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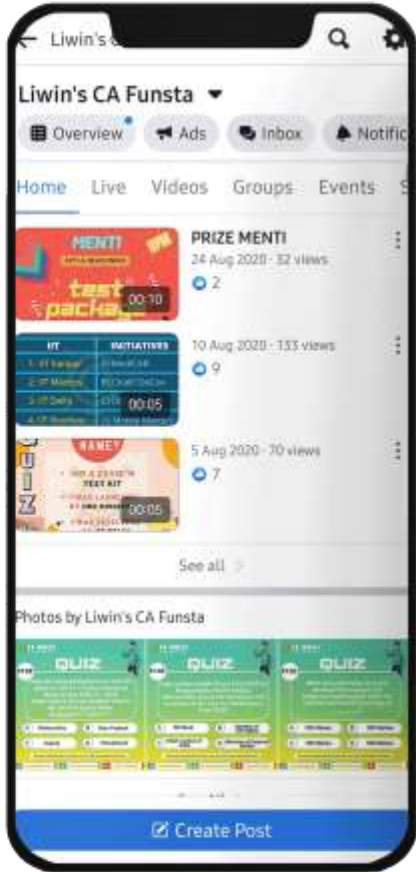
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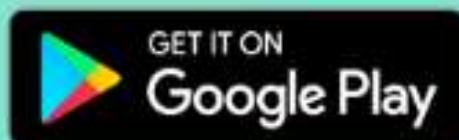
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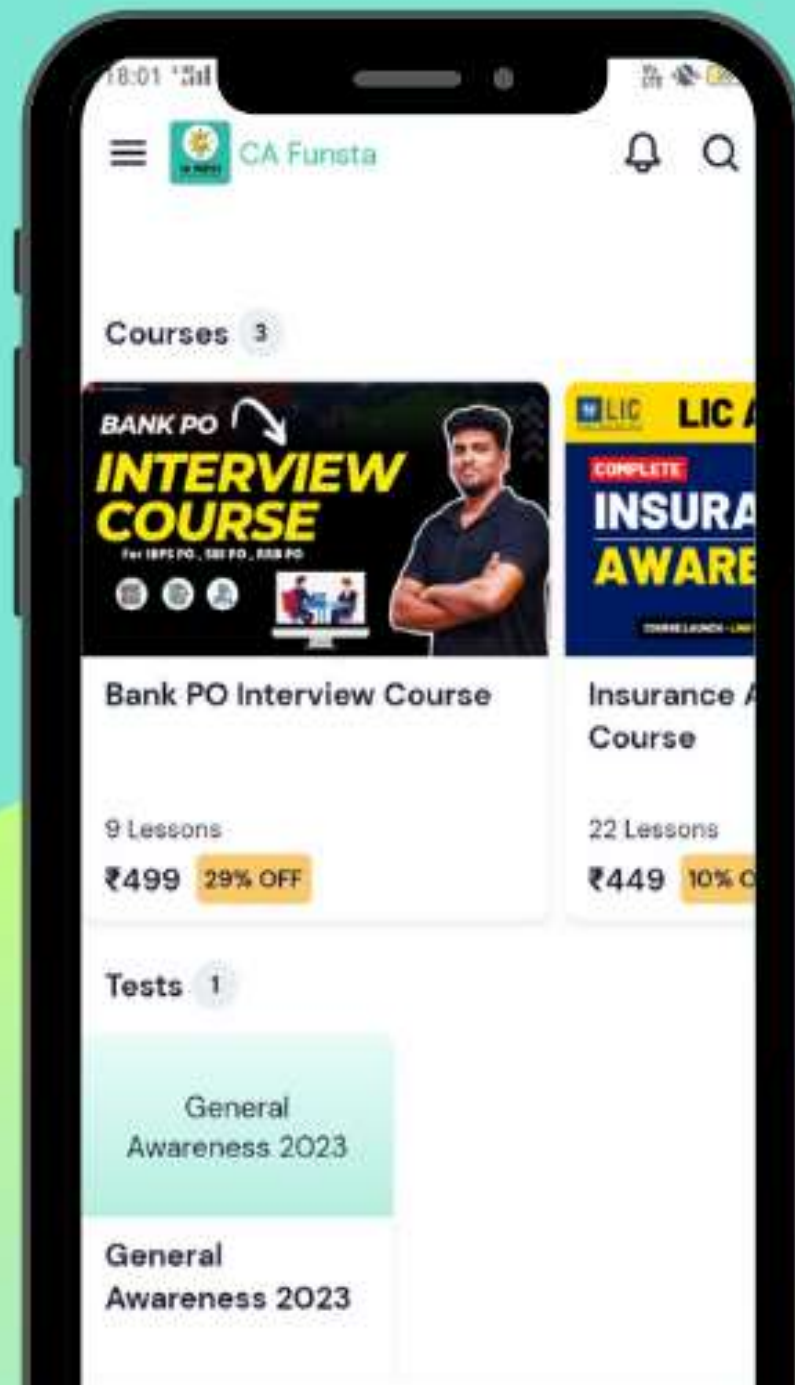
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➤ **What historic achievement is Vandana Katariya known for in Olympic hockey?**

- A) Winning a gold medal at Tokyo 2020
- B) Becoming the youngest hockey captain of India
- C) Scoring a hat-trick at the Olympics
- D) Playing in five Olympic Games
- E) Coaching the Indian women's team



Answer

C) Scoring a hat-trick at the Olympics



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Vandana Katariya Retires from International Hockey at the Peak of Her Career
- **Date:** April 2, 2025
- **Location:** India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Retirement Announcement:** Vandana Katariya decided to end her international career while still at her peak performance.
- **Record-Breaking Journey:** She retires as India's most capped female hockey player with a strong goal-scoring record.
- **Post-Retirement Focus:** She will continue to participate in domestic hockey leagues, including the Hockey India League.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Olympic Hat-trick:** Vandana Katariya became the first Indian woman to score three goals in a single match at the Olympics, achieving this during Tokyo 2020.
- **International Caps:** Refers to the number of appearances a player makes for their national team. Vandana holds the record with 320 caps.
- **Hockey India League:** A domestic professional hockey league in India where Vandana plans to continue playing.



SPORTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Vandana Katariya announces retirement from international hockey
Date	April 2, 2025
Location	India
Sport	Field Hockey
Debut Year	2009
Total International Caps	320 (Most capped Indian female hockey player)
Total Goals	158 goals
Major Achievement	First Indian woman to score a hat-trick in Olympic hockey (Tokyo 2020)
Olympic Highlight	Key player in India's 4th place finish at Tokyo 2020
Retirement Reason	To step away at the peak of her career
Future Plans	Will continue playing in domestic hockey leagues



➤ Which team won the Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup 2025?

- A) Jindal Panther
- B) Cavalry Royal Enfield
- C) Aditya Birla Polo Club
- D) Rajnigandha Achievers
- E) Army Polo Warriors

Answer

D) Rajnigandha Achievers



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Rajnigandha Achievers Winner Of Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup 2025
- **Date:** April 2025
- **Location:** New Delhi, India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Polo Promotion:** To honor the legacy of Shri Aditya Vikram Birla and promote the sport of polo in India.
- **Elite Competition Platform:** To provide a platform for top polo players from India and abroad to compete at a national level.
- **Annual Commemoration:** To celebrate the contribution of the Aditya Birla Group to Indian sports and equestrian excellence.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup:** An annual polo tournament started in 2018 to honor Aditya Vikram Birla's love for the sport and promote polo as an elite equestrian discipline in India.
- **Amateur Riders Club:** One of India's oldest and most prestigious equestrian clubs, which co-hosts the tournament.
- **Army Polo & Riding Centre:** A premier polo training and competition facility in New Delhi, managed by the Indian Army, and a collaborator in organizing the 2025 event.



SPORTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup 2025
Date	April 2025
Location	New Delhi, India
Winner	Rajnigandha Achievers
Runner-up	Jindal Panther
Winning Team Members	Dino Dhankhar, Shamsheer Ali, Abhimanyu Pathak, Bk Mr. Daniel Otamendi
Losing Team Members	Naveen Jindal (captain), Hurr Ali, Kuldeep Singh Rathore, Bk Mr. JP Clarkin
Trophy Presented By	Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Rajashree Birla, Askaran Agarwala
Organizing Partners	Aditya Birla Group, Amateur Riders Club, Army Polo & Riding Centre
Inception of Tournament	2018
Event Type	National-level annual polo tournament
Purpose of Tournament	Promote polo and honor Aditya Vikram Birla's legacy



➤ **What was the key objective of the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020 concerning co-operative banks?**

- A) To privatize all co-operative banks
- B) To bring co-operative banks under SEBI regulation
- C) To enhance RBI's supervisory powers over co-operative banks
- D) To allow co-operative banks to issue IPOs
- E) To merge co-operative banks with commercial banks

Answer

C) To enhance RBI's supervisory powers over co-operative banks



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Enhanced RBI Supervision Over Co-operative Banks
- **Date:** June 26, 2020 (when amendments took effect)
- **Location:** India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Strengthening RBI Oversight:** To give RBI wider powers in management, governance, and audit of co-operative banks.
- **Depositor Protection:** To ensure financial stability and safeguard the interests of depositors through structured supervision.
- **Fraud Prevention:** To implement stricter fraud detection mechanisms under RBI's 2024 Master Direction.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Improving Governance:** To reform Multi-State Co-operative Societies (MSCS) through legal amendments and institutional mechanisms.
- **Democratic Accountability:** To introduce the Co-operative Ombudsman and Co-operative Election Authority for fairness and transparency.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020:** A key legislative change extending RBI's regulatory powers over urban co-operative banks by applying sections of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to them.
- **RBI Master Direction on Fraud Management (2024):** A comprehensive framework issued by RBI for co-operative banks to prevent, report, and manage fraud through early warning systems and accountability norms.
- **Prompt Corrective Action (PCA):** RBI's intervention tool to monitor and direct underperforming co-operative banks to undertake corrective measures to avoid collapse.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Deposit Insurance (DICGC):** A financial guarantee for depositors, offering insurance coverage up to ₹5 lakh in case of bank failures.
- **Multi-State Co-operative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 Amendment:** Governance-focused reform integrating electoral transparency, constitutional provisions, and accountability in multi-state co-operatives.
- **Co-operative Ombudsman:** An authority under Section 85A of the MSCS Act to resolve complaints from co-operative society members concerning deposits and benefits.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Co-operative Election Authority:** An independent body ensuring free and fair elections in Multi-State Co-operative Societies, supporting democratic governance.
- **Ministry of Cooperation (MoC):** A government ministry focusing on expanding and empowering the co-operative movement from grassroots to national level.
- **NABARD Guidelines on Fraud Reporting:** Regulatory instructions mandating timely fraud reporting by co-operative banks to enforcement agencies for investigation and legal action.



BANKING AND FINANCE



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Enhanced RBI Supervision Over Co-operative Banks
Date	June 26, 2020 (Amendments in effect)
Location	India
Regulatory Reform	Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020
Objective of Reform	Strengthen governance and depositor protection in co-operative banks
RBI Master Direction (2024)	Fraud detection, early warnings, and governance mechanisms
PCA Framework	For financially weak UCBs to ensure recovery and compliance
Deposit Safety Net	DICGC coverage to protect depositor funds
Public Awareness Campaign	"RBI Kehta Hai" to educate public on fraud and protection
MSCS Act Amendment	Electoral reforms, transparency, 97th Constitutional Amendment incorporation
Co-operative Ombudsman	Handles MSCS complaints on deposits and rights violations
Co-operative Election Authority	Ensures free and fair elections in MSCS
NABARD's Role	Fraud reporting guidelines for legal escalation
Ministry of Cooperation Role	Supports co-operative growth, training, legal reforms



➤ What percentage of Rs 2000 banknotes has been returned to the banking system as of March 31, 2025?

- A) 95.60%
- B) 98.21%
- C) 90.00%
- D) 85.34%
- E) 99.01%

Answer
B) 98.21%



Event and Location:

- **Event:** 98.21% of Rs 2000 Banknotes Returned to Banking System, Says RBI
- **Date:** April 2, 2025
- **Location:** India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Currency Withdrawal Monitoring:** To track the progress of the Rs 2000 denomination withdrawal announced in May 2023.
- **Ensure Smooth Exchange:** To provide facilities for public exchange or deposit of Rs 2000 notes through banks, RBI offices, and India Post.
- **Currency Circulation Reduction:** To phase out high-denomination currency in a systematic and transparent manner.
- **Maintain Legal Tender Status:** To allow continued use of Rs 2000 notes while discouraging active circulation.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Rs 2000 Banknote:** Introduced in November 2016 after demonetization to quickly remonetize the economy. Now being phased out due to low usage and risk of hoarding.
- **Legal Tender:** A currency that is recognized by law as valid for payment of debts, even if withdrawn from circulation.



