



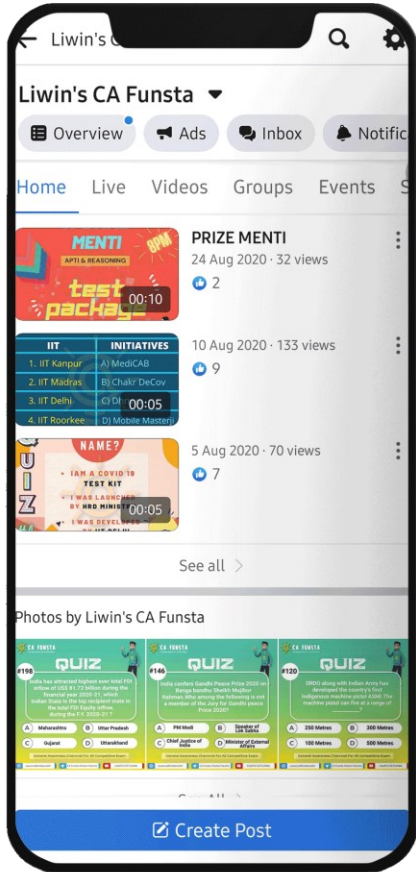
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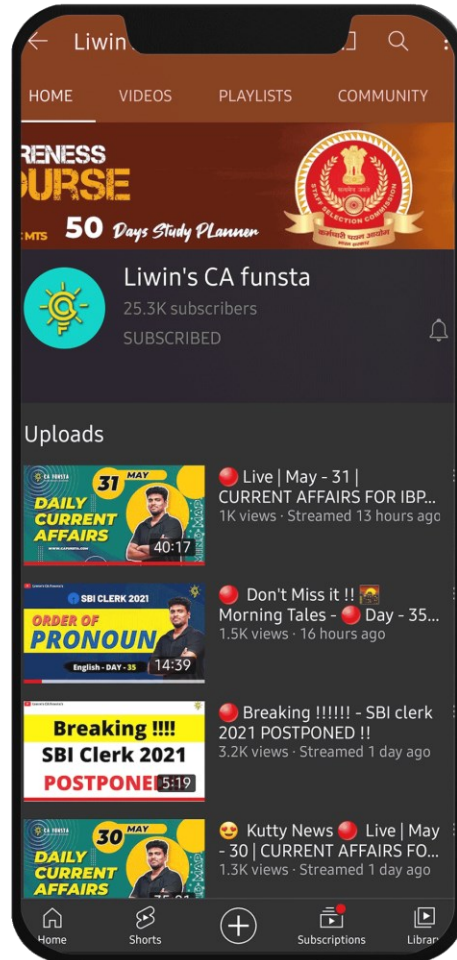
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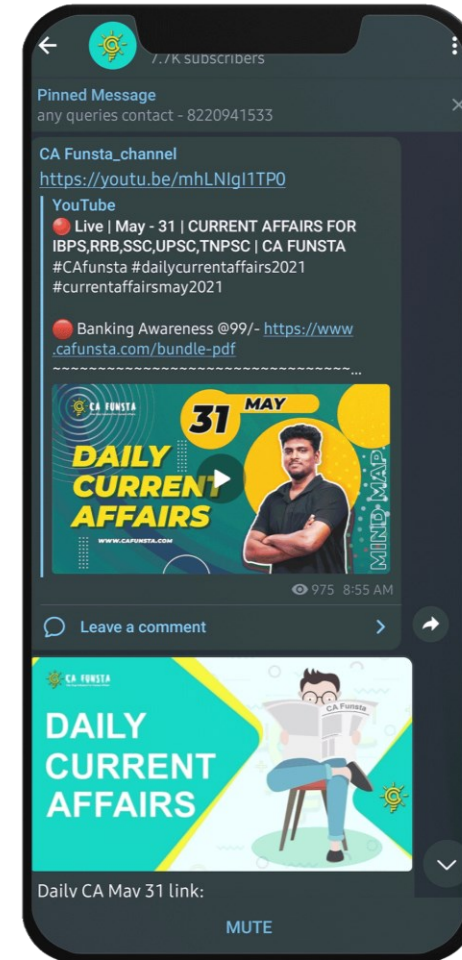
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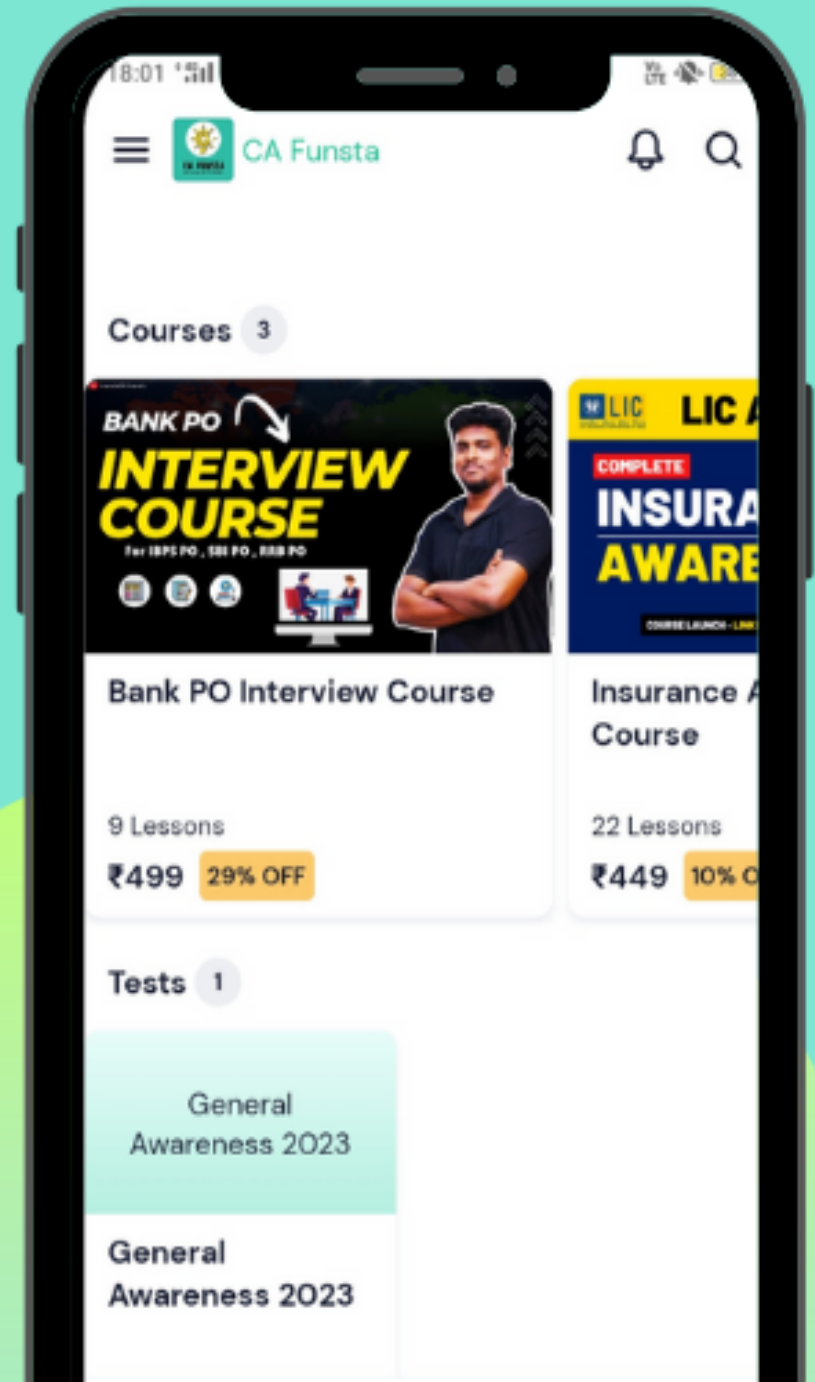
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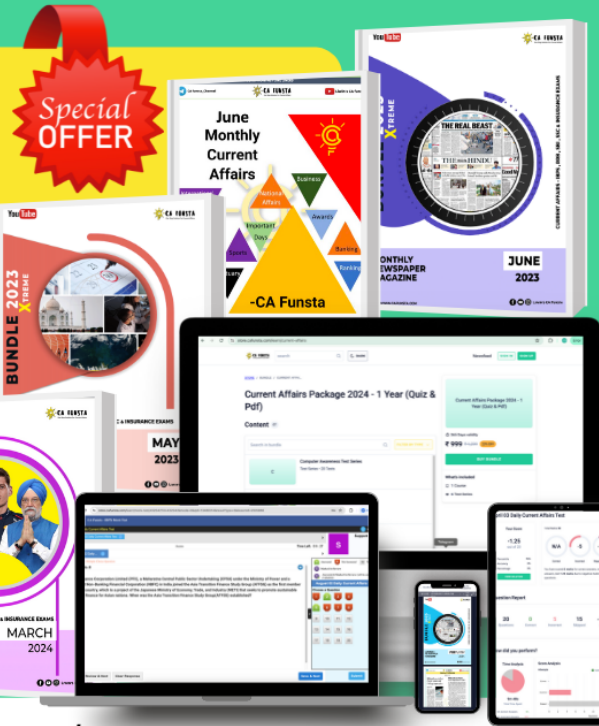
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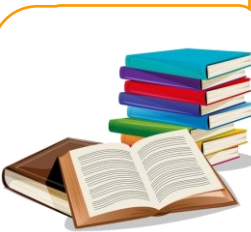
Important Days



