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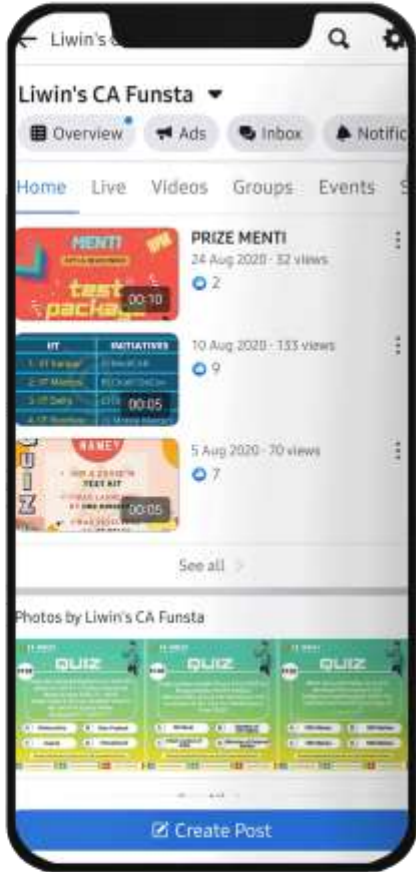
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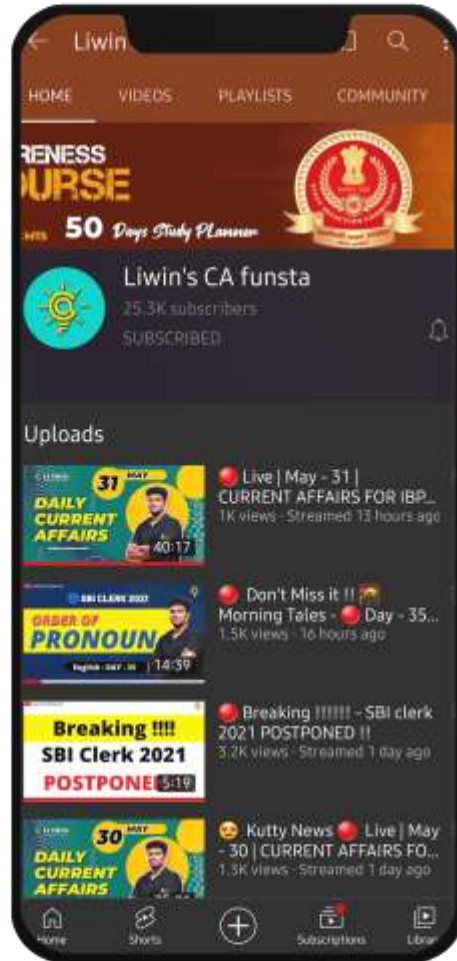
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




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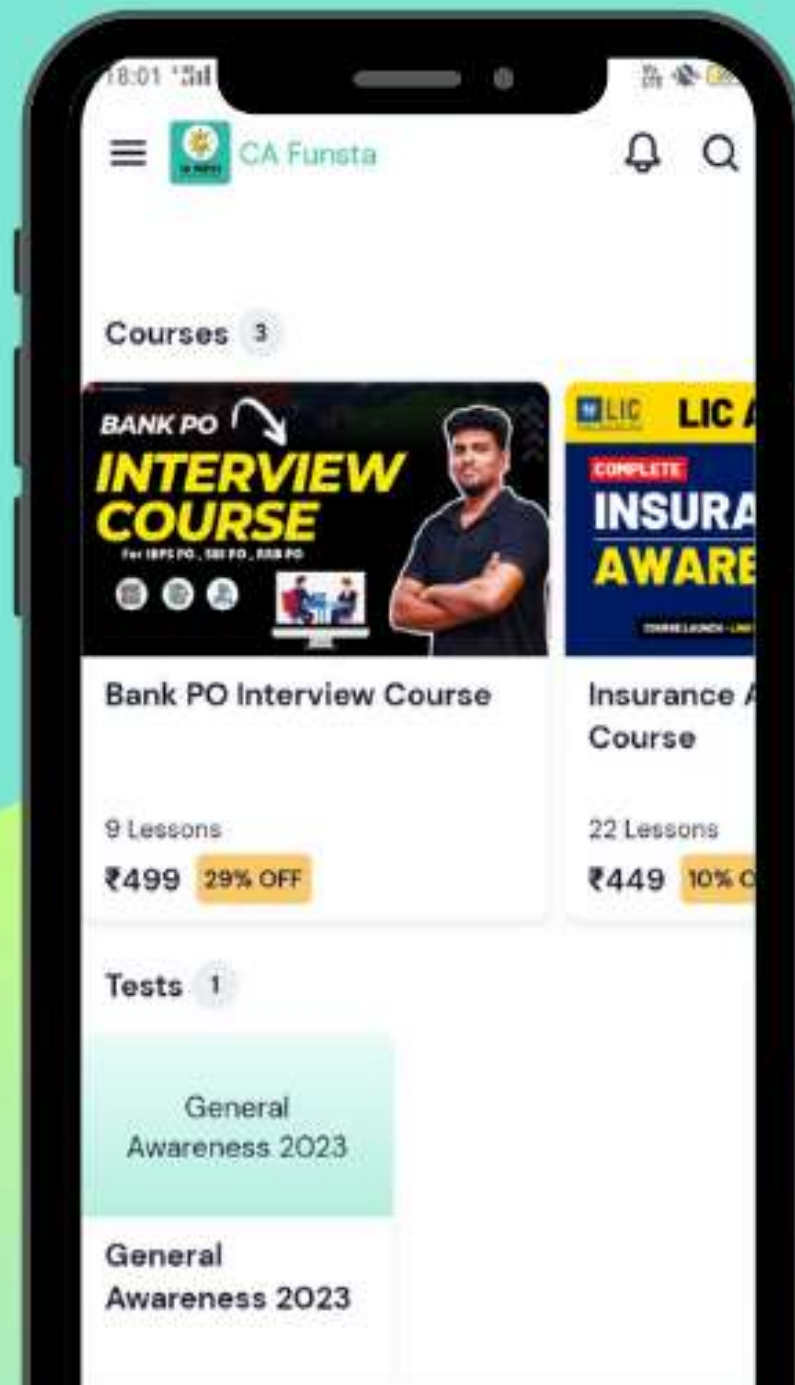
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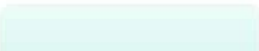
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# Important Days



➤ **On which date is Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Jayanti celebrated in 2025?**

- A) March 11, 2025
- B) May 14, 2025
- C) April 21, 2025
- D) February 19, 2025
- E) May 1, 2025

**Answer**  
**B) May 14, 2025**



# Important Days



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** The nation celebrates Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Jayanti, the birth anniversary of the valiant warrior and second ruler of the Maratha Empire, known for his bravery, intellect, and sacrifice.
- **Location:** The occasion is commemorated across Maharashtra and various parts of India, especially in regions influenced by Maratha history, with cultural events, parades, and tributes.
- **Date:** In 2025, Sambhaji Maharaj Jayanti is observed on Wednesday, May 14, marking his birth in 1657 and honouring his legacy.





# Important Days



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of the Celebration:** The day aims to remember and honour the life of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, his resistance against Mughal oppression, and his martyrdom for preserving Maratha sovereignty.
- **Cultural and Historical Significance:** Celebrating this day helps to instill patriotism, courage, and moral strength among the youth and reminds citizens of the values of freedom, justice, and sacrifice.
- **Educational Impact:** The Jayanti encourages awareness about Maratha history, promotes regional heritage, and celebrates the legacy of a leader who was not just a warrior but also a scholar and linguist.



# Important Days



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj:**
  - Born on May 14, 1657, he was the eldest son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and succeeded him as the ruler of the Maratha Empire in 1681.
  - Known for his resistance against Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, he was executed in 1689 after being captured but is revered for his unwavering courage.