Important Terms Explained:

- **RBI Issue Offices:** These are designated offices of the Reserve Bank of India where exchange and deposit of withdrawn notes are permitted post-deadline.
- **India Post Facility:** A postal service that enables people to send Rs 2000 notes to RBI offices for crediting to bank accounts, especially useful for remote areas.



BANKING AND FINANCE



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	98.21% of Rs 2000 banknotes returned to the banking system
Date	April 2, 2025
Location	India
Withdrawal Announcement Date	May 19, 2023
Value on May 19, 2023	Rs 3.56 lakh crore
Value on March 31, 2025	Rs 6,366 crore
Percentage Returned	98.21%
Bank Exchange Window	Till October 7, 2023
Current Exchange Facility	Available at 19 RBI issue offices
India Post Facility	Public can send notes for deposit to RBI offices
Legal Tender Status	Still valid for transactions



➤ **What is the GDP growth rate projected for India in FY26 according to the EY Economy Watch report?**

- A) 9.2%
- B) 7.6%
- C) 6.2%
- D) 6.5%
- E) 5.8%

Answer
D) 6.5%



Event and Location:

- **Event:** EY Report Projects 6.5% Growth in FY26 For India
- **Date:** April 2025
- **Location:** India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **GDP Growth Projection:** To estimate India's economic growth at 6.5% for FY26.
- **Fiscal Management Emphasis:** To highlight the importance of maintaining a balance between growth and fiscal prudence.
- **Human Capital Investment:** To recommend greater investment in education and healthcare for long-term economic sustainability.
- **Structural Reforms Strategy:** To improve revenue generation, reduce regional disparity, and prepare for a demographic-driven growth surge.



Important Terms Explained:

- **EY Economy Watch Report:** A periodic economic analysis report published by Ernst & Young (EY), providing data-backed projections and fiscal recommendations for India's economy.
- **Revenue-to-GDP Ratio:** A metric indicating the government's revenue as a percentage of GDP. An increase in this ratio implies improved fiscal capacity.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Equalization Transfers:** Financial transfers from the central government to low-income states to address regional imbalances, particularly in sectors like healthcare and education.
- **Demographic Dividend:** Economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, particularly when the working-age population grows larger relative to dependents.



BUSINESS AND ECONOMY



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	EY Report Projects 6.5% Growth in FY26 For India
Date	April 2025
Location	India
GDP Growth FY26 (Projected)	6.5%
Revised GDP Growth (FY23)	7.6%
Revised GDP Growth (FY24)	9.2%
Revised GDP Growth (FY25)	6.5% (estimated)
Q3 FY25 Growth	6.2%
Q4 FY25 Growth Required	7.6% (requires 9.9% private consumption growth)
Alternate Strategy Suggested	Increase in investment and government capital spending
Education Spending Target	6.5% of GDP by FY2048 (currently 4.6%)
Healthcare Spending Target	3.8% of GDP by FY2048 (currently 1.1%)
Revenue-to-GDP Ratio Target	Increase from 21% to 29%
Equalization Transfers Need	Support for low-income states with young populations
Fiscal Challenge	Fiscal deficit may rise due to supplementary demand for grants



APPOINTMENTS



➤ Who has been appointed as the MD & CEO of SBI Card, effective April 1, 2025?

- A) Swaminathan Janakiraman
- B) Dinesh Khara
- C) Salila Pande
- D) Arundhati Bhattacharya
- E) Challa Sreenivasulu Setty

Answer
C) Salila Pande



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Salila Pande Appointed as MD & CEO of SBI Card, Effective April 1, 2025
- **Date:** April 1, 2025
- **Location:** India



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Leadership Appointment:** To lead SBI Card into a new phase of digital innovation, growth, and customer service excellence.
- **Strategic Direction:** To strengthen SBI Card's market position through sustainable growth and technology-driven operations.
- **Consumer-Centric Vision:** To enhance credit card services with a focus on digital transformation and customer engagement.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **SBI Card:** SBI Cards and Payment Services Limited is a non-banking financial company (NBFC) offering credit card services, affiliated with the State Bank of India.
- **MD & CEO (Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer):** The highest executive authority responsible for the strategic and operational leadership of a company.
- **Credit Card Industry in India:** A fast-growing segment driven by rising digital payments, consumer finance needs, and fintech advancements.



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Salila Pande Appointed as MD & CEO of SBI Card
Date	April 1, 2025
Location	India
Appointed Person	Salila Pande
Designation	Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer
Company	SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Card)
Announced Via	Press release on BSE & NSE
Previous Role	Chief General Manager, Mumbai Metro Circle
Other Key Role	President & CEO, SBI California
Industry Experience	Nearly 30 years in banking and finance
Significance of Appointment	To drive SBI Card's digital growth, market expansion, and customer service excellence



APPOINTMENTS



➤ Who has been appointed as the Whole-Time Member (Life) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in March 2025?

- A) Tapan Singhel
- B) Swaminathan S. Iyer
- C) Debasish Panda
- D) Sandeep Bakhshi
- E) Vibha Padalkar

Answer

B) Swaminathan S. Iyer



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Swaminathan S. Iyer Appointed as Whole-Time Member (Life) of IRDAI
- **Date:** March 25, 2025
- **Location:** India



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Regulatory Oversight:** To monitor and ensure compliance in the life insurance segment under IRDAI's purview.
- **Policy Formulation:** To contribute to the drafting of new regulatory policies and improvements in existing frameworks.
- **Sector Development:** To promote innovation and growth in India's life insurance sector with a stable regulatory environment.
- **ESG Integration:** To enhance environmental, social, and governance practices within the life insurance industry.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India):** India's apex regulatory body overseeing the insurance industry, ensuring fair practices, financial stability, and consumer protection.
- **Whole-Time Member (Life):** A full-time official in IRDAI dedicated to overseeing life insurance sector regulation, policy guidance, and industry advancement.
- **ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance):** A framework to evaluate the sustainability and ethical impact of companies, increasingly important in financial services.