➤ On which date is International Human Solidarity Day observed annually?

- A) 10 December
- B) 15 November
- C) 20 December
- D) 1 October
- E) 5 June

Answer
C) 20 December

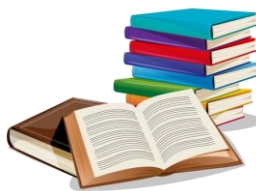


Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Observance of International Human Solidarity Day 2025
- **Location:** Globally observed (United Nations Member States)
- **Date:** 20 December 2025

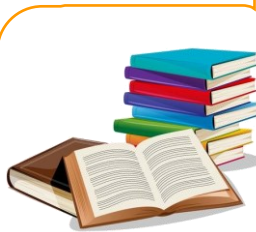


Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** Promote international unity and cooperation through the annual observance of International Human Solidarity Day on 20 December.
- **Objectives:** Eradicate poverty, reduce health inequities, and promote inclusive, equitable development by fostering a global spirit of solidarity and shared responsibility.

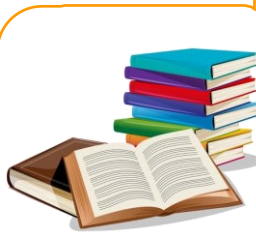


Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **International Human Solidarity Day:** A United Nations observance that emphasizes the importance of global cooperation in addressing common challenges such as poverty, health inequality, and sustainable development.
- **World Solidarity Fund:** A UN-established fund (2002) aimed at supporting initiatives benefiting those living in poverty and promoting equitable development.
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** A collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed by the UN to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030.

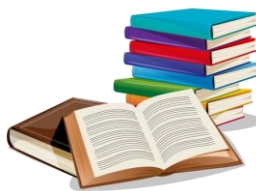


Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	International Human Solidarity Day 2025
Announcement date	20 December 2025
Location	Global observance
Issuing authority	United Nations General Assembly
Policy/series name	World Solidarity Fund
Key figures	António Guterres, UN Member States
Purpose/reason	Promote unity, eradicate poverty, and address global health inequalities
Feature details	Awareness campaigns, seminars, SDG reviews, community-led programs
Validity or status	Observed annually
Strategic/significant value	Supports SDGs including No Poverty, Good Health, Reduced Inequality



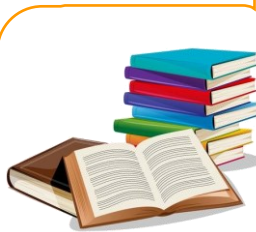
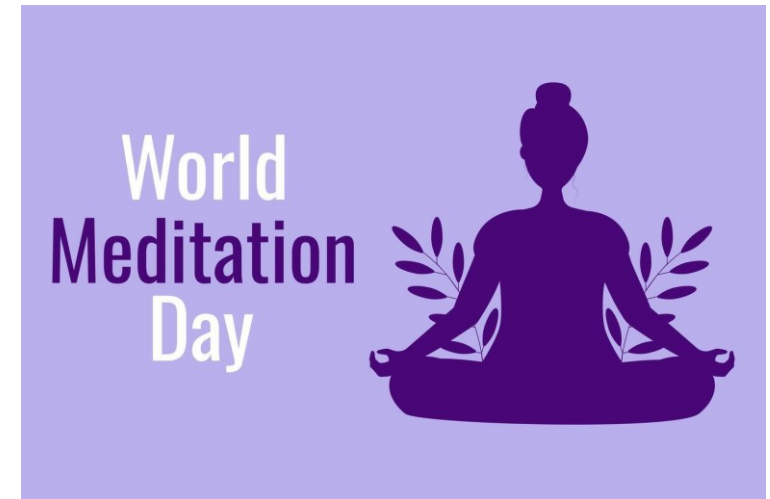
Important Days



