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Current Affairs

FEBRUARY 11

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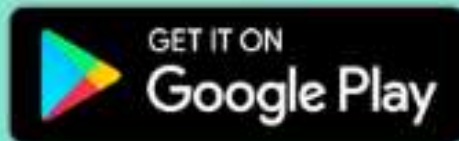
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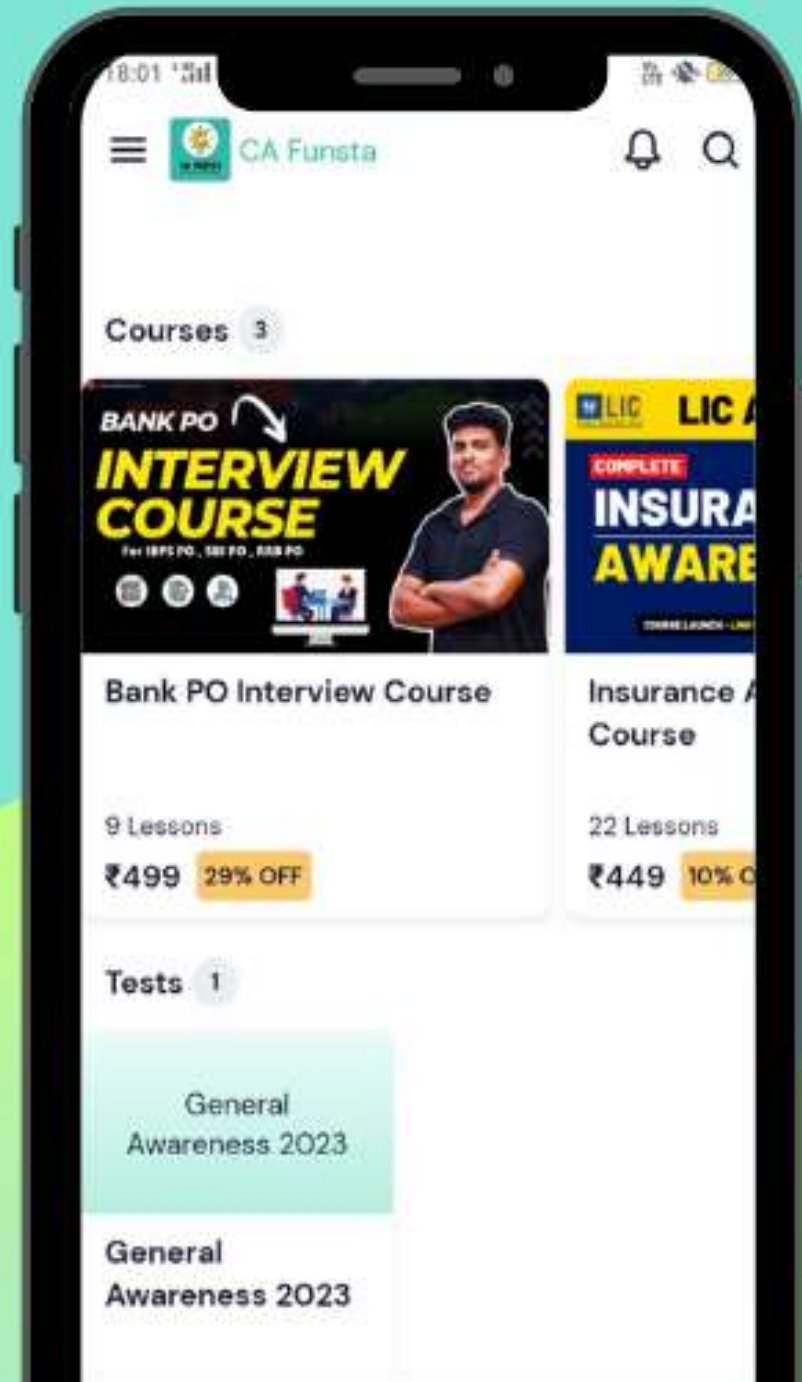


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Rajaganapathy A R
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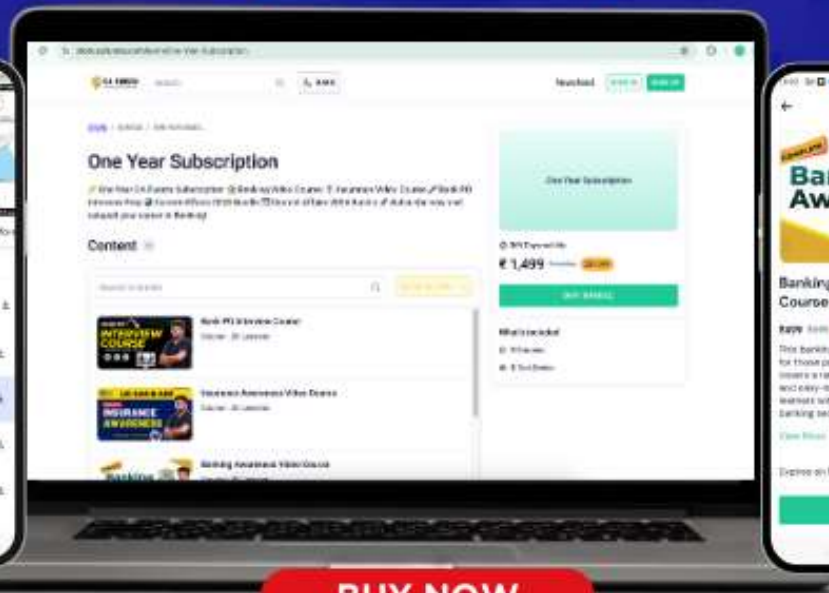
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Important Days



➤ **When is the International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2025 celebrated, and what is its theme?**

- A) February 28; "Women in Innovation and Research"
- B) February 11; "Unpacking STEM Careers: Her Voice in Science"
- C) March 8; "Gender Equality in Science"
- D) February 11; "Women Empowerment in Technology"
- E) January 15; "Science for a Sustainable Future"



**INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF WOMEN & GIRLS
IN SCIENCE**

Answer

B) February 11; "Unpacking STEM Careers: Her Voice in Science"



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2025
- **Date:** February 11, 2025
- **Location:** Global
- **Theme:** Unpacking STEM Careers: Her Voice in Science



Important Days



Historical Background

- **March 14, 2011:** The UN Commission on the Status of Women emphasized the role of women in STEM.
- **December 20, 2013:** The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution for equal access to STEM for women and girls.
- **2015:** The UN officially declared February 11 as International Day of Women and Girls in Science.



Important Days



Significance of Gender Equality in Science

- **STEM Inclusion:** Gender equality in STEM is essential for economic development and achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Innovation and Growth:** Closing the gender gap in science promotes more research, scientific excellence, and technological advancements.



Important Days



Challenges Faced by Women in STEM

- **Gender Bias and Stereotypes:** STEM careers are often seen as male-dominated, discouraging women.
- **Lack of Role Models:** Fewer women in leadership positions result in less inspiration for young girls.
- **Limited Career Advancement:** Women face barriers to promotions and research funding.
- **Pay Gap and Workplace Discrimination:** Women in STEM earn less than men and face hiring biases.
- **Work-Life Balance Issues:** Family responsibilities often limit career growth in STEM fields.



Important Days



Global Initiatives to Support Women in Science

- **L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Program:** Recognizes and funds female researchers.
- **UNESCO and UN Women Educational Programs:** Provide scholarships and research grants.
- **Women in Tech Conferences:** Offer networking opportunities to help women advance in STEM careers.



Important Days



Impact of Women in Science

- **Marie Curie:** Pioneered research on radioactivity and won two Nobel Prizes.
- **Rosalind Franklin:** Contributed to discovering the DNA double-helix structure.
- **Kalpana Chawla:** First Indian-origin woman astronaut who inspired future space explorers.
- **Katherine Johnson:** NASA mathematician whose calculations helped Apollo missions succeed.



