

Daily



Current Affairs

FEBRUARY 10

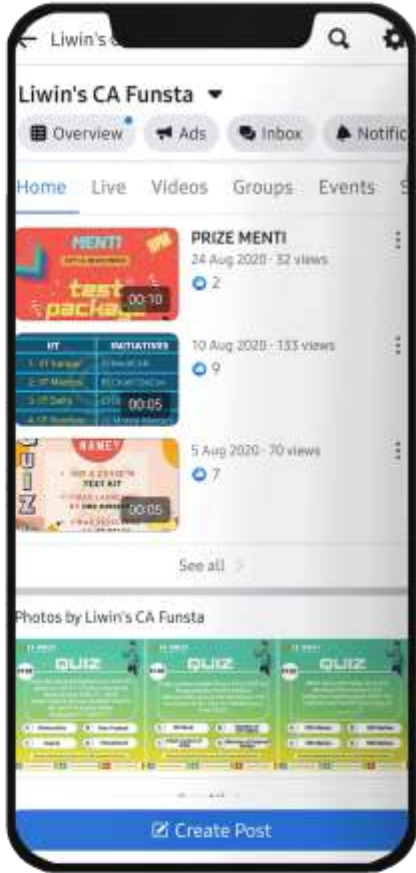
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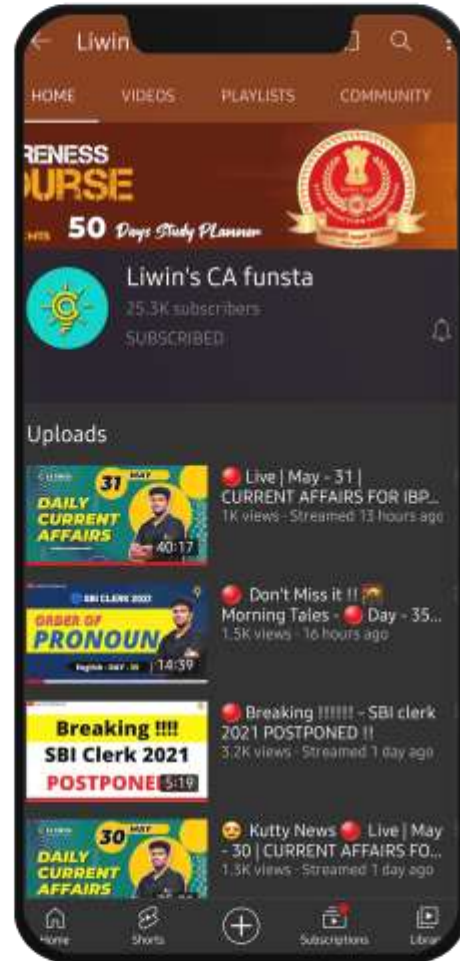
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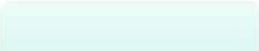


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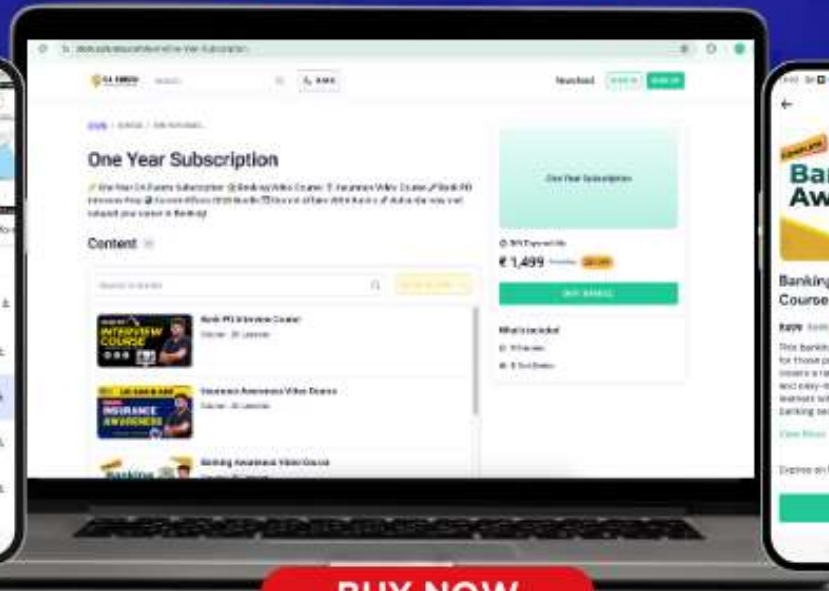
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Important Days



➤ **What is the theme of World Pulses Day 2025 as announced by the United Nations?**

- A) Pulses: The Key to Global Nutrition
- B) Sustainable Agriculture Through Pulses
- C) Pulses: Bringing Diversity to Agrifood Systems
- D) Pulses for a Healthier Future
- E) The Role of Pulses in Climate Action



Answer

C) Pulses: Bringing Diversity to Agrifood Systems



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** World Pulses Day 2025, promoting the role of pulses in nutrition and sustainability
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** Global observance



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **World Pulses Day** is observed annually on **February 10** to highlight the nutritional, environmental, and economic benefits of pulses.
- **The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** declared February 10 as World Pulses Day in 2019, following the success of the 2016 International Year of Pulses.
- The 2025 theme focuses on **the role of pulses in diversifying agrifood systems, ensuring food security, soil health, and environmental sustainability.**
- Pulses contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)** and **SDG 15 (Life on Land).**



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Pulses:**
 - Edible seeds of leguminous plants harvested for dry grains.
 - Examples include lentils, chickpeas, peas, black beans, and cowpeas.
 - Rich in proteins, fiber, vitamins, and minerals, making them essential for a balanced diet.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **International Year of Pulses (2016):**
 - The United Nations declared 2016 as the International Year of Pulses to raise awareness about their importance in food security and nutrition.
 - Led to the establishment of World Pulses Day in 2019, proposed by Burkina Faso.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) & Pulses:**
 - SDG 2 (Zero Hunger): Pulses are an affordable and nutritious food source for millions worldwide.
 - SDG 15 (Life on Land): Pulses improve soil fertility by fixing nitrogen, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.
- **Environmental Benefits of Pulses:**
 - Require less water than other crops, making them ideal for climate-resilient farming.
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, supporting a sustainable agricultural system.
 - Improve soil health by enriching it with nitrogen, reducing dependency on synthetic fertilizers.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|------------------------|---|
| Event | World Pulses Day 2025, promoting the role of pulses in food security and sustainability |
| Date | February 10, 2025 |
| Location | Global observance |
| Declared By | United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2019 |
| Key Objective | Raise awareness about pulses' nutritional, economic, and environmental benefits |
| History | 2016 was the International Year of Pulses; Burkina Faso proposed World Pulses Day in 2019 |
| 2025 Theme | "Pulses: Bringing Diversity to Agrifood Systems" |
| Nutritional Benefits | Rich in protein, fiber, vitamins; lowers cholesterol, regulates blood sugar |
| Environmental Benefits | Improves soil fertility, requires less water, reduces greenhouse gas emissions |
| Link to SDGs | Supports SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 15 (Life on Land) |



Important Days



➤ **Which key sustainability initiative did Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) take on its 89th Foundation Day?**

- A) Launched a new green banking scheme
- B) Became a signatory of the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF)
- C) Donated solar panels to rural areas
- D) Introduced a digital-only green savings account
- E) Partnered with the UN for climate finance initiatives



Indian Overseas Bank

Answer

B) Became a signatory of the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF)



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) celebrated its 89th Foundation Day
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** Chennai, Tamil Nadu