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Appointment of Swaminathan S. Iyer as Whole-Time Member (Life), IRDAI
Date	March 25, 2025
Location	India
Position	Whole-time Member (Life), IRDAI
Tenure	5 years or until the age of 62, whichever is earlier
Current Role	Executive Vice-President at Tata AIA Life Insurance
Previous Role	Senior VP at HDFC Standard Life Insurance
Industry Experience	Over 34 years in life insurance sector
Focus Areas	Regulation, Policy Development, ESG, Industry Growth
Significance of Appointment	Brings deep legal, compliance, and regulatory expertise to IRDAI



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has become the first African woman to serve as the Secretary General of the Commonwealth?**

- A) Patricia Scotland
- B) Kamalesh Sharma
- C) Emeka Anyaoku
- D) Shirley Botchwey
- E) Sir Shridath Ramphal

Answer

D) Shirley Botchwey



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Shirley Botchwey Becomes First African Woman Secretary General of the Commonwealth
- **Date:** 1 April 2025
- **Location:** Apia, Samoa



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Leadership Appointment:** To lead the Commonwealth Secretariat and represent its 56 member nations.
- **Policy Promotion:** To uphold and promote Commonwealth values such as democracy, human rights, and development.
- **Diplomatic Engagement:** To represent the Commonwealth at international forums and coordinate cooperation among member countries.
- **Program Oversight:** To manage the Secretariat's activities and ensure effective implementation of programs.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Commonwealth Secretary General:** The chief executive of the Commonwealth Secretariat responsible for executing the agenda of member states and representing the Commonwealth internationally.
- **Commonwealth of Nations:** A voluntary association of 56 independent nations, many of which were former British colonies, focused on shared goals of development, peace, and democracy.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting):** A biennial summit where leaders of Commonwealth countries discuss global and regional issues and elect the Secretary General.
- **London Declaration (1949):** A pivotal agreement that allowed republics and those without the British monarch as Head of State to remain in the Commonwealth.



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Shirley Botchwey becomes the 7th Secretary General of the Commonwealth
Date of Appointment	1 April 2025
Location	Apia, Samoa
Predecessor	Patricia Scotland (Dominica)
Significance	First African woman to hold the position
Elected at	CHOGM 2024 in Apia, Samoa
Term Duration	Four years (renewable for a maximum of two terms)
Previous Role	Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Ghana
Commonwealth Members	56 independent countries
Headquarters	London, United Kingdom
Head of the Commonwealth	British Monarch



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Why was N Chandrasekaran appointed to the IMF Managing Director's Advisory Council on Entrepreneurship and Growth?**

- A) To lead India's banking reforms
- B) To head IMF's Asia-Pacific operations
- C) To provide insights into entrepreneurship and innovation policies
- D) To advise on digital currency initiatives
- E) To supervise IMF loan disbursements

Answer

C) To provide insights into entrepreneurship and innovation policies



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** N Chandrasekaran Joins IMF Managing Director's Advisory Council on Entrepreneurship and Growth
- **Date:** April 2025
- **Location:** Global (IMF Headquarters, Washington D.C., USA)



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Council Formation Purpose:** To strengthen macroeconomic and financial policies focused on innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable growth.
- **Addressing Productivity Decline:** To respond to the declining global productivity and long-term growth concerns.



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Expert Policy Inputs:** To gather insights from industry leaders, economists, and financial experts to guide IMF's economic strategies.
- **Support for Private Sector Development:** To promote policies that enhance productivity, innovation, and economic resilience through private sector growth.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **IMF Managing Director's Advisory Council:** A high-level expert group created to provide guidance on global economic policy, entrepreneurship, and long-term growth challenges.
- **Chatham House Rules:** A discussion format where participants are free to use the information received but are not allowed to reveal the identity or affiliation of the speakers or participants.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Entrepreneurship and Growth:** Central themes of the council, aiming to stimulate innovation, improve productivity, and create sustainable job opportunities in global economies.
- **N Chandrasekaran:** Chairman of Tata Sons and board member of the Reserve Bank of India, known for leading business transformation and innovation in the Tata Group.



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	N Chandrasekaran joins IMF Managing Director's Advisory Council
Date	April 2025
Location	Washington D.C., USA (IMF Headquarters)
Council Name	Advisory Council on Entrepreneurship and Growth
Formed by	International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Chandrasekaran's Role	Member providing policy insights on entrepreneurship and innovation
Other Role	Chairman, Tata Sons; Board Member, RBI
Council Objective	Strengthen macroeconomic policies for innovation, productivity, and growth
Meeting Frequency	Every three months under Chatham House rules
Global Concern	Economic slowdown due to declining productivity
Significance of Appointment	Boosts India's role in shaping global economic policy



APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) replacing Michael Patra in April 2025?**

- A) Urjit Patel
- B) Ashima Goyal
- C) Poonam Gupta
- D) Shaktikanta Das
- E) Raghuram Rajan

Answer

C) Poonam Gupta



APPOINTMENTS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Poonam Gupta Appointed as RBI Deputy Governor Ahead of MPC Meeting
- **Date:** April 2, 2025
- **Location:** India



APPOINTMENTS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Monetary Policy Leadership:** To play a critical role in the upcoming Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting scheduled for April 7–9, 2025.
- **Macroeconomic Oversight:** To strengthen RBI's macroeconomic policy by managing inflation, growth, and public debt.
- **International Finance Representation:** To guide RBI's interaction with global institutions and steer India's position in international financial forums.
- **Financial Market Supervision:** To help ensure stability in the banking sector and enhance regulatory governance.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **RBI Deputy Governor:** A key leadership position in the Reserve Bank of India. Deputy Governors are responsible for major policy areas like monetary policy, regulation, supervision, and financial markets.
- **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):** A six-member panel of the RBI that meets every two months to decide India's monetary policy stance, especially the repo rate.



APPOINTMENTS



Important Terms Explained:

- **NCAER (National Council of Applied Economic Research):** India's leading economic research institution, known for policy research and macroeconomic analysis.
- **EAC-PM (Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister):** A non-constitutional, independent body advising the Prime Minister on economic issues.