# Important Days



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Burhanpur Attack:**
  - One of Sambhaji Maharaj's strategic victories where he successfully attacked a Mughal stronghold, showcasing his military acumen and defiance against Mughal dominance in the Deccan.
- **Jijabai:**
  - His grandmother, who played a crucial role in raising and mentoring Sambhaji Maharaj after his mother's early demise, ensuring he received both cultural grounding and warrior training.





# Important Days



## Important Terms Explained:

- **March 11, 1689:**
  - The day Sambhaji Maharaj was executed by the Mughals, after enduring days of torture.
  - His martyrdom is honored as a symbol of fearless resistance.



# Important Days



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Jayanti 2025
Location	Celebrated across Maharashtra and other regions of India
Date	May 14, 2025
Born On	May 14, 1657
Parentage	Son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Saibai
Reign	Became ruler in 1681, ruled till 1689
Legacy	Patriot, scholar, warrior, and martyr against Mughal tyranny
Major Victory	Attack on Mughal-held Burhanpur
Martyrdom	Executed on March 11, 1689 by Aurangzeb's forces
Cultural Impact	Celebrated as a symbol of bravery, knowledge, and resistance



# Important Days



➤ From which year has the Government of India fixed 23<sup>rd</sup> September as the new permanent date for celebrating Ayurveda Day?

- A) 2023
- B) 2024
- C) 2025
- D) 2026
- E) 2027

**Answer**  
**C) 2025**





# Important Days



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** The Government of India has officially declared the fixing of a new permanent date for Ayurveda Day observance, transitioning it from a lunar-based celebration on Dhanteras to a globally consistent date.
- **Location:** The decision was announced by the Ministry of Ayush, which operates under the central government and is headquartered in New Delhi, India.



# Important Days



## Event and Location:

- **Date:** The change will take effect from 23rd September 2025, with this date now permanently established as Ayurveda Day, coinciding with the autumnal equinox for symbolic relevance and global uniformity.



# Important Days



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of Change:** The aim is to replace the previously variable date of Dhanteras with a fixed and globally aligned date, eliminating the scheduling inconsistencies that hindered international celebrations.
- **Global Significance:** The newly fixed date, 23rd September, corresponds to the autumnal equinox, a day of equal daylight and darkness, which aligns with Ayurveda's principle of balance in nature and life.





# Important Days



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Strategic Benefits:** This decision promotes predictable planning, increases international participation, and helps position Ayurveda more effectively within the global health and wellness ecosystem as a system based on natural harmony and holistic health.



# Important Days



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Ayurveda Day:** An annual observance initiated by the Government of India to celebrate and promote Ayurveda, one of the world's oldest holistic healthcare systems focused on preventive and balanced living.
- **Autumnal Equinox:** Occurs on or around 23rd September, marking a day when day and night are nearly equal. It represents natural equilibrium, which resonates with the Ayurvedic philosophy of harmony between mind, body, and spirit.



# Important Days



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Ministry of Ayush:** A central government ministry established in 2014 to promote Indian systems of medicine such as Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (AYUSH). It is responsible for policy-making, education, research, and international promotion of these practices.
- **Dhanteras:** A Hindu festival previously used as the date for Ayurveda Day. Its occurrence varies each year according to the lunar calendar, leading to inconsistent global observance schedules.





# Important Days



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Fixing of Ayurveda Day to a consistent date
New Date	23rd September (from 2025 onwards)
Old Date	Dhanteras (variable date)
Announced By	Ministry of Ayush, Government of India
Symbolic Significance	Coincides with Autumnal Equinox – balance of day and night
Philosophical Alignment	Reflects Ayurvedic principle of harmony and equilibrium
Implementation Process	Committee formed, four dates evaluated, 23rd September unanimously chosen
Global Benefit	Promotes Ayurveda internationally through a predictable, stable observance
Target Stakeholders	Academics, health professionals, international institutions



➤ How many total medals did India win at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai 2025?

- A) 5
- B) 6
- C) 7
- D) 8
- E) 9

**Answer**  
**C) 7**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** India achieved one of its best-ever performances at the Archery World Cup Stage 2, securing seven medals and showcasing depth in both recurve and compound categories.
- **Location:** The event was held in Shanghai, China, bringing together top archers from across the globe to compete in individual and team events.
- **Date:** The Stage 2 of the World Cup concluded in May 2025, marking a pivotal moment for India's Olympic and World Championship preparations.



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Sporting Goals:** The objective was to secure valuable world ranking points, prepare for upcoming international competitions including the 2024 Paris Olympics, and demonstrate India's growing consistency and competitiveness in archery.
- **Long-Term Vision:** India's aim is to establish itself as a global powerhouse in archery, with investment in grassroots training, youth development, and elite-level performance—reflected in the rise of archers like Parth Salunkhe and the comeback of veterans like Deepika Kumari.





## Mandates and Objectives:

- **National Importance:** These wins are crucial for Olympic qualification, funding visibility, and inspiring a new generation of athletes, especially in compound events, where India is emerging as a dominant force.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Archery World Cup:**
  - An annual series of international archery tournaments organized by World Archery Federation, held across multiple stages, with points contributing to world rankings and qualifications for championship finals.
- **Compound Archery:**
  - A modern archery discipline using mechanically aided bows (compound bows), known for precision and power.
  - India has recently emerged as a global contender in this category.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Recurve Archery:**
  - The traditional Olympic archery style using recurve bows.
  - It remains a core event for Olympic competition, and Deepika Kumari is one of India's most decorated recurve archers.
- **Shoot-off:**
  - A tie-breaking method used in archery when scores are level.
  - The archer with the arrow closest to the center wins.



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Archery World Cup Stage 2 – Shanghai, China
Date	May 2025
Total Medals Won	7 (2 Gold, 1 Silver, 4 Bronze)
Recurve Bronze	Deepika Kumari (Women's), Parth Salunkhe (Men's)
Gold Medals	Madhura Dhamangaonkar (Women's Compound), Men's Compound Team
Silver Medal	Women's Compound Team
Bronze Medals	Mixed Compound Team, Men's Compound Individual (Rishabh Yadav)
Significant Debut	Parth Salunkhe's first senior-level medal
Veteran Milestone	Deepika Kumari's 18th World Cup podium finish
Sporting Significance	Olympic prep, global ranking, rising archery profile





# RANKING



➤ **Who is the highest-paid athlete in the world as of 2025?**

- A) Lionel Messi
- B) Jon Rahm
- C) Cristiano Ronaldo
- D) LeBron James
- E) Neymar

**Answer**

**C) Cristiano Ronaldo**



# RANKING



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** The list of the world's highest-paid athletes in 2025 was released, revealing the top 10 athletes across various sports based on their earnings from salaries, endorsements, and business ventures.
- **Location:** The data reflects global earnings across major sporting leagues and events, compiled from various sponsorship disclosures and contract data available across countries including Portugal, USA, France, Brazil, and Spain.
- **Date:** The updated list and rankings were published in May 2025, highlighting income figures for the financial year ending 2024–25.



# RANKING



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Primary Objective:** This annual ranking highlights the earning potential of top athletes in modern sports and demonstrates the expanding role of brand endorsements, club salaries, and personal businesses in sports economics.
- **Media & Economic Significance:** The list underlines the global appeal of certain athletes, especially in football, basketball, and golf, and their ability to generate massive revenues through multi-stream income models including media companies, equity stakes, and product branding.



# RANKING



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Inspiration for Aspirants:** The rankings reflect how athletes have evolved into multifaceted global icons, combining elite sports performance with entrepreneurship and media influence.



# RANKING



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Endorsements:**
  - Non-salary income from brand promotions, sponsorships, and image rights.
  - This has become a major part of top athletes' earnings, often exceeding their salary.
- **LIV Golf:**
  - A Saudi-backed professional golf league that offers large signing bonuses and ownership stakes to players.
  - Jon Rahm's \$350 million deal with LIV Golf made headlines.





