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Current Affairs

FEBRUARY 25

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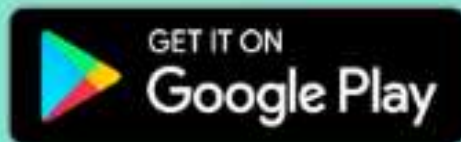
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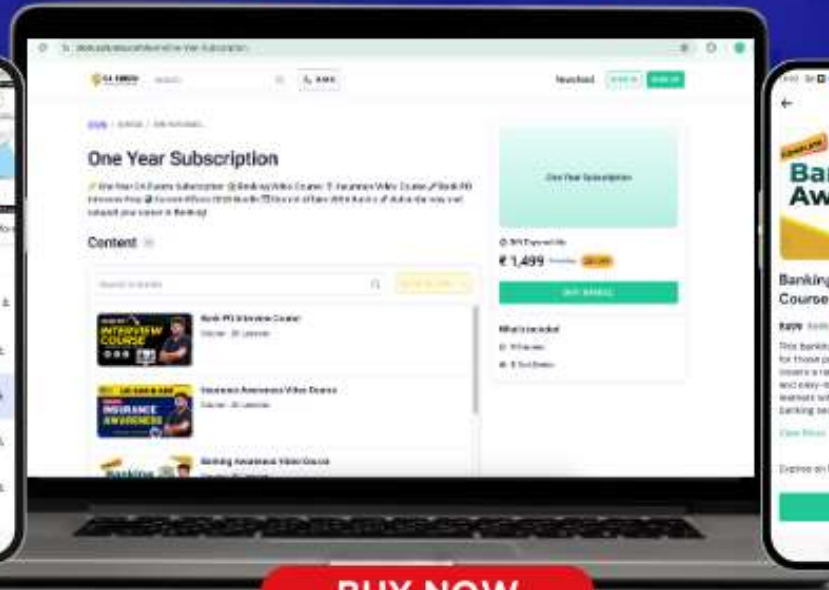
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Important Days



➤ **What is the main purpose of celebrating Central Excise Day on February 24?**

- A) To promote awareness about the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- B) To recognize the contributions of excise officers in tax enforcement and economic growth.
- C) To commemorate the introduction of income tax in India.
- D) To encourage foreign investment in the excise sector.
- E) To celebrate the reduction of excise duties on all goods.



Answer

B) To recognize the contributions of excise officers in tax enforcement and economic growth.



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Central Excise Day 2025 celebrates the establishment of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944.
- **Date:** February 24, 2025.
- **Location:** India.



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Historical Background:** Central Excise Day commemorates the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944, which consolidated 11 excise-related Acts into a unified law.
- **Role of CBIC:** The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is responsible for enforcing excise regulations, preventing illegal trade, and ensuring tax compliance.
- **Revenue Contribution:** Excise duties generate significant government revenue, funding essential services such as public infrastructure, healthcare, and education.



Important Days



Significance of Central Excise Day:

- **Tax Enforcement:** Recognizes the efforts of excise officers in implementing excise laws and preventing tax evasion.
- **Economic Growth:** Highlights the role of excise duties in nation-building and public welfare.
- **Public Awareness:** Educates businesses and citizens about the importance of excise duty compliance.



Important Days



Theme for Central Excise Day 2025:

- **Official Theme:** Yet to be announced.
- **General Focus:**
 - Enhancing tax compliance.
 - Recognizing excise officers' contributions.
 - Raising awareness of excise duties.
 - Simplifying tax administration to support economic growth.



Important Days



Key Activities on Central Excise Day:

- **Workshops & Seminars:** Educating businesses and the public on excise regulations.
- **Award Ceremonies:** Honoring excise officers for their contribution to tax enforcement.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Conducted by CBIC to promote compliance among manufacturers and traders.



Important Days



Impact of Central Excise Duties:

- **Post-GST Implementation:** Even after the introduction of GST, excise duties remain applicable on select goods such as:
 - Petroleum products.
 - Alcohol.
 - Tobacco.
- **Government Revenue:** The excise duty collected helps in funding public welfare programs and maintaining economic stability.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Central Excise Day 2025.
Date	February 24, 2025.
Location	India.
Established By	Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944.
Organizing Body	Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
Significance	Recognizes excise officers' contributions to tax enforcement and economic growth.
Theme (2025)	Yet to be announced (focuses on tax compliance & economic growth).
Key Activities	Seminars, award ceremonies, awareness campaigns.
Impact	Supports public welfare through excise duty collection on select goods.



Important Days



➤ **What is the theme of RBI's Financial Literacy Week 2025?**

- A) Financial Literacy: Bridging the Digital Divide.
- B) Smart Investments for a Secure Future.
- C) Financial Literacy: Women's Prosperity.
- D) Banking for All: Expanding Financial Access.
- E) Strengthening Rural Financial Inclusion.



Answer

C) Financial Literacy: Women's Prosperity



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** RBI launches Financial Literacy Week (FLW) 2025.
- **Date:** February 24-28, 2025.
- **Location:** India.



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objective:** To empower women by improving their financial knowledge, banking access, credit management, and investment awareness.
- **Theme: "Financial Literacy: Women's Prosperity"**, highlighting the role of financial education in women's economic independence.
- **Long-Term Goal:** To close gender gaps in financial inclusion and strengthen women's participation in the economy.



Important Days



Key Focus Areas of Financial Literacy Week 2025:

- **Banking Access:** Encouraging more women to open bank accounts and use digital banking services.
- **Credit Management:** Educating women about loans, credit scores, and responsible borrowing.
- **Investment Awareness:** Providing knowledge about mutual funds, fixed deposits, and pension planning.
- **Financial Security:** Promoting insurance, risk management, and long-term financial stability.



Important Days



Who Launched It?

- **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra** inaugurated **Financial Literacy Week 2025**, urging banks and financial institutions to spread awareness through campaigns and digital platforms.



Important Days



Major Initiatives & Collaborations:

- **Awareness Campaigns:** Banks and financial institutions will conduct workshops, seminars, and social media promotions.
- **NCFE Online Programs:** The National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) has launched quizzes, webinars, and e-learning modules for women.
- **Bank-Led Literacy Drives:** NABARD, commercial banks, and microfinance institutions will participate in financial education programs across India.



Important Days



Alignment with India's Financial Inclusion Goals:

- **National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE) 2020-2025:** The initiative aligns with RBI's broader goal of enhancing financial literacy across all demographics.
- **Impact on Women's Economic Independence:**
 - Better financial decision-making.
 - Increased entrepreneurship opportunities.
 - Greater household financial stability.



Important Days



Historical Context:

- **Since 2016**, RBI has organized Financial Literacy Week annually to educate citizens about **personal finance and economic well-being**.
- **The 2025 edition** focuses on **women's financial empowerment**, ensuring their active participation in the formal banking and investment ecosystem.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	RBI launches Financial Literacy Week 2025.
Date	February 24-28, 2025.
Theme	"Financial Literacy: Women's Prosperity".
Objective	To improve financial inclusion, banking access, and investment awareness among women.
Who Launched It?	RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
Major Initiatives	Awareness campaigns, multimedia promotions, online programs, and financial literacy drives.
Key Focus Areas	Banking access, credit management, investment awareness, digital banking, pension planning.
Collaborating Institutions	NABARD, commercial banks, National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE).
Alignment	Part of National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE) 2020-2025.
Impact	Aims to close gender gaps in financial participation and strengthen women's financial independence.



Important Days



➤ **What is a key highlight of the 51st Khajuraho Dance Festival 2025?**

- A) The introduction of Bollywood dance performances.
- B) A Guinness World Record attempt for a 24-hour classical dance relay.
- C) The inclusion of cricket matches as part of the festival.
- D) The festival shifting its location outside Khajuraho.
- E) Exclusive performances by international dance troupes only.



Answer

B) A Guinness World Record attempt for a 24-hour classical dance relay.



Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** 51st Khajuraho Dance Festival 2025.
- **Date:** February 20-26, 2025.
- **Location:** Khajuraho Group of Temples, Madhya Pradesh.



Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Organizing Bodies:** Hosted by the Department of Culture, Madhya Pradesh, with support from Madhya Pradesh Tourism.
- **Festival Legacy:** Established in 1975, this annual event celebrates India's classical dance heritage.
- **Cultural Significance:** The festival preserves and promotes Indian classical dance forms while integrating modern artistic innovations.



Important Days



Key Highlights of the 51st Khajuraho Dance Festival 2025:

- **Classical Dance Marathon (Relay) – Guinness World Record Attempt:**
 - 100 dancers will perform various classical dance forms continuously for over 24 hours.
 - **Date:** February 19-20, 2025.
 - **Venue:** Adivart Tribal Museum, Khajuraho.
- **Spectacular Classical Dance Performances:**
 - Showcasing renowned artists performing Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Kuchipudi, Manipuri, Mohiniyattam, Kathakali, Yakshagana, and more.
 - **Date:** February 20-26, 2025.
 - **Venue:** Khajuraho Group of Temples.



