Mandates and Objectives:

- Boost domestic manufacturing of **components for Air Conditioners (ACs) and LED lights** in India.
- Facilitate **Rs. 10,478 crore investments**, resulting in production worth **Rs. 1,72,663 crore** over the scheme period (FY 2021-22 to FY 2028-29).
- Increase **domestic value addition** in the sector from 15-20% to 75-80%.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:**
 - Introduced in 2021 to promote local manufacturing and reduce dependency on imports by offering financial incentives on incremental sales.
- **Gestation Period:**
 - The time allocated to companies for setting up operations under the scheme. For White Goods, it spans FY 2021-23.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Common Products:**
 - **AC Components:** Compressors, copper tubes, heat exchangers, BLDC motors, and sheet metal components.
 - **LED Components:** Drivers, engines, light management systems, heat sinks, and metallized films for capacitors.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Points	Details
Event	24 companies selected under the third round of PLI Scheme for White Goods.
Committed Investment	Rs. 3,516 crore (18 new companies: Rs. 2,299 crore; 6 existing: Rs. 1,217 crore).
Total Scheme Investments	Rs. 10,478 crore to produce goods worth Rs. 1,72,663 crore.
AC Companies' Investment	Rs. 3,260 crore (15 companies).
LED Companies' Investment	Rs. 256 crore (9 companies).
Gestation Period	FY 2021-23.
Notable Companies Selected	Jupiter Aluminium (Rs. 618 crore), Ram Ratna Wires (Rs. 253 crore), Ikio Solutions (Rs. 41 crore).
Objective of the Scheme	Promote local manufacturing, enhance domestic value addition, and integrate into global supply chains.



➤ **What is the primary purpose of the 'Entity Locker' platform developed by MeitY?**

- A) To store personal documents for individuals
- B) To streamline business document management and verification
- C) To replace all government regulatory platforms
- D) To provide cloud storage exclusively for startups
- E) To facilitate international trade



Answer

B) To streamline business document management and verification



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of Entity Locker by MeitY
- **Date and Context:** January 2025, developed under the National eGovernance Division (NeGD) by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)



Mandates and Objectives:

- Provide a **secure cloud-based solution for managing, sharing, and verifying business documents.**
- Enhance operational efficiency and reduce administrative overhead for businesses.
- Facilitate **real-time document access and verification** through integration with government databases.



Key Features of Entity Locker:

- **Document Management and Sharing:**
 - Offers 10 GB of encrypted cloud storage for secure document handling.
 - Allows consent-based sharing of sensitive business documents.
 - Supports legally valid digital signatures for document authentication.



Key Features of Entity Locker:

- **Seamless Integration with Government Platforms:**
 - Integrated with Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), and Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
 - Facilitates vendor verification, GST registration, and compliance with various regulations.
- **Efficiency Enhancements:**
 - Reduces processing times for applications such as loans for MSMEs and corporate annual filings.
 - Streamlines FSSAI compliance and tendering processes.



Tabular Summary:

Key Points	Details
Event	MeitY launched Entity Locker to streamline business document management.
Purpose	Secure storage, sharing, and verification of business documents for organizations.
Key Features	Real-time access, consent-based sharing, Aadhaar-authenticated access, digital signatures.
Integration	Connected to MCA, GSTN, DGFT, and other regulatory bodies for seamless compliance.
Storage	Offers 10 GB of encrypted cloud storage.
Use Cases	Vendor verification, MSME loan applications, GST compliance, and corporate filings.
Part of Digital India Programme	Promotes efficient business operations and economic growth through digital solutions.



QUICK RECALL



- **PM Modi's first 'Mann Ki Baat' of 2025 commemorated India's 75th Republic Day.**
- **India won both men's and women's titles at the first Kho Kho World Cup.**
- **Viktor Axelsen and An Se-young won singles titles at India Open 2025.**
- **Karnataka clinched its fifth Vijay Hazare Trophy title in the 2024-25 final.**
- **Mukesh Ambani is the richest man in India in 2025 with a net worth of \$95.4 billion.**
- **Luxembourg is the world's richest country in 2025 with a GDP per capita of \$154,910.**
- **HSBC India receives RBI approval to open 20 branches, targeting affluent markets.**
- **CII forecasts India's GDP growth at 7% for FY 2025-26.**
- **The World After Gaza critiques the Gaza war and global moral decline.**



QUICK RECALL



- **PMML council restructured with Nripendra Mishra reappointed as chairperson.**
- **Professor Urbasi Sinha wins Gates-Cambridge Impact Prize 2025 for quantum science advancements.**
- **PM's Awards 2024 launched to recognize civil servants for excellence in public administration.**
- **Virgin Coconut Oil from Nicobar receives GI tag for its quality and traditional production.**
- **Uttarakhand partners with Iceland to develop geothermal energy for carbon neutrality by 2070.**
- **Uttarakhand is set to be India's first state to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).**
- **24 companies selected in the third round of PLI Scheme for White Goods in 2025.**
- **MeitY launched Entity Locker to streamline business document management.**