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Poonam Gupta Appointed as RBI Deputy Governor
Date	April 2, 2025
Location	India
Appointed By	Reserve Bank of India
Predecessor	Michael Patra
Significance	Appointment ahead of April 7–9, 2025 MPC meeting
Tenure (Expected)	3 years (as per RBI norms)
Previous Roles	DG, NCAER; Member, EAC-PM; IMF, World Bank
Key Focus Areas	Monetary Policy, Macro Stability, Debt Mgmt., Global Finance
Educational Background	Ph.D. & Master's (University of Maryland), MA (Delhi School of Economics)
Notable Awards	EXIM Bank Award (1998) for work in international economics



AWARDS



➤ **Why was the Dalai Lama honored with the Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Sustainability?**

- A) For promoting Buddhist teachings globally
- B) For advocating global trade policies
- C) For his commitment to non-violence, human dignity, and environmental sustainability
- D) For negotiating peace treaties in the Middle East
- E) For establishing a global educational foundation



Answer

C) For his commitment to non-violence, human dignity, and environmental sustainability



AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Dalai Lama Honored with Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Sustainability
- **Date:** April 1, 2025
- **Location:** Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh



AWARDS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Award Recognition:** To acknowledge the Dalai Lama's lifelong dedication to peace, sustainability, and interfaith dialogue.
- **Global Legacy Promotion:** To highlight the Dalai Lama's advocacy for human rights, environmental preservation, and ethical leadership.
- **Ethical Leadership Acknowledgment:** To honor individuals who embody global responsibility and sustainable development ideals.



AWARDS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Gold Mercury Award:** A prestigious international award recognizing contributions to peace, governance, and sustainable development. Originated in Italy and awarded in major cities worldwide.
- **Gold Mercury International:** A global think tank that promotes responsible governance, ethical leadership, and sustainability. It is the awarding body for the Gold Mercury Award.



AWARDS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Interfaith Dialogue:** A principle promoted by the Dalai Lama to encourage mutual understanding and harmony among people of different religious beliefs.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** A core focus of the Dalai Lama's teachings, urging respect for nature and long-term ecological balance.



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Dalai Lama Honored with Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Sustainability
Date	April 1, 2025
Location	Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh
Recipient	The Dalai Lama
Award Name	Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Sustainability
Awarded By	Gold Mercury International
Presented By	Nicolas De Santis
Reason for Recognition	Dedication to non-violence, human dignity, interfaith dialogue, and environmental sustainability
Significance of the Award	Recognizes global leadership in peace, sustainability, and ethical governance
Past Award Locations	Brussels, Moscow, Madrid, Washington
Future Impact	Reinforces the Dalai Lama's legacy in peace and global sustainability movements



➤ What was the total value of India's defence exports in FY 2024-25?

- A) Rs 15,209 crore
- B) Rs 21,083 crore
- C) Rs 8,389 crore
- D) Rs 23,622 crore
- E) Rs 25,000 crore

Answer

D) Rs 23,622 crore



DEFENCE



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India's Defence Exports Surge to Record High in FY 2024-25
- **Date:** FY 2024-25
- **Location:** India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Promotion of Defence Exports:** To project India as a key global supplier of defence products through increased indigenous production.
- **Import Dependency Reduction:** To reduce reliance on foreign defence imports and boost domestic capabilities.
- **Support via Policy Measures:** To enable growth in exports through simplified industrial licensing and export processes.
- **Long-Term Export Vision:** To achieve the target of Rs 50,000 crore in defence exports by 2029 under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs):** State-owned defence manufacturers contributing significantly to export growth and national defence self-sufficiency.
- **Export Authorisations:** Official permissions granted by the Department of Defence Production to export defence goods, reflecting regulatory efficiency and global demand.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Atmanirbhar Bharat:** A national initiative introduced in 2020 aiming at economic self-reliance, particularly through indigenous industrial and defence capabilities.
- **Industrial Licensing Reforms:** Government measures that removed components from strict licensing and extended license validity to encourage ease of exports.



DEFENCE



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	India's Defence Exports Surge to Record High
Date	FY 2024-25
Location	India
Total Defence Exports	Rs 23,622 crore (US\$ 2.76 billion)
Growth Over FY 2023-24	12.04%
DPSU Contribution	Rs 8,389 crore (42.85% growth)
Private Sector Contribution	Rs 15,233 crore (Marginal rise)
Export Authorisations Issued	1,762 (16.92% increase)
Increase in Number of Exporters	17.4%
Types of Products Exported	Ammunition, arms, sub-systems, full systems, parts & components
Countries Exported To	Around 80 countries
Key Policy Support	Simplified licensing, authorisation, and extended validity
Future Export Target	Rs 50,000 crore by 2029
Aligned Vision	Atmanirbhar Bharat



➤ **What is the primary purpose of the Army Commanders' Conference (ACC) 2025?**

- A) To sign defence deals with other countries
- B) To train new army recruits
- C) To assess national security and review operational strategies
- D) To conduct military drills
- E) To discuss foreign trade policies

Answer

C) To assess national security and review operational strategies



DEFENCE



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Army Commanders' Conference 2025 Begins in New Delhi
- **Date:** April 1 – April 4, 2025
- **Location:** New Delhi



Mandates and Objectives:

- **National Security Review:** To evaluate the current security environment and assess the Indian Army's preparedness.
- **Operational Planning:** To discuss emerging military challenges and strategize future operations.
- **Technological Integration:** To enhance the Army's agility and effectiveness through advanced technologies.
- **Decision-Making Reforms:** To explore new methodologies for faster and more effective military decisions.
- **Soldier Welfare:** To improve housing, healthcare, and education for soldiers and their families.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Army Commanders' Conference (ACC):** A biannual high-level meeting of Indian Army leadership to review defence preparedness and strategic planning.
- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):** The senior-most uniformed military officer responsible for coordinating among armed forces and providing strategic military advice.
- **NITI Aayog:** The policy think tank of the Government of India that supports development strategies and reforms for national growth.
- **Raksha Mantri Session:** A dedicated session in the conference where the Defence Minister addresses the Army leadership and sets strategic direction.