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **IOB** joined the **Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF)** to measure and disclose **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** linked to its lending and investment activities.
- The objective is to integrate climate-conscious policies into banking operations and enhance financial transparency.
- The initiative supports India's Net-Zero Target of achieving carbon neutrality by 2070, as pledged at COP26.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF):**
 - A global network of financial institutions promoting standardized methods for measuring GHG emissions in banking portfolios.
 - Helps banks track and disclose emissions linked to loans and investments.
- **Net-Zero Target (India's Commitment by 2070):**
 - India committed at COP26 to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
 - Net-zero means balancing emitted greenhouse gases with an equivalent removal from the atmosphere.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)**
Principles:
 - **Environmental:** Sustainability measures, carbon footprint reduction, and green investments.
 - **Social:** Ethical labor practices, community engagement, and social responsibility.
 - **Governance:** Corporate ethics, transparency, and responsible decision-making.
- **Swachh Bharat Diwas Initiative (October 2, 2024):**
 - IOB participated in a cleanliness drive at Besant Nagar Beach, Chennai.
 - The bank donated two Battery Operated Vehicles (BOVs) to the Greater Chennai Corporation for eco-friendly waste management.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Event | Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) celebrated its 89th Foundation Day |
| Date | February 10, 2025 |
| Location | Chennai, Tamil Nadu |
| Major Announcement | IOB became a signatory of the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) |
| Objective | To measure and disclose GHG emissions from financial activities |
| Alignment with India's Goal | Supports India's Net-Zero Target (2070, COP26 commitment) |
| Recent CSR Initiative | Swachh Bharat Diwas Cleanup Drive (Oct 2, 2024) at Besant Nagar Beach, Chennai |
| Environmental Contribution | Donated two Battery Operated Vehicles (BOVs) for waste collection |
| Leadership Statement | MD & CEO Ajay Kumar Srivastava emphasized IOB's commitment to responsible banking and sustainability |



Important Days



➤ **When was International Day of the Arabian Leopard first observed?**

- A) 2022
- B) 2023
- C) 2024
- D) 2025
- E) 2019

Answer
C) 2024



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** United Nations declared February 10 as the International Day of the Arabian Leopard
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** Global observance



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** declared February 10 as the International Day of the Arabian Leopard through Resolution 77/295.
- The observance was **first celebrated in 2024** at the UN Headquarters in New York.
- The objective is **to raise global awareness about the critically endangered Arabian leopard and the need for conservation.**
- **The Arabian leopard (*Panthera pardus nimr*)** is native to **Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE, Yemen, Jordan, and Israel.**
- Conservation efforts focus on **habitat protection, anti-poaching measures, and breeding programs.**



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Arabian Leopard (*Panthera pardus nimr*):**
 - A critically endangered subspecies of leopard, smaller in size compared to other leopards.
 - Native to Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE, Yemen, Jordan, and Israel.
 - Hunts small prey like gazelles, hares, and birds and is mostly active at dawn and dusk.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Threats to the Arabian Leopard:**
 - **Urbanization:** Habitat loss due to expanding cities.
 - **Farming and Overgrazing:** Depletes prey species, making food scarce.
 - **Poaching:** Killed for its fur and bones, fueling the illegal wildlife trade.
 - **Human-Leopard Conflict:** Attacks on livestock lead to retaliatory killings.



Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Conservation Strategies:**
 - **Habitat Protection:** Expanding wildlife reserves and protected areas.
 - **Restoring Prey Populations:** Ensuring food availability for the leopards.
 - **Anti-Poaching Laws:** Strengthening wildlife protection laws and enforcement.
 - **Captive Breeding & Reintroduction:** Raising Arabian leopards in captivity for future release.
 - **Education & Awareness:** Engaging local communities to reduce human-leopard conflicts.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|----------------------|---|
| Event | International Day of the Arabian Leopard |
| Date | February 10, 2025 |
| Location | Global observance |
| Declared By | United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in Resolution 77/295 |
| First Observed | 2024 at UN Headquarters, New York |
| Species | Arabian Leopard (<i>Panthera pardus nimr</i>) |
| Habitat | Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE, Yemen, Jordan, Israel |
| Major Threats | Urbanization, habitat loss, poaching, illegal wildlife trade, human-wildlife conflict |
| Objective | Raise awareness and promote conservation efforts |
| Conservation Efforts | Habitat protection, prey restoration, law enforcement, captive breeding, community engagement |
| IUCN Status | Critically Endangered |



➤ **Who is India's oldest cricketer to make an ODI debut?**

- A) Varun Chakravarthy
- B) Anil Kumble
- C) Rahul Dravid
- D) Farokh Engineer
- E) Murali Kartik

Answer

D) Farokh Engineer



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Varun Chakravarthy became India's second-oldest player to debut in ODIs
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** India vs England ODI Series



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Varun Chakravarthy** made his ODI debut at 33 years and 164 days, making him India's second-oldest debutant in ODIs.
- The oldest Indian ODI debutant is **Farokh Engineer**, who debuted at 36 years and 138 days.
- **The Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)** spinner made an immediate impact by dismissing Phil Salt in his opening spell.
- His performance in ODIs could determine his selection for **the Champions Trophy 2025**, possibly replacing **Kuldeep Yadav** or **Washington Sundar**.
- **Jasprit Bumrah** was not included in the updated ODI squad, with his availability subject to medical clearance from the National Cricket Academy (NCA).



Important Terms Explained:

- **Varun Chakravarthy:**
 - Right-arm leg spinner, known for his mystery spin and variations.
 - Represents Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in IPL.
 - Previously starred in India's T20I series against England, taking 14 wickets in 5 matches, earning the 'Player of the Series' award.
- **Oldest Indian ODI Debutants:**
 1. **Farokh Engineer** – 36 years, 138 days
 2. **Varun Chakravarthy** – 33 years, 164 days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Jasprit Bumrah's Squad Status:**
 - BCCI did not include Bumrah in the updated ODI squad list.
 - Ajit Agarkar (Chairman of Selectors) confirmed Bumrah wouldn't play the first two ODIs.
 - His availability for the third ODI depends on medical clearance from the NCA.



SPORTS



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Event | Varun Chakravarthy became India's second-oldest ODI debutant |
| Date | February 10, 2025 |
| Location | India vs England ODI Series |
| Age at ODI Debut | 33 years, 164 days |
| India's Oldest ODI Debutant | Farokh Engineer (36 years, 138 days) |
| Debut Performance | Dismissed Phil Salt in his opening spell |
| Champions Trophy Selection | Could replace Kuldeep Yadav or Washington Sundar |
| Jasprit Bumrah's Status | Not in updated ODI squad, awaiting medical clearance |
| Previous Performance | Took 14 wickets in 5 T20Is vs England, won 'Player of the Series' |



➤ **What was Dimuth Karunaratne's highest score in Test cricket?**

- A) 200
- B) 244
- C) 188
- D) 256
- E) 219

Answer
B) 244



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Dimuth Karunaratne retired after playing his 100th Test match against Australia in Galle
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** Galle, Sri Lanka



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Dimuth Karunaratne**, Sri Lanka's former captain and Test opener, announced his retirement from international cricket after his 100th Test match.
- The 36-year-old finished his Test career with 7,222 runs at an average of nearly 40, including 16 centuries.
- His highest Test score was 244.



Mandates and Objectives:

- Karunaratne **captained Sri Lanka** in **30 Test matches**, securing 12 wins and 12 losses.
- His biggest achievement as captain was leading Sri Lanka to a historic 2-0 series win against South Africa in 2019, making them the first Asian team to win a Test series in South Africa.
- ICC Chairman Jay Shah praised Karunaratne's leadership, dedication, and contribution to Test cricket.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Dimuth Karunaratne's Test Records:**
 - **Total Test Runs:** 7,222 runs in 100 matches
 - **Test Average:** ~40
 - **Highest Test Score:** 244
 - **Total Test Centuries:** 16, tied with Marvan Atapattu as the most by a Sri Lankan opener



Important Terms Explained:

- **Captaincy Record:**
 - Led Sri Lanka in 30 Tests (2019-2023)
 - Won 12, Lost 12, Drawn 6
 - Notable Achievement: Led Sri Lanka to a historic 2-0 Test series win over South Africa in 2019
- **ICC Recognition:**
 - ICC Chairman Jay Shah described Karunaratne as a true ambassador of Test cricket.
 - Praised for his sportsmanship and leadership.