Important Days



Key Highlights of the 51st Khajuraho Dance Festival 2025:

- **Hunar Mela – Handicrafts & Art Fair:**
 - Exhibition featuring Madhya Pradesh's traditional crafts, paintings, and jewelry.
- **Food Festival – Culinary Delights:**
 - Authentic flavors of Madhya Pradesh cuisine available throughout the festival.



Important Days



Heritage and Adventure Activities:

- **Jhinna & Madla Village Excursion:**
 - Camping, cultural programs, and interaction with tribal communities near Panna National Park.
 - **Date:** February 21-22, 2025.
- **Nature Walk – "Walk with Paridhi":**
 - Guided trek covering waterfalls, rock paintings, and cultural viewpoints in Panna National Park.
 - **Date:** February 21-25, 2025.
- **Village Tour:**
 - Visits to rural Madhya Pradesh, including Javari Mandir and Brahma Mandir.
 - **Date:** February 21-25, 2025.



Important Days



Heritage and Adventure Activities:

- **E-Bike Tour – Adventure Ride:**
 - Covers UNESCO-listed Khajuraho temples, Gol Market, Chaturbhuj Temple, Vaman Temple, and the Archaeological Museum.
 - **Date:** February 22-25, 2025.
- **Water Sports at Kutni Island & Ken River:**
 - Activities include speed boating, banana boat rides, and Shikara rides.
- **Hot Air Balloon Show:**
 - Organized by the Indian Army, offering aerial views of Khajuraho.
 - **Date:** February 20-21, 2025.



Important Days



Heritage and Adventure Activities:

- **Live Exhibition:**
 - Display of terracotta art, Bundeli paintings, bead jewelry, and regional artistic creations.
- **Open Discussions and Art Seminars:**
 - Scholars, artists, and enthusiasts will discuss the evolution of Indian classical arts.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	51 st Khajuraho Dance Festival 2025.
Date	February 20-26, 2025.
Location	Khajuraho Group of Temples, Madhya Pradesh.
Organizing Body	Department of Culture, Madhya Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh Tourism.
Key Highlight	Classical Dance Marathon (24-hour Guinness World Record attempt).
Dance Forms	Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Kuchipudi, Manipuri, Mohiniyattam, Kathakali, Yakshagana.
Food Festival	Authentic Madhya Pradesh cuisine.
Handicrafts Fair	Hunar Mela showcasing regional arts, crafts, and jewelry.
Heritage Activities	Nature Walks, Village Tours, E-Bike Tours, Water Sports.
Hot Air Balloon Show	Organized by the Indian Army on Feb 20-21, 2025.
Art Seminars	Discussions on Indian classical arts and cultural evolution.



➤ **What was the significance of Mohun Bagan's ISL Winners Shield victory in 2025?**

- A) They became the first team in ISL history to defend the Shield successfully.
- B) They won their first-ever Indian Super League title.
- C) They secured automatic qualification for the FIFA Club World Cup.
- D) They defeated Odisha FC by a record margin of five goals.
- E) They won all their matches in the 2024-25 ISL season.



Answer

A) They became the first team in ISL history to defend the Shield successfully.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Mohun Bagan wins their second consecutive ISL Winners Shield.
- **Date:** February 23, 2025.
- **Location:** Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata, West Bengal.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Title Defense:** Mohun Bagan Super Giant became the first team in ISL history to defend the Winners Shield successfully.
- **Victory Secured:** A 1-0 win against Odisha FC, with Dimitrios Petratos scoring in injury time (93rd minute).
- **Direct Qualification:** The victory ensured Mohun Bagan's place in AFC Champions League 2, allowing them to compete at the continental level.



Match Highlights:

- **Crucial Goal:** Dimitrios Petratos scored a long-range goal in the 93rd minute, securing the Shield.
- **Game-Changing Moment:** Odisha FC's Mourtada Fall received a red card in the 82nd minute, leaving them with 10 players.
- **Season Performance:** Mohun Bagan finished the 2024-25 ISL season with 52 points from 22 matches (16 wins, 4 draws, and 2 losses).



Impact on Mohun Bagan's Legacy:

- **Seventh National Title:** This marks Mohun Bagan's seventh national league title, reinforcing their historical dominance in Indian football.
- **Consistency & Strength:** Their back-to-back ISL Shield victories highlight their squad depth, tactical discipline, and management efficiency.
- **New Benchmark:** This win sets a precedent for traditional clubs excelling in modern Indian football.



Next Steps for Mohun Bagan:

- **ISL Playoffs:** The team will now focus on winning the ISL Championship to complete a dominant season.
- **Continental Challenge:** With their AFC Champions League 2 qualification, Mohun Bagan aims to compete internationally and strengthen Indian club football.
- **Club Owner's Statement:** Sanjeev Goenka stated, "We have done well at the national level, and now our goal is to progress on the international stage."



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Mohun Bagan wins their second consecutive ISL Winners Shield.
Date	February 23, 2025.
Location	Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata, West Bengal.
Match Result	Mohun Bagan 1-0 Odisha FC.
Winning Goal	Dimitrios Petratos (93rd minute, injury time).
Turning Point	Odisha FC's Mourtada Fall received a red card in the 82nd minute.
Season Performance	52 points in 22 matches (16 wins, 4 draws, 2 losses).
Historic Achievement	First ISL team to defend the Shield successfully, marking their seventh national league title.
Continental Qualification	Secured a spot in AFC Champions League 2.
Next Target	Focus shifts to the ISL playoffs to compete for the championship title.



RANKING



➤ Which city has been ranked as India's cleanest city for the seventh consecutive time in Swachh Survekshan 2024?

- A) Navi Mumbai
- B) Chandigarh
- C) Indore
- D) Surat
- E) New Delhi Municipal Council

Answer
C) Indore



RANKING



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Indore ranks as India's cleanest city for the seventh consecutive year in Swachh Survekshan 2024.
- **Date:** February 25, 2025.
- **Location:** India.



RANKING



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Swachh Survekshan:** Conducted annually by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), it is the world's largest urban cleanliness survey.
- **Purpose:** The survey evaluates cities based on waste management, sanitation, public feedback, and hygiene infrastructure.
- **New Initiative:** Super Swachh League was introduced in 2024 to recognize cities that consistently excel in cleanliness over three years.



Super Swachh League 2024: Cleanest Cities by Category

- **Very Small Cities (Population: Less than 20,000)**
 - Panchgani, Maharashtra
 - Patan, Gujarat
- **Small Cities (Population: 20,000 – 50,000)**
 - Vita, Maharashtra
 - Sasvad, Maharashtra
- **Medium Cities (Population: 50,000 – 3,00,000)**
 - Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh
 - Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh



Super Swachh League 2024: Cleanest Cities by Category

- **Big Cities (Population: 3,00,000 – 10,00,000)**
 - Noida, Uttar Pradesh
 - Chandigarh, Chandigarh
- **Million Plus Cities (Population: More than 10,00,000)**
 - Indore, Madhya Pradesh
 - Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - Surat, Gujarat
 - New Delhi Municipal Council, Delhi



RANKING



Indore's Cleanliness Success Factors:

- **100% Waste Segregation:** Households and commercial establishments follow strict waste separation guidelines.
- **Door-to-Door Collection:** Every household is covered under the city's garbage collection system.
- **Bio-CNG Plant:** Indore operates India's largest Bio-CNG plant, converting organic waste into fuel.
- **Citizen Participation:** Active public engagement through cleanliness drives and awareness campaigns.
- **AI-Based Waste Monitoring:** The city uses GPS-enabled garbage collection vehicles and real-time tracking for better waste management.



Importance of Super Swachh League:

- **Fair Evaluation:** Ensures cities are assessed based on consistent performance over multiple years.
- **Encourages Competition:** Motivates cities to improve sanitation and waste management practices.
- **Boosts Public Engagement:** Promotes citizen participation in cleanliness initiatives.
- **Fosters Innovation:** Encourages smart waste management and sustainable sanitation techniques.



RANKING



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Indore ranks as India's cleanest city for the 7 th consecutive time.
Date	February 25, 2025.
Location	India.
Survey Name	Swachh Survekshan 2024.
Organizing Body	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
New Initiative	Super Swachh League introduced for fair city rankings.
Cleanest City (2024)	Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
Other Top Cities	Navi Mumbai, Surat, Noida, New Delhi Municipal Council.
Evaluation Criteria	Waste management, sanitation, public feedback, on-site inspections.
Importance	Encourages competition, innovation, and citizen participation in cleanliness.



RANKING



➤ **What was a key factor behind India's dominance in the global IPO market in 2024?**

- A) Government banning foreign investments in IPOs.
- B) India accounting for 23% of global IPOs and raising \$19.5 billion.
- C) The absence of venture-backed IPOs in the Indian stock market.
- D) India witnessing a decline in SME listings and investor participation.
- E) The cancellation of Hyundai Motors' IPO due to regulatory issues.