Important Days



Steps to Bridge the Gender Gap in STEM

- **Breaking Stereotypes:** Awareness campaigns to challenge gender biases in STEM.
- **Promoting Female Role Models:** Showcasing successful women in science.
- **Providing Scholarships and Funding:** Encouraging women to pursue STEM education.
- **Ensuring Equal Pay and Career Growth:** Addressing salary disparities and workplace discrimination.
- **Implementing Supportive Policies:** Flexible work hours, maternity leave, and mentorship programs.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	10th anniversary of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on February 11, 2025.
Theme for 2025	Unpacking STEM Careers: Her Voice in Science – Encouraging young women in STEM.
Historical Background	2011 UN emphasized women's role in STEM. 2013 UNGA resolution for equal STEM access. 2015 UN declared February 11 as International Day of Women and Girls in Science.
Significance of Gender Equality in Science	Crucial for economic growth and achieving 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Challenges Faced by Women in STEM	Gender Bias, Lack of Role Models, Limited Career Growth, Pay Gap, and Work-Life Balance.
Global Initiatives for Women in STEM	L'Oréal-UNESCO Women in Science Program, UNESCO & UN Women educational initiatives, Women in Tech Conferences.
Impact of Women in Science	Marie Curie (radioactivity), Rosalind Franklin (DNA), Kalpana Chawla (space), Katherine Johnson (NASA).
Steps to Bridge the Gender Gap in STEM	Breaking stereotypes, scholarships, equal pay, mentorship, and inclusive policies.
Future Outlook	Encouraging more women in STEM will drive innovation, scientific advancements, and inclusivity.



➤ **What is the name of the organ donation awareness initiative launched by ICC?**

- A) Save Lives, Donate Organs
- B) Donate Organs, Save Lives
- C) Pledge for Life
- D) Cricket for Donation
- E) Life After Life



Answer

B) Donate Organs, Save Lives



Event and Location:

- **Event:** BCCI-ICC Organ Donation Awareness Initiative
- **Date:** February 12, 2025
- **Location:** Ahmedabad, India



Initiative Details

- **Campaign Name:** Donate Organs, Save Lives
- **Announced By:** ICC Chief Jay Shah
- **Objective:** Raise awareness about organ donation and encourage people to pledge as donors



Key Highlights

- **Launch Event:** The initiative will debut during the India vs England 3rd ODI in Ahmedabad.
- **Cricketer Involvement:** Indian players will actively support and promote organ donation.
- **Promotion Methods:** Social media, stadium displays, and live match coverage.
- **Public Participation:** Fans may pledge organ donation online or at the venue.



Message from Jay Shah

- **Inspiration Through Cricket:** Cricket has the power to unite and drive social change.
- **Encouraging Participation:** A single pledge can save multiple lives.



Sunil Gavaskar's Appeal to BCCI

- **Charity Match Request:** Urged BCCI to dedicate a day for charity like Australia's Pink Test.
- **Visibility of Efforts:** Stated that BCCI runs charity programs, but they need more publicity.



Expected Impact

- **Public Awareness:** Increased understanding of organ donation.
- **Higher Donor Registration:** Encouraging more people to pledge as organ donors.



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	ICC launched 'Donate Organs, Save Lives' to promote organ donation awareness.
Announced By	ICC Chief Jay Shah.
Launch Date & Venue	February 12, 2025, during India vs England 3rd ODI in Ahmedabad.
Objective	Encourage organ donation pledges and raise awareness.
Promotion Methods	Social media, stadium displays, cricketer endorsements.
Key Message	"One pledge, one decision, can save multiple lives."
Sunil Gavaskar's Appeal	Requested BCCI to introduce a dedicated charity day in cricket.
Expected Impact	More public awareness and donor registrations.



➤ Which legendary footballer announced his retirement in February 2025 at the age of 36?

- A) Dani Alves
- B) Marcelo
- C) Sergio Ramos
- D) Luka Modric
- E) Neymar

Answer
B) Marcelo



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Real Madrid Legend Marcelo Retires from Football
- **Date:** February 2025
- **Location:** Global



Early Career & Real Madrid Move:

- **First Club:** Began his professional journey at Fluminense (Brazil).
- **Madrid Signing:** Joined Real Madrid in 2007 at just 18 years old.
- **Madrid Legacy:** Played 16 seasons with the club, becoming one of their greatest defenders.



Achievements with Real Madrid:

- **Total Trophies Won:** 25 major titles in 15 years.
- **Key Titles:**
 - 5 UEFA Champions League titles
 - 6 La Liga titles
 - 2 Copa del Rey titles
 - 5 FIFA Club World Cups
 - 3 UEFA Super Cups
- **Club Captaincy:** Became Real Madrid's captain in 2021, the first non-Spaniard to hold the armband in 117 years.



International Career with Brazil:

- **National Caps:** Represented Brazil 58 times.
- **Major Tournaments:** Played a crucial role in Brazil's defense for over a decade.



Later Years & Retirement:

- **Olympiacos Stint:** Left Real Madrid in 2022 and joined Olympiacos, but terminated his contract in five months.
- **Fluminense Return:** Played 68 matches from 2023 to 2024 before parting ways in November 2024.
- **Retirement Announcement:** Officially retired in February 2025, expressing a desire to remain in football.



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Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance:	Real Madrid legend Marcelo announced his retirement at the age of 36.
Full Name:	Marcelo Vieira da Silva Júnior.
Clubs Played For:	Fluminense, Real Madrid, Olympiacos, Fluminense (second stint).
Years at Real Madrid:	2007–2022 (15 years).
Major Titles Won:	5 UCL, 6 La Liga, 2 Copa del Rey, 5 FIFA Club World Cups.
Total Caps for Brazil:	58.
Last Club:	Fluminense (2023-2024).
Retirement Announced:	February 2025.
Marcelo's Legacy:	One of Real Madrid's most decorated players & a football legend.



➤ Which tennis player won his first indoor hardcourt title at the Rotterdam Open 2025?

- A) Novak Djokovic
- B) Jannik Sinner
- C) Rafael Nadal
- D) Carlos Alcaraz
- E) Daniil Medvedev

Answer

D) Carlos Alcaraz



SPORTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Carlos Alcaraz Wins Rotterdam Open 2025
- **Date:** February 11, 2025
- **Location:** Rotterdam, Netherlands



Historic Feats:

- **First Indoor Title:** Alcaraz added an indoor hardcourt trophy to his collection of grass, clay, and outdoor hardcourt titles.
- **Spanish Record:** Became the first Spaniard to win the Rotterdam Open in 52 years.
- **Surpassing His Coach:** With 17 ATP titles, he surpassed Juan Carlos Ferrero, his coach, in career ATP wins.



Challenges Faced:

- **Health Issues:** Played while recovering from a cold, wearing a nasal strip for breathing.
- **Tough Road to Title:** Won three three-set matches, including a hard-fought semifinal against Hubert Hurkacz.



Final Match Highlights:

- **First Set (6-4):** Broke back immediately after losing his serve to take control.
- **Second Set (3-6):** Lost momentum as de Minaur dictated play.
- **Deciding Set (6-2):** Dominated by forcing errors from de Minaur.



Other Key Facts:

- **Fastest Champion in 21 Years:** First player in 21 years to win Rotterdam Open on debut.
- **De Minaur's Runner-Up Streak:** Lost in the Rotterdam Open final for the second consecutive year, after falling to Jannik Sinner in 2024.



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	Carlos Alcaraz won his first indoor hardcourt title at Rotterdam Open 2025.
Tournament	Rotterdam Open 2025.
Winner	Carlos Alcaraz.
Final Opponent	Alex de Minaur.
Final Score	6-4, 3-6, 6-2.
Total ATP Titles	17.
First Indoor Title	Yes.
Historic Feat	First Spanish champion in Rotterdam Open's 52-year history.
Biggest Challenge	Played through illness, won three three-set matches.
Time Taken in Final	1 hour 54 minutes.