SPORTS



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|----------------------|--|
| Event | Dimuth Karunaratne retired from international cricket after his 100th Test |
| Date | February 10, 2025 |
| Location | Galle, Sri Lanka |
| Total Test Matches | 100 |
| Total Test Runs | 7,222 (Avg ~40) |
| Highest Test Score | 244 |
| Total Test Centuries | 16 (Most by a Sri Lankan opener, tied with Marvan Atapattu) |
| ODI Matches & Runs | 50 ODIs, 1,316 runs |
| Captaincy Record | 30 Tests (12 Wins, 12 Losses, 6 Draws) |
| Historic Achievement | Led Sri Lanka to a 2-0 Test series win vs South Africa in 2019 |
| Retirement Match | vs Australia, 2025 (Galle) |
| ICC Recognition | Praised by ICC Chairman Jay Shah for his contributions to Test cricket |



➤ **Who holds the record for the most sixes in ODI history as of February 2025?**

- A) Rohit Sharma
- B) Chris Gayle
- C) Shahid Afridi
- D) MS Dhoni
- E) Sanath Jayasuriya

Answer
C) Shahid Afridi



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Rohit Sharma became the second-highest six-hitter in ODI history
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** Cuttack, India (Second ODI vs England)



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Rohit Sharma** surpassed **Chris Gayle (331 sixes)** to become the second-highest six-hitter in ODIs with **338 sixes**.
- **Shahid Afridi** remains the highest six-hitter in ODIs with 351 sixes.
- Rohit scored 119 runs off 90 balls, hitting 12 fours and 7 sixes, at a strike rate of 132.22.
- India won by four wickets while chasing England's 304-run target.



Most Sixes in ODI Cricket (Top 5 Players):

| Rank | Player | Country | Sixes | Innings Played |
|------|-------------------|-------------|-------|----------------|
| 1 | Shahid Afridi | Pakistan | 351 | 369 |
| 2 | Rohit Sharma | India | 338 | 259 |
| 3 | Chris Gayle | West Indies | 331 | 294 |
| 4 | Sanath Jayasuriya | Sri Lanka | 270 | 433 |
| 5 | MS Dhoni | India | 229 | 297 |



Additional Records Achieved by Rohit Sharma:

- Became **India's second-highest run-getter** as an opener with **15,404 runs**, surpassing **Sachin Tendulkar (15,335 runs)**.
- Ranked **10th in ODI all-time run-scorers with 10,987 runs in 267 matches, averaging 49.26.**
- Equaled **Viv Richards** for third-most ODI wins as captain with 36 victories.



Match Summary (India vs England, 2nd ODI – Cuttack 2025):

- **England Batting: Scored 304 runs.**
 - Joe Root (69), Ben Duckett (65) led the innings.
- **India Bowling:**
 - Ravindra Jadeja took 3 wickets in 10 overs.
- **India Batting:**
 - Rohit Sharma (119) and Shubman Gill (60) put up a 136-run opening stand.
 - Shreyas Iyer (44) and Axar Patel (41)* finished the chase.
- **Result:** India won by 4 wickets.



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|---------------------------|---|
| Event | Rohit Sharma becomes the second-highest six-hitter in ODI history |
| Date | February 10, 2025 |
| Location | Cuttack, India (2nd ODI vs England) |
| ODI Sixes Record | Rohit Sharma (338) surpassed Chris Gayle (331) |
| Most Sixes in ODI History | Shahid Afridi (351 sixes) |
| India's Opener Record | Rohit Sharma (15,404 runs) surpassed Sachin Tendulkar (15,335 runs) |
| Captaincy Record | Rohit Sharma (36 ODI wins) equals Viv Richards |
| Winning Team | India (defeated England by 4 wickets) |
| Match Highlights | Rohit Sharma (119 off 90), Shubman Gill (60), Jadeja (3 wickets) |



OBITUARY



➤ **Who was Namibia's first president, leading the country to independence in 1990?**

- A) Julius Nyerere
- B) Robert Mugabe
- C) Sam Nujoma
- D) Kenneth Kaunda
- E) Nelson Mandela

Answer

C) Sam Nujoma



OBITUARY



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Sam Nujoma, Namibia's first president, passed away at the age of 95
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** Windhoek, Namibia



OBITUARY



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Sam Nujoma** was **Namibia's founding president**, leading the country to independence from apartheid South Africa in 1990.
- Served **three presidential terms (1990-2005)**, ensuring democracy and stability.
- **Leader of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO)**, the party that fought for Namibia's liberation.
- Revered as **the "Father of the Namibian Nation"**, shaping post-independence governance and reconciliation policies.



OBITUARY



Early Life and Political Beginnings:

- Born in 1929 in a rural farming family, eldest of 11 children.
- Moved to Windhoek, working in South African Railways while studying English at night school.
- Arrested in 1959 after leading an anti-apartheid protest, later fleeing to Tanzania.
- Founded SWAPO in 1960, launching an armed struggle against South African rule.



OBITUARY



Namibia's Independence & Leadership:

- **Led the liberation movement for 30 years**, securing international support.
- **In 1989, SWAPO won Namibia's first democratic elections**, and Nujoma became the first president.
- Advocated **national reconciliation**, integrating white business leaders into the government.
- Strengthened diplomatic ties with **China, Russia, Cuba, and North Korea**, Namibia's anti-apartheid allies.
- In 1993, became **the first African leader** hosted by US President Bill Clinton.



OBITUARY



Controversies and Criticism:

- Known for **anti-Western rhetoric**, once calling AIDS a biological weapon.
- Opposed **LGBTQ rights**, calling homosexuality a "foreign and corrupt ideology".
- **Banned foreign TV programs**, claiming they negatively influenced Namibian youth.
- Accused of **suppressing dissent while in exile**, though later acknowledged for his democratic leadership.



OBITUARY



Legacy and Final Years:

- **One of the last African leaders who led anti-colonial struggles, alongside Mandela, Nyerere, Mugabe, and Kaunda.**
- SWAPO remains Namibia's ruling party, shaping the country's economic and political landscape.
- Retired from politics in 2007 after 47 years as SWAPO's leader.
- Passed away at 95 years old after being hospitalized for several weeks.
- Namibian President Nangolo Mbumba described him as "the most gallant son of our land."



OBITUARY



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Event | Sam Nujoma, Namibia's first president, passes away at 95 |
| Date | February 10, 2025 |
| Location | Windhoek, Namibia |
| Born | 1929, Namibia |
| Political Party | South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) |
| Years in Exile | 1959-1989 |
| Independence Role | Led Namibia to independence from South Africa (1990) |
| Presidency | 1990-2005 (Three terms) |
| International Recognition | UN recognized SWAPO as Namibia's sole representative |
| Diplomatic Relations | Allied with China, Russia, Cuba, and North Korea |
| US Recognition | First African leader hosted by Bill Clinton (1993) |
| Controversies | Anti-Western rhetoric, LGBTQ opposition, media censorship |
| Legacy | Revered as the "Father of the Namibian Nation" |
| Final Words by President Mbumba | "The most gallant son of our land could not recover from his illness." |



RANKING



➤ **Which country ranked first in the 2024 Global LEED Green Building Certifications?**

- A) Canada
- B) United States
- C) India
- D) China
- E) Germany

Answer
D) China



RANKING



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India ranked 3rd globally in LEED Green Building Certifications 2024
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** Global rankings by U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)



RANKING



Mandates and Objectives:

- India secured third place globally with 370 LEED-certified projects covering 8.50 million Gross Square Meters (GSM) of green-certified space.
- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification is an internationally recognized green building standard developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).
- India's consistent performance highlights its commitment to sustainable infrastructure, eco-friendly construction, and carbon footprint reduction.