➤ **When is World Meditation Day observed as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly?**

- A) 20 June
- B) 21 December
- C) 2 October
- D) 10 October
- E) 5 May

Answer
B) 21 December

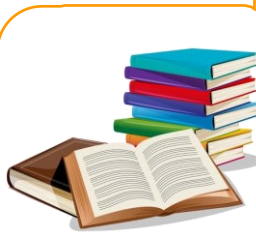


Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** World Meditation Day proclaimed and commemorated by the United Nations
- **Location:** Global; UN Headquarters event held at Trusteeship Council, New York
- **Date:** 21 December (annually); 2nd World Meditation Day event on 19 December 2025

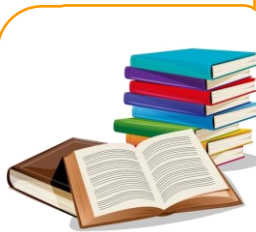


Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - UN General Assembly declared 21 December as World Meditation Day to promote physical and mental well-being for all
 - UN-hosted guided meditation and reflections event led by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar held at UNHQ

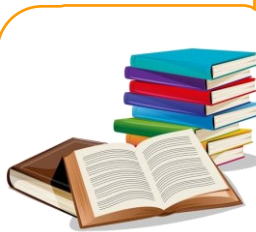


Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:**
 - Promote global awareness of the benefits of meditation for inner peace, health, and harmony
 - Reinforce the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
 - Cultivate unity, empathy, and compassion in response to global challenges
 - Integrate meditation as part of the global strategy for achieving SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being

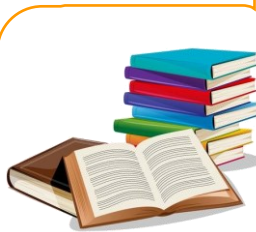


Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **World Meditation Day:** Official UN-recognized day observed on 21 December, emphasizing the universal value of meditation in achieving global peace and personal well-being
- **Meditation:** A practice of focusing the mind to achieve mental clarity and emotional calmness; proven to aid in reducing stress, anxiety, and improving focus and health
- **UN Meditation Room:** A space at the UN Headquarters in New York, created in 1952 by Dag Hammarskjöld, symbolizing introspection and the role of silence in diplomacy

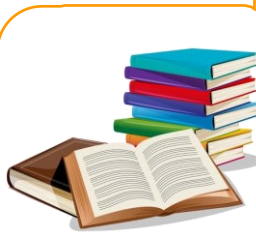


Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being:** A goal under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aiming to ensure health for all, emphasizing both physical and mental health
- **Mindfulness Meditation:** A widely practiced form of meditation that enhances self-awareness, concentration, and emotional balance, supported by WHO for mental health care

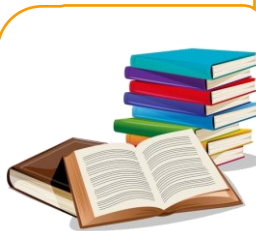


Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	World Meditation Day
Announcement date	Proclaimed by UNGA prior to 2025; 2nd observance in 2025
Location	UN Headquarters, New York; celebrated globally
Issuing authority	United Nations General Assembly
Policy/series name	Global observance under health and well-being promotion
Key figures	Dag Hammarskjöld (historic), Sri Sri Ravi Shankar (event), António Guterres
Purpose/reason	Promote inner peace, stress reduction, mental health awareness
Feature details	Guided meditation session, international expert talks, public outreach
Validity or status	Active annual observance on 21 December
Strategic/significant value	Supports SDG 3, promotes peace, empathy, and sustainable well-being globally



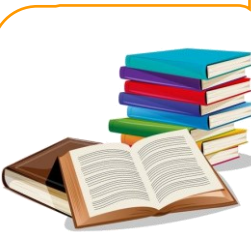
Important Days



➤ **When did the Winter Solstice occur in 2025, marking the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere?**

- A) December 1
- B) December 15
- C) December 21
- D) December 25
- E) December 31

Answer
C) December 21

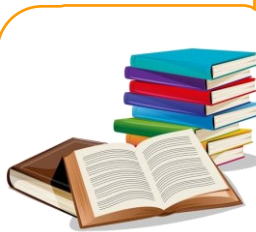


Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Observation of Winter Solstice 2025
- **Location:** Northern Hemisphere (global astronomical event)
- **Date:** 21 December 2025

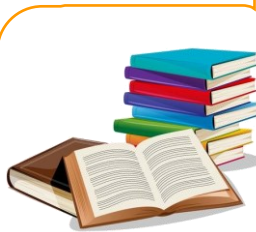


Important Days



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** Recognition and astronomical observation of the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.
- **Objectives:** To increase awareness of seasonal changes due to Earth's axial tilt, understand the scientific significance of solstices, and celebrate ancient traditions associated with the return of longer daylight.

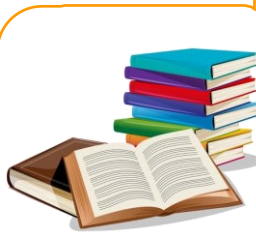


Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Winter Solstice:** The astronomical event that marks the shortest day and longest night of the year, occurring when the Northern Hemisphere is tilted farthest from the Sun.
- **Axial Tilt:** The 23.5° tilt of Earth's axis responsible for seasonal variations in sunlight and day length.
- **Tropic of Capricorn:** The latitude (23.5° S) where the Sun is directly overhead during the December solstice, marking the longest day in the Southern Hemisphere.

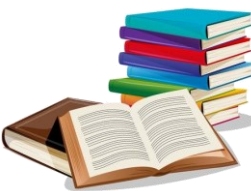


Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	Winter Solstice 2025
Announcement date	21 December 2025
Location	Northern Hemisphere (global relevance)
Issuing authority	Observed by scientific bodies (NASA, ESA, etc.)
Policy/series name	Seasonal Astronomical Event
Key figures	Astronomers, space agencies, cultural historians
Purpose/reason	Marks shortest day, longest night; signals beginning of astronomical winter
Feature details	Sun at lowest point in sky, early sunset, reduced daylight
Validity or status	Annual astronomical occurrence
Strategic/significant value	Cultural significance, scientific understanding of Earth's tilt and seasons

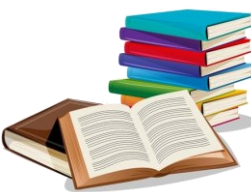


➤ **Which record did Kylian Mbappe equal in Real Madrid's 2-0 win over Sevilla on December 20, 2025?**