# RANKING



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Mocktails:**
  - Non-alcoholic cocktail beverages.
  - Neymar launched a line of branded mocktails and cocktails, diversifying into lifestyle and F&B.
- **Lifetime Deal:**
  - An agreement wherein an athlete earns from a brand for life, typically awarded to highly marketable and loyal athletes.
  - Stephen Curry's deal with Under Armour is one such example.



# RANKING



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Top 10 Highest-Paid Athletes in the World (2025)
Date Released	May 2025
Top Earner	Cristiano Ronaldo – \$260 million
Second Place	Jon Rahm – \$218 million
Notable Indian Presence	None in Top 10
Top Sports Represented	Football, Basketball, Golf, American Football
Top Endorsements	Nike, Under Armour, Oakley, Apple, Adidas, Puma
Business Ventures	Media Companies, Footwear Brands, F&B Lines, Production Houses
Key Trend	Diversified income via sports, brand deals, investments

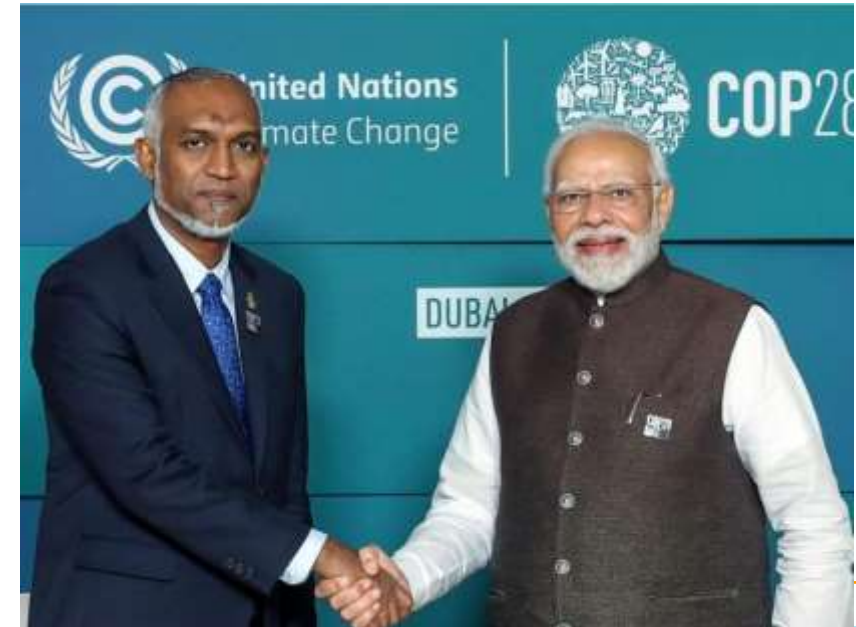


➤ Which financial institution facilitated the rollover of India's \$50 million treasury bill to support the Maldives in 2025?

- A) Reserve Bank of India
- B) Bank of Baroda
- C) State Bank of India
- D) NABARD
- E) EXIM Bank

**Answer**

**C) State Bank of India**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** India extended financial assistance to the Maldives by rolling over a \$50 million treasury bill for an additional year to help the island nation tackle its debt crisis.
- **Location:** The transaction was facilitated through the State Bank of India (SBI) and coordinated with the Ministry of Finance of the Maldives, highlighting India's outreach in the Indian Ocean region.
- **Date:** The extension of the treasury bill was officially announced on May 12, 2025, following a formal request from the Maldivian government amid financial instability.



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of Financial Support:** The primary objective of this rollover is to provide fiscal relief to the Maldives, which is facing economic stress due to high public debt and limited external financing options.
- **Strategic Policy Goal:** This move aligns with India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy, aimed at reinforcing regional economic stability and diplomatic engagement with neighboring countries.





## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Soft Power and Diplomacy:** Despite recent diplomatic tensions, India's decision reflects a mature foreign policy approach that emphasizes economic cooperation and regional goodwill as tools of influence.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Treasury Bill:**
  - A short-term debt instrument issued by a government, usually for durations ranging from a few weeks to one year.
  - Treasury bills are often used to meet immediate funding requirements and are considered low-risk investments.
- **Rollover:**
  - The process of renewing or extending the maturity period of a debt instrument.
  - In this context, India chose to renew its 2023 investment in the Maldives' treasury bill for another year rather than demanding repayment.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Neighbourhood First Policy:**
  - India's strategic foreign policy initiative that prioritizes economic and diplomatic engagement with neighboring countries, especially those in South Asia, to promote regional peace, stability, and cooperation.
- **State Bank of India (SBI):**
  - India's largest public sector bank, which plays a key role in executing international financial transactions, especially in bilateral arrangements involving government-to-government support.



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Rollover of \$50 million treasury bill to Maldives
Location	Transaction facilitated via State Bank of India
Date	May 12, 2025
Amount	\$50 million
Instrument Used	Treasury Bill
Beneficiary	Government of Maldives
Facilitating Bank	State Bank of India (SBI)
Policy Alignment	Neighbourhood First Policy
Purpose of Support	Economic relief, regional stability, and debt management
Strategic Relevance	Reinforces India's influence in the Indian Ocean and South Asia



➤ What is the name of the new specialized deposit scheme launched by Union Bank of India in May 2025?



- A) Union Advantage Account
- B) Union Savings Pro
- C) Union Wealth Deposit
- D) Union Wellness Deposit
- E) Union Care Deposit



**Answer**

**D) Union Wellness Deposit**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Two leading public sector banks, Canara Bank and Union Bank of India, launched tailored deposit schemes to revitalize deposit growth by offering customers both financial and non-financial value.
- **Location:** The product announcements were made at the headquarters of the respective banks, with Canara Bank based in Bengaluru and Union Bank headquartered in Mumbai, India.
- **Date:** The schemes were officially launched on May 13, 2025, during a strategic move to counter declining deposit growth rates witnessed in FY25.





## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Primary Objective:** These schemes aim to boost deposit mobilization amid challenging financial conditions and falling deposit growth rates across the public banking sector.
- **Customer-Centric Features:** The new products are designed to offer value-added benefits such as health insurance, lifestyle perks, and higher interest rates, especially targeting senior citizens and high-net-worth individuals.
- **Strategic Focus:** By combining core banking returns with non-banking features, these schemes seek to enhance customer loyalty, engagement, and resource mobilization for the banks.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Canara TruEdge:**
  - A comprehensive banking product under Canara Bank's current and savings account segment.
  - It includes charge waivers, dedicated relationship management, and customized features based on the customer's monthly average balance (MAB).
- **Union Wellness Deposit:**
  - A specialized fixed deposit scheme by Union Bank offering an interest rate of 6.75% for 375 days, with health insurance cover of ₹5 lakh, lifestyle benefits via RuPay Select Debit Card, and 0.50% extra interest for senior citizens.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Super Top-up Health Insurance:**
  - An additional health insurance layer provided on top of base insurance coverage, allowing customers to cover large hospitalisation expenses at lower premiums.
- **Resource Mobilization:**
  - The process of attracting and managing customer deposits to increase liquidity, fund loans, and maintain profitability in banking operations.



# BANKING AND FINANCE



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Launch of customized deposit schemes by Canara Bank and Union Bank
Location	Bengaluru (Canara Bank), Mumbai (Union Bank)
Date	May 13, 2025
Canara Bank Scheme	Canara TruEdge – personalized CASA offering
Union Bank Scheme	Union Wellness Deposit – 375-day term deposit with health benefits
Interest Rate (UWB)	6.75% (7.25% for senior citizens)
Special Features (UWB)	₹5 lakh Super Top-up Insurance, RuPay Select Debit Card, lifestyle perks
Deposit Range (UWB)	₹10 lakh to ₹3 crore
Target Customers	High-value individuals and senior citizens
Strategic Aim	Boost deposit growth, customer retention, and resource mobilization



➤ By what percentage did India's coal imports decline during April 2024 to February 2025 compared to the previous year?