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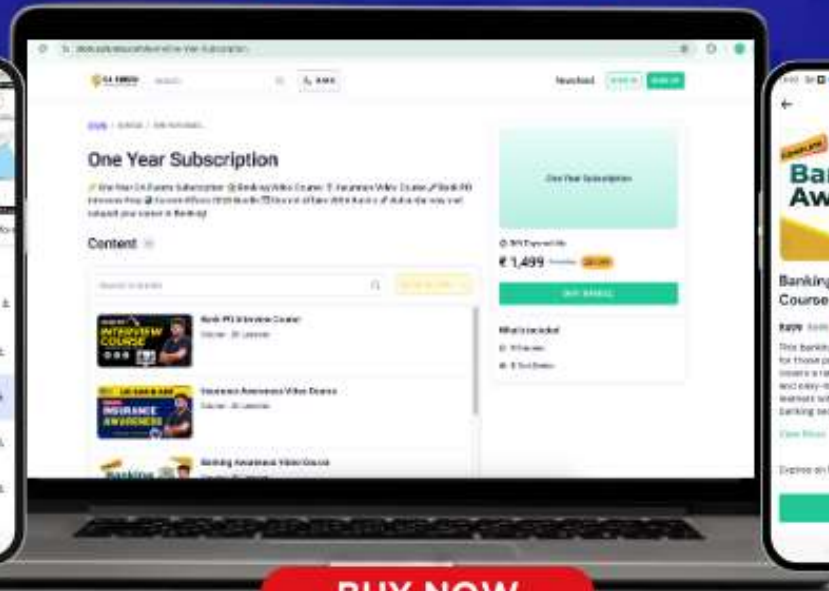
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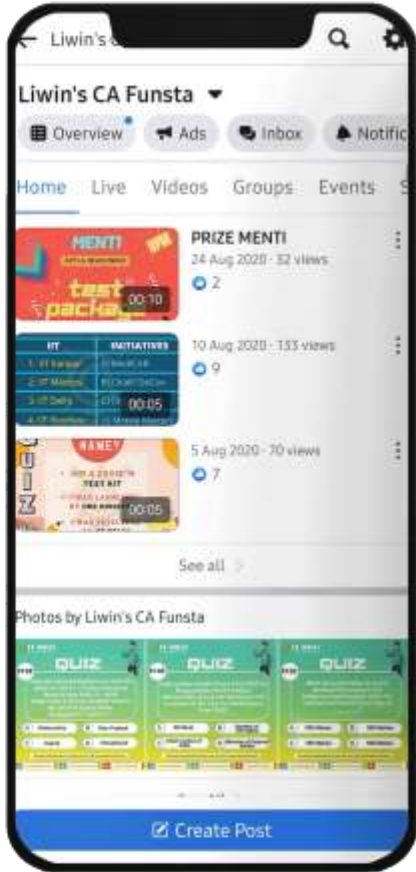
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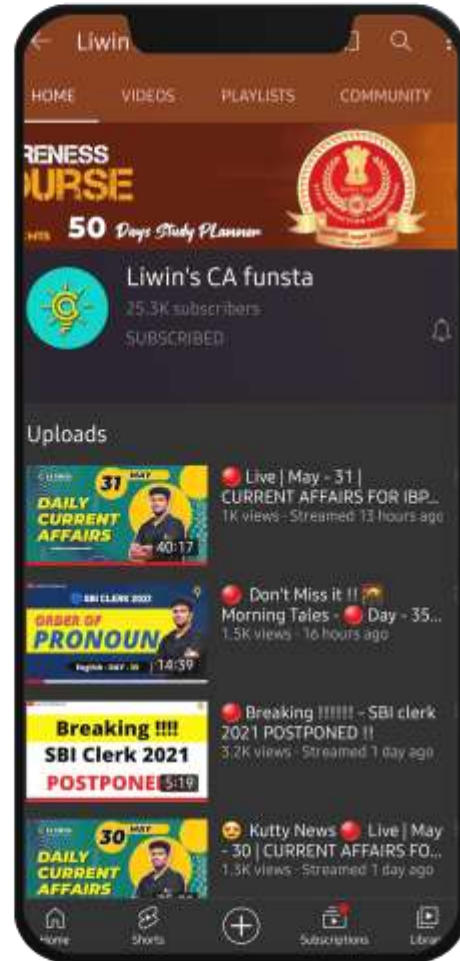


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