- A) Most assists in La Liga history
- B) Fastest hat-trick in a calendar year
- C) Most goals in a calendar year for Real Madrid
- D) Youngest captain for Real Madrid
- E) Most goals in Champions League group stage

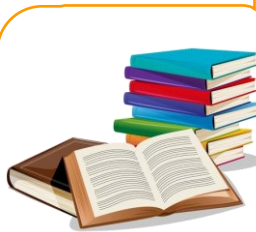
Answer

C) Most goals in a calendar year for Real Madrid



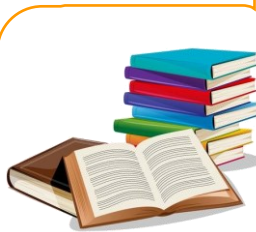
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Kylian Mbappe equalled Cristiano Ronaldo's record of 59 goals in a calendar year
- **Location:** Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, Madrid, Spain
- **Date:** December 20, 2025



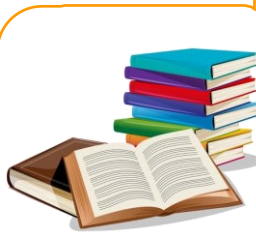
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** Kylian Mbappe scored his 59th goal of the calendar year in Real Madrid's 2-0 win over Sevilla, equalling Ronaldo's 2013 record
- **Objectives:** The win secured crucial points in La Liga, celebrated Mbappe's 27th birthday with a record-equaling performance, and reinforced team morale amid pressure on coach Xabi Alonso



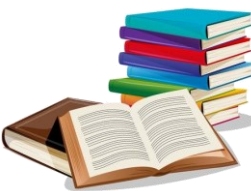
Important Terms Explained:

- **La Liga:** The top professional football division of the Spanish football league system, consisting of 20 teams including Real Madrid and Barcelona
- **Cristiano Ronaldo's 59-goal record (2013):** A historic club record for most goals scored in a calendar year for Real Madrid, previously unmatched until Mbappe's feat in 2025
- **Siu celebration:** The iconic goal celebration of Cristiano Ronaldo, used by Mbappe as a tribute upon equaling the record



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	Mbappe equals Ronaldo's 59-goal calendar year record
Announcement date	December 20, 2025
Location	Santiago Bernabéu, Madrid, Spain
Issuing authority	Real Madrid CF
Policy/series name	Spanish La Liga
Key figures	Kylian Mbappe, Cristiano Ronaldo, Jude Bellingham, Xabi Alonso
Purpose/reason	To celebrate Mbappe's milestone and secure points in title race
Feature details	Goals by Bellingham and Mbappe; Sevilla down to 10 men; coach ejected
Validity or status	Mbappe's record stands equal to Ronaldo's 2013 tally
Strategic/significant value	Boosts morale, supports Alonso's position, enhances Mbappe's legacy

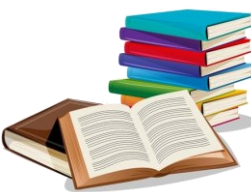


➤ **What clarification did SEBI issue regarding short selling regulations on December 21, 2025?**

- A) Introduced new short selling rules for retail investors
- B) Banned short selling temporarily due to market volatility
- C) Confirmed that no changes were made to the existing short selling framework
- D) Allowed intraday short selling in mutual funds
- E) Made short selling legal for foreign investors only

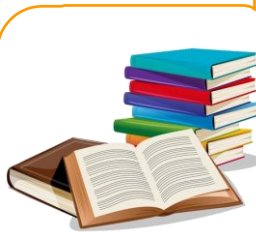
Answer

C) Confirmed that no changes were made to the existing short selling framework



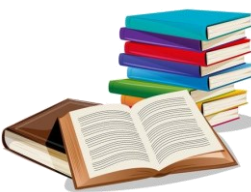
Event and Location:

- **Event:** SEBI clarifies no change in short selling regulations and approves Mutual Fund Regulation overhaul
- **Location:** Mumbai, India (Headquarters of SEBI)
- **Date:** December 21, 2025



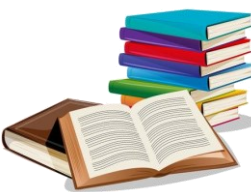
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - Clarification issued by SEBI denying media reports about upcoming changes in the short selling framework
 - Approval of SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 2026, replacing the 1996 norms



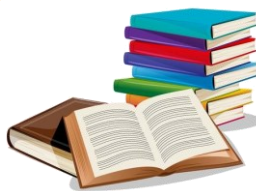
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:**
 - To dispel misinformation regarding short selling
 - To enhance transparency, reduce Total Expense Ratio (TER), and protect investor interests in mutual funds
 - To align mutual fund costs with actuals and streamline the expense structure for improved clarity



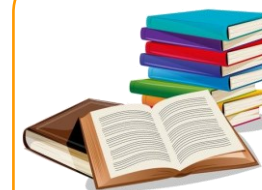
Important Terms Explained:

- **Short Selling:** A trading strategy where an investor borrows and sells a stock, expecting the price to drop so it can be bought back at a lower price and returned, profiting from the difference.
- **Total Expense Ratio (TER):** The percentage of a mutual fund's assets used to cover administrative, management, distribution, and other expenses.
- **Base Expense Ratio (BER):** The core component of TER covering basic fund management costs, excluding statutory levies and brokerage.



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	SEBI Clarifies No Change in Short Selling; Overhauls MF Regulations
Announcement date	December 21, 2025
Location	Mumbai, Maharashtra
Issuing authority	Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
Policy/series name	SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 2026
Key figures	SEBI Board, Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch
Purpose/reason	Ensure transparency, regulate TER structure, protect investor interests
Feature details	Revised TER components, lower BER caps, brokerage limits, performance-linked fees
Validity or status	MF Regulation 2026 approved; to replace 1996 framework
Strategic/significant value	Strengthens mutual fund industry integrity and prevents misinformation



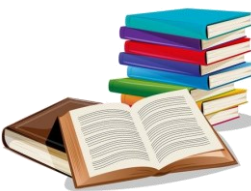
➤ **Where did Canara Bank launch a new e-ticketing kiosk on December 21, 2025?**

- A) Cubbon Park, Bengaluru
- B) Pilikula Nisargadhama, Mangaluru
- C) Brindavan Gardens, Mysuru
- D) Bannerghatta National Park, Bengaluru
- E) Udupi Sri Krishna Temple