- A) 7.5%
- B) 5.9%
- C) 9.2%
- D) 10.1%
- E) 6.8%

**Answer**  
**C) 9.2%**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** India recorded a 9.2% decline in coal imports during the April 2024 to February 2025 period, as part of its ongoing strategy to strengthen energy security and self-reliance.
- **Location:** The data was reported by the Ministry of Coal, Government of India, headquartered in New Delhi, based on nationwide coal import and production figures across ports and thermal power stations.
- **Date:** The update reflects statistics compiled for the period April 2024 to February 2025, and was officially highlighted in the second week of May 2025.





## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of Import Reduction:** The goal of the initiative is to minimize dependence on foreign coal, particularly thermal and coking grades, by boosting domestic production and cutting down on unnecessary forex outflows.
- **Strategic Intent:** Through schemes like Commercial Coal Mining and Mission Coking Coal, the government aims to liberalize the coal sector, invite private sector participation, and achieve energy self-sufficiency under the broader Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Economic Benefit:** The import reduction during the 11-month period led to foreign exchange savings worth \$6.93 billion, directly strengthening India's trade balance and domestic industrial base.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Commercial Coal Mining:**
  - A major reform initiated by the Ministry of Coal to allow private players to mine coal for commercial sale, increasing output, competition, and reducing import needs.
- **Mission Coking Coal:**
  - A targeted program launched to reduce dependency on imported coking coal, especially for use in steel manufacturing, by ramping up indigenous exploration and production.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Non-Regulated Sector:**
  - Industries not governed by central power tariff regulations (like steel, cement, and sponge iron units) that traditionally depend on imported coal, now being shifted to domestic alternatives.
- **Power Sector Blending:**
  - The practice of mixing imported coal with domestic coal for thermal power plants. A 38.8% reduction in blending coal imports signals growing confidence in local coal quality.



# BUSINESS AND ECONOMY



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	India's coal imports dropped by 9.2%
Location	Nationwide (reported by Ministry of Coal, New Delhi)
Data Period	April 2024 – February 2025
Imports This Period	220.3 million tonnes
Previous Year Same Period Imports	242.6 million tonnes
Year-on-Year Drop	9.2%
Forex Saved	\$6.93 billion (₹53,137.82 crore)
Domestic Coal Production Growth	5.45%
Biggest Decline Areas	Non-Regulated Sector (-15.3%), Blending Coal (-38.8%)
Key Government Initiatives	Commercial Coal Mining, Mission Coking Coal
Overall Goal	Import reduction, energy independence, and economic sustainability



➤ What is the total quantity of FCI rice allocated for ethanol production during the 2024–25 Ethanol Supply Year?

- A) 2.4 million tonnes
- B) 2.8 million tonnes
- C) 5.2 million tonnes
- D) 4.5 million tonnes
- E) 3.6 million tonnes

**Answer**

**C) 5.2 million tonnes**





## Event and Location:

- **Event:** The Government of India approved an additional allocation of 2.8 million tonnes of FCI rice for ethanol production, bringing the total allocation to 5.2 million tonnes under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme.
- **Location:** The decision was announced by the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, headquartered in New Delhi, in coordination with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.



## Event and Location:

- **Date:** The additional allocation was approved on May 12, 2025, for the Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2024–25, which runs from December 2024 to October 2025.



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Clean Energy Goal:** The allocation is a key step toward achieving 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2025–26, in line with India's National Bioenergy Policy and climate goals.
- **Import Reduction and Energy Security:** The EBP Programme aims to reduce India's reliance on imported fossil fuels, cut carbon emissions, and promote energy self-reliance.
- **Farmer Support and Food Surplus Utilization:** The programme creates alternative demand for crops, providing remunerative prices to farmers and helping to offload excess foodgrain stocks held by the FCI.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme:**
  - An initiative by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas launched to blend ethanol with petrol, initially targeting 10% and now moving toward 20% blending by 2025–26.
  - Ethanol is sourced from sugarcane, maize, and surplus rice.
- **Ethanol Supply Year (ESY):**
  - The fiscal cycle for ethanol procurement and blending, running from December to October of the following year.
  - For 2024–25, it spans December 2024 to October 2025.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **First-Generation (1G) Biofuels:**
  - Biofuels derived from edible crops such as rice, maize, and sugarcane.
  - While effective, they raise concerns regarding food security and resource competition.
- **Second-Generation (2G) Biofuels:**
  - Produced from agricultural residues, non-food biomass, and waste.
  - These are more sustainable, though often costlier and technologically intensive.



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Additional allocation of FCI rice for ethanol production
Location	New Delhi (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, FCI, and Petroleum Ministry)
Date of Approval	May 12, 2025
Total FCI Rice Allocated	5.2 million tonnes (2.8 million tonnes newly added)
Issue Price for Distilleries	₹22.50 per kg
Ethanol Output Expected	~2.45 billion litres
Ethanol Supply Year (ESY)	December 2024 – October 2025
Blending Target	20% ethanol in petrol by 2025–26
Major Concern	Food security, ethical use of food grains
Conversion Rate	470 litres of ethanol per tonne of rice





# APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who was appointed as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in May 2025?**

- A) Rajiv Gauba
- B) Preeti Sudan
- C) Ajay Kumar
- D) V.K. Saraswat
- E) T.V. Somanathan

**Answer**  
**C) Ajay Kumar**



# APPOINTMENTS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Ajay Kumar, a retired 1985-batch IAS officer and former Defence Secretary, has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), taking over after Preeti Sudan's tenure concluded.
- **Location:** The appointment pertains to the UPSC headquarters at Dholpur House, New Delhi, the constitutional body responsible for recruitment to India's civil services.
- **Date:** The appointment was made official on May 14, 2025, following approval from the President of India, Droupadi Murmu.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of Appointment:** The appointment aims to bring multi-sectoral administrative expertise to the UPSC, as Ajay Kumar has previously served in defence, electronics, IT governance, and state administration roles.
- **Organizational Role:** As Chairman of the UPSC, he will oversee civil services examinations, recruitment policies, and reforms affecting thousands of aspirants nationwide. The role involves ensuring transparency, merit-based selection, and policy innovation.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Strategic Vision:** With his background in defence reforms, digital governance, and economic policy, Ajay Kumar is expected to modernize recruitment frameworks, strengthen tech-enabled examination processes, and promote inclusivity in civil services.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Important Terms Explained:

- **UPSC (Union Public Service Commission):**
  - A constitutional body established under Articles 315–323 of the Indian Constitution.
  - It conducts prestigious national-level exams like the Civil Services Examination (IAS, IPS, IFS, etc.), and its decisions are binding on recruitment matters in Group A and B services.
- **Chairman of UPSC:**
  - The head of the commission, responsible for guiding recruitment and examination processes. The term is 6 years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Ajay Kumar:**
  - A highly accomplished IAS officer (Kerala cadre) and former Defence Secretary (2019–2022). Known for implementing defence reforms, launching the CDS post, rolling out Agniveer, and key contributions to Digital India.
- **Preeti Sudan:**
  - The outgoing UPSC Chairperson whose tenure ended on April 29, 2025. She was a former Health Secretary and a key policymaker during the COVID-19 pandemic.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Appointment of new UPSC Chairman
Location	UPSC Headquarters, Dholpur House, New Delhi
Date	May 14, 2025
Appointed As	Chairman of UPSC
Appointee	Ajay Kumar
Previous Role	Defence Secretary (2019–2022)
Cadre & Batch	1985-batch IAS officer, Kerala cadre
Replaces	Preeti Sudan (tenure ended April 29, 2025)
Educational Qualifications	PhD in Business Admin, MS (Univ. of Minnesota), BTech (IIT Kanpur)
Key Contributions	CDS creation, Agniveer scheme, UPI, Aadhaar, MyGov, GeM
UPSC Chairman Term	6 years or until 65 years of age (whichever is earlier)





# APPOINTMENTS



➤ Who has been appointed as Canada's new Minister of Foreign Affairs in May 2025?