RANKING



Top Global Rankings (LEED 2024):

1. China – 25+ million GSM (Rank 1)
2. Canada – 10 million GSM (Rank 2)
3. India – 8.50 million GSM (Rank 3)



RANKING



India's Performance Over the Years:

- **2024: 3rd place** (8.50 million GSM, 370 projects)
- **2023: 3rd place** (7.23 million GSM, 248 projects)
- **2022: 2nd place** (10.47 million GSM, 323 projects)



RANKING



LEED Certification Criteria:

- Sustainability measures
- Energy efficiency
- Water conservation
- Carbon footprint reduction



Importance of India's Achievement:

- Strengthens **India's global position in green construction.**
- Supports **United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.**
- Government policies and incentives are encouraging energy-efficient buildings.
- **Gopalakrishnan Padmanabhan**, MD for Southeast Asia & Middle East at **Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI)**, highlighted India's growing contribution to sustainable infrastructure.



RANKING



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Event | India ranked 3rd globally in LEED Green Building Certifications 2024 |
| Date | February 10, 2025 |
| Ranking Organization | U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) |
| India's Rank | 3rd place (370 projects, 8.50 million GSM) |
| Top LEED Countries (2024) | 1. China (25+ million GSM), 2. Canada (10 million GSM), 3. India (8.50 million GSM) |
| India's 2023 Rank | 3rd place (248 projects, 7.23 million GSM) |
| India's 2022 Rank | 2nd place (323 projects, 10.47 million GSM) |
| LEED Certification Criteria | Sustainability, Energy efficiency, Water conservation, Carbon footprint reduction |
| India's Green Building Authority | Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI) |
| US LEED Market | Largest globally with 56+ million GSM certified |
| GBCI India Head | Gopalakrishnan Padmanabhan |
| India's Climate Goal Link | Supports UN SDGs 2030 for sustainable infrastructure |



- **Which technology powers the AI holographic avatar of Amitabh Bachchan introduced by IDFC FIRST Bank?**
- A) Virtual Reality (VR)
 - B) Augmented Reality (AR)
 - C) Holographic Extended Reality (HXR)
 - D) Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)
 - E) Mixed Reality (MR)



Answer

C) Holographic Extended Reality (HXR)



Event and Location:

- **Event:** IDFC FIRST Bank expanded its AI-powered Amitabh Bachchan holographic avatar to five more cities
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** First launched at Juhu branch, Mumbai, now expanded to additional cities



Mandates and Objectives:

- **IDFC FIRST Bank**, in partnership with Ikonz Studios, introduced an AI-powered holographic avatar of Amitabh Bachchan using Holographic Extended Reality (HXR) technology.
- **The 3D interactive projection** allows customers to engage with the avatar to receive information about banking products and services.
- The initiative aligns with IDFC FIRST Bank's digital-first approach, enhancing customer engagement and experience.



Technology Used:

- **Holographic Extended Reality (HXR):**
 - Creates lifelike 3D projections for immersive customer interactions.
 - Allows customers to access banking services and product details through touch-enabled devices.



Purpose of the AI Avatar:

- **Provides banking information on:**
 - Zero Fee Banking
 - Monthly Interest Credits
 - Mobile Banking
 - Current Account BRAVO



Expansion Plan:

- Initially launched at **IDFC FIRST Bank's Juhu branch** in Mumbai.
- Now expanded to five more cities to enhance customer service in high-footfall branches.



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|-----------------------|--|
| Event | IDFC FIRST Bank expands AI-powered Amitabh Bachchan holographic avatar to five more cities |
| Date | February 10, 2025 |
| First Launch Location | Juhu branch, Mumbai |
| Technology Used | Holographic Extended Reality (HXR) |
| Bank Name | IDFC FIRST Bank |
| Founded | 2018 |
| Headquarters | Mumbai, Maharashtra |
| MD & CEO | V. Vaidyanathan |
| Brand Ambassador | Amitabh Bachchan |
| Collaboration | Ikonz Studios |
| Expansion | Rolled out in five additional cities after a successful pilot launch in Mumbai |



- **What is the primary objective of RBI's Additional Factor Authentication (AFA) for international transactions?**
- A) To increase the speed of cross-border payments
 - B) To secure Card Not Present (CNP) transactions and reduce fraud
 - C) To eliminate OTP authentication for international purchases
 - D) To allow Indian banks to charge higher transaction fees
 - E) To restrict Indian-issued cards from being used internationally



Answer

B) To secure Card Not Present (CNP) transactions and reduce fraud



Event and Location:

- **Event:** RBI introduced Additional Factor Authentication (AFA) for international transactions
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** India



Mandates and Objectives:

- RBI announced AFA implementation for cross-border **“Card Not Present” (CNP) transactions**, enhancing security for international payments using Indian-issued cards.
- Previously, international transactions lacked AFA, making them vulnerable to cyber fraud and unauthorized payments.
- This initiative aligns international digital transactions with India’s existing security standards for domestic transactions.



What is Additional Factor Authentication (AFA)?

- **A multi-step authentication process** requiring at least two verification methods to approve an online transaction.
- **Common AFA Methods:**
 - **OTP Verification** – A One-Time Password (OTP) sent to a user's registered mobile number.
 - **Biometric Authentication** – Using fingerprints or facial recognition for transaction approval.



AFA for Domestic vs. International Transactions:

- **Domestic Transactions:**
 - AFA is already mandatory for all Indian online payments.
 - Uses OTP-based verification or biometric authentication.
 - Has successfully reduced fraud and unauthorized transactions.



AFA for Domestic vs. International Transactions:

- **International Transactions (Earlier Scenario):**
 - AFA was not required for Indian-issued cards used internationally.
 - This led to increased cases of cyber fraud and unauthorized transactions.
 - Many overseas merchants had weaker security protocols compared to Indian banks.
- **New RBI Regulation:**
 - International transactions will now require AFA, similar to domestic payments.
 - This reduces security risks and makes cross-border transactions safer for Indian consumers.



Why Did RBI Introduce AFA for International Transactions?

- **Growing Cross-Border E-Commerce:** More Indians are making purchases from global merchants, increasing fraud risks.
- **Rising Cases of Unauthorized Transactions:** Stolen card details are often used without additional verification.
- **Ensuring Global Security Standards:** Indian banks follow strict security policies, but many foreign merchants lack similar protection.



RBI's Next Steps for AFA Implementation:

- 1. Draft Circular Issuance:** RBI will seek feedback from banks, payment gateways, and merchants.
- 2. Stakeholder Consultation:** Financial institutions will align their systems with the new policy.
- 3. Full Implementation:** Banks will upgrade their security infrastructure to support AFA.



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|---|--|
| Event | RBI introduces Additional Factor Authentication (AFA) for international transactions |
| Date | February 10, 2025 |
| Objective | To secure cross-border "Card Not Present" (CNP) transactions and prevent fraud |
| What is AFA? | A multi-step security process requiring multiple authentication methods |
| AFA for Domestic vs. International Transactions | Domestic: Mandatory (OTP/Biometrics), International: Now introduced by RBI |
| Why Introduced? | To prevent fraud, improve security, and align global transactions with domestic safety standards |



➤ **Which two urban co-operative banks in Hyderabad merged with Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank and Rajadhani Co-operative Urban Bank respectively, as per RBI's approval?**

- A) Navanirman Co-operative Urban Bank and Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank
- B) Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank and Rajadhani Co-operative Urban Bank
- C) Navanirman Co-operative Urban Bank and Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank
- D) Rajadhani Co-operative Urban Bank and Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank
- E) Hyderabad Co-operative Urban Bank and Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank

Answer

A) Navanirman Co-operative Urban Bank and Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank



Event and Location:

- **Event:** RBI approved the voluntary amalgamation of two urban co-operative banks in Hyderabad
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** Hyderabad, Telangana



**Navnirman
Bank**

Estd.1970



Mandates and Objectives:

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved the voluntary amalgamation of two urban **co-operative banks (UCBs)** in Hyderabad.
- This move aims to enhance financial stability, improve operational efficiency, and safeguard depositor interests.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Amalgamated Banks:**
 1. **Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank** merged with **Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank** (Effective August 23, 2023).
 2. **Navanirman Co-operative Urban Bank** merged with **Rajadhani Co-operative Urban Bank** (Effective August 3, 2023).
- These mergers align with RBI's Master Direction on Voluntary Amalgamation of UCBs (March 23, 2021).