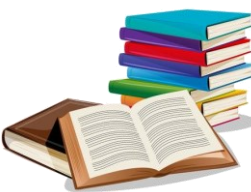
Answer

B) Pilikula Nisargadhama, Mangaluru



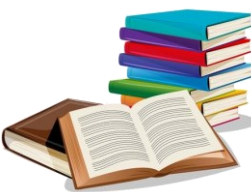
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Canara Bank launched an e-ticketing kiosk for tourist ticketing
- **Location:** Pilikula Nisargadhama, Mangaluru, Karnataka
- **Date:** December 21, 2025



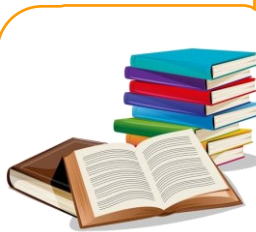
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** Installation of an e-ticketing kiosk by Canara Bank at Pilikula to facilitate online ticket purchases for tourists
- **Objectives:** To improve digital convenience and support smart tourism by enabling seamless access to entry tickets at a major ecological and tourist destination



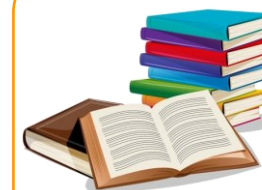
Important Terms Explained:

- **Canara Bank:** One of India's leading public sector banks, providing diversified banking services and digital innovations, including smart kiosks and e-governance solutions
- **E-ticketing Kiosk:** A self-service machine that enables customers to purchase entry tickets electronically, reducing physical queues and enhancing visitor convenience
- **Pilikula Nisargadhama:** A popular eco-educational and tourism park in Mangaluru that includes a zoo, lake, science centre, botanical garden, and heritage village



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	Launch of e-ticketing kiosk by Canara Bank
Announcement date	December 21, 2025
Location	Pilikula Nisargadhama, Mangaluru, Karnataka
Issuing authority	Canara Bank
Policy/series name	Digital Banking/Smart Tourism Support Initiative
Key figures	Canara Bank officials
Purpose/reason	To provide visitors with digital access to purchase entry tickets easily
Feature details	E-ticketing machine covering all tourist attractions within Pilikula
Validity or status	Operational from December 21, 2025
Strategic/significant value	Promotes digital inclusion and supports local tourism infrastructure



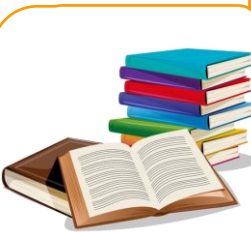
➤ **What is the name of the NFC-enabled contactless payment sticker recently launched by South Indian Bank?**

- A) SIB SmartTap
- B) RuPay FlexCard
- C) RuPay SIB Paytag
- D) SIB QuickChip
- E) SIB NFC Pro



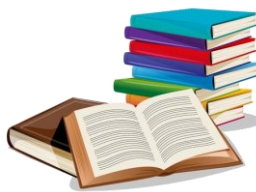
Answer

C) RuPay SIB Paytag



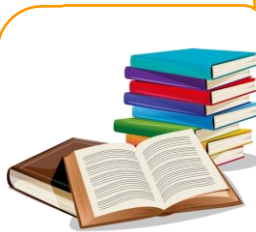
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of RuPay SIB Paytag – a compact contactless payment sticker by South Indian Bank
- **Location:** Kochi, Kerala
- **Date:** December 21, 2025



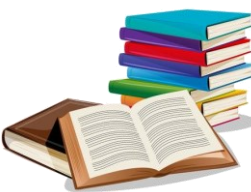
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - South Indian Bank has introduced the RuPay Contactless SIB Paytag Sticker, powered by NFC technology
 - Enables fast, secure tap-and-pay transactions at POS terminals and e-commerce platforms



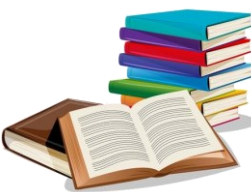
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:**
 - To enhance payment convenience by allowing contactless transactions via mobile devices or wallets
 - To reduce dependency on physical debit cards and promote digital-first banking
 - To offer secure, low-friction transactions for daily purchases, aligned with RBI's digital payment push



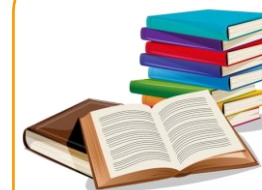
Important Terms Explained:

- **NFC (Near Field Communication):** A short-range wireless communication technology enabling secure and fast data exchange between two devices, used here for tap-and-pay functionality
- **RuPay:** An Indian card payment network launched by NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India), accepted across domestic ATMs, POS terminals, and e-commerce platforms
- **SIB Mirror+ App:** The mobile banking app from South Indian Bank, which allows users to access card credentials of the Paytag sticker for online purchases securely



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	Launch of RuPay SIB Paytag Sticker
Announcement date	December 21, 2025
Location	Kochi, Kerala
Issuing authority	South Indian Bank in partnership with RuPay (NPCI)
Policy/series name	NFC-based Digital Payments
Key figures	Murali Ramakrishnan (MD & CEO, SIB)
Purpose/reason	Promote frictionless, contactless payments without needing physical debit cards
Feature details	Tap-and-pay up to ₹5,000 without PIN, secure online use via SIB Mirror+ app
Validity or status	Officially launched and available to customers
Strategic/significant value	Boosts digital payments adoption, enhances user convenience and cardless banking

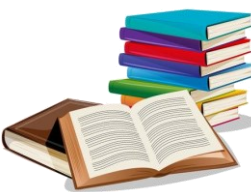


➤ **Which organization has signed a 10-year MoU to provide telecom solutions at Bhogapuram Greenfield Airport?**

- A) Reliance Jio
- B) Vodafone Idea
- C) Tata Communications
- D) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
- E) Airtel Business

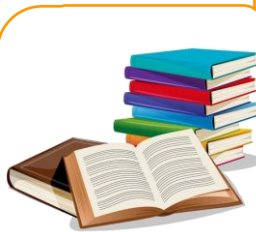
Answer

D) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited



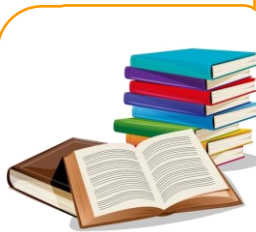
Event and Location:

- **Event:** BSNL signs 10-year MoU with GVIAL to provide end-to-end telecom solutions at Bhogapuram Airport
- **Location:** Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- **Date:** December 21, 2025



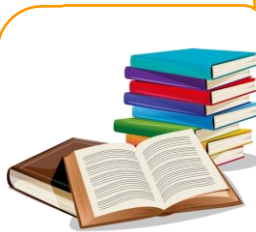
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between BSNL Visakhapatnam and GVIAL to equip the upcoming Bhogapuram Greenfield Airport with total telecom infrastructure
- **Objectives:**
 - To provide comprehensive telecom connectivity at Bhogapuram airport
 - To support smart infrastructure and digital operations at India's upcoming greenfield airport
 - To ensure seamless, enterprise-grade communication solutions at a major aviation hub