Answer

B) India accounting for 23% of global IPOs and raising \$19.5 billion.



RANKING



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India emerged as the top global IPO market in 2024.
- **Date:** February 25, 2025.
- **Location:** India.



RANKING



Mandates and Objectives:

- **IPO Market Leadership:** India accounted for 23% of global IPOs, raising a total of \$19.5 billion in 2024.
- **Total IPOs:** 268 IPOs launched, including 90 mainboard listings and 178 SME listings.
- **Strong Investor Interest:** Driven by economic stability, regulatory reforms, and increased participation of domestic & foreign institutional investors.



Biggest IPO of 2024:

- **Company:** Hyundai Motors (India) Private Limited.
- **Funds Raised:** ₹27,870 crore (\$3.31 billion).
- **Significance:**
 - India's largest IPO of the year.
 - Second-largest IPO globally in 2024.
 - Showcased global companies' confidence in India's stock market.



Growth of Venture-Backed & SME IPOs:

- **Venture-Backed IPOs:**
 - Capital raised through venture-backed IPOs more than doubled since 2021.
 - Indicated strong private equity and venture capital involvement.
- **SME IPO Growth:**
 - Median market capitalization increased 4.5 times since 2012, reaching nearly ₹100 crore in 2024.
 - Median revenues tripled to about ₹70 crore, showing increased visibility and investor trust.



Challenges Despite Growth:

- **Declining Market Capitalization:**
 - Median market capitalization of listed IPO firms declined from ₹3,800 crore in 2021 to ₹2,770 crore in 2023.
 - Indicated that more companies are going public, but with lower valuations.
- **Quick Commerce Expansion:**
 - The quick commerce sector grew from \$300 million in FY22 to an estimated \$7.1 billion in FY25.
 - Online grocery and delivery platforms further boosted investments in India's e-commerce sector.



RANKING



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	India led the global IPO market in 2024.
Date	February 25, 2025.
Location	India.
Total IPOs	268 IPOs (90 mainboard, 178 SME listings).
Funds Raised	\$19.5 billion.
Global Share	23% of worldwide IPOs.
Biggest IPO	Hyundai Motors (India) Pvt Ltd – ₹27,870 crore (\$3.31 billion).
Venture-Backed IPOs	Funding more than doubled post-2021.
SME IPO Growth	Median market capitalization increased 4.5 times since 2012 to nearly ₹100 crore.
Declining Market Cap	Fell from ₹3,800 crore (2021) to ₹2,770 crore (2023).
Quick Commerce Boom	Market grew from \$300 million (FY22) to \$7.1 billion (FY25).



RANKING



➤ Which company paid the highest direct corporate tax in India for FY 2024-25?



- A) Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
- B) Reliance Industries
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) Infosys
- E) Vedanta



Answer
B) Reliance Industries



RANKING



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India's Top 10 Highest Direct Tax-Paying Companies in FY 2024-25.
- **Date:** February 25, 2025.
- **Location:** India.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Economic Growth & Tax Revenue:**
 - India's GDP growth is projected at 6.7% for FY26 and FY27, outpacing the global average of 2.7%.
 - Corporate tax revenue has surged due to strong financial performance by major Indian companies.
- **Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 Report Highlights:**
 - 40% increase in valuation of India's top companies, reaching \$3.8 trillion (₹324 lakh crore).
 - Total corporate sales exceeded \$1 trillion, leading to higher direct tax contributions.



RANKING



Top 10 Highest Direct Tax-Paying Companies (FY 2024-25):

Rank	Company	Corporate Tax (INR, Cr)	Industry
1	Reliance Industries	25,707	Energy
2	Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)	15,898	Software & Services
3	Vedanta	12,826	Metals & Mining
4	HDFC Bank	11,122	Financial Services
5	Infosys	9,740	Software & Services
6	ITC	6,389	Consumer Goods
7	Kotak Mahindra Bank	5,887	Financial Services
8	HCL Technologies	5,257	Software & Services
9	Larsen & Toubro (L&T)	4,947	Construction & Engineering
10	Bajaj Finance	4,858	Financial Services



Breakdown of Key Contributors:



1. Reliance Industries – The Highest Taxpayer

- **Corporate Tax Paid:** ₹25,707 crore.
- **Industry:** Energy, Retail, Telecommunications.
- **Why It's No.1:**
 - India's largest conglomerate, with high profits in petroleum, digital services, and retail.



2. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) – IT Sector Leader

- **Corporate Tax Paid:** ₹15,898 crore.
- **Industry:** IT & Software Services.
- **Significance:**
 - Consistent revenue growth from global IT projects and digital transformation.



Breakdown of Key Contributors:

3. Vedanta – Fastest Growing Taxpayer

- **Corporate Tax Paid:** ₹12,826 crore.
- **Industry:** Metals & Mining.
- **Growth Rate:** 122% increase in tax payments due to commodity price boom.



4. HDFC Bank – Banking Sector Giant

- **Corporate Tax Paid:** ₹11,122 crore.
- **Industry:** Financial Services.
- **Trend:**
 - 28% decline in tax contributions due to economic fluctuations and regulatory challenges.



Breakdown of Key Contributors:

5. Infosys – Major IT Contributor

- **Corporate Tax Paid:** ₹9,740 crore.
- **Industry:** IT & Software.
- **Why It's Important:**
 - Continued global expansion and strong revenue growth.

6. ITC – FMCG & Consumer Goods Leader

- **Corporate Tax Paid:** ₹6,389 crore.
- **Industry:** FMCG, Hospitality, Agriculture.
- **Why It Matters:**
 - Diversified revenue streams across multiple industries.



Breakdown of Key Contributors:

7. Kotak Mahindra Bank – Financial Sector Growth

- **Corporate Tax Paid:** ₹5,887 crore.
- **Industry:** Banking & Financial Services.

8. HCL Technologies – Expanding IT Presence

- **Corporate Tax Paid:** ₹5,257 crore.
- **Industry:** IT & Digital Services.

9. Larsen & Toubro (L&T) – Infrastructure & Engineering Giant

- **Corporate Tax Paid:** ₹4,947 crore.
- **Industry:** Construction & Engineering.

10. Bajaj Finance – Growing NBFC Sector

- **Corporate Tax Paid:** ₹4,858 crore.
- **Industry:** Financial Services.



Economic Impact of High Corporate Tax Payments:

1. Strengthening Government Revenues:

- Corporate taxes fund public infrastructure, healthcare, and social welfare programs.

2. Supporting Economic Growth:

- India's economy is projected to grow at 6.7% annually, driven by corporate contributions.

3. Encouraging Foreign Investment:

- High tax contributions indicate financial stability, attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

4. Job Creation & Market Expansion:

- Large corporate taxpayers drive employment growth and domestic market expansion.



RANKING



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	India's Top 10 Highest Direct Tax-Paying Companies (FY 2024-25).
Date	February 25, 2025.
Location	India.
Top Taxpayer	Reliance Industries (₹25,707 crore).
Fastest Growing	Vedanta (122% increase in tax payments).
Declining Tax Contribution	HDFC Bank (28% drop in tax payments).
Key Industries	Energy, IT, Banking, FMCG, Construction, Financial Services.
GDP Growth Projection	6.7% for FY26 & FY27.
Economic Impact	Supports government revenue, job creation, foreign investment.



- **What is the main objective of IndusInd Bank's partnership with the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI)?**
- A) To provide free banking services to all golfers.
 - B) To promote financial literacy among sports professionals.
 - C) To enhance banking services for HNIs & UHNIs while supporting professional golf.
 - D) To launch a new credit card specifically for golfers.
 - E) To take over the management of PGTI tournaments.



Answer

C) To enhance banking services for HNIs & UHNIs while supporting professional golf.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** IndusInd Bank becomes the Official Banking Partner of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI).
- **Date:** February 25, 2025.
- **Location:** India.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Strategic Partnership:**
 - IndusInd Bank aims to integrate premium banking with lifestyle experiences.
 - Focus on Ultra High Net Worth Individuals (UHNIs) & High Net Worth Individuals (HNIs) through PIONEER Banking.
- **Promoting Professional Golf in India:**
 - Supporting 20+ annual PGTI tournaments.
 - Strengthening India's professional golfing ecosystem.



Key Highlights of the Partnership:

1. PIONEER Banking Services for HNIs & UHNIs:

- **Wealth Management:**
 - Mutual funds, alternative products, sovereign gold bonds, NPS, legacy planning.
- **Personal & Business Banking:**
 - Customized financial solutions tailored for premium clients.
- **Golf Benefits for PIONEER Customers:**
 - Exclusive golf lessons for PIONEER credit cardholders.

2. Leadership at PGTI:

- Kapil Dev (President, PGTI).
- Amandeep Johl (CEO, PGTI).