- A) Mélanie Joly
- B) Jagmeet Singh
- C) Harjit Sajjan
- D) Anita Anand
- E) Kamal Khera

**Answer**  
**D) Anita Anand**



# APPOINTMENTS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Indian-origin Canadian politician Anita Anand has been appointed as the new Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, becoming the first Hindu woman to hold this position in the country's history.
- **Location:** The announcement was made in Ottawa, the capital of Canada, during a cabinet reshuffle by newly elected Prime Minister Mark Carney following his electoral victory in April 2025.
- **Date:** The appointment was confirmed on May 14, 2025, as part of a broader post-election restructuring of the Canadian federal cabinet.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of Appointment:** Anita Anand's appointment comes at a time when Canada faces strained diplomatic ties with India and evolving relations with the United States under President Donald Trump. Her selection reflects the need for experienced, culturally attuned leadership in foreign affairs.
- **Strategic Goals:** Her primary mandates include resetting India-Canada relations, managing Canada-US trade and sovereignty issues, and representing Canada on critical global platforms with a voice that blends diplomacy, diversity, and strategic clarity.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Leadership Trust:** Having earlier announced a return to academia, Anita Anand's return was personally encouraged by PM Mark Carney, indicating strong leadership confidence in her capacity to navigate geopolitical challenges with professionalism and nuance.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Minister of Foreign Affairs (Canada):**
  - The top diplomat in the Canadian government, responsible for managing international relations, diplomatic missions, and foreign trade policies.
- **Anita Anand:**
  - A senior Liberal Party leader of Indian origin, she is Canada's first Hindu woman to lead the Foreign Affairs Ministry. She previously held portfolios in Defence, Transport, and Public Procurement, and is known for her sharp legal acumen and progressive politics.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Bhagavad Gita (Oath Symbol):**
  - Anand took her oath on the Bhagavad Gita, highlighting her Hindu heritage and symbolizing religious diversity in Canadian public life.
- **Mark Carney:**
  - A former central banker and finance leader, Mark Carney became Prime Minister of Canada in April 2025, succeeding Justin Trudeau after a sweeping electoral win.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Appointment of Anita Anand as Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs
Location	Ottawa, Canada
Date	May 14, 2025
Appointed By	Prime Minister Mark Carney
Replaces	Mélanie Joly (moved to Industry Ministry)
Significance	First Hindu woman to serve as Canada's top diplomat
Oath Symbol	Took oath on Bhagavad Gita
Major Portfolios Held	Defence, Transport, Public Procurement, Treasury Board
Key Diplomatic Challenges	Canada-India relations, US-Canada relations under President Trump
Educational Background	BA – Queen's, Jurisprudence – Oxford, LLB – Dalhousie, LLM – Toronto
Political Start	Elected to Parliament in 2019 (Oakville, Ontario)





# APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Why is Justice B.R. Gavai's appointment as the 52<sup>nd</sup> Chief Justice of India considered historic?**

- A) He is the first Sikh CJI
- B) He served the longest tenure as a judge
- C) He is the first Buddhist to become CJI
- D) He was elected by Parliament
- E) He is the youngest CJI ever



**Answer**

**C) He is the first Buddhist to become CJI**



# APPOINTMENTS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Justice Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai was sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI), succeeding Justice Sanjiv Khanna who demitted office on May 13, 2025.
- **Location:** The swearing-in ceremony was conducted at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, with President Droupadi Murmu administering the oath of office.
- **Date:** The historic appointment took place on May 14, 2025, marking a significant milestone in India's judicial and constitutional evolution.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Diversity and Representation:** Justice Gavai's elevation is a major milestone for social inclusion in India's judiciary. He is the first Buddhist and one of the very few judges from the Scheduled Caste (SC) community to be appointed as Chief Justice, breaking long-standing barriers in representation.
- **Judicial Leadership:** His tenure as the head of the judiciary is expected to focus on constitutional values, judicial independence, and balanced institutional functioning of the legislature, executive, and judiciary.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Symbolic Significance:** The appointment symbolizes a progressive shift in judicial leadership and demonstrates India's commitment to upholding equality and representation at the highest level of its legal system.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Chief Justice of India (CJI):**
  - The highest-ranking judge of the Supreme Court and the head of the Indian judiciary.
  - The CJI is responsible for the allocation of cases and presides over constitutional benches.
- **Scheduled Caste (SC):**
  - A constitutionally recognized category representing historically disadvantaged communities in India.
  - Justice Gavai's appointment promotes social equity and judicial diversity.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Rashtrapati Bhavan:**
  - The official residence of the President of India, where ceremonial functions such as swearing-in ceremonies of key constitutional posts are conducted.
- **Blue Revolution in Judiciary:**
  - Though symbolic, Justice Gavai's appointment is seen as part of a wider movement to democratize access to top roles in India's legal and constitutional institutions, ensuring that merit and representation go hand in hand.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Appointment of Justice B.R. Gavai as the 52nd Chief Justice of India
Location	Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
Date	May 14, 2025
Appointed By	President Droupadi Murmu
Predecessor	Justice Sanjiv Khanna
Tenure Ends On	November 23, 2025
Significance	First Buddhist CJI; represents SC community
Career Highlights	Bombay HC Judge (2003), SC Judge (2019), Constitutional Bench Member
Focus Areas	Judicial independence, diversity, constitutional supremacy





# AWARDS



➤ **At the 2025 World Bank Land Conference, India was awarded the title of 'Country Champion' in recognition of which key rural development initiatives?**

- A) PM-KISAN and Jal Jeevan Mission
- B) MGNREGA and Digital India Land Records
- C) SVAMITVA and Gram Manchitra
- D) PM Awas Yojana and BharatNet
- E) PMFBY and National Rural Health Mission

**Answer**

**C) SVAMITVA and Gram Manchitra**



# AWARDS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** India was officially recognized as a 'Country Champion' for its achievements in rural land governance and digital planning at the World Bank Land Conference 2025.
- **Location:** The event was hosted globally under the aegis of the World Bank, with participation from multiple countries, international institutions, and policy stakeholders.
- **Date:** The recognition was announced in May 2025, marking a major milestone in India's leadership in land reforms and decentralized governance systems.



# AWARDS



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of Recognition:** India received the Country Champion title for its pioneering efforts in digital land governance, land rights formalization, and rural planning using technology-driven models.
- **Schemes Highlighted:** The SVAMITVA scheme and the Gram Manchitra platform were praised as scalable, data-driven tools that improved clarity of land ownership, enabled financial inclusion, and empowered grassroots planning.



# AWARDS



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Long-Term Goal:** The recognition aims to position India as a global model for other developing countries in the Global South, promoting sustainable development, climate resilience, and gender-inclusive land governance systems.



# AWARDS



## Important Terms Explained:

- **SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas):**
  - A Central Sector Scheme launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to provide rural residents with accurate property records through drone-based mapping.
  - It enables formal ownership recognition, facilitates asset monetization, and boosts access to institutional credit.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Gram Manchitra:**
  - A GIS-based digital platform developed to help Gram Panchayats plan local development more effectively.
  - It integrates multiple data sources to support convergence of government schemes, improve infrastructure planning, and build climate-resilient villages.



# AWARDS



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Country Champion:**
  - An honorary designation conferred by international organizations like the World Bank to nations that demonstrate leadership, innovation, and impact in specific sectors.
  - India earned this title in land governance for its transformative use of digital technologies in rural development.