➤ Which team in The Hundred did Mumbai Indians acquire a 49% stake in?

- A) Manchester Originals
- B) Oval Invincibles
- C) Trent Rockets
- D) Northern Superchargers
- E) Birmingham Phoenix

Answer

B) Oval Invincibles



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Mumbai Indians Acquire 49% Stake in The Hundred's Oval Invincibles
- **Date:** February 11, 2025
- **Location:** United Kingdom



Key Details of the Acquisition:

- **Acquiring Entity:** Reliance Industries (RISE Worldwide)
- **Stake Acquired:** 49% in Oval Invincibles
- **Primary Stakeholder:** Surrey County Cricket Club (Surrey CCC)
- **League:** The Hundred (England & Wales Cricket Board's 100-ball tournament)



Mumbai Indians' Global Expansion:

- MI now owns **seven cricket teams** across five countries and four continents:
 - **India:** IPL (Mumbai Indians), WPL (Mumbai Indians Women)
 - **UAE:** ILT20 (MI Emirates)
 - **USA:** MLC (MI New York)
 - **South Africa:** SA20 (MI Cape Town)
 - **England:** The Hundred (Oval Invincibles)



Oval Invincibles' Performance in The Hundred:

- **Men's Team:** Champions in 2023 & 2024
- **Women's Team:** Champions in 2021 & 2022



Statements from Leadership:

- **Nita Ambani (MI Owner):** "Welcoming Oval Invincibles into the MI family is a proud moment."
- **Akash Ambani (RIL Director):** "Having the Oval as our home venue is truly special."
- **Oli Slipper (Surrey CCC Chair):** "Reliance's partnership will ensure long-term success."



Details About The Hundred League:

- **Format:** 100-ball per innings cricket league in the UK.
- **Organizer:** England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).
- **Teams:** 8 city-based men's and women's teams.
- **2025 Season Start Date:** August 5, 2025.
- **Opening Fixture:** August 6, 2025 (Double Header).



Other Major Investments in The Hundred:

- **RPSG Group (Owner of Lucknow Super Giants)** acquired a majority stake in Manchester Originals for £107 million.
- **ECB Model:** Selling 49% stakes in teams while host counties retain 51% ownership.



Mumbai Indians' Achievements Across Leagues:

- **Total Titles Won:** 11 major trophies across different competitions.
- **IPL:** 5 titles.
- **Champions League T20:** 2 titles.
- **Other Leagues:** ILT20, MLC, SA20, WPL champions.



SPORTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	Mumbai Indians acquired a 49% stake in Oval Invincibles.
Acquiring Entity	Reliance Industries (RISE Worldwide).
Primary Stakeholder	Surrey CCC.
League Name	The Hundred (ECB's 100-ball tournament).
Mumbai Indians' Global Teams	IPL (India), WPL (India), ILT20 (UAE), SA20 (South Africa), MLC (USA), The Hundred (UK).
Oval Invincibles' Achievements	Men's Team: Champions (2023, 2024), Women's Team: Champions (2021, 2022).
Statements on Acquisition	Nita Ambani: "Proud moment for MI." Akash Ambani: "Oval as home venue is special." Oli Slipper: "Reliance ensures long-term success."
Other Deals in The Hundred	RPSG Group acquired Manchester Originals for £107 million.
Tournament Start Date	August 5, 2025 (Double Header on August 6).
Mumbai Indians' Major Titles	5 IPL, 2 Champions League, WPL, ILT20, MLC, SA20.



➤ **Who won the 2025 Mumbai Open singles title?**

- A) Aryna Sabalenka
- B) Jil Teichmann
- C) Mananchaya Sawangkaew
- D) Rebecca Marino
- E) Elena Rybakina

Answer
B) Jil Teichmann



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Jil Teichmann Wins Mumbai Open 2025
- **Date:** February 9, 2025
- **Location:** Cricket Club of India, Mumbai



Final Match – Singles:

- **Winner:** Jil Teichmann (Switzerland)
- **Runner-up:** Mananchaya Sawangkaew (Thailand)
- **Final Score:** 6-3, 6-4



Tournament Overview:

- **Category:** WTA 125 event
- **Surface:** Hardcourt (Outdoor)
- **Venue:** Cricket Club of India, Mumbai
- **Edition:** 4th (Previously held in 2017, 2018, and 2024)



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Prize Money & WTA Points:

- **Winner's Prize:** \$15,000 + 125 WTA points
- **Runner-up's Prize:** \$8,400 + 81 WTA points



Path to the Final:

- **Jil Teichmann** defeated **Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi** (India) in the semifinal.
- **Mananchaya Sawangkaew** defeated **Rebecca Marino** (Canada) in the semifinal.



Doubles Final:

- **Winners:** Elena Pridankina & Amina Anshba (Russia)
- **Runners-up:** Prarthana Thombare (India) & Arianne Hartono (Netherlands)
- **Final Score:** 6(4)-7(7), 6-2, 10-7
- **Note:** Russian players competed as neutrals due to Russia's suspension from international tennis events.



About the Mumbai Open:

- **First Held:** 2017 (Winner: Aryna Sabalenka)
- **Only WTA event in India**
- **Formats:** Singles & Doubles
- **Court Type:** Hardcourt



Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Details:

- **Founded:** 1973 by Billie Jean King (USA)
- **Headquarters:** Florida, USA
- **WTA Tournament Levels:**
 - WTA 1000
 - WTA 500
 - WTA 250
 - WTA 125 (Mumbai Open is a WTA 125 event)



SPORTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	Jil Teichmann won the 2025 Mumbai Open singles title.
Tournament Name	2025 Mumbai Open (WTA 125)
Winner (Singles)	Jil Teichmann (Switzerland)
Runner-up (Singles)	Mananchaya Sawangkaew (Thailand)
Final Score	6-3, 6-4
Winner (Doubles)	Elena Pridankina & Amina Anshba (Russia)
Runner-up (Doubles)	Prarthana Thombare & Arianne Hartono
Venue	Cricket Club of India, Mumbai
Edition	4th (Held in 2017, 2018, 2024, 2025)
Prize Money (Winner)	\$15,000 + 125 WTA points
Prize Money (Runner-up)	\$8,400 + 81 WTA points
WTA Founded	1973 by Billie Jean King (USA)
WTA Headquarters	Florida, USA



➤ **Who won the 2025 Chennai Open men's singles title?**

- A) Elias Ymer
- B) Dalibor Svrčina
- C) Kyrian Jacquet
- D) Ramkumar Ramanathan
- E) Shintaro Mochizuki

Answer

C) Kyrian Jacquet



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Kyrian Jacquet Wins 2025 Chennai Open
- **Date:** February 9, 2025
- **Location:** SDAT Tennis Stadium, Nungambakkam, Tamil Nadu



Final Match – Singles:

- **Winner:** Kyrian Jacquet (France)
- **Runner-up:** Elias Ymer (Sweden)
- **Final Score:** 7(7)-6(1), 6-4
- **Venue:** SDAT Tennis Stadium, Tamil Nadu



Tournament Overview:

- **Event Type:** ATP 100 Challenger Tournament
- **Tournament Dates:** February 3-9, 2025
- **Winner's Prize Money:** \$17,500 + 100 ATP Points



Kyrian Jacquet's Road to Victory:

- **Semi-final:** Defeated Dalibor Svrčina (Czechia) 6-4, 6-1
- **Final:** Defeated Elias Ymer (Sweden) 7(7)-6(1), 6-4

Doubles Final:

- **Winners:** Shintaro Mochizuki & Kaito Uesugi (Japan)
- **Runners-up:** Ramkumar Ramanathan & Saketh Myneni (India)
- **Final Score:** 6-4, 6-4



ATP Challenger Tournaments in India (2025):

- **Chennai Open (Feb 3-9) – ATP 100**
- **Bengaluru Open (Feb 10-16) – ATP 100**
- **Pune Open (Feb 17-23) – ATP 100**
- **Delhi Open (Feb 24-Mar 2) – ATP 75**

About the ATP Challenger Tour:

- **Organized by:** Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP)
- **Purpose:** Helps players earn ranking points to qualify for ATP Tour events.
- **Chennai Open Level:** ATP 100



Historic Feats:

- **First Indoor Title:** Alcaraz added an indoor hardcourt trophy to his collection of grass, clay, and outdoor hardcourt titles.
- **Spanish Record:** Became the first Spaniard to win the Rotterdam Open in 52 years.
- **Surpassing His Coach:** With 17 ATP titles, he surpassed Juan Carlos Ferrero, his coach, in career ATP wins.