Key Highlights of the Partnership:

3. Statements from Key Leaders:

- **Sumant Kathpalia (MD & CEO, IndusInd Bank):**
 - Stressed the importance of integrating banking with lifestyle experiences.
 - Highlighted golf as a premium sport that aligns with IndusInd's banking philosophy.
- **Kapil Dev (President, PGTI):**
 - Emphasized that golf and cricket are both sports of discipline.
 - Called IndusInd Bank a 'lifestyle bank' and an ideal partner for PGTI.



IndusInd Bank's Commitment to Sports:

- **'IndusInd for Sports' Initiative (Launched in 2016):**
 - Supports various sports beyond golf.
 - Focuses on customer engagement, employee participation, and community development.



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	IndusInd Bank partners with PGTI as its official banking partner.
Date	February 25, 2025.
Location	India.
Objective	Enhance banking services for HNIs & UHNIs while promoting professional golf.
PGTI Leadership	Kapil Dev (President), Amandeep Johl (CEO).
PGTI Tournament Scope	Over 20 professional golf tournaments annually.
Exclusive Banking Services	PIONEER Banking – Wealth management, personal & business banking, NRI banking.
Golf Benefits for Customers	Special golf lessons for PIONEER credit cardholders.
Statements from Leaders	Sumant Kathpalia emphasized lifestyle banking; Kapil Dev highlighted golf's discipline.
IndusInd for Sports	Launched in 2016 to support Indian sports initiatives.



➤ **What is the key concern raised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regarding global financial markets?**

- A) Rising oil prices and increasing global inflation.
- B) Impact of disinflation, energy price volatility, and trade uncertainties.
- C) A global financial crash due to excessive debt.
- D) India's declining GDP growth rate.
- E) Lack of demand in the Indian stock market.



Answer

B) Impact of disinflation, energy price volatility, and trade uncertainties.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** RBI highlights risks from global financial instability due to tariffs, energy price volatility, and trade policy uncertainties.
- **Date:** February 20, 2025.
- **Location:** India.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **RBI's February Bulletin Highlights:**
 - Concerns over global financial instability due to:
 - Disinflation pressures.
 - Volatile energy prices.
 - Uncertain global trade policies.
 - Emerging Market Economies (EMEs) like India are at risk due to capital outflows and currency pressure.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Impact on Financial Markets:**
 - US financial markets have seen large equity price swings and volatile bond yields.
 - A \$1 trillion drop in equity valuations was triggered by DeepSeek's R1 launch in January 2025.
 - A stronger US dollar is leading to capital outflows from EMEs, pressuring their currencies.



India's Economic & Inflation Forecast:

- **CPI Inflation Projections (FY 2024-25):**
 - **Overall:** 4.8% for the financial year.
 - **Q4 2024-25:** Expected to decline to 4.4%.
- **Inflation Projections for FY 2025-26:**
 - **Q1:** 4.5%.
 - **Q4:** 4.2%, assuming normal monsoon conditions.



Policy Responses & Growth Outlook:

- **RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Stance:**
 - Maintaining a neutral policy stance for flexibility.
- **Growth Expectations for India:**
 - Economic activity may gain momentum in H2 FY 2024-25.
 - Government spending on capital expenditure (capex) to drive growth.
 - The Union Budget 2025-26 focuses on fiscal consolidation and economic expansion.



Risks to India's Economic Stability:

- **Continued global market uncertainties.**
- **Adverse weather events** (e.g., weak monsoon) could increase inflation risks.
- **Trade policy changes and potential tariff impacts** could disrupt India's economic stability.



Tabular Summary:

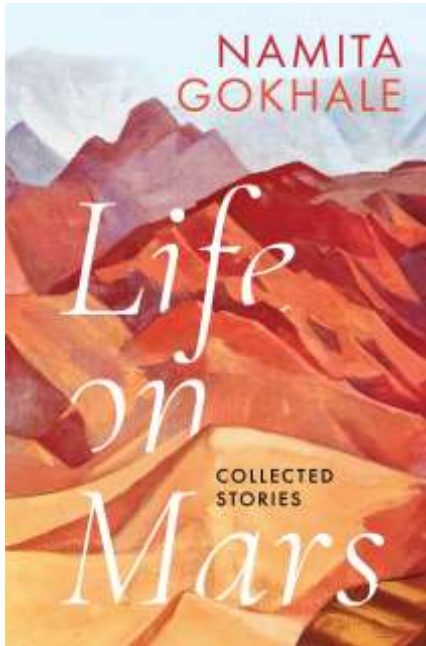
Category	Details
Event	RBI raises concerns over global financial instability due to tariffs and trade uncertainties.
Date	February 20, 2025.
Location	India.
Main Concerns	Disinflation, energy price volatility, trade uncertainties affecting global financial markets.
Impact on Markets	Equity swings, bond yield fluctuations, capital outflows from emerging economies.
CPI Inflation (FY 2024-25)	4.8% overall, expected to drop to 4.4% in Q4.
CPI Inflation (FY 2025-26)	4.5% in Q1, projected to decline to 4.2% in Q4 (if monsoon remains normal).
Policy Response	RBI adopts a neutral stance, allowing flexibility for future adjustments.
Economic Growth Outlook	India's economic activity expected to gain momentum in H2 FY 2024-25.
Government Strategy	Union Budget 2025-26 balances fiscal consolidation and economic expansion.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



➤ **What is the central theme of Namita Gokhale's latest book, *Life on Mars: Collected Stories*?**



- A) A scientific exploration of life beyond Earth.
- B) A collection of stories exploring love, fate, and mythology.
- C) A political commentary on modern Indian society.
- D) A memoir detailing Gokhale's personal experiences in the Jaipur Literature Festival.
- E) A historical account of India's literary evolution.



Answer

B) A collection of stories exploring love, fate, and mythology.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Namita Gokhale's Life on Mars: Collected Stories released in January 2025.
- **Date:** January 2025.
- **Location:** India.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Book Overview:** Life on Mars: Collected Stories is a collection of 15 short stories that explore themes of love, fate, mythology, and human existence.
- **Book Structure:** The book is divided into two sections—'Love and Other Derangements' and 'The Mirror of the Mahabharata'—offering different perspectives on relationships and mythology.
- **Literary Significance:** The book reflects Gokhale's literary journey, blending past works with fresh narratives that highlight her evolving storytelling style.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Key Themes & Stories:

- **Love and Fate:** The first section of the book delves into the complexities of relationships and emotional struggles.
- **Mythological Reimagination:** The second section presents retellings of mythological stories, such as:
 - Kunti and Gandhari's grief after the Kurukshetra war.
 - The love story of Nala and Damayanti, narrated from the perspective of a swan.



Challenges in Gokhale's Career:

- **Early Success and Struggles:** Despite the success of her debut novel, **Paro: Dreams of Passion (1984)**, Gokhale faced a decade of rejection where publishers dismissed her as a 'flash in the pan'.
- **Career Revival:** Her short story 'Omen I' in the mid-1990s marked a turning point in her writing career, leading to a resurgence in her literary contributions.



Gokhale's Contribution to Literature:

- **Prolific Writing:** Over four decades, she has authored 24 works of fiction and non-fiction, including:
 - Shakuntala
 - Things to Leave Behind
 - Never Never Land
- **Writing Style:** Gokhale blends humor, satire, mythology, and deep emotions, making her stories engaging and thought-provoking.
- **Influence in Literature:** As the co-founder of the Jaipur Literature Festival, she has played a key role in shaping India's literary landscape.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Namita Gokhale's Life on Mars: Collected Stories released.
Date	January 2025.
Location	India.
Book Title	Life on Mars: Collected Stories.
Total Stories	15.
Themes	Love, fate, mythology, human existence.
Sections in Book	Love and Other Derangements, The Mirror of the Mahabharata.
Notable Stories	Kunti & Gandhari's grief, Nala-Damayanti through a swan's perspective.
Career Struggles	Faced a decade of rejection after Paro (1984).
Turning Point	Short story Omen I in mid-1990s revived her career.
Total Books Written	24 (fiction & non-fiction).
Other Famous Works	Shakuntala, Things to Leave Behind, Never Never Land.
Influence in Literature	Co-founder of Jaipur Literature Festival.
Writing Style	Mix of humor, satire, mythology, and deep emotions.



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Why is Dan Bongino's appointment as FBI Deputy Director controversial?**

- A) He has no prior experience in law enforcement.
- B) He has never worked for the U.S. government.
- C) He lacks FBI experience and is a strong Trump ally.
- D) He previously served as an FBI agent but was removed.
- E) His appointment was opposed by both political parties.



Answer

C) He lacks FBI experience and is a strong Trump ally.



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Dan Bongino appointed as FBI Deputy Director by President Donald Trump.
- **Date:** February 25, 2025.
- **Location:** United States of America.



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Position & Appointment:**
 - Dan Bongino, a former Secret Service agent and conservative commentator, appointed as FBI Deputy Director.
 - The Deputy Director is typically selected from within career FBI officials, making Bongino's appointment unusual and controversial.