# AWARDS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	World Bank Land Conference 2025
Location	Global platform hosted by the World Bank
Date	May 2025
India's Role	Recognized as 'Country Champion'
Schemes Highlighted	SVAMITVA and Gram Manchitra
Technology Used	Drone Mapping, GIS-based Planning
SVAMITVA Area Surveyed	68,000 sq. km
Land Value Monetized	₹1.16 trillion
Gram Manchitra Key Focus	Scheme convergence, climate resilience, village development
Global Impact	Model for Global South, empowering women, boosting rural investment



# AWARDS



➤ Who received the Honorary Palme d'Or at the 78<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival in 2025?

- A) Martin Scorsese
- B) David Lynch
- C) Robert De Niro
- D) Leonardo DiCaprio
- E) Tom Hanks

**Answer**

**C) Robert De Niro**



# AWARDS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** The 78<sup>th</sup> Festival de Cannes commenced with a powerful opening ceremony blending cinema, political reflection, and artistic tributes.
- **Location:** The opening took place at the Grand Théâtre Lumière, located in Cannes, France, the traditional and iconic venue of the world-renowned film festival.
- **Date:** The festival began on May 13, 2025, kicking off twelve days of international film premieres, cultural dialogue, and cinematic celebrations.



# AWARDS



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of the Festival:** The Cannes Film Festival serves as a global platform for recognizing excellence in cinema, advancing cultural diplomacy, and upholding freedom of expression through art.
- **Artistic Intent:** The 78<sup>th</sup> edition emphasized cinema's role in defending democracy, honoring legacy voices, and supporting emerging storytellers, especially from conflict-affected regions.
- **Social Responsibility:** The festival reinforced the moral responsibility of artists to reflect social realities and challenge oppressive systems through film and storytelling.



# AWARDS



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Palme d'Or:**
  - The highest prize awarded at the Cannes Film Festival, given to the best film in competition. It symbolizes cinematic excellence and global artistic impact.
- **Honorary Palme d'Or:**
  - An honorary award given to lifetime contributors to global cinema. In 2025, Robert De Niro received this honor for his enduring impact on acting and storytelling.



# AWARDS



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Grand Théâtre Lumière:**
  - The main screening hall of the Cannes Film Festival, renowned for hosting prestigious premieres and star-studded red carpet events.
- **Juliette Binoche:**
  - An award-winning French actress, selected as President of the Feature Film Jury for the 78th Cannes Film Festival.
- **Fatima Hassouna:**
  - A Gaza-based photojournalist posthumously honored during the festival. She died in an airstrike shortly after learning that a film featuring her had been selected at Cannes.



# AWARDS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	78 <sup>th</sup> Festival de Cannes
Location	Grand Théâtre Lumière, Cannes, France
Date of Opening	May 13, 2025
Host	Laurent Lafitte
Jury President	Juliette Binoche
Jury Members	Halle Berry, Payal Kapadia, Alba Rohrwacher, Hong Sangsoo, etc.
Honorary Palme d'Or	Robert De Niro
Tributes	Émilie Dequenne, Fatima Hassouna, David Lynch
Performance	Mylène Farmer's tribute to David Lynch
Festival Themes	Freedom, Inclusivity, Democracy, Cultural Expression





# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



➤ **What is the total value of the arms deal signed between the US and Saudi Arabia during President Trump's Riyadh visit in May 2017?**

- A) \$75 billion
- B) \$100 billion
- C) \$142 billion
- D) \$90 billion
- E) \$120 billion

**Answer**  
**C) \$142 billion**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** The United States and Saudi Arabia finalized a historic \$142 billion arms deal, making it the largest defence agreement ever signed between the two countries.
- **Location:** The agreement was signed in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, during an official visit by US President Donald Trump and hosted by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.
- **Date:** The deal was officially concluded on May 13, 2025, as part of President Trump's diplomatic tour of the Middle East.



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of the Deal:** The arms agreement aims to enhance Saudi Arabia's defence capabilities, strengthen US-Saudi strategic partnerships, and boost American defence exports and job creation.
- **Geopolitical Intent:** The deal is positioned to counter regional threats, particularly from Iran and militant groups, while maintaining security stability in the Gulf region.
- **Economic Strategy:** The arms sale also reflects President Trump's broader foreign policy strategy, combining economic diplomacy with military alliances, aiming to increase US manufacturing output and attract Gulf investments.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **AIM-120C-8 Missiles:**
  - An advanced air-to-air missile system manufactured by RTX Corp.
  - It features active radar guidance, extended range, and is capable of engaging enemy aircraft in all weather conditions.
- **RTX Corporation:**
  - A leading US defence contractor, formerly part of Raytheon Technologies.
  - It is based in Tucson, Arizona, and plays a critical role in missile and radar technology.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **US Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA):**
  - A branch of the US Department of Defense responsible for managing foreign military sales (FMS) and coordinating international defence assistance programs.
- **Economic Diplomacy:**
  - A foreign policy strategy that uses trade, investment, and commercial relationships to achieve diplomatic goals, as seen in President Trump's efforts to align defence deals with broader economic engagements.



# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	US-Saudi Arabia sign \$142 billion arms deal
Location	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Date	May 13, 2025
Participants	US President Donald Trump, Crown Prince MBS
Deal Value	\$142 billion
Key Components	AIM-120C-8 missiles, radar systems, gas turbines, support services
Manufacturer	RTX Corp (Tucson, Arizona)
Purpose	Enhance Saudi defence, counter Iran, create US jobs
Associated Sale	\$3.3 billion deal for 1,000 missiles approved earlier in May 2025
Strategic Relevance	Largest arms deal in US history; strengthens regional alliances



- Which company established India's first 3nm semiconductor design centres inaugurated in Noida and Bengaluru in 2025?



RENESAS

- A) Intel India
- B) Lam Research
- C) Renesas Electronics India
- D) Applied Materials
- E) TSMC

**Answer**

**C) Renesas Electronics India**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated India's first-ever 3nm semiconductor chip design centres, a major step in the country's semiconductor and electronics roadmap.
- **Location:** The facilities are located in Noida (Uttar Pradesh) and Bengaluru (Karnataka), and were set up by Renesas Electronics India, a global leader in embedded semiconductor solutions.
- **Date:** The inauguration was held in May 2025, marking a strategic milestone in India's semiconductor journey under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.





## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of Launch:** The inauguration of these design centres signifies India's technological progression from 7nm and 5nm chips to advanced 3nm design, thereby strengthening its goal of becoming a global semiconductor hub.
- **Government's Broader Vision:** The initiative is a part of India's holistic semiconductor strategy, which includes design, fabrication, ATMP (Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging), and ecosystem development to reduce import dependence and enhance supply chain resilience.



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Academic and Industry Support:** Over 270 educational institutions have been provided with EDA tools and semiconductor learning kits, aiming to produce industry-ready chip designers and innovators in alignment with schemes like Design Linked Incentive (DLI) and Chips to Startup (C2S).



## Important Terms Explained:

- **3nm Chip Design:**
  - A 3-nanometer node refers to the latest generation of semiconductor technology where transistor gate lengths are only 3nm wide, enabling higher speed, lower power consumption, and greater chip density than earlier 5nm or 7nm nodes.
- **Renesas Electronics India:**
  - A subsidiary of Japan-based Renesas Electronics Corporation, specializing in embedded semiconductor solutions. Renesas is known globally for innovations in automotive, industrial, and consumer chip solutions.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):**
  - A flagship government initiative under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, launched to build a self-reliant semiconductor ecosystem through infrastructure creation, design incentives, and skilled workforce development.
- **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme:**
  - Part of the ISM, this scheme supports domestic startups, MSMEs, and companies involved in semiconductor design by offering financial incentives and infrastructure access.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme:**
  - A government scheme aimed at developing 20,000+ specialised engineers in Very Large-Scale Integration (VLSI) and chip design by enabling collaboration between academia, startups, and the semiconductor industry.