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Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	Kyrian Jacquet won the 2025 Chennai Open men's singles title.
Tournament Name	2025 Chennai Open (ATP 100 Challenger)
Winner (Singles)	Kyrian Jacquet (France)
Runner-up (Singles)	Elias Ymer (Sweden)
Final Score	7(7)-6(1), 6-4
Winner (Doubles)	Shintaro Mochizuki & Kaito Uesugi (Japan)
Runner-up (Doubles)	Ramkumar Ramanathan & Saketh Myneni (India)
Venue	SDAT Tennis Stadium, Tamil Nadu
Tournament Dates	3-9 February 2025
ATP Challenger Tournaments in India (2025)	Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune, Delhi
ATP Headquarters	London, United Kingdom



➤ **Who is chairing the RBI Working Group set up to review financial market timings?**

- A) Shaktikanta Das
- B) Ravi Ranjan
- C) Radha Shyam Ratho
- D) Lalit Tyagi
- E) Dimple Bhandia

Answer

C) Radha Shyam Ratho



Event and Location:

- **Event:** RBI's Review of Financial Market Timings
- **Date:** February 11, 2025
- **Location:** India



Members

- **Chairperson of the Working Group**
 - **Radha Shyam Ratho:** Executive Director, RBI
- **Other Key Members**
 - **Ravi Ranjan:** Deputy Managing Director, State Bank of India
 - **Lalit Tyagi:** Executive Director, Bank of Baroda
 - **Ashish Parthasarthy:** Group Head of Treasury, HDFC Bank
 - **Parul Mittal Sinha:** Head of Financial Markets, Standard Chartered Bank
 - **Ashwani Sindhvani:** CEO, Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI)



Members

- **Other Key Members**
 - **Ravindranath Gandrakota:** CEO, Fixed Income Money Market and Derivatives Association of India (FIMMDA)
 - **Shailendra Jhingan:** Chairperson, Primary Dealers' Association of India (PDAI)
 - **Dimple Bhandia:** Chief General Manager, Financial Markets Regulation Department, RBI (Member Secretary)



Key Focus Areas

- **Market Timings Review:** Assessing existing trading hours across banking, forex, securities, and derivatives.
- **Liquidity & Volatility:** Identifying challenges caused by current market timings, including inefficiencies.
- **Global Benchmarking:** Comparing India's market timings with international best practices.
- **Impact Assessment:** Studying operational costs and benefits of revised timings.
- **Recommendations:** Aligning market operations with evolving financial structures.



Historical Context

- **2018 RBI Initiative:** The RBI formed an internal group to review market timings.
- **2019 Report:** The group published recommendations on settlement structures and market operations.
- **Current Review Need:** Increased foreign participation and digital advancements necessitate an updated study.



Future Developments

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** The Working Group will consult with banks, traders, and financial institutions.
- **Final Report:** The report is expected by April 30, 2025 and could lead to significant market reforms.



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	RBI set up a nine-member Working Group to review market timings.
Chairperson	Radha Shyam Ratho, Executive Director, RBI.
Key Members	Officials from RBI, SBI, Bank of Baroda, HDFC Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, FEDAI, FIMMDA, PDAI.
Key Focus Areas	Reviewing market timings, assessing liquidity, studying global trends, proposing reforms.
Historical Background	2018 RBI study on market timings; 2019 report published with recommendations.
Final Report Due	April 30, 2025.
Regulated Markets Under Review	Banking, Forex, Securities, Derivatives, Payment Systems.
Future Outlook	Potential changes in trading hours for better efficiency and liquidity.



➤ **When has the RBI deferred the implementation of Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) and project financing norms?**

- A) March 31, 2025
- B) April 1, 2025
- C) March 31, 2026
- D) April 1, 2026
- E) December 31, 2025

Answer

C) March 31, 2026



Event and Location:

- **Event:** RBI Defers Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) and Project Financing Norms
- **Date:** February 11, 2025
- **Location:** India



Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR):

- **Definition:** LCR requires banks to hold high-quality liquid assets (HQLAs) to cover net cash outflows over 30 days.
- **New Requirement:** Banks were to maintain an additional 5% run-off factor for retail deposits from internet and mobile banking.
- **Potential Impact:** Estimated ₹4 lakh crore could have been moved from lending to government securities, restricting credit availability.



Why Did RBI Postpone the Norms?

- **Banking Sector Concerns:** Public and private banks warned that strict LCR norms could reduce loan availability and cause liquidity stress.
- **RBI Consultation:** In January 2025, the RBI discussed with banks and decided to defer the norms for a phased implementation.
- **RBI's Statement:** Governor Sanjay Malhotra assured that the delay ensures financial stability without disrupting credit flow.



Expected Impact of LCR Delay:

- **Additional Compliance Time:** Banks get more time to adjust without liquidity stress.
- **Credit Availability Maintained:** Lending remains unaffected, supporting economic growth.
- **Phased Rollout Approach:** RBI to introduce a gradual implementation strategy for smooth transition.



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	RBI deferred LCR and project financing norms to March 31, 2026.
Previous Deadline	April 1, 2025.
New Implementation Date	March 31, 2026.
Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR)	Requires banks to hold HQLAs to cover cash outflows over 30 days.
Potential Lending Impact	₹4 lakh crore could have been moved from loans to government securities.
Reason for Postponement	Banks raised concerns over liquidity stress and limited lending capacity.
RBI's Expected Approach	Phased rollout to ensure financial stability without credit disruption.
RBI Governor	Sanjay Malhotra.



➤ Which sports drink was launched by Reliance Consumer Products Ltd (RCPL) in collaboration with Muttiah Muralitharan?

- A) Powerade
- B) Gatorade
- C) RasKik
- D) Spinner
- E) Aptonia

Answer
D) Spinner



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Reliance Launches 'Spinner' Sports Drink with Muttiah Muralitharan
- **Date:** February 11, 2025
- **Location:** India



Key Features of Spinner:

- **Company:** Reliance Consumer Products Ltd (RCPL)
- **Co-Creator:** Muttiah Muralitharan
- **Category:** Sports Hydration Drink
- **Price:** ₹10 for 150 ml
- **Flavors:** Lemon, Orange, Nitro Blue



Competitive Pricing Strategy:

- **Spinner (RCPL):** ₹10 for 150 ml
- **Gatorade (PepsiCo):** ₹50 for 500 ml
- **Powerade (Coca-Cola):** ₹50 for 500 ml
- **Aptonia (Decathlon):** ₹99 for 400 ml



IPL Partnerships for Brand Visibility:

- **Lucknow Super Giants (LSG)**
- **SunRisers Hyderabad (SRH)**
- **Punjab Kings (PBKS)**
- **Gujarat Titans (GT)**
- **Mumbai Indians (MI)**



RCPL's Expansion into Beverages:

- **Campa Cola Revival (2023)** – Entered soft drinks segment.
- **RasKik Gluco Energy (January 2025)** – Entered energy drink market.
- **Spinner (February 2025)** – Entered sports hydration drink market.