Why Did RBI Approve These Amalgamations?

- **Ensures financial stability:** Weak UCBs often face financial stress, affecting depositors.
- **Improves operational efficiency:** Reduces administrative and regulatory burden.
- **Enhances customer confidence:** Consolidated banks offer better services and security for deposits.



RBI's Master Direction on UCB Mergers (March 23, 2021):

- **A UCB can merge with another co-operative bank if:**
 - The amalgamated bank has a positive net worth.
 - The amalgamating bank ensures depositor protection.



Impact on the Co-operative Banking Sector:

- Strengthens weaker banks, preventing potential financial collapse.
- Encourages RBI-driven consolidation, creating larger, more stable banking entities.
- **Improves governance and risk management** in UCBs.



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|-----------------|--|
| Event | RBI approves voluntary amalgamation of two urban co-operative banks in Hyderabad |
| Date | February 10, 2025 |
| Location | Hyderabad, Telangana |
| Regulator | Reserve Bank of India (RBI) |
| Merged Banks | Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank merged with Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank |
| | Navanirman Co-operative Urban Bank merged with Rajadhani Co-operative Urban Bank |
| Effective Dates | August 3, 2023 (Navanirman-Rajadhani) & August 23, 2023 (Twin Cities-Kranti) |
| RBI Guidelines | As per Master Direction (March 23, 2021), UCBs can merge if the amalgamated bank has a positive net worth and ensures depositor protection |



AWARDS



➤ **Which award was conferred upon IPS Officer DK Kedia at the World Forum of Accountants Meet on February 1, 2025?**

- A) President's Medal for Distinguished Service
- B) CA in Public Service Award
- C) Excellence in National Security Award
- D) Chartered Accountant Leadership Award
- E) ICAI Lifetime Achievement Award



Answer

B) CA in Public Service Award



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** IPS Officer DK Kedia received the 'CA in Public Service' Award for his contributions to law enforcement and national security
- **Date:** February 1, 2025
- **Location:** World Forum of Accountants Meet, New Delhi



AWARDS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Deepak Kumar Kedia, Inspector General (IG) Headquarters, NSG**, was recognized for his outstanding service in law enforcement, national security, and counter-terrorism.
- **The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** honored him with **the 'CA in Public Service' Award** for successfully integrating finance and policing.
- He also received **the President's Medal for Distinguished Service** on Republic Day 2025.
- Kedia is popularly known as **the 'CA in Uniform'** due to his rare combination of expertise in finance, law, and policing.



Important Terms Explained:

- **CA in Public Service Award:**
 - An award given by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to Chartered Accountants serving in public administration, governance, or law enforcement.
 - Recognizes individuals contributing to national security, policy-making, and law enforcement through their financial expertise.
- **National Security Guard (NSG):**
 - NSG is India's elite counter-terrorism force, specializing in anti-hijacking, counter-insurgency, and VIP security.
 - Plays a crucial role in handling high-risk national security threats.



Important Terms Explained:

- **President's Medal for Distinguished Service:**
 - Awarded by the Government of India to police officers for their exemplary service, leadership, and contribution to public safety.
- **Financial Crime & Law Enforcement Expertise:**
 - Kedia has previously worked in financial crime control, corruption prevention, and counter-terrorism strategies.
 - Served as Additional Director at the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Director (Left Wing Extremism) at the Ministry of Home Affairs.



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|-----------------------|---|
| Event | IPS Officer DK Kedia honored with the 'CA in Public Service' Award |
| Date | February 1, 2025 |
| Location | World Forum of Accountants Meet, New Delhi |
| Awarding Organization | Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) |
| Other Honor | President's Medal for Distinguished Service (Republic Day 2025) |
| Current Position | Inspector General (IG) Headquarters, NSG |
| Nickname | 'CA in Uniform' |
| Education | CA, CS, CMA, LLB, MA in Anti-Corruption Studies |
| Past Roles | SP (Assam), Director (LWE), Additional Director (ED), IG (Law & Order, Assam) |
| Key Contributions | National security, counter-terrorism, financial crime control, law enforcement strategies |



AWARDS



➤ Which book by Chaman Arora won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 in Dogri literature?

- A) Ik Hor Ashwthama
- B) Tawi Te Chanani
- C) Duggar Da Darpan
- D) Dogri Dastaan
- E) Rajneeti Te Sahitya



Answer

A) Ik Hor Ashwthama



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Late Chaman Arora was posthumously honored with the Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 in Dogri literature
- **Date:** Award to be presented on March 8, 2025
- **Location:** New Delhi



Mandates and Objectives:

- **The Sahitya Akademi Award 2024** in Dogri literature was posthumously awarded to Late Chaman Arora.
- His book **Ik Hor Ashwthama**, a collection of short stories, was unanimously selected by a three-member jury.
- The award ceremony will take place on March 8, 2025, in New Delhi.
- The award components include ₹1 lakh in cash and a casket with an engraved copper plaque.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Sahitya Akademi Award:**
 - One of India's most prestigious literary awards, given annually by Sahitya Akademi, an organization under the Ministry of Culture.
 - Recognizes outstanding literary works in 24 Indian languages, including Dogri.
- **Dogri Language:**
 - Indo-Aryan language spoken primarily in Jammu & Kashmir and parts of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab.
 - Included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution in 2003.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Chaman Arora's 'Ik Hor Ashwthama':**
 - A short story collection showcasing Dogri literature and cultural narratives.
 - Recognized for its rich storytelling and literary impact.



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|--------------------|--|
| Event | Chaman Arora posthumously honored with Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 in Dogri |
| Date | March 8, 2025 |
| Location | New Delhi |
| Award Category | Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 (Dogri Literature) |
| Awardee | Late Chaman Arora |
| Winning Book | Ik Hor Ashwthama (Short Stories) |
| Selection Process | Unanimously chosen by a three-member jury |
| Approval Authority | Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi |
| Award Components | ₹1 lakh cash prize + casket with engraved copper plaque |
| Organizer | Ministry of Culture & Sahitya Akademi |



➤ **Where is the joint military exercise 'Cyclone 2025' between India and Egypt being conducted?**

- A) Thar Desert, Rajasthan
- B) Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
- C) Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
- D) Jaisalmer Military Base, Rajasthan
- E) Desert Warfare Training Centre, Rajasthan



Answer

C) Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India and Egypt commenced the joint military exercise 'Cyclone 2025'
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Cyclone 2025** is a bilateral military exercise between India and Egypt.
- **The 14-day exercise** focuses on counter-terrorism, reconnaissance, raids, sniping, combat free fall, surveillance, and target designation.
- The objective is to strengthen defense ties, enhance interoperability of special forces, and improve coordination in challenging desert environments.



Key Participants:

- **Indian Army:** Represented by the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces), experts in airborne operations and rapid deployment.
- **Egyptian Army:** Represented by the Egyptian Commando Squadron and Egyptian Airborne Platoon, skilled in desert warfare and counter-terrorism.