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Inauguration of India's first 3nm chip design centres
Location	Noida (Uttar Pradesh) and Bengaluru (Karnataka)
Date	May 2025
Inaugurated By	Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw
Company Involved	Renesas Electronics India
Technological Milestone	India enters advanced 3nm semiconductor design era
Government Schemes Linked	India Semiconductor Mission, DLI, Chips to Startup
Academic Participation	270+ institutions with EDA tools and semiconductor learning kits
Strategic Significance	Enhances chip self-reliance; supports electronics, defense, and medical sectors
Global Partnerships	Applied Materials, Lam Research, Indo-Japan collaboration



- Which Indian state launched a policy in 2025 to mandate the use of artificial sand (m-sand) in government construction projects?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Karnataka
- D) Tamil Nadu
- E) Andhra Pradesh

**Answer**  
**B) Maharashtra**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** The Maharashtra state government approved and launched the Artificial Sand Promotion Policy 2025, aimed at replacing natural river sand with environmentally friendly manufactured sand (m-sand) in construction.
- **Location:** The policy was framed and approved in a cabinet meeting held in Mumbai, the capital of Maharashtra, with implementation directed across all districts in the state.
- **Date:** The new artificial sand policy was announced and approved on May 13, 2025, during a meeting chaired by the state cabinet to advance sustainable construction practices.





## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose of the Policy:** The primary aim is to reduce environmental damage caused by river sand mining and promote the widespread use of artificial sand (m-sand) in government-related construction.
- **Implementation Strategy:** The policy makes it mandatory for all government and semi-government construction projects to use m-sand and includes measures to boost production capacity, simplify crusher setup, and provide industry incentives.



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Sustainability Goals:** The initiative is part of Maharashtra's broader commitment to conserving river ecosystems, curbing illegal sand mining, and aligning with National Green Tribunal (NGT) guidelines for environmental protection.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **M-sand (Manufactured Sand):**
  - A sustainable construction material made by crushing hard rocks such as granite into fine particles.
  - M-sand offers consistent grain size, better strength, and is considered a green alternative to river sand.
- **Royalty (in mining context):**
  - A fee charged by the government for the use of natural resources.
  - Maharashtra's policy fixes royalty for m-sand at ₹200 per brass, significantly lower than ₹600 per brass for natural sand, making m-sand economically attractive.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises):**
  - Businesses recognized under India's MSME classification enjoy subsidies, easier credit access, and support schemes.
  - M-sand producers in Maharashtra will now get MSME recognition and benefits.
- **Crusher Units:**
  - Machines that process rocks into construction-grade m-sand.
  - The policy allows 50 new crushers per district, totaling 1,500 units across the state, with land leased out on a first-come, first-served basis.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Transition Period:**
  - Stone crusher owners have 3 years to shift operations toward artificial sand production or risk license cancellation, encouraging rapid adoption of the new policy.



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Launch of Maharashtra Artificial Sand Promotion Policy
Location	Mumbai, Maharashtra
Date	May 13, 2025
Policy Name	Maharashtra Artificial Sand Promotion Policy (2025)
Mandatory Usage	M-sand for all government and semi-government construction
Approved Crushers	50 per district; 1,500 total across Maharashtra
Royalty on M-sand	₹200 per brass
Royalty on Natural Sand	₹600 per brass
Industry Benefits	MSME status, subsidies, first-come land allotment
Environmental Impact	Stops river sand mining, supports water conservation, ecosystem revival
Transition Timeframe	3 years for stone crushers to switch to m-sand



➤ Which three rivers in Jammu & Kashmir have been designated as National Waterways under the IWAI's latest inland navigation project?

- A) Beas, Satluj, Jhelum
- B) Ganga, Yamuna, Chenab
- C) Chenab, Jhelum, Ravi
- D) Indus, Chenab, Zaskar
- E) Jhelum, Sindh, Tawi

**Answer**

**C) Chenab, Jhelum, Ravi**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) inaugurated a new regional office in Srinagar to accelerate the development of Inland Water Transport (IWT) infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Location:** The office has been established at Transport Bhawan, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, as part of a collaborative plan between IWAI and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Date:** The Srinagar office was officially opened in May 2025, marking a pivotal moment in inland navigation infrastructure development for the Union Territory.





## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Primary Objective:** The goal is to develop sustainable, water-based transport infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir by utilizing key river systems under National Waterway designations.
- **Strategic Goals:** The initiative aims to promote eco-tourism, enhance regional connectivity, and generate local employment, especially in geographically challenging regions.
- **Government Vision Alignment:** The project is aligned with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and green transport policy of the central government, promoting logistics efficiency through river-based movement.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **IWAI (Inland Waterways Authority of India):**
  - An autonomous body under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, responsible for the development, regulation, and maintenance of national inland waterways in India.
- **National Waterways in J&K:**
  - **NW-26 (Chenab River):** Identified for freight and passenger movement in western Jammu.
  - **NW-49 (Jhelum River):** Historically used and now revived for intra-city navigation in Kashmir Valley.
  - **NW-84 (Ravi River):** Targeted for connectivity in the border regions of Jammu.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Floating Jetties:**
  - Temporary or permanent docking structures installed along riverbanks for passenger and cargo handling, to enable seamless river-based transport.
- **Hydrographic Survey:**
  - The process of mapping underwater features, riverbed depth, and obstructions to ensure safe navigation and effective route planning.



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	IWAI opens new office to boost inland waterways in J&K
Location	Transport Bhawan, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir
Date	May 2025
Under Ministry	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Key Waterways	NW-26 (Chenab), NW-49 (Jhelum), NW-84 (Ravi)
Main Infrastructure Plans	Floating jetties, dredging, night navigation aids, hydrographic surveys
MoU Signed With	Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Purpose	Boost eco-tourism, enhance water transport, stimulate economic activity
Strategic Focus	Green logistics, sustainable development, employment generation



➤ Which Indian city hosted the Western Regional Power Conference in May 2025?

- A) Bhopal
- B) Panaji
- C) Gandhinagar
- D) Mumbai
- E) Pune

**Answer**  
**D) Mumbai**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** The Western Regional Power Conference convened to enhance cooperation among Central and State governments on power sector reforms, with a focus on modernization and green energy transition.
- **Location:** The conference was hosted in Mumbai, Maharashtra, bringing together representatives from states including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Date:** Held on May 13, 2025, the event marked a significant milestone in India's regional coordination on energy policy and infrastructure.



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Sector Modernization:** The conference emphasized smart metering, digitization, and use of AI/ML tools in power distribution to reduce losses and improve billing efficiency.
- **Net Zero Goals:** It promoted the creation of Green Energy Zones, expansion of battery and pumped storage systems, and a vision to achieve 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047 as part of India's Net Zero by 2070 commitment.



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Financial Reforms:** Deliberations included addressing DISCOM (distribution company) losses, promoting cost-reflective tariffs, and ensuring timely subsidy payments and dues clearance from state governments.
- **Transmission Expansion:** Detailed plans were discussed for inter-state and intra-state grid development, with funding through TBCB (Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding), Real-Time Market (RTM), and budgetary support, planned till FY 2035.





## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Security & Resilience:** Focus was placed on cybersecurity for power infrastructure and islanding schemes to maintain power supply in critical zones during outages or grid failures.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Smart Metering:**
  - A digital metering system that enables real-time monitoring and prepaid billing, improving efficiency and transparency in electricity consumption and revenue collection.
- **Green Energy Zones:**
  - Designated areas focused on renewable energy generation, including solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear, aligned with India's Net Zero and Viksit Bharat 2047 goals.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **AT&C Losses (Aggregate Technical and Commercial):**
  - Losses that occur due to technical inefficiencies, theft, or billing issues. Reducing AT&C losses is crucial for the financial sustainability of DISCOMs.
- **TBCB (Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding):**
  - A transparent bidding process for awarding power transmission and generation projects, ensuring cost efficiency and private sector participation.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Power Islanding:**
  - An emergency power infrastructure system that allows critical zones to operate independently from the main grid in case of a major disturbance or cyberattack.