Future Vision for Sports Beverage Market:

- **Goal:** Establish a \$1 billion sports beverage category within 3 years.
- **COO Ketan Mody:** Aims to make hydration affordable & accessible.
- **Muttiah Muralitharan:** Calls Spinner a “game-changer” in hydration.



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	Reliance launched Spinner, a budget-friendly sports hydration drink.
Brand Name	Spinner
Company	Reliance Consumer Products Ltd (RCPL)
Co-Creator	Muttiah Muralitharan
Segment	Sports Hydration Drink
Launch Price	₹10 for 150 ml
Flavors Available	Lemon, Orange, Nitro Blue
Competitor Pricing	Gatorade & Powerade (₹50 for 500 ml), Aptonia (₹99 for 400 ml)
Key IPL Partners:	LSG, SRH, PBKS, GT, MI
Market Vision	\$1 billion sports drink category in 3 years
Other RCPL Beverages	Campa Cola, RasKik Gluco Energy



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Nokia, effective April 1, 2025?**

- A) Satya Nadella
- B) Sundar Pichai
- C) Justin Hotard
- D) Mark Zuckerberg
- E) Elon Musk



Answer
C) Justin Hotard



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Nokia Appoints Justin Hotard as New CEO
- **Date:** April 1, 2025
- **Location:** Global
- **Reason for Announcement:** Nokia announced Justin Hotard as its new CEO, succeeding Pekka Lundmark on April 1, 2025.



APPOINTMENTS



Appointments

- **New CEO Details:**
 - **Name:** Justin Hotard
 - **Previous Role:** EVP & GM, Data Center & AI Group, Intel
 - **Key Expertise:** AI, data centers, and technology growth
- **Outgoing CEO:**
 - **Name:** Pekka Lundmark
 - **Tenure:** Served as Nokia's CEO since 2020
 - **Post-Exit Role:** Advisor until end of 2025



APPOINTMENTS



Leadership Transition & Business Strategy:

- **Planned Change:** Lundmark stepping down after completing Nokia's strategic repositioning.
- **Industry Focus:** Nokia shifting towards AI and data centers due to declining 5G equipment sales.



APPOINTMENTS



Nokia's Business Adjustments:

- **New Growth Areas:** Strengthening AI and data center market presence.
- **Workforce Reduction:** 2,000 job cuts in China, 350 in Europe to control costs.



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Recent Development	Nokia appointed Justin Hotard as its new CEO, effective April 1, 2025.
New CEO	Justin Hotard, formerly EVP & GM of Intel's Data Center & AI Group.
Outgoing CEO	Pekka Lundmark, Nokia's CEO since 2020.
Lundmark's Role Post-Exit	Will serve as an advisor until the end of 2025.
Reason for Change	Lundmark decided to step down after repositioning Nokia.
Nokia's Business Focus	Shifting to AI and data centers due to declining 5G sales.
Cost-Cutting Measures	2,000 job cuts in China, 350 in Europe.



APPOINTMENTS



➤ Who has been appointed as Director in the Ministry of Steel under the Central Staffing Scheme?

- A) Rajeev Ranjan
- B) Anurag Jain
- C) Maimun Alam
- D) Sanjay Malhotra
- E) Alok Chaturvedi

Answer
C) Maimun Alam



Ministry of Steel
Government of India



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** IRS Officer Maimun Alam Appointed as Director in the Ministry of Steel
- **Date:** February 11, 2025
- **Location:** India



APPOINTMENTS



Maimun Alam's Professional Background:

- **Service:** Indian Revenue Service (IRS) – Income Tax
- **Batch:** 2007
- **Expertise:** Tax administration, financial governance, revenue policy formulation
- **Previous Role:** Served in the Department of Revenue



APPOINTMENTS



Her Role as Director in the Ministry of Steel:

- Oversee policy execution & strategic planning for the steel sector.
- Strengthen financial oversight in steel production & exports.
- Support capacity expansion & sustainability policies.



APPOINTMENTS



Appointment Details:

- **Appointing Authority:** Government of India
- **Recommendation By:** Department of Revenue
- **Relieving Authority:** Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT)
- **Tenure:** Five years or until further orders



APPOINTMENTS



Ministry of Steel – Key Focus Areas:

- **Capacity Expansion** – Boosting steel production.
- **Raw Material Security** – Ensuring stable supply chains.
- **Sustainability** – Promoting green steel manufacturing.
- **Exports & Domestic Growth** – Strengthening India's global steel presence.



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	Maimun Alam appointed as Director in the Ministry of Steel.
Service	Indian Revenue Service (IRS) – Income Tax
Batch	2007
New Role	Director in the Ministry of Steel
Appointing Authority	Government of India
Recommendation By	Department of Revenue
Relieving Authority	Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT)
Tenure:	Five years or until further orders
Key Responsibilities	Policy execution, financial governance, strategic planning
Ministry of Steel's Focus Areas	Capacity expansion, raw material security, sustainability



➤ **What is the new name of the upgraded Hindustan Jet Trainer (HJT-36)?**

- A) Tejas Mark II
- B) Prachand
- C) Yashas
- D) Dhruv
- E) Rudra

Answer
C) Yashas



Event and Location:

- **Event:** HAL's Hindustan Jet Trainer (HJT-36) Renamed 'Yashas'
- **Date:** February 11, 2025
- **Location:** Aero India 2025, India
- **Renaming & Unveiling:** The aircraft was unveiled at Aero India 2025 by Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production) in the presence of HAL Chairman & MD Dr. D K Sunil.



Upgrades & Enhancements:

- **Flight Safety Improvements:** Enhanced departure characteristics and spin resistance for safer pilot training.
- **Weight Reduction:** Indigenous Line Replaceable Units (LRUs) replaced obsolete imported components.
- **Operational Readiness:** Designed for Stage II pilot training, aerobatics, and counter-insurgency missions.



Cockpit & Performance Enhancements:

- **Advanced Avionics:** Features a glass cockpit, Multi-Function Displays (MFDs), and Head-Up Display (HUD).
- **Visibility Upgrade:** A stepped-up rear cockpit and drooped nose provide better situational awareness.
- **Engine Upgrade:** Powered by FADEC-controlled AL-55I jet engine for improved thrust management.



Key Capabilities of 'Yashas':

- **Stall & Spin Recovery:** Designed to help pilots recover from dangerous flight situations.
- **Aerobatics Training:** Aircraft capable of high-maneuverability exercises.
- **Armament Capacity:** Can carry up to 1,000 kg of weapons for counter-insurgency operations.
- **Single-Point Refueling:** Allows faster turnaround for continuous training missions.



Operational Significance:

- **Multi-Role Functionality:** Supports advanced pilot training and combat-readiness programs.
- **Enhanced Efficiency:** Lightweight design and modern avionics improve overall operational effectiveness.



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	HAL renamed HJT-36 to 'Yashas' after major upgrades at Aero India 2025.
Upgrades & Modifications	Improved flight characteristics, spin resistance, and training safety.
Indigenous Enhancements	LRUs replaced imported components, reducing weight and increasing self-reliance.
Training & Operational Role	Used for Stage II pilot training, aerobatics, and counter-insurgency missions.
Cockpit & Visibility	Features a glass cockpit, MFDs, HUD, and improved all-around visibility.
Key Capabilities	Stall & spin recovery, aerobatics, 1,000 kg armament capacity, single-point refueling.
Engine & Performance	FADEC-controlled AL-55I engine for better thrust and efficiency.
Expected Impact	Improved pilot training and operational readiness for the Indian Air Force.