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Background on Dan Bongino:**
 - Served in the New York City Police Department (NYPD) before joining the U.S. Secret Service (1999-2011).
 - Part of the Presidential Protective Division under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.
 - Ran unsuccessfully for Congress three times as a Republican.
 - Became a conservative media personality, hosting The Dan Bongino Show and Unfiltered on Fox News.



APPOINTMENTS



Reasons for Controversy:

- **Lack of FBI Experience:**
 - Traditionally, Deputy Director roles are filled by career FBI agents, making Bongino's appointment a major deviation from norms.
- **Political Ties:**
 - Bongino is a strong Trump ally and has promoted controversial narratives, including election fraud theories and COVID-19 misinformation.



APPOINTMENTS



Reasons for Controversy:

- **Concerns Over FBI Independence:**
 - Critics argue his appointment could undermine the agency's credibility and politicize its leadership.
- **Potential Policy Shifts:**
 - Bongino, along with FBI Director Kash Patel, is expected to shift the FBI's focus toward traditional crime-fighting and away from diversity and inclusion initiatives.



APPOINTMENTS



Impact on the FBI's Future:

- **FBI Leadership Shift:**
 - Kash Patel was recently appointed as FBI Director, signaling a Trump-aligned transformation of the agency.
- **Concerns from Democrats & Law Enforcement Officials:**
 - Fear that the FBI's priorities will be politicized under the new leadership.
- **Supporters' Perspective:**
 - Many Trump allies view the appointment as a needed reform to remove political bias from the agency.



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Dan Bongino appointed as FBI Deputy Director.
Date	February 25, 2025.
Location	United States of America.
Who is Dan Bongino?	Former Secret Service agent, conservative commentator, ex-Fox News host.
Past Experience	Served in Secret Service (1999-2011), protected Presidents Bush & Obama.
Political Ties	Strong Trump supporter, ran for Congress multiple times as a Republican.
Why Controversial?	Lacks FBI experience, has promoted election fraud theories and misinformation.
Concerns Raised	Potential politicization of the FBI, breaking tradition of appointing career FBI officials.
Supporters' View	Seen as a move to reform the FBI, focusing on traditional law enforcement.
Bigger Picture	Comes alongside Kash Patel's appointment as FBI Director, indicating a leadership shift.



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Unilever, replacing Hein Schumacher?**

- A) Ian Meakins
- B) Srinivas Phatak
- C) Fernando Fernandez
- D) Alan Jope
- E) Paul Polman

Answer

C) Fernando Fernandez



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Hein Schumacher to step down as CEO of Unilever; Fernando Fernandez appointed as successor.
- **Date:** February 25, 2025.
- **Location:** Global (Unilever Headquarters).



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Leadership Transition:**
 - Hein Schumacher, CEO since July 2023, will step down by March 2025.
 - Fernando Fernandez, currently CFO of Unilever, will take over as CEO.
 - Schumacher will officially leave the company by May 31, 2025.
- **Schumacher's Achievements:**
 - Reset Unilever's corporate strategy.
 - Launched a major productivity program.
 - Led the separation of Unilever's ice cream division.
 - Implemented the Growth Action Plan (GAP) to boost performance and execution.



APPOINTMENTS



Fernando Fernandez – Incoming CEO:

- **Current Role:** Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Unilever.
- **Past Roles:**
 - President of Unilever's Beauty & Wellbeing business.
 - Held key leadership positions in Latin America, Brazil, and the Philippines.
- **Expertise:**
 - Driving top-performing markets.
 - Fostering leadership talent within the company.



APPOINTMENTS



New Acting CFO Announcement:

- **Srinivas Phatak**, currently **Deputy CFO and Group Controller**, will take over as Acting CFO after Fernandez's transition to CEO.

Acknowledgments & Company Outlook:

- **Unilever Chairman Ian Meakins** praised Schumacher for his leadership, strategic reset, and strong financial progress in 2024.
- Schumacher expressed confidence in Unilever's future direction under Fernandez's leadership.



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Hein Schumacher to step down as Unilever CEO; Fernando Fernandez appointed successor.
Date	February 25, 2025.
Location	London, UK (Unilever Headquarters).
New CEO	Fernando Fernandez (Current CFO).
Schumacher's Achievements	Strategy reset, productivity program, ice cream division separation.
Growth Action Plan (GAP)	Implemented to boost Unilever's performance.
Schumacher's Departure	Leaving the company officially by May 31, 2025.
New Acting CFO	Srinivas Phatak (Current Deputy CFO & Group Controller).
Chairman's Remarks	Ian Meakins praised Schumacher's leadership and strategic impact.
Company Outlook	Unilever remains focused on strong financial performance & leadership transition.



- **What was the primary achievement of 'Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyaan'?**
- A) Establishing new Ayurveda research centers across India.
 - B) Conducting the largest yoga session in the world.
 - C) Setting five Guinness World Records for public health engagement.
 - D) Launching a nationwide health insurance scheme.
 - E) Training one million Ayurveda students for public healthcare services.



Answer

C) Setting five Guinness World Records for public health engagement.



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** 'Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyaan' sets five Guinness World Records.
- **Date:** February 20, 2025.
- **Location:** Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Campaign Purpose:** To promote Ayurveda-based healthcare through public participation and scientific assessment.
- **Organizers:** The initiative was led by the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) and supported by the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India.
- **Public Participation:** Over 1.29 crore individuals took part in prakriti parikshan (nature assessment) to enhance data-driven healthcare insights.



Guinness World Records Achieved:

- 1. Most pledges received for a health campaign in one week:** 6,004,912 pledges (No previous record existed).
- 2. Most pledges received for a health campaign in one month:** 13,892,976 pledges (Surpassed previous record of 58,284 by Cigna & CMB Life Insurance, China).
- 3. Most pledges received for a health campaign (Overall):** 13,892,976 pledges (Broke India's previous record of 569,057 by Zifi FDC Limited).



Guinness World Records Achieved:

- 4. Largest online photo album of people displaying a digital certificate:** 62,525 photos (Surpassed previous record of 29,068 by Accenture Solutions Private Limited, India).
- 5. Largest online video album of people saying the same sentence:** 12,798 videos (Broke previous record of 8,992 videos by Ghe Bharari, Rahul Kulkarni, and Neelam Edlabadkar, India).



AWARDS



Significance of the Campaign:

- **Massive Public Engagement:** The campaign surpassed its initial target of 1 crore participants.
- **Large-Scale Volunteer Effort:** 1,81,667 volunteers contributed, including 1,33,758 Ayurveda students, 16,155 teachers, and 31,754 physicians.
- **Leadership Endorsement:** The campaign was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on National Ayurveda Day, with President Droupadi Murmu as the first participant.



Significance of the Campaign:

- **Healthcare Integration:** Strengthened Ayurveda's role in preventive healthcare and lifestyle management.
- **Global Recognition:** Showcased India's leadership in personalized and evidence-based healthcare research, bridging Ayurveda with modern medicine.



Key Dignitaries at the Closing Ceremony:

- **Shri Prataprao Jadhav:** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Ayush.
- **Shri Prakash Abitkar:** Maharashtra's Health Minister.
- **Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha:** Secretary, Ministry of Ayush.
- **Vaidya Jayant Devpujar:** Chairman, National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM).
- **Mr. Richard Williams Stenning:** Guinness World Records adjudicator who officially confirmed the achievements.



Future Implications:

- **Strengthening Ayurveda's role** in public healthcare services.
- **Enhancing evidence-based research** for global adoption of Ayurveda.
- **Encouraging similar large-scale initiatives** for holistic health promotion.



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	'Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyaan' sets five Guinness World Records.
Date	February 20, 2025.
Location	Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.
Organizing Body	National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) & Ministry of Ayush.
Total Guinness Records	Five world records for public health engagement.
Total Pledges Received	13,892,976.
Total Participants	1.29 crore individuals.
Total Volunteers	1,81,667 (Students, teachers, physicians).
First Participant	President Droupadi Murmu.
Launch Announcement	PM Narendra Modi on National Ayurveda Day.
Significance	Reinforces Ayurveda's role in preventive and personalized healthcare.
Future Impact	Integration of Ayurveda with modern medicine, global recognition, research advancement.



- **What was the main objective of launching the ChinaSat-10R satellite?**
- A) To conduct scientific research on asteroids and comets.
 - B) To replace the aging ChinaSat-10 and enhance satellite communication services.
 - C) To test new reusable rocket technology for future space missions.
 - D) To perform a crewed mission to the Tiangong space station.
 - E) To support lunar exploration missions under China's Chang'e program.

Answer

B) To replace the aging ChinaSat-10 and enhance satellite communication services.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** China successfully launches ChinaSat-10R into geosynchronous transfer orbit.
- **Date:** February 22, 2025.
- **Location:** Xichang Satellite Launch Center, China.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Satellite Replacement:** ChinaSat-10R replaces the aging ChinaSat-10, which was launched in 2011.
- **Improved Communication Services:** The satellite enhances connectivity for transportation, **emergency response, energy, and forestry sectors.**
- **Support for Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):** Provides satellite communication for countries participating in China's global infrastructure project.
- **Strategic Importance:** Strengthens China's geopolitical presence through satellite diplomacy.