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Western Regional Power Conference
Location	Mumbai, Maharashtra
Date	May 13, 2025
Lead Ministers	Union Power Minister Shri Manohar Lal, Maharashtra CM Shri Devendra Fadnavis
States Participated	Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Madhya Pradesh
Smart Metering Target	August 2025 for all government offices and colonies
Green Energy Goals	100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047; Net Zero emissions by 2070
Financial Reform Measures	AT&C loss reduction, cost-reflective tariffs, dues clearance
Transmission Planning	Capacity tie-ups through FY 2035; TBCB and RTM models
Security Focus	Cybersecurity protocols and power islanding schemes



➤ What is the total approved investment for the HCL-Foxconn semiconductor assembly plant in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh?

- A) ₹5,000 crore
- B) ₹4,200 crore
- C) ₹3,706 crore
- D) ₹2,850 crore
- E) ₹6,000 crore



**Answer**

**C) ₹3,706 crore**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** The Union Cabinet approved a ₹3,706 crore joint venture between HCL and Foxconn to set up a semiconductor assembly and packaging plant, marking a major milestone in India's chip-making ambitions.
- **Location:** The project will be established in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh, near the Jewar International Airport within the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) region.
- **Date:** The Cabinet approval was granted in May 2025, and the plant is expected to commence production by 2027.



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mission Goal:** The venture is part of the India Semiconductor Mission, aimed at building a self-reliant semiconductor ecosystem in India by minimizing import dependency and securing supply chains.
- **Strategic Aims:**
  - Meet 40% of India's chip demand domestically.
  - Generate 2,000 direct employment opportunities.
  - Support the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Digital India missions.
  - Turn Uttar Pradesh into a semiconductor manufacturing hub.





## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Technology Focus:** The plant will assemble and package display driver chips, widely used in phones, laptops, cars, and consumer electronics.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):**
  - Launched in 2021 with a ₹76,000 crore outlay, this initiative seeks to create a complete semiconductor ecosystem including chip fabrication, design, assembly, and testing in India.
- **Display Driver Chips:**
  - These are integrated circuits used in digital screens to control pixel operations and signal processing for displays in smartphones, TVs, and vehicles.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Wafer:**
  - A thin slice of semiconductor material, typically silicon, used in the fabrication of integrated circuits.
  - The plant will have a capacity of 20,000 wafers per month.
- **Foxconn:**
  - A Taiwanese multinational electronics manufacturer, best known for assembling Apple products.
  - This is Foxconn's second India attempt after its JV with Vedanta collapsed in 2023 due to tech partner issues.



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Cabinet approval of HCL-Foxconn chip plant
Location	Jewar, Uttar Pradesh
Date of Approval	May 2025
Total Investment	₹3,706 crore
Govt Incentive	₹1,500 crore
Production Capacity	20,000 wafers/month; 36 million chips/month
Start of Operations	2027
Jobs to be Created	2,000 direct jobs
Project Type	Semiconductor assembly and packaging plant
Under Scheme	India Semiconductor Mission
Previous Foxconn JV	Vedanta (collapsed in 2023)



# QUICK RECALL



- Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Jayanti 2025 is celebrated on May 14 to mark his birth in 1657.
- The Government of India has fixed 23rd September as the new date for celebrating Ayurveda Day starting from 2025.
- India won 7 medals at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 held in Shanghai in May 2025.
- Cristiano Ronaldo is the world's highest-paid athlete in 2025 with \$260 million in earnings.
- India rolled over a \$50 million treasury bill to provide debt relief to the Maldives on May 12, 2025.
- Canara Bank and Union Bank of India launched new deposit products on May 13, 2025.
- India recorded a 9.2% drop in coal imports during April 2024 to February 2025.
- The Centre has approved 2.8 million tonnes of additional FCI rice for ethanol for ESY 2024–25.



# QUICK RECALL



- **Ajay Kumar has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission in May 2025.**
- **Anita Anand was appointed as Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs on May 14, 2025.**
- **Justice B.R. Gavai was sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India on May 14, 2025.**
- **India was named the Country Champion at the World Bank Land Conference 2025 for its digital land governance reforms.**
- **The 78th Cannes Film Festival opened on May 13, 2025, at the Grand Théâtre Lumière in France.**
- **The US and Saudi Arabia signed a record \$142 billion arms deal on May 13, 2025.**



# QUICK RECALL



- **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated India's first 3nm chip design centres in Noida and Bengaluru.**
- **Maharashtra launched the Artificial Sand Promotion Policy on May 13, 2025.**
- **IWAI inaugurated its new regional office in Srinagar to enhance inland water transport in Jammu & Kashmir.**
- **The Western Regional Power Conference was held in Mumbai on May 13, 2025.**
- **The Cabinet has approved a ₹3,706 crore HCL-Foxconn semiconductor plant in Jewar, UP.**









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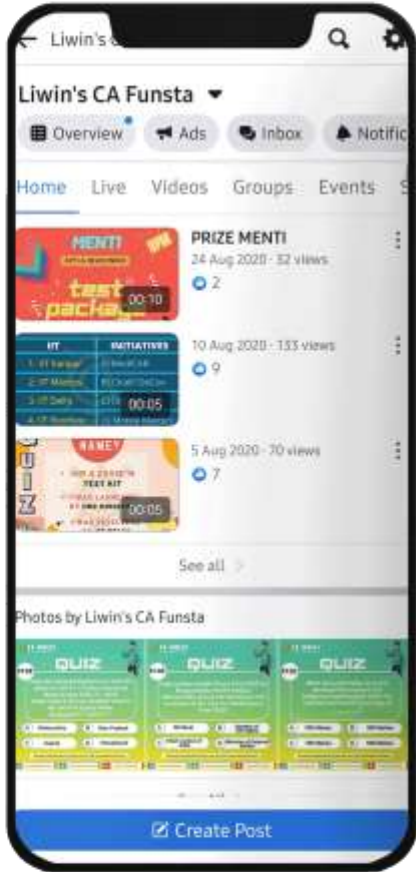
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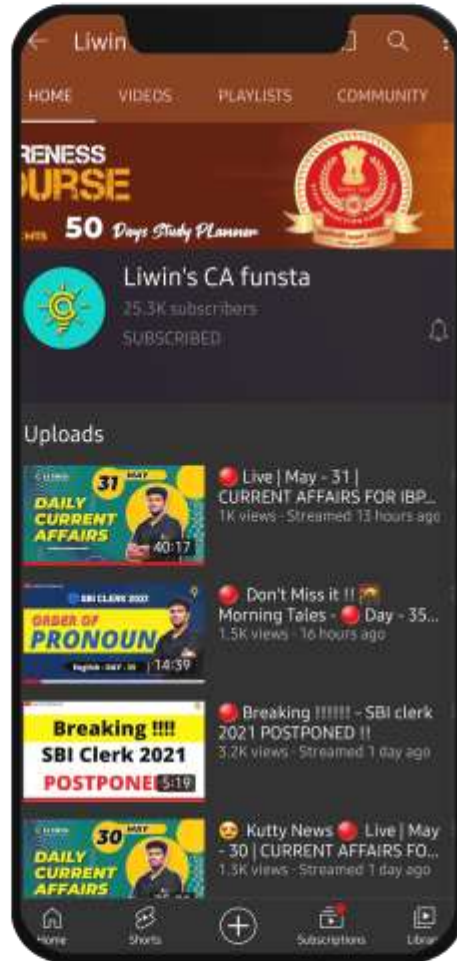


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