➤ **Which joint military exercise was conducted by the Indian Army and IAF in the Eastern Theater?**

- A) Vayu Shakti
- B) Yudh Abhyas
- C) Winged Raider
- D) Vajra Prahar
- E) Gagan Shakti

Answer

C) Winged Raider



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Indian Army & IAF Conduct 'Winged Raider' Exercise
- **Date:** February 11, 2025
- **Location:** Eastern Theater, India



Key Features of 'Winged Raider':

- **Forces Involved:** Indian Army & IAF conducted coordinated airborne drills.
- **Special Forces Participation:** Elite Indian Army Special Forces were involved in rapid deployment training.
- **First-Time Use of Chinook Helicopters:** Chinooks were deployed for airborne troop insertion in the Eastern Theater.
- **Objective:** Enhance inter-service coordination, tactical maneuvering, and mission readiness.



How This Exercise Strengthens India's Defense Readiness:

- **Modern Warfare Preparation:** Practiced troop insertion techniques, coordinated attacks, and swift movement in operational zones.
- **Border Defense:** Strengthened India's high-altitude warfare strategy to counter potential threats.
- **Integration with Future Plans:** Supports India's push for Integrated Theater Commands, ensuring seamless joint operations between the Army, IAF, and Navy.



Linked Development – Tejas Flight by Service Chiefs:

- On February 9, 2025, **Army Chief Gen. Upendra Dwivedi** and **Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh** flew together in **the LCA Tejas**, symbolizing greater collaboration between the Indian Army and IAF.



DEFENCE



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	Indian Army & IAF conducted Exercise Winged Raider in the Eastern Theater.
Exercise Name	Winged Raider.
Forces Involved	Indian Army & Indian Air Force (IAF).
Location	Eastern Theater (India).
Key Feature	First-time use of Chinook helicopters in Eastern Theater for airborne training.
Special Participation	Indian Army Special Forces.
Purpose	Enhancing airborne insertion, rapid deployment, and inter-service coordination.
Linked Development	Army & Air Chiefs flew together in LCA Tejas for the first time.
Aircraft Used	Chinook helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft.
Indigenous Aircraft Mentioned	LCA Tejas.
Chief of Army Staff (COAS)	General Upendra Dwivedi.
Chief of Air Staff (CAS)	Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh.
Strategic Significance	Supports India's Integrated Theater Commands plan.



➤ **When will the India-Israel Business Forum and India-Israel CEO Forum take place?**

- A) January 26, 2025
- B) February 11, 2025
- C) March 5, 2025
- D) April 15, 2025
- E) December 20, 2025

Answer

B) February 11, 2025



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India-Israel Business & CEO Forums 2025
- **Date:** February 11, 2025
- **Location:** New Delhi, India



India-Israel Business Forum:

- **Organizers:** DPIIT (Ministry of Commerce & Industry), Embassy of Israel, and CII
- **Key Participants:** Israeli business delegation led by H.E. Nir M. Barkat, Minister of Economy and Industry of Israel
- **Objective:** Strengthen trade relations, encourage cross-sector collaborations, and boost foreign direct investment (FDI).



Key Focus Areas:

- **Technology & Innovation:** Collaboration in AI, digital transformation, and smart manufacturing.
- **Defense & Security:** Joint efforts in cybersecurity, defense technology, and homeland security.
- **Renewable Energy & Sustainability:** Cooperation in green technologies and water conservation.
- **Healthcare & Life Sciences:** Partnerships in medical research, pharmaceuticals, and biotech investments.
- **Agriculture & Food Security:** Implementation of precision agriculture and drip irrigation techniques.



India-Israel CEO Forum:

- **Organizer:** FICCI
- **Participants:** Top CEOs, senior executives, and policymakers from India and Israel.
- **Key Discussions:** Investment strategies, policy frameworks, and bilateral trade expansion.
- **Business Growth Focus:** Strengthening partnerships in electronics, pharmaceuticals, defense, and IT sectors.



Bilateral Trade & Investments:

- **Trade Diversification:** Expanding from diamonds and metals to engineering, chemicals, electronics, and agriculture.
- **Israeli Investments in India:** Growth in renewable energy, water technology, defense, and manufacturing.
- **Indian Investments in Israel:** Key sectors include pharmaceuticals, IT, and infrastructure.



Strategic Significance:

- **Economic Cooperation:** Aligns with India's vision of becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047 and Israel's push for global partnerships.
- **FDI & Joint Ventures:** Encourages collaboration between Indian and Israeli companies in emerging technologies and industrial sectors.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	India and Israel are strengthening economic ties through business and CEO forums.
Event Date & Venue	February 11, 2025, in New Delhi, India.
India-Israel Business Forum	Organized by DPIIT, Embassy of Israel, and CII to promote trade and investment.
Key Participants	Led by H.E. Nir M. Barkat, Israeli Minister of Economy and Industry.
India-Israel CEO Forum	Hosted by FICCI, bringing together industry leaders and policymakers.
Key Focus Areas	AI, defense, cybersecurity, renewable energy, biotech, and agriculture.
Bilateral Trade Growth	Expansion beyond diamonds to engineering, electronics, and manufacturing.
Strategic Partnerships	Forums will strengthen collaboration in technology, defense, and economic growth.
Long-Term Vision	Aligns with India's Viksit Bharat 2047 plan and Israel's global trade expansion.



➤ **Which economic initiative was inaugurated to strengthen trade between India and EFTA (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein)?**

- A) India-EU Business Council
- B) India-EFTA Desk
- C) Indo-Pacific Economic Partnership
- D) India-ASEAN Trade Hub
- E) BRICS Economic Forum



Answer
B) India-EFTA Desk



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Inauguration of India-EFTA Desk
- **Date:** February 11, 2025
- **Location:** New Delhi, India



Purpose of the India-EFTA Desk:

- **Trade & Investment Facilitation:** Acts as a bridge for businesses to simplify regulations and ease investments.
- **Economic Growth:** India aims to attract \$100 billion in EFTA investments.
- **Technology & Innovation:** Supports partnerships in AI, smart manufacturing, and digital transformation.



EFTA's Commitment to India:

- **Switzerland:** \$10 billion FDI, creating 146,000+ jobs in manufacturing and precision industries.
- **Norway:** Sovereign wealth fund investments reached \$31.4 billion; focus on energy and trade expansion.
- **Iceland:** Expanding cooperation in renewable energy, seafood, and pharmaceuticals.
- **Liechtenstein:** Encouraging investment in high-value manufacturing and innovation-driven industries.



Key Focus Areas for India-EFTA Collaboration:

- **Technology & Innovation:** AI, digital transformation, and smart manufacturing.
- **Clean Energy & Sustainability:** Renewable energy, water conservation, and green technology.
- **Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals:** Research partnerships and biotech collaborations.
- **Agriculture & Food Security:** Precision agriculture and drip irrigation solutions.



Bilateral Trade & Investment Growth:

- **Trade Diversification:** Expanding beyond diamonds and metals to engineering, chemicals, electronics, and agriculture.
- **Investment Expansion:** Defense, water technology, and manufacturing are key growth sectors.



India's Long-Term Vision:

- The India-EFTA Desk supports **India's Viksit Bharat (Developed India) 2047 vision**, promoting economic partnerships with European nations.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	India and EFTA inaugurated the India-EFTA Desk to boost economic ties.
Event Date & Venue	February 11, 2025, in New Delhi, India.
Objective	Facilitate trade, investments, and technological collaboration between India and EFTA.
India's Economic Goal	Targeting \$100 billion in EFTA investments.
EFTA's Commitment	Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein are expanding economic cooperation with India.
Key Focus Areas	AI, defense, cybersecurity, renewable energy, biotech, and agriculture.
Bilateral Trade Growth	Diversifying from traditional sectors to engineering, electronics, and manufacturing.
Strategic Partnerships	Encourages long-term investment in key industries.
India's Vision	Aligns with the Viksit Bharat 2047 plan for economic development.