ChinaSat-10R Satellite Overview:

- **Operator:** China Satellite Communications Co., Ltd. (China Satcom), a subsidiary of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC).
- **Technical Details:**
 - Based on DFH satellite bus (exact model not disclosed).
 - Transponder and frequency band details not revealed.



ChinaSat-10R Satellite Overview:

- **Primary Functions:**
 - Provides secure and stable communication for critical sectors.
 - Expands China's satellite coverage over BRI nations.
 - Enhances strategic space capabilities for national security and commercial use.



Launch Details:

- **Launch Vehicle:** Long March 3B, China's primary workhorse for geosynchronous orbit missions.
- **Launch Time:** February 22, 2025, at 7:11 a.m. Eastern (1211 UTC).
- **Orbit:** Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- **Launch Site:** Xichang Satellite Launch Center, Southwest China.



Significance of the Launch:

- Strengthens China's satellite communication network.
- Enhances China's geopolitical influence through space-based infrastructure.
- Supports Belt and Road Initiative nations with improved connectivity.
- Provides reliable satellite communication for transportation, emergency response, and other industries.



Long March 3B Rocket and Future Missions:

- **Proven Launch Vehicle:** Previously used for major missions like:
 - Chang'e-4 lunar far side landing mission (2018).
 - Upcoming Tianwen-2 asteroid and comet exploration mission.
- **Ongoing Development:** While Long March 7A is being developed as a more modern alternative, China continues to rely on the hypergolic-fueled Long March 3B for key missions.



China's 2025 Space Launch Plans:

- **Total Planned Launches:** Around 100 missions in 2025.
- **Key Upcoming Missions:**
 - Shenzhou-20 & Shenzhou-21 crewed missions to the Tiangong space station.
 - Tianzhou cargo resupply spacecraft missions.
 - New Long March and commercial rocket debuts.
 - Potential reusable rocket launches by commercial space companies.



Upcoming Launches in February 2025:

- **February 25:** Galactic Energy will launch a Ceres-1 solid rocket from Jiuquan.
- **February 27:** Long March 2C rocket launch from Jiuquan with an undisclosed payload.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	China successfully launches ChinaSat-10R from Xichang.
Date	February 22, 2025.
Location	Xichang Satellite Launch Center, China.
Satellite Name	ChinaSat-10R (Zhongxing-10R).
Operator	China Satellite Communications Co., Ltd. (China Satcom).
Rocket Used	Long March 3B.
Orbit	Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
Replaces	ChinaSat-10 (launched in 2011).
Purpose	Provides communication services for transportation, emergency response, energy, forestry, and BRI nations.
Significance	Strengthens China's satellite infrastructure and geopolitical influence.
Future Missions	Tianwen-2 asteroid mission, Shenzhou-20, Shenzhou-21, Tianzhou cargo missions.
Upcoming Launches	Ceres-1 (Feb 25) & Long March 2C (Feb 27).



➤ **What was a key outcome of the BSF-BGB meeting held in February 2025?**

- A) The construction of a new international trade corridor.
- B) The establishment of a new communication hotline between ADG (BSF) and BGB.
- C) The complete fencing of the India-Bangladesh border.
- D) The suspension of all border patrols.
- E) The removal of existing border checkpoints.



Answer

B) The establishment of a new communication hotline between ADG (BSF) and BGB.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India and Bangladesh set up a new border hotline following BSF-BGB talks.
- **Date:** February 18-20, 2025.
- **Location:** India.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Strengthening Border Communication:**
 - A new hotline will be established between the Additional Director General (ADG) of BSF's Eastern Command (Kolkata) and his BGB counterpart in Dhaka.
 - This hotline is in addition to existing communication links between force chiefs and officers.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Border Security & Fencing:**
 - 99 new patches (covering 70-72 km) identified for fencing.
 - 92 patches (95.8 km) are already under construction.
 - Out of the 4,096 km India-Bangladesh border, 864.48 km remains unfenced, including a 174.51 km "non-feasible" gap.
- **Enhancing Cross-Border Crime Prevention:**
 - BSF urged BGB to take strict action against miscreants trying to breach security.
 - Joint night patrols to prevent border crimes.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Handling Border Incidents:**
 - BSF emphasized that attacks on Indian personnel and civilians by Bangladeshi miscreants will be dealt with strictly.
 - Improved intelligence-sharing and real-time communication between both forces.
- **Future Talks:**
 - The next 56th BSF-BGB meeting will be held in Bangladesh in July 2025.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	India and Bangladesh establish a new border hotline after BSF-BGB talks.
Date	February 18-20, 2025.
Location	India.
Participants	Border Security Force (BSF) – India & Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).
New Communication Link	Hotline between ADG (BSF) and counterpart (BGB).
Border Fencing	99 new patches (70-72 km) identified for fencing.
Existing Fencing Work	92 patches (95.8 km) already in progress.
Unfenced Border	864.48 km remains unfenced, including a 174.51 km non-feasible gap.
Security Measures	Joint patrols, stricter action on criminals.
Next Meeting	July 2025 in Bangladesh.



➤ **What is the main objective of the NITI Aayog panel led by VK Paul regarding AIIMS New Delhi?**

- A) Establishing AIIMS branches in every Indian state.
- B) Transforming AIIMS New Delhi into a world-class medical research and healthcare center.
- C) Merging AIIMS with private hospitals for better governance.
- D) Reducing AIIMS hospital fees for all patients.
- E) Shifting AIIMS New Delhi's focus entirely to rare disease research.



Answer

B) Transforming AIIMS New Delhi into a world-class medical research and healthcare center.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** NITI Aayog sets up a panel to modernize AIIMS New Delhi.
- **Date:** February 25, 2025.
- **Location:** New Delhi, India.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Committee Leadership:** The panel is led by VK Paul, a member of NITI Aayog.
- **Strategic Roadmap:** The committee aims to analyze existing systems and propose reforms with clear timelines for implementation.
- **Global Standards:** The goal is to upgrade AIIMS into a globally recognized institution for medical research and healthcare excellence.



Key Focus Areas:

- **Governance & Transparency:** Improving administrative efficiency and operational effectiveness.
- **Research Excellence:** Strengthening AIIMS' research capabilities to enhance global recognition.
- **Clinical & Academic Advancements:** Establishing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for medical excellence.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Enhancing financial prudence to ensure long-term self-sufficiency.
- **Patient Inflow Management:** Streamlining hospital services for better patient care.



NITI Aayog's Efforts on Universal Health Coverage (UHC):

- **Policy Collaboration:** NITI Aayog partnered with CSEP Research Foundation to study global UHC models.
- **Healthcare Financing:** Drafting supply-side & demand-side financing strategies to improve affordability.
- **Policy Development:** Engaging government & stakeholders to create a sustainable UHC framework.



Rare Disease Drug Accessibility Initiative:

- **Affordable Indigenous Drugs:** Four drugs introduced, priced at 1/60th to 1/100th of imported alternatives.
- **Expansion Plan:** Four additional drugs are undergoing regulatory approval and will be launched soon.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	NITI Aayog sets up a panel to modernize AIIMS New Delhi.
Date	February 25, 2025.
Location	New Delhi, India.
Committee Leadership	Led by VK Paul, a NITI Aayog member.
Objective	Transform AIIMS into a world-class medical research and healthcare center.
Key Focus Areas	Governance, research excellence, patient inflow, financial sustainability.
Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Study	Partnership with CSEP Research Foundation to study global models.
Healthcare Financing	Drafting strategies for supply-side and demand-side financing.
Affordable Rare Disease Drugs	Four drugs introduced at 1/60th to 1/100th of imported costs, four more in the pipeline.



➤ **What is the significance of Datia Airport recently receiving a DGCA licence?**

- A) It has become India's first airport under the 3C/VFR category.
- B) It is now classified as an international airport.
- C) It has been granted permission for cargo operations only.
- D) It has become Madhya Pradesh's eighth airport, eligible for commercial operations.
- E) It has been approved exclusively for military use.



Answer

D) It has become Madhya Pradesh's eighth airport, eligible for commercial operations.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Datia Airport receives DGCA licence, becoming Madhya Pradesh's 8th airport.
- **Date:** February 25, 2025.
- **Location:** Datia, Madhya Pradesh.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **DGCA Approval:** Datia Airport has been granted a licence as a public aerodrome under the 3C/VFR category.
- **Commercial Operations:** The approval allows the airport to be used for commercial flight operations.
- **Regional Connectivity:** The airport will enhance air travel options for passengers in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Infrastructure Growth:** The development of the airport supports the state's transportation and economic growth.



Infrastructure & Features:

- **Total Area:** 118 acres.
- **Runway Length:** 1,810 meters.
- **Runway Width:** 30 meters.
- **Terminal Building Size:** 768 square meters.
- **Passenger Capacity:** 100 passengers per hour.
- **Apron Capacity:** Can accommodate two ATR-72 aircraft.