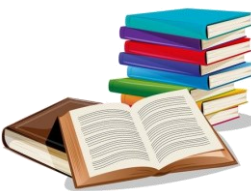
Important Terms Explained:

- **BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited):** A state-owned telecommunications company under the Ministry of Communications, providing a wide range of telecom services including broadband, enterprise networks, and digital solutions
- **GVIAL (GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Ltd):** A subsidiary of GMR Group, responsible for building and operating the Bhogapuram Greenfield Airport in Andhra Pradesh
- **Greenfield Airport:** A new airport built from scratch on undeveloped land, not constrained by existing infrastructure, allowing for modern design and long-term expansion



Tabular Summary:

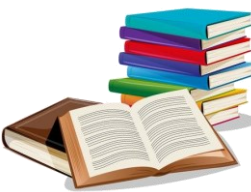
Parameter	Details
Event name	BSNL-GVIAL MoU signing for Bhogapuram Airport telecom infrastructure
Announcement date	December 21, 2025
Location	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
Issuing authority	BSNL Visakhapatnam and GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Ltd (GVIAL)
Policy/series name	Telecom Infrastructure Partnership for Greenfield Airports
Key figures	G. Adam (PGM, BSNL), M. Naidu (GM), M. Satya Prasad (DGM), GVIAL officials
Purpose/reason	To implement end-to-end telecom services at Bhogapuram Airport
Feature details	10-year MoU; total telecom solutions; digital infrastructure rollout
Validity or status	Agreement signed; implementation phase to follow
Strategic/significant value	First-of-its-kind digital telecom setup for a greenfield airport in India



➤ According to the Indian Biogas Association, how much investment is expected in India's biogas sector in FY 2026–27?

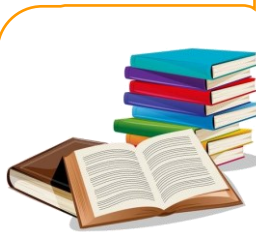
- A) ₹2,500 crore
- B) ₹3,200 crore
- C) ₹4,000 crore
- D) ₹5,000 crore
- E) ₹6,500 crore

Answer
D) ₹5,000 crore



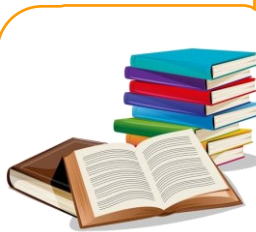
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Investment projection of ₹5,000 crore in India's biogas sector for 2026–27
- **Location:** New Delhi (National industry report released by IBA)
- **Date:** December 21, 2025



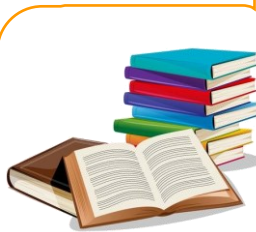
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - Indian Biogas Association (IBA) reported strong growth and projected ₹5,000 crore investments in the Compressed Biogas (CBG) sector in 2026–27
 - Shared data on current production, policy initiatives, and GST benefits for the sector



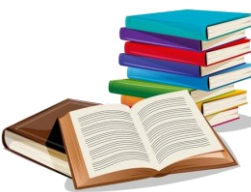
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:**
 - To scale up clean energy production through biogas
 - Promote investment-friendly policies and efficient supply chains
 - Encourage the development of medium- and large-scale CBG plants, rural employment, organic manure use, and clean cooking fuel alternatives
 - Achieve \$5 billion industry valuation by 2030



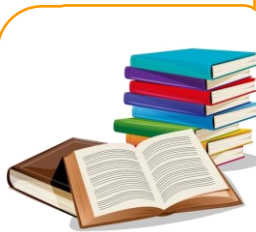
Important Terms Explained:

- **CBG (Compressed Biogas):** Biogas purified and compressed to meet fuel-grade standards, used as a green alternative to CNG for vehicles, cooking, and power generation
- **IBA (Indian Biogas Association):** India's leading national association representing biogas stakeholders including plant developers, policy makers, and researchers



Important Terms Explained:

- **Relaxed GST Regime:** A proposed reduction in GST rates on the biogas sector, expected to improve project economics and attract further investments
- **Multiplier Effect:** An economic term referring to how an investment or policy change triggers broader impact across related industries, leading to exponential benefits

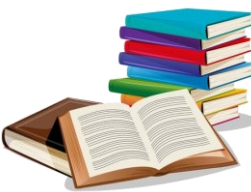


BUSINESS AND ECONOMY



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	Investment projection in Biogas Sector for FY 2026–27
Announcement date	December 21, 2025
Location	New Delhi, India
Issuing authority	Indian Biogas Association (IBA)
Policy/series name	CBG Industry Expansion and Investment Outlook
Key figures	Gaurav Kedia (Chairman, IBA)
Purpose/reason	To promote clean energy, boost investment, and ensure energy security
Feature details	94 CBG plants sold 31,400+ tonnes in FY25; GST cut expected; \$3-5B market size forecast
Validity or status	Projections made for FY 2026–27; policy actions ongoing
Strategic/significant value	Supports clean energy goals, reduces fossil fuel dependency, creates rural jobs

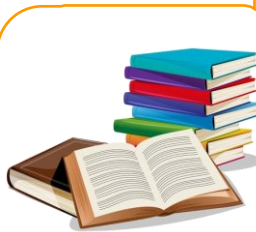


- **As per RBI data for the week ending December 12, 2025, India's foreign exchange reserves rose to what level?**

- A) \$685.34 billion
- B) \$688.94 billion
- C) \$690.12 billion
- D) \$686.10 billion
- E) \$687.26 billion

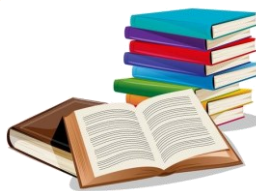
Answer

B) \$688.94 billion



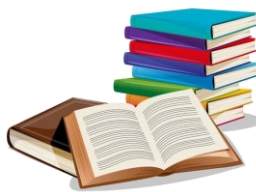
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Rise in India's Foreign Exchange Reserves
- **Location:** India
- **Date:** December 12, 2025 (Week ending)



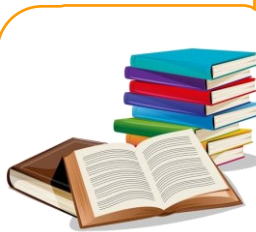
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The Reserve Bank of India reported a \$1.68 billion increase in India's forex reserves, bringing the total to \$688.94 billion.
- **Objectives:** To enhance India's external sector stability, support the domestic currency, and diversify the reserve portfolio for long-term economic resilience.