➤ **Which Indian department signed an MoU with South Korea's KOTI for logistics and infrastructure development?**

- A) NITI Aayog
- B) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
- C) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- D) Indian Railways
- E) Ministry of External Affairs



Answer

C) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)



Event and Location:

- **Event:** DPIIT & KOTI Sign MoU for Logistics & Infrastructure Growth
- **Date:** February 10, 2025
- **Location:** Sejong National Research Complex, South Korea



Key Details of the MoU:

- **Signing Officials:** Mr. Youngchan Kim (President, KOTI) & H.E. Amit Kumar (Indian Ambassador to South Korea).
- **Objective:** Enhance logistics efficiency, master planning, and technology adoption.
- **Implementation Strategy:** Focus on knowledge exchange, skill development, and GIS-based planning tools.



Key Focus Areas of Collaboration:

- **Logistics Master Planning:** South Korea's expertise will aid India's PM GatiShakti National Master Plan.
- **Technology Integration:** Adopting smart logistics solutions to enhance efficiency.
- **Training & Capacity Building:** Supporting skill development for logistics professionals.
- **Reducing Logistics Costs:** Aligning with India's goal to lower logistics costs from 13-14% of GDP.



Historical India-South Korea Cooperation in Infrastructure:

- **2015 Agreements Signed:**
 - **Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement** – Simplified taxation for cross-border trade.
 - **MoU on Road Transport & Highways** – Improved road construction & safety.
 - **MoU on Maritime Transport & Logistics** – Strengthened shipping sector collaboration.



Relevance to India's Logistics Strategy:

- **National Logistics Policy (NLP):** Launched on September 17, 2022, to reduce logistics costs and improve efficiency.
- **DPIIT 2023 Report:** "Logistics Cost in India: Assessment and Long-Term Framework" outlined the sector's financial challenges.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	DPIIT & KOTI signed an MoU to enhance logistics & infrastructure cooperation.
Date of Signing	February 10, 2025.
Signing Location	Sejong National Research Complex, South Korea.
Indian Department Involved:	DPIIT (Ministry of Commerce & Industry).
South Korean Institution	Korea Transport Institute (KOTI).
Key Focus Areas	Logistics master planning, tech adoption, cost reduction, knowledge exchange.
Indian Logistics Policy	National Logistics Policy (NLP) – Launched on September 17, 2022.
Related Report	"Logistics Cost in India: Assessment and Long-Term Framework" (DPIIT, 2023).



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Key Past India-South Korea Agreements (2015)	Avoidance of Double Taxation, Road Transport MoU, Maritime Logistics MoU.
Prime Minister of India	Narendra Modi.
Minister of Commerce & Industry	Piyush Goyal.
President of South Korea	Yoon Suk Yeol.
Capital of South Korea	Seoul.



➤ **How many total commodities are now available on the e-NAM platform after the recent expansion?**

- A) 200
- B) 215
- C) 231
- D) 250
- E) 275

Answer

C) 231



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Government Expands e-NAM with 10 New Commodities
- **Date:** February 11, 2025
- **Location:** India



New Commodities Added to e-NAM:

- 1. Dried Tulsi Leaves**
- 2. Besan (Chickpea Flour)**
- 3. Wheat Flour**
- 4. Chana Sattu (Roasted Chickpea Flour)**
- 5. Water Chestnut Flour**
- 6. Asafoetida**
- 7. Dried Fenugreek Leaves**
- 8. Water Chestnut**
- 9. Baby Corn**
- 10. Dragon Fruit**



Objective of Expansion:

- **Improving Market Access:** Enables farmers to sell more diverse products online.
- **Better Price Realization:** Helps farmers secure competitive prices through transparent APMC mandi trading.
- **Supporting FPOs:** Allows Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to sell value-added products.



What is e-NAM?

- **Launch Year:** 2016
- **Managing Body:** Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)
- **Purpose:** Unifies APMC mandis into a single national online market for better price discovery and trade transparency.



How Will Farmers Benefit?

- **Standardized Quality:** Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) will regulate tradable parameters.
- **Expanded Market Reach:** Farmers can sell beyond local mandis for better income opportunities.
- **Diversification Boost:** Encourages trade of high-value crops like baby corn & dragon fruit.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	Govt added 10 new commodities to e-NAM, bringing the total to 231.
New Commodities Added	Tulsi Leaves, Besan, Wheat Flour, Chana Sattu, Water Chestnut Flour, Asafoetida, Dried Fenugreek Leaves, Water Chestnut, Baby Corn, Dragon Fruit.
e-NAM Launch Year	2016
Managing Body	Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)
Ministry Concerned	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
New Commodities Category	Some items like Chana Sattu, Water Chestnut Flour, Asafoetida, Dried Fenugreek Leaves fall under secondary trade.
Regulating Body for Quality	Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI)



➤ As of January 15, 2025, how many total Jan Dhan accounts have been opened?

- A) 50 crore
- B) 52 crore
- C) 54.58 crore
- D) 57 crore
- E) 60 crore

Answer
C) 54.58 crore



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Over 54.5 Crore Jan Dhan Accounts Opened Till January 15, 2025
- **Date:** January 15, 2025
- **Location:** India



Key Figures & Achievements:

- **Total Jan Dhan Accounts:** 54.58 crore
- **Women Account Holders:** 30.37 crore (55.7%)
- **Deposit Balance in PMJDY Accounts:** ₹2.3 trillion
(as of Aug 14, 2024)
- **Active Accounts:** 80% of total



Social Security Enrollment via Jan Dhan Accounts:

- **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):** 22.52 crore enrollments (10+ crore women).
- **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):** 49.12 crore enrollments (22.84 crore women).
- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY):** 7.25 crore enrollments (3.44 crore women, as of Dec 31, 2024).



Challenges & Future Targets:

- **Inoperative Accounts:** 11.30 crore (as of Nov 20, 2024), holding ₹14,750 crore.
- **Decline in Inoperative Accounts (PSBs):** 39.62% (2017) → 20.91% (Nov 2024).
- **Future Goal:** Open 3 crore more PMJDY accounts in FY 2024-25.
- **Average Balance Per Account:** ₹4,352 (Aug 2024), up from ₹1,065 in 2015.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	54.58 crore Jan Dhan accounts opened as of Jan 15, 2025.
Women Account Holders	30.37 crore (55.7%).
Total PMJDY Deposit Balance	₹2.3 trillion (as of Aug 14, 2024).
Active Accounts	80% of total accounts.
PMJJBY Enrollments	22.52 crore (10+ crore women).
PMSBY Enrollments	49.12 crore (22.84 crore women).
APY Enrollments	7.25 crore (3.44 crore women, Dec 2024).
Inoperative Accounts	11.30 crore (₹14,750 crore balance, Nov 2024).
Reduction in Inoperative Accounts (PSBs)	39.62% (2017) → 20.91% (Nov 2024).
Average Balance Per Account	₹4,352 (Aug 2024) (₹1,065 in 2015).
PMJDY Launch Year	August 2014.
Future Target (2024-25)	3 crore more accounts to be opened.



➤ **Why has India introduced new HS codes for GI-tagged rice exports?**

- A) To impose higher taxes on rice exports
- B) To classify GI-recognized rice separately from general non-basmati rice
- C) To ban the export of all rice varieties
- D) To limit rice exports to only a few countries
- E) To reduce domestic rice production



Answer

B) To classify GI-recognized rice separately from general non-basmati rice



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India Introduces New HS Codes for GI-Tagged Rice Exports
- **Date:** February 11, 2025
- **Location:** India



Key Reasons for New HS Codes:

- **Avoiding Export Restrictions:** Ensures GI-tagged rice is not affected by export bans on non-basmati rice.
- **Better Market Recognition:** Helps premium Indian rice varieties get fair pricing and branding in global markets.
- **Simplified Customs & Trade:** Dedicated HS codes make export documentation and classification easier.