Security and Equipment:

- **Security Measures:** X-ray machines, Explosive Trace Detectors (ETD), CCTV cameras, Door Frame Metal Detectors (DFMD), Handheld Metal Detectors (HHMD).
- **Communication Equipment:** Walkie-talkies, Radiotelephony (RT) sets.
- **Baggage Handling:** Advanced baggage handling system to improve efficiency.



Upcoming Developments:

- **Formal Inauguration:** Satna and Datia airports will soon be officially inaugurated.
- **Flight Operations:** Public flight operations will begin after the inauguration.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA):**
 - The DGCA is the regulatory body overseeing civil aviation safety, licensing, and airworthiness in India.
 - It grants airport licences and ensures compliance with aviation safety regulations.



Important Terms Explained:

- **3C/VFR Category:**
 - **3C Classification:** Airports with runways between 800 meters and 1,800 meters, suitable for small to medium aircraft.
 - **VFR (Visual Flight Rules):** A set of aviation regulations under which a pilot operates an aircraft in clear weather conditions using visual references.
- **ATR-72 Aircraft:**
 - The ATR-72 is a twin-engine turboprop aircraft widely used for regional connectivity.
 - It plays a key role in India's UDAN scheme, which promotes affordable air travel to smaller cities.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Datia Airport receives DGCA licence, becoming MP's 8th airport.
Date	February 25, 2025.
Location	Datia, Madhya Pradesh.
DGCA Classification	Public aerodrome under 3C/VFR category.
Total Area	118 acres.
Runway Length	1,810 meters.
Runway Width	30 meters.
Terminal Size	768 square meters.
Passenger Capacity	100 passengers per hour.
Apron Capacity	Can accommodate 2 ATR-72 aircraft.
Security Equipment	X-ray machines, ETD, CCTV, DFMD, HHMD, RT sets, baggage handling system.
Upcoming Developments	Satna and Datia airports to be formally inaugurated soon.



➤ **What is the primary objective of the Haryana Witness Protection Scheme 2025?**

- A) Providing financial assistance to witnesses in criminal cases.
- B) Ensuring the safety of witnesses in serious criminal cases through security measures.
- C) Granting immunity from prosecution to witnesses.
- D) Relocating all witnesses to other states permanently.
- E) Allowing witnesses to withdraw their testimony without legal consequences.



Answer

B) Ensuring the safety of witnesses in serious criminal cases through security measures.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Haryana government launches the Witness Protection Scheme 2025.
- **Date:** February 25, 2025.
- **Location:** Haryana, India.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objective:** To safeguard witnesses in serious criminal cases, ensuring they can testify without fear.
- **Applicability:**
 - Cases punishable by death, life imprisonment, or imprisonment of seven years or more.
 - Includes offenses under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) & POCSO Act, 2012.
- **Legal Alignment:**
 - Supports India's evolving legal framework and recent criminal law reforms.
 - Strengthens the criminal justice system by protecting key witnesses.



Threat Categorization:

- **Category A:** Witnesses facing life-threatening risks, including their family members.
- **Category B:** Witnesses facing risks to security, reputation, or property.
- **Category C:** Witnesses facing harassment or intimidation, affecting testimony.



Protection Measures Under the Scheme:

- **Preventing Contact:** Ensuring witnesses and accused do not meet during investigations or trials.
- **Monitoring Communications:** Tracking emails, phone calls, and messages for security threats.
- **Identity Concealment:** Providing new names, professional identities, or documents for anonymity.
- **Relocation Assistance:** Moving witnesses to a safe location within Haryana or anywhere in India.
- **Enhanced Security:**
 - CCTV cameras, alarm systems, and fencing at witness residences.
 - Police protection based on threat assessment.
- **In-Camera Trials:** Court proceedings held privately to protect witness identities.



Implementation of the Scheme:

- **Witness Protection Cell:** Established in every district, led by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) or Superintendent of Police (SP).
- **Review Mechanism:** Protection orders granted for a fixed period, typically not exceeding three months at a time.



Impact & Importance:

- **Strengthens legal protections** for witnesses in high-risk criminal cases.
- **Encourages fearless testimonies**, ensuring justice is not obstructed.
- **Enhances law enforcement credibility**, reinforcing trust in the judicial system.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Haryana launches the Witness Protection Scheme 2025.
Date	February 25, 2025.
Location	Haryana, India.
Announced By	Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.
Applicable For	Witnesses in cases punishable by death, life imprisonment, or 7+ years, and offenses under BNS & POCSO Act, 2012.
Threat Categories	A – Life threats, B – Safety, reputation, property risks, C – Intimidation or harassment.
Key Protections	Identity change, relocation, CCTV security, in-camera trials, restricted contact with accused.
Implementation	Witness Protection Cells in every district, led by DCP/SP, reviewing cases every three months.
Objective	Strengthen the legal system, ensure witness safety, and encourage fearless testimonies.



➤ **What was a key factor in the Soliga tribe's success in tiger conservation at BRT Tiger Reserve?**

- A) Banning all human activity in the forest.
- B) Displacing the Soliga tribe to create more space for wildlife.
- C) Recognizing the tribe's forest rights, allowing them to continue traditional conservation practices.
- D) Increasing the number of forest guards to patrol the reserve.
- E) Introducing a large-scale tourism project to fund conservation efforts.



Answer

C) Recognizing the tribe's forest rights, allowing them to continue traditional conservation practices.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** The Soliga tribe's contribution to tiger conservation at BRT Tiger Reserve.
- **Date:** February 23, 2025.
- **Location:** Biligirirangana Hills (BRT) Tiger Reserve, Karnataka, India.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Conservation & Indigenous Rights:**
 - The Soliga tribe played a key role in increasing the tiger population in BRT Tiger Reserve.
 - In 2011, they became the first tribal community in India to receive forest land rights within a tiger reserve.
 - This recognition allowed them to continue traditional conservation practices while maintaining their way of life.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Government Acknowledgment:**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the 119th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' (February 23, 2025), praised the Soligas' conservation efforts.
 - The tribe's sustainable practices have helped the tiger population grow from 8-10 to around 50.



How the Soliga Tribe Contributed to Tiger Conservation:

1. Preventing Poaching & Illegal Activities:

- The constant presence of the Soliga community in the forest deters poaching and illegal logging.

2. Reducing Human-Wildlife Conflict:

- The Soligas' traditional knowledge helps minimize conflicts between humans and wildlife.

3. Sustainable Forest Management:

- They harvest non-timber forest produce (NTFP) like honey and medicinal plants without harming biodiversity.

4. Preserving Habitat Balance:

- Their ancestral understanding of the forest ecosystem ensures minimal habitat destruction.



Impact on Tiger Population Growth:

- **2010:** 8-10 tigers were recorded in BRT Tiger Reserve.
- **2025:** The number has risen to around 50 tigers.
- **The Soliga tribe's sustainable conservation model** played a major role in this increase.

Can This Model Be Replicated Elsewhere?

- **The Soliga model challenges traditional conservation policies** that often displace indigenous communities.
- Experts suggest that tribal involvement in conservation could be expanded to other reserves across India.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	PM Narendra Modi praised the Soliga tribe's tiger conservation efforts in 'Mann Ki Baat'.
Date	February 23, 2025.
Location	Biligirirangana Hills (BRT) Tiger Reserve, Karnataka.
Tribe Population	Around 40,000 people in Karnataka.
Forest Rights	In 2011, Soligas became the first tribe in India to secure forest rights within a tiger reserve.
Tiger Population Growth	Increased from 8-10 to around 50 tigers.
Conservation Role	Preventing poaching, reducing human-wildlife conflict, preserving biodiversity.
Government Recognition	Mentioned in PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' on February 23, 2025.
Significance	Proves that indigenous communities can coexist with wildlife, offering a sustainable conservation model.



➤ **What is the new government mandate regarding energy storage in solar tenders?**

- A) Solar projects must include a four-hour energy storage system.
- B) Renewable energy agencies must install a two-hour storage system for 10% of the solar capacity.
- C) All solar tenders must only use battery storage systems.
- D) Energy storage is now optional for state utilities.
- E) Wind power projects must also include energy storage requirements.



Answer

B) Renewable energy agencies must install a two-hour storage system for 10% of the solar capacity.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Indian government mandates two-hour energy storage integration in all solar tenders.
- **Date:** February 19, 2025.
- **Location:** India.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **New Solar Tender Rules:**
 - All Renewable Energy Implementing Agencies (REIAs) and state utilities must include a two-hour energy storage system (ESS) in solar tenders.
 - ESS must be at least 10% of the installed solar capacity.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Rooftop Solar Consideration:**
 - Distribution licensees are encouraged to mandate storage for rooftop solar installations as well.
- **Government Target:**
 - India aims to install 14 GW/28 GWh of energy storage by 2030.
 - Supports India's goal of achieving 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.