DEFENCE



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Army Commanders' Conference (ACC) 2025
Date	April 1 – April 4, 2025
Location	New Delhi
Chaired by	Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
Key Sessions	Raksha Mantri Session, CDS Address, NITI Aayog CEO Talk
Conference Focus	National security review, operational priorities, emerging challenges, Army reforms
Technological Advancement	Agile methodologies, future-ready force, technological integration
Welfare Discussions	Soldier well-being, family welfare, quality of life enhancement



➤ **What is the primary objective of the Navika Sagar Parikrama II expedition?**

- A) To train Indian Navy male cadets
- B) To showcase India's air defence systems
- C) To promote women empowerment and maritime cooperation
- D) To conduct international military drills
- E) To test missile navigation systems

Answer

C) To promote women empowerment and maritime cooperation



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Navika Sagar Parikrama II: INSV Tarini Reaches Cape Town, South Africa
- **Date:** April 1, 2025
- **Location:** Cape Town, South Africa



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Women Empowerment:** To highlight the role and capabilities of Indian Navy women officers in global expeditions.
- **Marine Research and Awareness:** To conduct and promote marine studies and oceanographic data collection.
- **Strengthening Maritime Diplomacy:** To enhance India's naval ties and strategic cooperation with countries en route.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Self-Reliant India Showcase:** To promote India's indigenous naval capabilities under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Global Circumnavigation:** To successfully complete a round-the-world sailing mission representing Indian maritime strength.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Navika Sagar Parikrama:** An all-women circumnavigation expedition led by Indian Navy officers, promoting gender empowerment in defence.
- **INSV Tarini:** A 56-foot Indian Naval Sailing Vessel, inducted in 2018, designed for long-distance ocean voyages and built under the Make in India initiative.
- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat:** A national campaign promoting self-reliance in all sectors including defence manufacturing and indigenous production.
- **IBSAMAR:** A naval exercise among India, Brazil, and South Africa to strengthen trilateral maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.



DEFENCE



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Navika Sagar Parikrama II: INSV Tarini reaches Cape Town
Date	April 1, 2025
Location	Cape Town, South Africa
Expedition Name	Navika Sagar Parikrama II (NSP-II)
Vessel Name	INSV Tarini
Flag-off Date & Place	October 2, 2024 – Goa, India
Total Distance	23,400 nautical miles (43,300 km)
Expedition Duration	Eight months (October 2024 – May 2025)
Crew Members	Lt Cdr Dilna K & Lt Cdr Roopa A



DEFENCE



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Previous Stopovers	Fremantle (Australia), Lyttelton (New Zealand), Port Stanley (Falklands, UK)
Current Stopover	Cape Town, South Africa
Departure Date from Cape Town	April 15, 2025
Challenges Faced	50+ knot winds, 7-meter-high waves, extreme cold
Significance	Women empowerment, marine research, India–South Africa maritime ties
Make in India Initiative	INSV Tarini is indigenously built, supporting Aatmanirbhar Bharat
India–South Africa Naval Engagements	INS Talwar (IBSAMAR 2024), INS Tushil (Durban port call in Jan 2025)



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



- How many total child adoptions were recorded in India during FY 2024–25, the highest in 12 years?

- A) 3,920
- B) 4,155
- C) 4,515
- D) 5,210
- E) 4,980

Answer
C) 4,515



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** India Records Highest Child Adoptions in 12 Years
- **Date:** FY 2024–25
- **Location:** India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Boosting Legal Adoption:** To promote legal and transparent adoption through strengthened identification, regulation, and awareness.
- **Increasing Adoption Pool:** To identify more children eligible for adoption and connect them to prospective adoptive families.
- **Digital Transformation:** To improve efficiency and reduce delays in the adoption process via upgraded technology on the CARINGS portal.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Foster Care Expansion:** To promote family-based alternate care for older and hard-to-place children through new foster modules.
- **Public Awareness & Training:** To educate stakeholders and adoptive parents through campaigns, state meets, and virtual sessions.



Important Terms Explained:

- **CARA (Central Adoption Resource Authority):** A statutory body under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, responsible for regulating and monitoring adoptions in India.
- **CARINGS (Child Adoption Resource Information & Guidance System):** An online platform used to manage and monitor adoption processes in India, ensuring transparency and speed.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Adoption Regulations, 2022:** Legal framework that governs adoption processes in India, enhancing protections for children and adoptive families.
- **Foster Care & Adoption:** Systems allowing children, especially older or hard-to-place ones, to be placed in alternative family environments for care and upbringing.
- **Child Identification Drive:** A Supreme Court-directed effort to categorize children based on care needs for appropriate placement.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	India Records Highest Child Adoptions in 12 Years
Date	FY 2024–25
Location	India
Total Adoptions	4,515 (Highest in 12 years)
Domestic Adoptions	4,155
Children Added to Adoption Pool	8,598
New Adoption Agencies	245
Virtual Training Sessions	45
States Conducting Awareness	12 states (physical), 16 states (campaign)
Annual Conclave	Nov 2024, attended by 500+ stakeholders
Child Identification Categories	Orphaned, Abandoned, Surrendered, No Visitation, Unfit Guardians
CARINGS Portal Updates	Faster processing (3–4 months), new adoption modules
Adoption Regulations Implemented	Adoption Regulations, 2022
Future Focus	Expand foster care and strengthen adoption governance



➤ **What is the primary objective of the Cyber Commandos Training Program conducted by IIT Madras Pravartak?**

- A) To replace traditional police training methods
- B) To train ethical hackers for private sector jobs
- C) To empower law enforcement with proactive cybersecurity skills
- D) To set up cyber cafés in rural India
- E) To develop antivirus software

Answer

C) To empower law enforcement with proactive cybersecurity skills



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** IIT Madras Pravartak Completes Training of First Batch of Cyber Commandos
- **Date:** April 1, 2025
- **Location:** IIT Madras, Tamil Nadu



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Cybersecurity Capacity Building:** To train law enforcement officers in proactive cyber defense techniques to tackle evolving threats.
- **National Digital Security:** To strengthen India's digital sovereignty by protecting sensitive national data.
- **Modernization of Law Enforcement:** To upgrade traditional cybercrime investigation units with specialized skills for prevention and strategic intervention.
- **Hands-on Cyber Training:** To provide real-world cyber attack simulation exercises to enhance field readiness of officers.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Cyber Commandos:** Specially trained law enforcement officers equipped with advanced cybersecurity skills for preventing, detecting, and responding to cyber threats.
- **Red-Blue Team Exercises:** Simulated cyberattack and defense training, where one team (Red) acts as attackers and the other (Blue) defends against those attacks, enhancing threat response skills.