Importance of the Exercise:

- Strengthens **India-Egypt military cooperation**, helping both nations tackle terrorism, insurgency, and border security threats.
- Enhances **defense preparedness, operational compatibility, and strategic relations**.
- Acts as a **step toward regional security cooperation**, as both nations face **unique security challenges** in their respective regions.



Strategic Significance:

- **India** plays a vital role in Indo-Pacific security, while Egypt is key to **Middle East and North African (MENA)** regional stability.
- Military-to-military exchanges like **Cyclone 2025** improve global defense partnerships and counter-terrorism strategies.



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|----------------------|---|
| Event | India and Egypt commence joint military exercise 'Cyclone 2025' |
| Date | February 10, 2025 |
| Location | Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan |
| Duration | 14 days |
| Objective | Strengthen defense ties, enhance interoperability, and develop special forces coordination |
| Focus Areas | Counter-terrorism, reconnaissance, raids, sniping, combat free fall, surveillance, target designation |
| Indian Contingent | Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) |
| Egyptian Contingent | Egyptian Commando Squadron and Egyptian Airborne Platoon |
| Strategic Importance | Enhances defense preparedness and addresses common security threats |
| Diplomatic Impact | Strengthens India-Egypt military relations and regional security cooperation |



➤ **What is the theme of the Defence Ministers' Conclave at Aero India 2025?**

- A) Strengthening India's Defence Exports
- B) BRIDGE – Building Resilience through International Defence and Global Engagement
- C) Future of Air Warfare and Emerging Threats
- D) Enhancing Self-Reliance in Defence Manufacturing
- E) Indo-Pacific Security and Military Collaboration



Answer

B) BRIDGE – Building Resilience through International Defence and Global Engagement



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India achieves a record ₹1.27 lakh crore in domestic defense production ahead of Aero India 2025
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** Bengaluru, India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **India's domestic defense production** crossed a historic **₹1.27 lakh crore**, reflecting the country's progress in self-reliance and military manufacturing.
- The announcement was made ahead of **Aero India 2025, Asia's largest aerospace and defense exhibition.**
- Aero India 2025 serves as a platform to showcase **India's defense industry, foster global collaborations, and promote indigenous innovations.**
- The event features participation from **900+ exhibitors from 90 countries**, with 70 CEOs of major defense companies attending.



Theme of Aero India 2025 Defence Ministers' Conclave:

- **Theme: BRIDGE** – Building Resilience through International Defence and Global Engagement.
- Focuses on international defense cooperation, military resilience, and global security challenges.



Aircraft on Display:

- 70+ aircraft featured in static and flying displays.
- **Notable aircraft:**
 - **Russian Su-57** (Fifth-generation stealth fighter).
 - **American F-35** (One of the most advanced fighter jets in the world).
 - **India's LCA Tejas** (Indigenous Light Combat Aircraft) showcased prominently.
- **Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi and Air Chief Marshal AP Singh** took test flights in LCA Tejas, demonstrating confidence in indigenous aircraft.



Significance of ₹1.27 Lakh Crore Defence Production Milestone:

- This milestone is a result of **Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and FDI policies in defense.**
- Aims to reduce dependence on defense imports and boost exports.
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has streamlined LCA Tejas production, with GE supplying engines for future fighter jets.



DEFENCE



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Event | India achieves a record ₹1.27 lakh crore in domestic defense production |
| Date | February 10, 2025 |
| Location | Bengaluru, India |
| Aero India 2025 Venue | Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru |
| Theme of Defence Ministers' Conclave | BRIDGE – Building Resilience through International Defence and Global Engagement |
| Total Aircraft on Display | 70+ aircraft (30 static, others in flying display) |
| Notable Aircraft | Russian Su-57, American F-35, LCA Tejas |
| Top Military Leaders Flying LCA Tejas | Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh |
| Total Participants at Aero India 2025 | 900+ exhibitors from 90 countries, 70 CEOs of defense firms |



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



➤ **What is the primary objective of the Paris AI Summit co-chaired by PM Modi and President Macron?**

- A) To promote AI-driven job creation worldwide
- B) To establish a global framework for AI governance and ethical development
- C) To regulate AI companies and enforce strict rules on AI usage
- D) To promote France's AI leadership and restrict foreign AI companies
- E) To introduce a unified AI regulation applicable to all nations



Answer

B) To establish a global framework for AI governance and ethical development



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Paris AI Summit, co-chaired by PM Modi and President Macron, focusing on AI governance
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** Paris, France



Mandates and Objectives:

- **The Paris AI Summit aims** to develop a global AI governance framework that ensures ethical and responsible AI development.
- Discussions focus on **AI safety, regulation, and inclusive AI policies** to benefit all nations.
- The summit seeks to balance **innovation and regulation**, considering different approaches, such as **the U.S. pro-innovation stance and EU's strict AI laws**.
- France announced a **€109 billion investment** in AI research and infrastructure to strengthen its AI leadership.



Important Terms Explained:

- **AI Governance:**
 - The process of establishing regulations and ethical guidelines to ensure AI development aligns with human rights and global security.
 - Addresses concerns related to AI bias, misinformation, and data privacy.
- **DeepSeek Chatbot:**
 - A chatbot developed by China to advance its AI capabilities.
 - It reflects China's growing influence in AI-driven communication and automation.



Important Terms Explained:

- **France's AI Investment:**
 - France announced a €109 billion AI investment to boost its AI infrastructure and research.
 - It includes the establishment of a Public Benefit AI Institution to manage AI ethics and data transparency.
- **Global AI Regulation Challenges:**
 - **U.S. approach:** Industry-driven, pro-innovation, minimal government intervention.
 - **EU approach:** Strict AI laws, preventing unethical AI use (surveillance, misinformation).
 - **China's strategy:** State-driven AI development, raising concerns over data security and ethical implications.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|------------------------|--|
| Event | Paris AI Summit, focusing on AI governance and ethics |
| Date | February 10, 2025 |
| Location | Paris, France |
| Co-Chairs | Indian PM Narendra Modi & French President Emmanuel Macron |
| Major Participants | U.S. VP JD Vance, China's VP Zhang Guoqing, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, DeepMind CEO Demis Hassabis |
| Key Objective | Global AI governance, ethical AI development, safety, and regulations |
| France's AI Move | Announced €109 billion AI investment to strengthen its AI industry |
| China's AI Development | Launched "DeepSeek" chatbot, expanding its AI influence |
| India's Role | Co-chairing the summit, advocating for ethical AI policies and inclusive AI governance |



➤ **What is the primary objective of the Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) MoU between India and Nicaragua?**

- A) To promote Indian cultural exchange in Nicaragua
- B) To implement infrastructure and social development projects with Indian grant assistance
- C) To expand trade relations between India and Nicaragua
- D) To establish an Indian Embassy in Nicaragua
- E) To provide defense cooperation between both countries



Answer

B) To implement infrastructure and social development projects with Indian grant assistance



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India and Nicaragua signed an MoU for Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) to enhance infrastructure and social services
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** Managua, Nicaragua



Mandates and Objectives:

- **India signed an MoU with Nicaragua** to implement Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), focusing on rapid infrastructure and social development.
- The agreement was signed by **Indian Ambassador Sumit Seth and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Valdrack Jaentschke**.
- India will provide grant assistance for projects related to roads, community centers, healthcare, sanitation, and education.
- QIPs aim to deliver immediate and visible improvements in Nicaraguan communities by addressing essential service gaps.



India-Nicaragua Relations:

- **Diplomatic ties** were established in **March 1983**.
- **India's Embassy in Panama** is concurrently accredited to Nicaragua.
- **Nicaragua** does not have an embassy in India; its diplomatic affairs are handled through its embassy in Tokyo, Japan.
- India previously signed a similar QIP agreement with Nicaragua in December 2024.