Why Is Energy Storage Integration Important?

- **Solves Intermittency Issues:**
 - Renewable energy sources like solar face fluctuations due to weather and time of day.
 - ESS will store excess energy and supply it during non-solar hours.
- **Enhances Grid Stability:**
 - Ensures reliable power supply during peak demand hours.
- **Optimizes Energy Utilization:**
 - Excess power can be stored during low-demand hours and used when demand is high.



How Will the Energy Storage System (ESS) Work?

- **Single-Cycle Mode:**
 - Charges only using solar power and discharges during the evening.
- **Double-Cycle Mode:**
 - Charges using solar power + grid power during low demand hours.
 - Discharges energy during peak demand hours.



Current and Future Energy Storage Capacity in India:

- **As of December 2024:**
 - **Total ESS Installed Capacity:** 4.86 GW.
 - **Pumped Storage Projects:** 4.75 GW.
 - **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS):** 0.11 GW.
- **Future Storage Requirement (by 2032):**
 - 73.93 GW / 411.4 GWh needed to support 364 GW of solar and 121 GW of wind capacity.



Bidding & Implementation Strategy:

- **National Electricity Plan:**
 - Projects 73.93 GW of storage for efficient renewable energy integration.
- **Annual Renewable Energy Bidding (2024-2028):**
 - 50 GW renewable energy tenders per year, including 10 GW of wind energy tenders.
- **Recent Developments:**
 - REIAs and state agencies have issued multiple standalone energy storage tenders recently.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Category	Details
Event	Government mandates two-hour energy storage for solar tenders.
Date	February 19, 2025.
Location	India.
Mandate	All solar tenders must include a two-hour energy storage system (ESS) for 10% of installed capacity.
Consideration for Rooftop Solar Storage Target (2030)	Distribution licensees may require energy storage integration for rooftop solar. 14 GW / 28 GWh of energy storage capacity.
ESS Purpose	Reduces intermittency, enhances grid stability, ensures efficient energy use.
ESS Operation Modes	Single-cycle (solar charging) & Double-cycle (solar + grid charging).
Current Storage Capacity (Dec 2024)	4.86 GW (4.75 GW pumped storage + 0.11 GW battery storage).
Future Storage Requirement (by 2032)	73.93 GW / 411.4 GWh needed for 364 GW solar & 121 GW wind.
Annual Renewable Bidding (2024-2028)	50 GW per year, including 10 GW of wind energy tenders.



QUICK RECALL



- **Central Excise Day is observed on February 24 to commemorate the Excise and Salt Act, 1944.**
- **RBI launched Financial Literacy Week 2025 from February 24-28 with the theme "Financial Literacy: Women's Prosperity."**
- **The 51st Khajuraho Dance Festival will be held from February 20-26, 2025, in Madhya Pradesh.**
- **Mohun Bagan Super Giant won their second consecutive ISL Winners Shield on February 23, 2025.**
- **Indore has been ranked as India's cleanest city for the seventh consecutive time.**
- **India led the global IPO market in 2024, raising \$19.5 billion from 268 IPOs.**
- **Reliance Industries was the highest direct tax-paying company in India, contributing ₹25,707 crore.**
- **IndusInd Bank became the Official Banking Partner of PGTI to support professional golf in India.**



QUICK RECALL



- **The RBI raised concerns over global financial instability caused by tariffs, energy price volatility, and trade uncertainties.**
- **Namita Gokhale's Life on Mars explores themes of love, fate, and mythology through 15 short stories.**
- **Dan Bongino has been appointed as FBI Deputy Director by President Donald Trump.**
- **Unilever CEO Hein Schumacher will step down by March 2025, with Fernando Fernandez appointed as the new CEO.**
- **'Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyaan' sets five Guinness World Records for public health engagement.**
- **China launched the ChinaSat-10R satellite into geosynchronous transfer orbit on February 22, 2025.**
- **India and Bangladesh established a new hotline between ADG (BSF) and BGB for improved border security.**
- **NITI Aayog forms a panel led by VK Paul to modernize AIIMS New Delhi.**



QUICK RECALL



- **Datia Airport receives DGCA approval and becomes the 8th operational airport in Madhya Pradesh.**
- **Haryana launched the Witness Protection Scheme 2025 to safeguard witnesses in serious criminal cases.**
- **PM Narendra Modi praised the Soliga tribe's tiger conservation efforts in 'Mann Ki Baat' (Feb 23, 2025).**
- **The Government of India has mandated two-hour energy storage integration in all solar tenders.**



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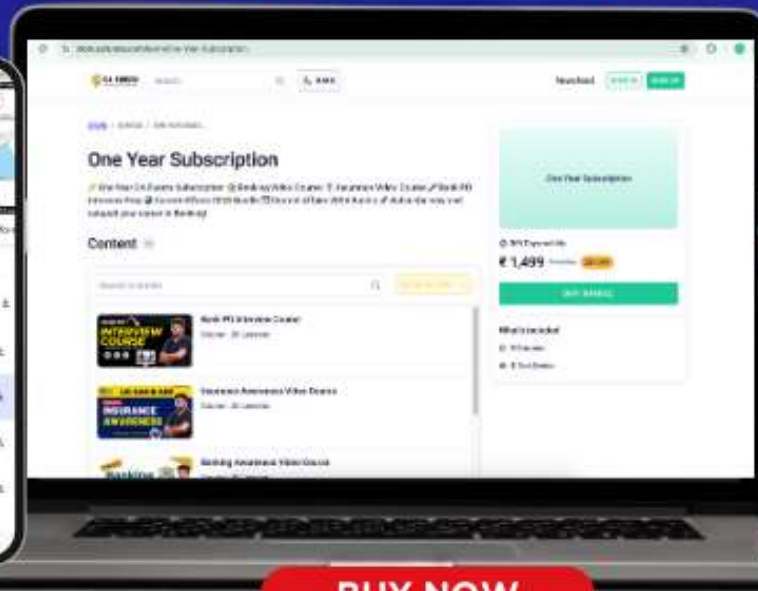
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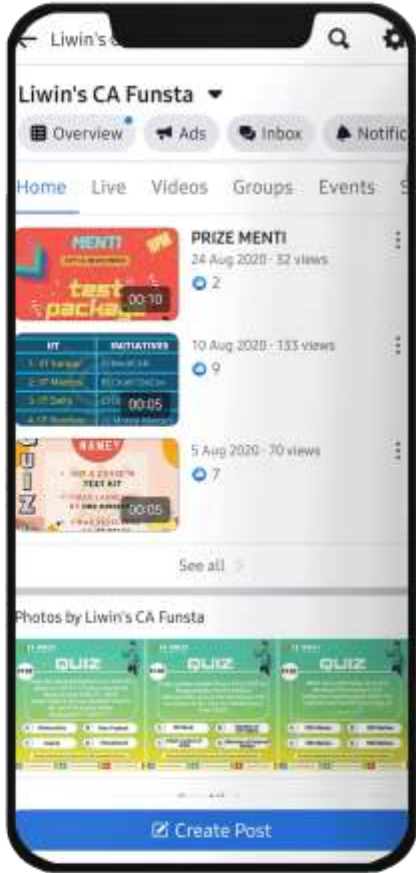
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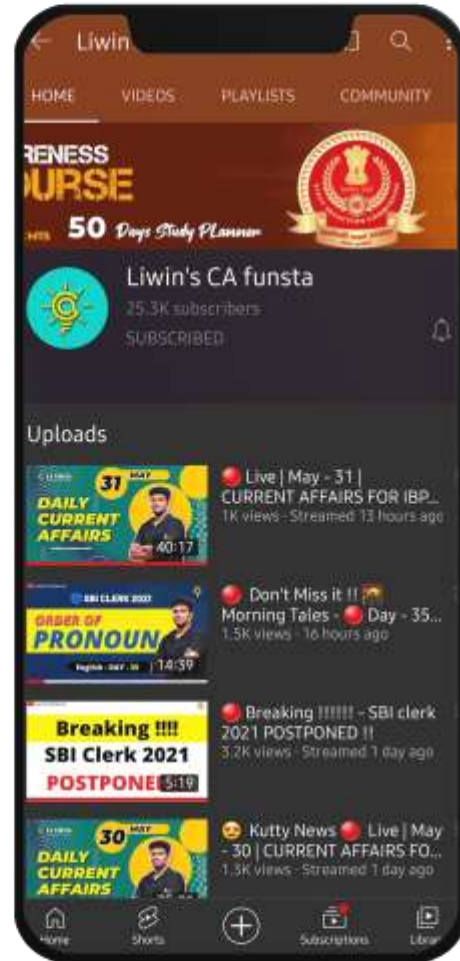


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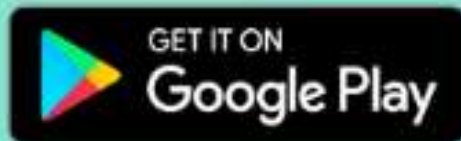
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