Important Terms Explained:

- **IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation:** A section-8 company supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and housed at IIT Madras, focused on deep-tech research and skill-building programs.
- **I4C (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre):** A Ministry of Home Affairs initiative aimed at tackling cybercrime across the nation through research, coordination, and capacity building.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	IIT Madras Pravartak Completes Cyber Commandos Training
Date	April 1, 2025
Location	IIT Madras, Tamil Nadu
Program Name	Cyber Commandos Training Program
Conducting Body	IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation
Supported By	Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
Training Duration	6 months (Residential)
Number of Officers Trained	37
Core Training Areas	Ethical hacking, forensics, network security, threat intelligence
Hands-on Training	Cyber attack simulations, Red-Blue Team exercises
Key Officials Present	Dr. Sandeep Mittal (IPS), Dr. Shankar Ram, Balamurali Shankar
Future Enhancements	Digital learning platform, refresher modules, integration with intelligence agencies
Strategic Importance	Proactive cybercrime prevention and national cybersecurity enhancement



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



➤ Which two products from Tamil Nadu were recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag?

- A) Madurai Jasmine and Salem Mango
- B) Kumbakonam Betel Leaf and Thovalai Flower Garland
- C) Erode Turmeric and Tirunelveli Halwa
- D) Nilgiri Tea and Kancheepuram Silk
- E) Pollachi Coconut and Coimbatore Wet Grinder

Answer

B) Kumbakonam Betel Leaf and Thovalai Flower Garland



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Kumbakonam Betel Leaf and Thovalai Flower Garland Receive GI Tag
- **Date:** April 2025
- **Location:** Thanjavur and Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Protection of Regional Identity:** To safeguard the originality and reputation of locally produced traditional goods.
- **Promotion of Rural Economy:** To enhance trade opportunities for local farmers and artisans through legal recognition.
- **Prevention of Imitation:** To ensure only authorized producers can use the GI name, reducing market forgery.
- **Boost to Exports:** To support the international trade of uniquely regional products like betel leaves and flower garlands.



Important Terms Explained:

- **GI Tag (Geographical Indication):** A sign used on products with a specific geographical origin and possessing qualities or a reputation due to that origin. It is protected under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- **Kumbakonam Betel Leaf:** A variety of betel leaf grown in the fertile Cauvery delta region of Thanjavur, known for its aroma, softness, and flavor.
- **Thovalai Flower Garland:** Traditional handcrafted floral garlands from Kanyakumari district, made using vibrant flowers and known for their intricate weaving resembling a floral mat.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	Kumbakonam Betel Leaf and Thovalai Flower Garland Receive GI Tag
Date	April 2025
Location	Thanjavur and Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu
Products Granted GI Tag	Kumbakonam Betel Leaf, Thovalai Flower Garland
GI Tag Official Notification	Published in Government Gazette on Nov 30, 2024
Total GI Products in Tamil Nadu	62
Kumbakonam Betel Leaf Specialty	Grown in Cauvery delta; rich taste and aroma
Thovalai Garland Specialty	Handmade floral garlands with artistic arrangements
GI Tag Benefits	Prevents misuse, ensures product authenticity, boosts trade



➤ **What is the primary objective of the NITI NCAER States Economic Forum portal launched in April 2025?**

- A) To promote e-commerce between Indian states
- B) To serve as a digital platform for agricultural marketing
- C) To provide a data-driven resource for state-level fiscal and economic policy decisions
- D) To track national stock market movements
- E) To manage central government debt portfolio

Answer

C) To provide a data-driven resource for state-level fiscal and economic policy decisions



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** FM Launched NITI NCAER States Economic Forum Portal
- **Date:** April 1, 2025
- **Location:** New Delhi, India



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Fiscal Policy Support:** To provide states with reliable data for informed decision-making on revenue generation and debt management.
- **Interstate Learning Platform:** To enable states to analyze each other's fiscal strategies and adopt best practices.
- **Transparency in Public Finance:** To create a transparent and centralized repository of state-level economic and social data.
- **Long-term Policy Asset:** To serve as a permanent digital resource for researchers, policymakers, and state governments.



Important Terms Explained:

- **NITI Aayog:** The premier policy think tank of the Government of India, focusing on fostering cooperative federalism and sustainable development.
- **NCAER (National Council of Applied Economic Research):** One of India's oldest and leading economic research institutions, specializing in policy-based economic research.



Important Terms Explained:

- **States Economic Forum Portal:** A digital initiative to compile 30+ years of data on state-level finances and development, enabling evidence-based policymaking.
- **Fiscal Management:** Refers to how governments manage revenue, spending, and debt—crucial for economic stability and public welfare.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	FM Launched NITI NCAER States Economic Forum Portal
Date	April 1, 2025
Location	New Delhi, India
Launched By	Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
Developed By	NITI Aayog and National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)
Data Period Covered	FY 1990–91 to FY 2022–23
Purpose	To assist states in fiscal policy, revenue generation, and debt management
Key Features	Repository of fiscal, economic, and social data with expert commentary
Target Audience	State governments, economists, researchers, policymakers
Expected Impact	Better fiscal transparency, informed policymaking, inter-state collaboration



➤ What is the total estimated value of the development projects inaugurated by PM Modi in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh on March 30, 2025?

- A) ₹25,000 crore
- B) ₹33,700 crore
- C) ₹28,500 crore
- D) ₹80,000 crore
- E) ₹1,285 crore

Answer

B) ₹33,700 crore



Event and Location:

- **Event:** PM Laid Various Initiatives in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh
- **Date:** March 30, 2025
- **Location:** Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Infrastructure Boost:** To enhance regional connectivity and transportation through new highways, railways, and electrification.
- **Housing for the Poor:** To provide 3 lakh homes, especially in tribal areas, with essential amenities including electricity, gas, and toilets.
- **Women Empowerment:** To ensure home ownership for women by registering new houses under their names.
- **Tribal Development:** To strengthen welfare and infrastructure in tribal regions through the PM Janman Yojana.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Clean Energy Expansion:** To promote solar and gas-based energy projects, including under the PM Suryagarh Muft Bijli Scheme.
- **Education in Local Language:** To provide quality education, including medical and engineering courses, in Hindi for broader accessibility.
- **Healthcare Strengthening:** To improve healthcare access in Naxal-affected and underserved regions using the Ayushman Bharat scheme.
- **Agricultural Growth:** To support farmers via bonus distribution, MSP hike, and better procurement systems.