Strategic Significance:

- **The QIP initiative** aligns with India's global development strategy of supporting Latin American, African, and Southeast Asian nations.
- **India's development aid model** focuses on high-impact, small-scale projects that offer fast and measurable benefits.
- Enhances **India's international partnerships and diplomatic goodwill.**



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Event | India and Nicaragua sign MoU for Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) |
| Date | February 10, 2025 |
| Location | Managua, Nicaragua |
| Objective | Develop infrastructure and social services through Indian grant assistance |
| Key Focus Areas | Roads, community centers, education, healthcare, sanitation |
| Indian Representative | Ambassador Sumit Seth |
| Nicaraguan Representative | Foreign Minister Valdrack Jaentschke |
| India-Nicaragua Diplomatic Relations | Established in March 1983 |
| India's Diplomatic Presence | Indian Embassy in Panama (concurrently accredited to Nicaragua) |



- **What is the primary objective of the World's Largest Jhumur Festival in Assam?**
- A) To promote Assam's tourism industry globally
 - B) To attract investors ahead of Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment Summit
 - C) To break the Guinness World Record for largest Bihu performance
 - D) To celebrate Assam's cultural heritage without economic goals
 - E) To launch a new state-wide dance training program



Answer

B) To attract investors ahead of Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment Summit



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Assam to host the World's Largest Jhumur Dance Performance ahead of the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment Summit
- **Date:** February 24, 2025
- **Location:** Guwahati, Assam



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Assam** aims to set a **Guinness World Record with over 7,500 Jhumur dancers.**
- The event precedes **Advantage Assam 2.0**, scheduled for February 25-26, 2025.
- The festival showcases Assam's rich cultural heritage while serving as a global investment platform.
- **PM Narendra Modi** will attend the event as **the Chief Guest.**



Important Terms Explained:

- **Jhumur Dance:**
 - A traditional folk dance performed by tea tribes and indigenous communities in Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal.
 - Characterized by synchronized hand movements and rhythmic steps, usually performed in a group.
- **Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment Summit:**
 - Second edition of Assam's premier investment summit after its launch in 2018.
 - Focuses on infrastructure development, industrial growth, and ease of doing business.
 - Aims to attract national and international investors to boost Assam's economy.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Guinness World Record Attempt:**
 - Assam previously set a Guinness World Record for the largest Bihu performance.
 - The Jhumur Dance Festival aims to break records and bring Assam into the global spotlight.
- **Economic and Industrial Growth in Assam:**
 - Assam's law and order have improved, making it a business-friendly destination.
 - The state has implemented Ease of Doing Business reforms with single-window clearance for investors.
 - Significant progress in infrastructure, industry, and tourism development.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|-------------------|---|
| Event | World's Largest Jhumur Dance Performance |
| Date | February 24, 2025 |
| Location | Guwahati, Assam |
| Occasion | Ahead of Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment Summit |
| Chief Guest | Prime Minister Narendra Modi |
| Number of Dancers | Over 7,500 participants |
| Record Attempt | Guinness World Record for Largest Jhumur Dance |
| Summit Dates | February 25-26, 2025 |
| Preparations | Training workshops, district-level rehearsals, final rehearsals in Guwahati |
| Previous Record | Largest Bihu Performance (Guinness World Record) |
| Focus Areas | Infrastructure, investment promotion, and cultural heritage |



➤ **The Union Cabinet extended the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) until which year?**

- A) March 31, 2026
- B) March 31, 2027
- C) March 31, 2028
- D) March 31, 2029
- E) March 31, 2030

Answer

C) March 31, 2028



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Union Cabinet extends the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) until March 31, 2028
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, extended the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) by three years, from March 31, 2025, to March 31, 2028.**
- The decision reinforces the government's commitment to improving **the welfare of Safai Karamcharis (sanitation workers) and eliminating manual scavenging.**
- The extension ensures continued monitoring of rehabilitation programs and worker safety initiatives.



What is the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)?

- Established in **1993**, NCSK is a statutory body tasked with protecting the rights and welfare of **Safai Karamcharis**.
- Monitors implementation of schemes, investigates grievances, and advises the government on policy measures.
- Ensures the enforcement of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.



Why is This Extension Important?

- Despite **legal bans, hazardous cleaning practices persist in some areas.**
- The government aims to completely mechanize sewer and septic tank cleaning to protect workers.
- Ensures the rehabilitation of former manual scavengers and their integration into mainstream employment.
- **Budget allocation:** ₹43.68 crore for the three-year extension, reflecting the government's increased financial commitment.



Past Extensions of NCSK:

- Initially set up in **1993**, its tenure has been extended multiple times.
- **2016**: Extended for three years beyond March 31, 2016, with a budget of ₹13.08 crore.
- **2025**: Now extended further till March 31, 2028, with a higher financial allocation.



Key Responsibilities of NCSK:

- Recommends programs to eliminate the inequalities faced by **Safai Karamcharis**.
- Monitors **the working conditions, health, and safety of sanitation workers**.
- **Ensures rehabilitation programs** for manual scavengers.
- **Investigates complaints** related to the non-implementation of welfare schemes.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

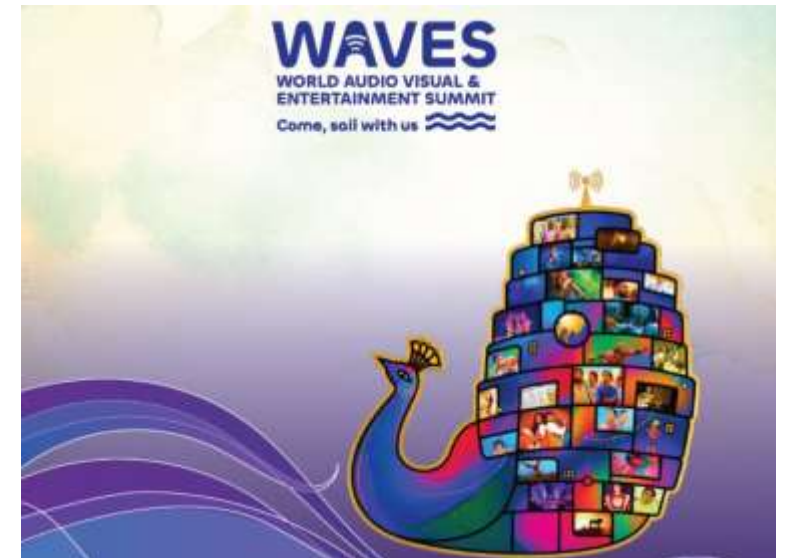
| Key Aspect | Details |
|----------------------|---|
| Event | Union Cabinet extends NCSK's tenure until March 31, 2028 |
| Date | February 10, 2025 |
| Decision-Making Body | Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi |
| Established | 1993 |
| Headquarters | New Delhi |
| Purpose | Safeguarding the rights and welfare of Safai Karamcharis |
| New Tenure Duration | Extended from March 31, 2025, to March 31, 2028 |
| Legal Framework | Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 |
| Budget Allocation | ₹43.68 crore for three years |
| Previous Extension | Extended in 2016 for three years (Budget: ₹13.08 crore) |
| Primary Objectives | Monitor schemes, address grievances, promote mechanization of hazardous cleaning |



➤ Where will the inaugural World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 be hosted?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) New Delhi
- C) Goa
- D) Mumbai
- E) Hyderabad

Answer
D) Mumbai



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India to host the first WAVES Summit in Mumbai from May 1-4, 2025
- **Date:** May 1-4, 2025
- **Location:** Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra



Mandates and Objectives:

- **The World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES)** is India's first global summit dedicated to media and entertainment.
- The summit aims to position India as a major hub for animation, gaming, visual effects, and filmmaking.
- Top industry leaders, including Sundar Pichai, Satya Nadella, Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, and Mukesh Ambani, will participate.
- Originally planned alongside IFFI in Goa (November 2024) but later rescheduled for broader international participation.