What is an HS Code?

- **Harmonized System (HS) Code:** A globally recognized classification system for trade goods, used for taxation, customs, and trade policies.



Key GI-Tagged Rice Varieties with New HS Codes:

- **Red Rice**
- **Black Rice**
- **Kalanamak Rice**



Recent Policy Changes Affecting Rice Exports:

- **September 2024:** Export duty on parboiled rice, husked rice, and paddy rice was reduced from 20% to 10%.
- **October 2024:** Export duty on parboiled and husked rice was fully removed, making them more accessible in global markets.



Impact of New HS Codes:

- **Boosts Export Growth:** Differentiation ensures smooth trade for GI-rice varieties.
- **Protects Farmers' Interests:** Ensures better returns for farmers growing premium rice.
- **Enhances India's Position as a Global Exporter:** Strengthens India's leadership in rice exports.



India's Rice Export Position:

- **India is the world's largest rice exporter.**
- **Major importing countries:** China, Bangladesh, African & Middle Eastern nations.



Tabular Summary:

Key Aspect	Details
Current Relevance	India introduced new HS codes for GI-recognized rice exports.
Objective	Differentiate GI-tagged rice from general non-basmati rice.
HS Code Purpose	Globally recognized system for trade classification & taxation.
GI-Tagged Rice Varieties with New HS Codes	Red Rice, Black Rice, Kalanamak Rice.
Recent Rice Export Policy Changes	Export duty reduced (Sept 2024), further removed (Oct 2024).
Ministry Responsible	Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
India's Global Rank in Rice Exports	World's largest rice exporter.
Major Importing Countries	China, Bangladesh, Africa, Middle East.



QUICK RECALL



- **The International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2025 marks its 10th anniversary on February 11.**
- **ICC launched the 'Donate Organs, Save Lives' campaign to promote organ donation awareness.**
- **Real Madrid legend Marcelo retired from football in February 2025 at the age of 36.**
- **Carlos Alcaraz won his first indoor hardcourt title at the Rotterdam Open 2025.**
- **Reliance Industries acquired a 49% stake in Oval Invincibles, a The Hundred franchise.**
- **Swiss player Jil Teichmann won the 2025 Mumbai Open singles title.**
- **French player Kyrian Jacquet won his first ATP title at the 2025 Chennai Open.**
- **RBI has formed a nine-member Working Group to review financial market trading and settlement timings.**
- **RBI has deferred LCR and project financing norms to March 31, 2026.**



QUICK RECALL



- Reliance launched 'Spinner', a budget-friendly sports drink, at ₹10 for 150 ml.
- Nokia appointed Justin Hotard as its new CEO, effective April 1, 2025.
- Maimun Alam, a 2007-batch IRS officer, appointed as Director in the Ministry of Steel.
- HAL renamed the upgraded HJT-36 trainer aircraft to 'Yashas' at Aero India 2025.
- Indian Army and IAF conducted Exercise Winged Raider in the Eastern Theater.
- India-Israel Business & CEO Forums will be held on February 11, 2025, in New Delhi.
- India and EFTA inaugurated the India-EFTA Desk on February 11, 2025, in New Delhi.
- DPIIT & KOTI signed an MoU for logistics & infrastructure collaboration on February 10, 2025.



QUICK RECALL



- **Govt added 10 new commodities to e-NAM, raising the total to 231.**
- **PMJDY accounts crossed 54.58 crore as of January 15, 2025.**
- **India introduced new HS codes to separately classify GI-tagged rice exports.**



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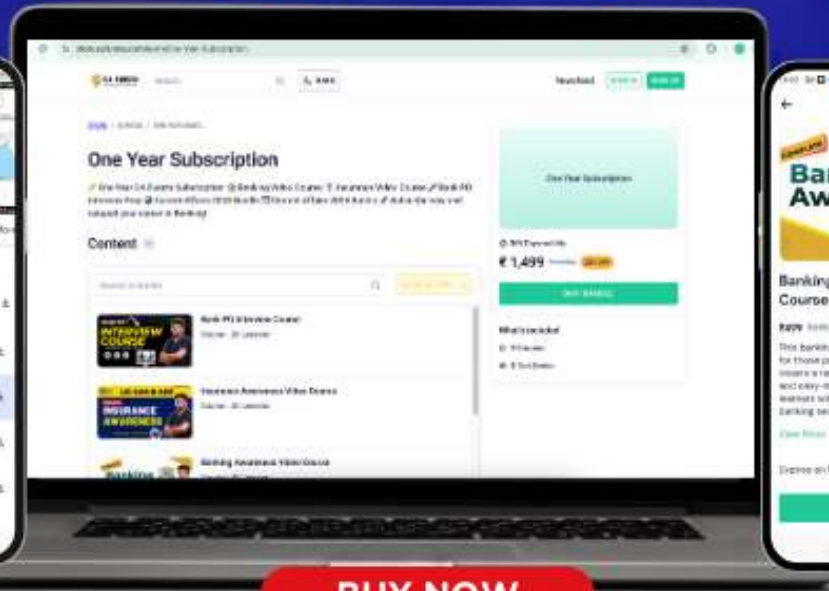
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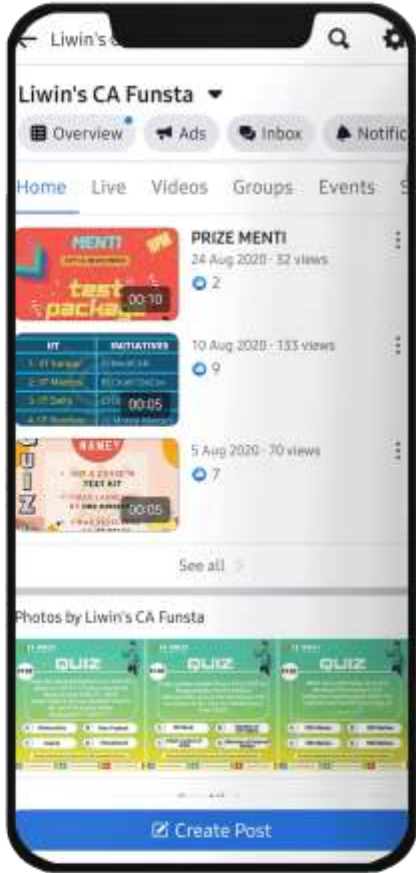
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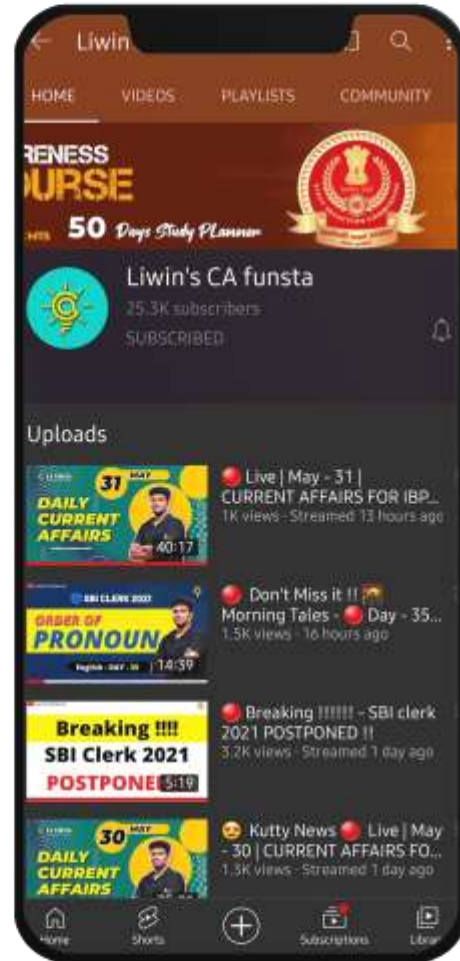


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