Important Terms Explained:

- **PM Janman Yojana:** A government scheme dedicated to holistic development in tribal-dominated regions, focusing on roads, health, education, and basic amenities.
- **PM Suryagarh Muft Bijli Scheme:** A solar energy initiative to provide free electricity to eligible households under a clean energy mission.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Ayushman Bharat:** A flagship health insurance scheme providing free healthcare coverage up to ₹5 lakh per family annually for economically weaker sections.
- **PM SHRI Schools:** Centrally supported schools aiming to offer holistic and inclusive education aligned with NEP 2020.



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Key Detail	Information
Event	PM Laid Various Initiatives in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh
Date	March 30, 2025
Location	Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh
Total Project Value	Over ₹33,700 crore
Housing Projects	3 lakh homes with electricity, toilets, gas
Women Empowerment	Homes registered in the name of women
Education Initiatives	PM SHRI Schools, studies in Hindi for medicine and engineering
Road and Rail Infrastructure	NH-930 & NH-43 upgrades, 108 km of rail projects
Rail Electrification	Entire rail network in Chhattisgarh electrified
Energy Projects	NTPC Sipat Project, City Gas Distribution, solar energy
Clean Energy Project Value	₹1,285 crore
Tribal Development	₹80,000 crore investment, 2,500 km roads under PM Janman Yojana
Health Initiatives	New centers in Naxal areas, Ayushman Bharat coverage
Agriculture Measures	Increased MSP, bonus for paddy farmers



QUICK RECALL



- **Vandana Katariya announced her retirement from international hockey on April 2, 2025.**
- **Rajnigandha Achievers won the Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup 2025 in New Delhi.**
- **RBI's regulatory powers over co-operative banks were expanded by the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020.**
- **RBI reported that 98.21% of Rs 2000 banknotes have been returned to the banking system.**
- **The EY Economy Watch report projects India's GDP to grow by 6.5% in FY26.**
- **Salila Pande was appointed as the new MD & CEO of SBI Card effective April 1, 2025.**
- **Shirley Botchwey took office as the 7th Secretary General of the Commonwealth on April 1, 2025.**
- **N Chandrasekaran has been appointed to the IMF Advisory Council on Entrepreneurship and Growth.**



QUICK RECALL



- **Swaminathan S. Iyer has been appointed as the Whole-Time Member (Life) of IRDAI.**
- **Poonam Gupta was appointed as RBI Deputy Governor on April 2, 2025.**
- **Dalai Lama was honored with the Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Sustainability on April 1, 2025.**
- **India achieved Rs 23,622 crore in defence exports in FY 2024-25.**
- **Army Commanders' Conference 2025 is being held in New Delhi from April 1 to April 4.**
- **INSV Tarini reached Cape Town on April 1, 2025 as part of Navika Sagar Parikrama II.**
- **India recorded 4,515 child adoptions in FY 2024–25, the highest in 12 years.**
- **IIT Madras Pravartak completed training the first batch of Cyber Commandos on April 1, 2025.**



QUICK RECALL



- **Kumbakonam Betel Leaf and Thovalai Flower Garland received the GI Tag in April 2025.**
- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the NITI NCAER States Economic Forum portal on April 1, 2025.**
- **PM Modi launched development projects worth over ₹33,700 crore in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.**



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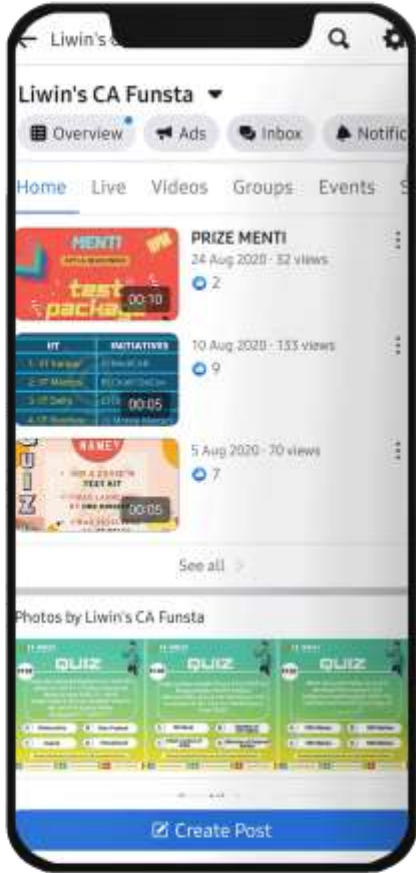
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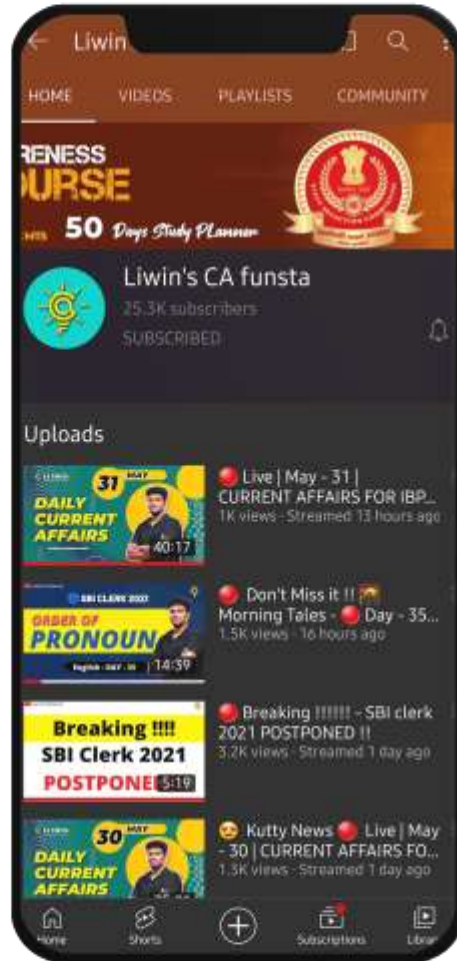


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