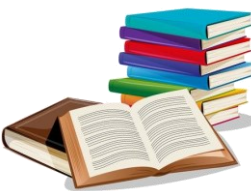
Important Terms Explained:

- **Foreign Exchange Reserves:** External assets held by the central bank in foreign currencies, gold, SDRs, and IMF positions to manage currency stability and liquidity.
- **Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs):** The largest component of forex reserves, comprising holdings of foreign currencies like USD, EUR, GBP, and JPY, valued in USD.
- **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs):** International reserve assets allocated by the IMF, held to supplement a country's official reserves.



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	Increase in India's Foreign Exchange Reserves
Announcement date	December 20, 2025
Location	India
Issuing authority	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
Policy/series name	Weekly Forex Reserve Report
Key figures	RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das
Purpose/reason	Maintain external stability and strengthen reserves
Feature details	Rise of \$1.68 billion, including increases in gold, FCAs, SDRs, and IMF position
Validity or status	Reflects week ending December 12, 2025
Strategic/significant value	Indicates strong external sector buffer and economic confidence

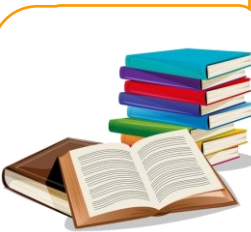


➤ **Who released the book transcript of Harihara Leela Vilasam in Chennai in December 2025?**

- A) Dr. N. V. Devi Prasad
- B) Dr. Subramania Bharati
- C) Nalli Kuppuswamy Chetti
- D) K. J. Yesudas
- E) M. K. Stalin

Answer

C) Nalli Kuppuswamy Chetti

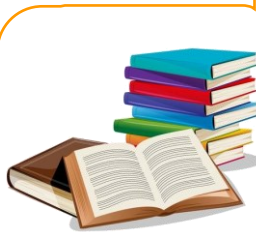


BOOKS AND AUTHORS



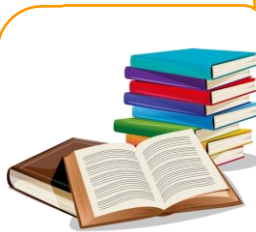
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Book release of Harihara Leela Vilasam, a classical dance drama transcript
- **Location:** Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- **Date:** December 21, 2025 (Saturday)



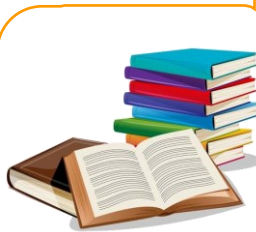
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** Industrialist and cultural patron Nalli Kuppuswamy Chetti released the transcript of a classical dance drama originally written in Telugu and Sanskrit
- **Objectives:**
 - To preserve and promote the literary and cultural legacy of Melattur Venkatrama Sastrigal
 - To acknowledge the scholarly efforts of N. V. Devi Prasad in ensuring the authenticity of the transcript
 - To make classical Indian texts more accessible to future generations



Important Terms Explained:

- **Harihara Leela Vilasam:** A traditional dance drama portraying divine episodes involving Lord Vishnu (Hari) and Lord Shiva (Hara), composed in Telugu and Sanskrit
- **Melattur Venkatrama Sastrigal:** A renowned composer and dramatist of classical Indian literature and dance-drama traditions
- **Nalli Kuppuswamy Chetti:** A well-known Chennai-based industrialist and philanthropist, celebrated for his patronage of Sanskrit, Tamil arts, and culture
- **Madras Sanskrit College:** A premier institution for Sanskrit studies in Chennai, known for preserving ancient Indian texts and traditions

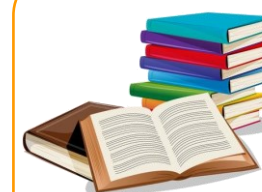


BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	Release of Harihara Leela Vilasam transcript
Announcement date	December 21, 2025
Location	Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Issuing authority	Released by Nalli Kuppuswamy Chetti
Policy/series name	Indian Classical Literature & Dance Heritage Preservation
Key figures	Melattur Venkatrama Sastrigal, N. V. Devi Prasad, Nalli Kuppuswamy Chetti
Purpose/reason	To preserve and promote a classical dance-drama in Telugu and Sanskrit
Feature details	Authentic reproduction of the original script by Madras Sanskrit College
Validity or status	Book officially released
Strategic/significant value	Strengthens cultural heritage documentation and classical art transmission



AWARDS

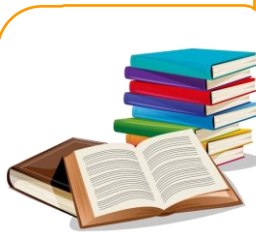


➤ Who was the recipient of the 2025 SASTRA–Ramanujan Award?

- A) Manjul Bhargava
- B) Dr N. Kailasiselvi
- C) Dr Alexander Smith
- D) Srinivasa Ramanujan
- E) Dr S Vaidhya Subramaniam

Answer

C) Dr Alexander Smith

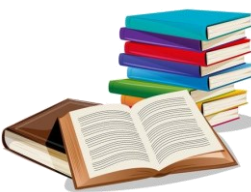


AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Dr Alexander Smith awarded the 2025 SASTRA–Ramanujan Award
- **Location:** SASTRA Deemed University, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu
- **Date:** December 21, 2025

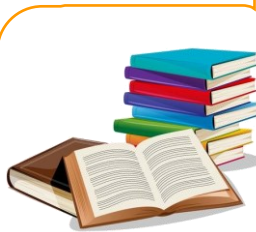


AWARDS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** Presentation of the SASTRA–Ramanujan Award 2025 to Dr Alexander Smith for his contributions to number theory and congruent number problems
- **Objectives:**
 - To recognise global excellence in the field of mathematics inspired by the legacy of Srinivasa Ramanujan
 - To encourage cutting-edge research in mathematics with relevance to modern areas such as quantum computing and multidisciplinary science in line with Viksit Bharat 2047 vision

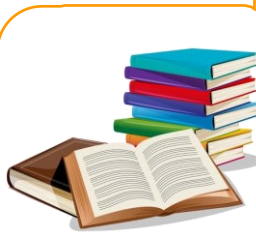


AWARDS



Important Terms Explained:

- **SASTRA–Ramanujan Award:** An international award instituted by SASTRA University in 2005 to honour young mathematicians under the age of 32 for outstanding work in areas influenced by Srinivasa Ramanujan
- **Congruent Number Problem:** A classical problem in number theory involving the determination of whether a given number is the area of a right-angled triangle with rational side lengths
- **Viksit Bharat 2047:** A visionary initiative by the Indian government aiming for India's transformation into a fully developed nation by the 100th year of independence