Key Focus Areas of WAVES 2025:

- **Animation, Gaming, Visual Effects, and Cinema (AVGC)** industries.
- Attracting global investments and collaborations in India's media sector.
- Showcasing India's digital content innovations and entertainment technology advancements.



Government's Role in WAVES 2025:

- The announcement was made by **Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** chaired the high-level meeting finalizing the summit.
- The Advisory Board includes major industry figures like **Sundar Pichai (Google)** and **Satya Nadella (Microsoft)**.



Centenary Tributes to Indian Cinema Legends:

- **Raj Kapoor, Mohammed Rafi, Akkineni Nageswara Rao, and Tapan Sinha** were honored during the announcement.
- PM Modi highlighted their lasting impact on Indian cinema and cultural heritage.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

| Key Aspect | Details |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Event | India to host the inaugural WAVES Summit in Mumbai |
| Date | May 1-4, 2025 |
| Venue | Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai |
| Announced By | Ashwini Vaishnaw (Minister of Information & Broadcasting) |
| Chaired By | Prime Minister Narendra Modi |
| Advisory Board Members | Sundar Pichai, Satya Nadella, Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Mukesh Ambani |
| Purpose | Global collaboration in media, investment opportunities, advancement in entertainment technology |
| Originally Planned | IFFI, Goa (November 2024), later rescheduled |
| Honored Cinema Personalities | Raj Kapoor, Mohammed Rafi, Akkineni Nageswara Rao, Tapan Sinha |
| State (Maharashtra) Static GK | CM: Devendra Fadnavis, Governor: C. P. Radhakrishnan, Capital: Mumbai |



QUICK RECALL



- **World Pulses Day 2025 is observed on February 10 to highlight the importance of pulses in food security.**
- **Indian Overseas Bank celebrated its 89th Foundation Day on February 10, 2025.**
- **The United Nations General Assembly declared February 10 as the International Day of the Arabian Leopard.**
- **Varun Chakravarthy made his ODI debut at 33 years and 164 days, becoming India's second-oldest debutant.**
- **Dimuth Karunaratne retired after playing his 100th Test against Australia in Galle.**
- **Rohit Sharma became the second-highest six-hitter in ODI history, surpassing Chris Gayle.**
- **Sam Nujoma, Namibia's first president, passed away at the age of 95.**
- **India ranked 3rd globally in LEED Green Building Certifications 2024.**
- **IDFC FIRST Bank expanded its AI-powered Amitabh Bachchan holographic avatar to five more cities.**



QUICK RECALL



- **RBI introduced Additional Factor Authentication (AFA) for international transactions to enhance security.**
- **RBI approved the voluntary amalgamation of two urban co-operative banks in Hyderabad.**
- **IPS Officer DK Kedia was honored with the 'CA in Public Service' Award by ICAI on February 1, 2025.**
- **The Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 in Dogri was posthumously awarded to Chaman Arora.**
- **The India-Egypt joint military exercise 'Cyclone 2025' began on February 10, 2025.**
- **India's defense production surpassed ₹1.27 lakh crore, showcasing self-reliance in military manufacturing.**
- **The Paris AI Summit was co-chaired by PM Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron.**
- **India and Nicaragua signed an MoU for Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) to enhance infrastructure and social services.**



QUICK RECALL



- **Assam will host the World's Largest Jhumur Dance Festival on February 24, 2025.**
- **The Union Cabinet extended the tenure of NCSK from March 31, 2025, to March 31, 2028.**
- **India will host the first World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in Mumbai from May 1-4, 2025.**



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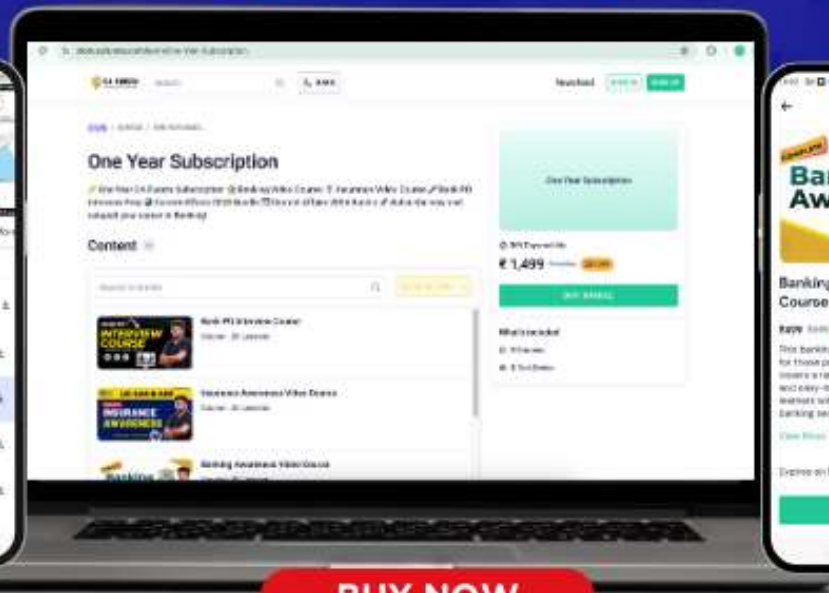
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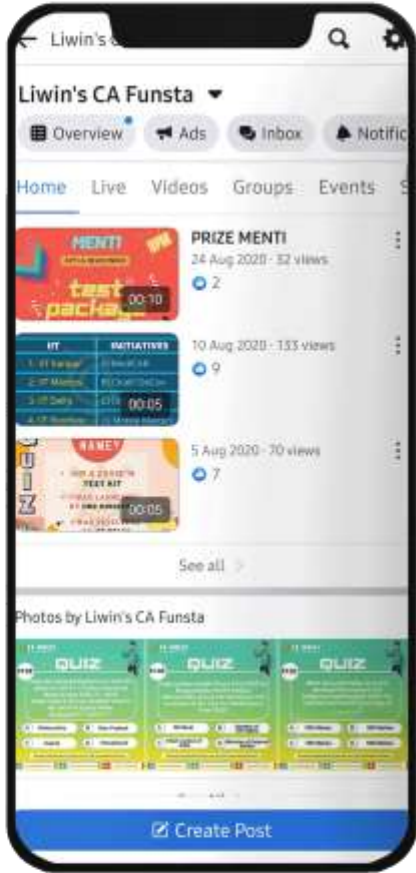
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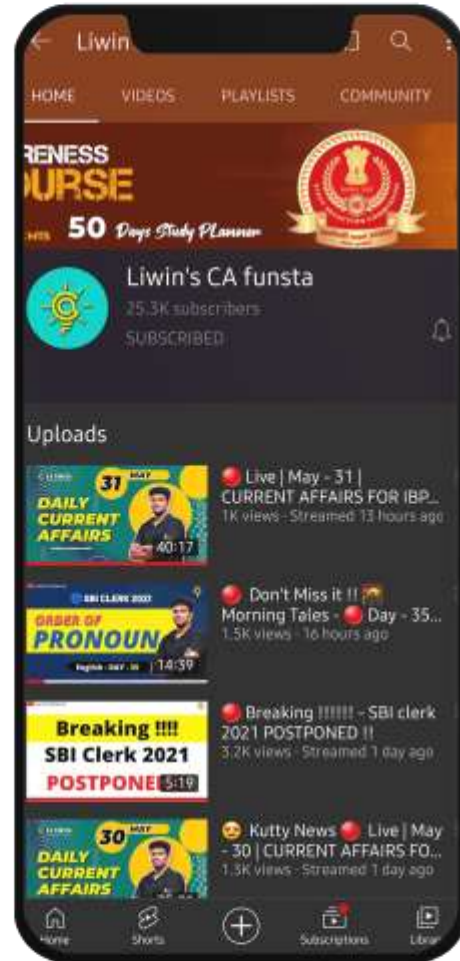


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