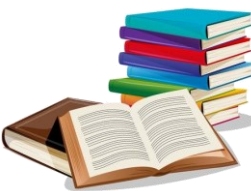


AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	Presentation of 2025 SASTRA–Ramanujan Award
Announcement date	December 21, 2025
Location	SASTRA University, Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu
Issuing authority	CSIR and SASTRA University
Policy/series name	SASTRA–Ramanujan Award Series
Key figures	Dr Alexander Smith, Dr N. Kailasiselvi, Dr S Vaidhya Subramaniam
Purpose/reason	Recognising mathematical excellence inspired by Srinivasa Ramanujan
Feature details	Awarded for work on congruent number problems and relevance to quantum tech
Validity or status	2025 recipient announced and awarded
Strategic/significant value	Encourages youth in mathematical research; supports India's scientific ambitions



AWARDS

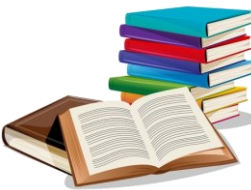


➤ Which renowned artist received the Gotuvadyam Narayana Iyengar International Award for Excellence in December 2025?

- A) Ilaiyaraaja
- B) Annavarapu Ramaswamy
- C) Zakir Hussain
- D) L. Subramaniam
- E) T.M. Krishna

Answer

B) Annavarapu Ramaswamy

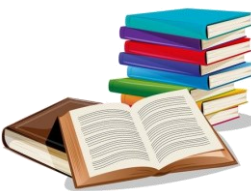


AWARDS



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Annavarapu Ramaswamy awarded the Gotuvadyam Narayana Iyengar International Award for Excellence
- **Location:** Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- **Date:** December 21, 2025

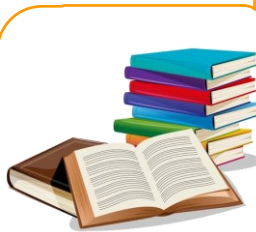


AWARDS



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** Honour distinguished contributions in Indian classical music as part of the Chennai Fine Arts' annual music festival
- **Objectives:**
 - Recognize Annavarapu Ramaswamy's excellence and lifelong contributions to the field of Carnatic violin music
 - Celebrate and promote Indian classical music and culture through awards and public recognition

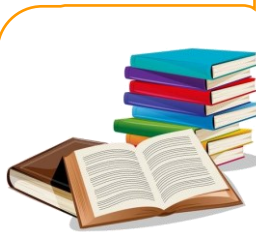


AWARDS



Important Terms Explained:

- **Gotuvadyam Narayana Iyengar International Award for Excellence:** A prestigious award instituted to honour legendary contributions to Indian classical music, named after Gotuvadyam (Chitravina) maestro Narayana Iyengar
- **Annavarapu Ramaswamy:** A senior Carnatic violinist and revered guru known for his vast contributions to Indian classical music, performance, and teaching
- **Chennai Fine Arts Annual Music Festival:** An annual cultural event celebrating Carnatic music, featuring live concerts, felicitations, and promotion of traditional arts

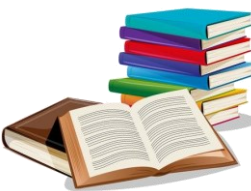


AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	Gotuvadyam Narayana Iyengar International Award presented to Ramaswamy
Announcement date	December 21, 2025
Location	Chennai Fine Arts, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Issuing authority	Chennai Fine Arts in presence of Union Ministry of Culture
Policy/series name	Annual Music Festival and Award Ceremony
Key figures	Annavarapu Ramaswamy, Premanand Jothy, Aneish Rajan
Purpose/reason	Honour excellence in Carnatic violin and Indian classical music
Feature details	Seven artists honoured; award included citation and cash prize
Validity or status	Award conferred at inaugural ceremony of 23rd Fine Arts Festival
Strategic/significant value	Promotes cultural heritage and honours traditional Indian music excellence

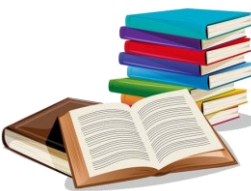


➤ **What is the primary objective of ISRO's RESPOND Basket 2025 initiative?**

- A) Encourage abstract space research
- B) Develop private satellite networks
- C) Channel academic research to ISRO's mission needs
- D) Train astronauts for future missions
- E) Promote international collaborations only

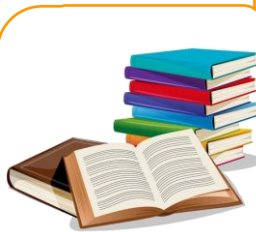
Answer

C) Channel academic research to ISRO's mission needs



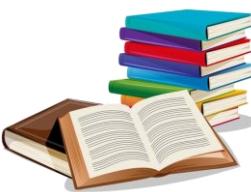
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of ISRO's RESPOND Basket 2025
- **Location:** Pan-India (Academic Institutions)
- **Date:** December 20, 2025



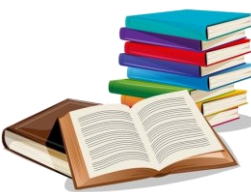
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** ISRO released the RESPOND Basket 2025 to invite mission-oriented research proposals from Indian academic and R&D institutions.
- **Objectives:** To align academic innovation with ISRO's current and future mission requirements, encourage focused problem-solving, and strengthen India's space research ecosystem.



Important Terms Explained:

- **RESPOND Basket 2025:** A collection of mission-aligned research problems released by ISRO to guide academic institutions in contributing to national space missions.
- **Department of Space (DoS):** The nodal agency for India's space program, under which ISRO operates, and which publishes the RESPOND initiative.
- **I-GRASP Portal:** The digital platform for submission and monitoring of academic research proposals under the RESPOND program, ensuring transparency and ease of access.

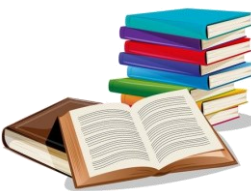


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	Launch of RESPOND Basket 2025
Announcement date	December 20, 2025
Location	Nationwide (targeting academic institutions in India)
Issuing authority	Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
Policy/series name	RESPOND Programme
Key figures	S. Somanath, Chairman of ISRO
Purpose/reason	Align research with ISRO missions and leverage academic talent
Feature details	Mission-oriented research problems, digital submission via I-GRASP
Validity or status	Active call for proposals in 2025
Strategic/significant value	Strengthens India's space innovation pipeline and promotes academia–industry synergy

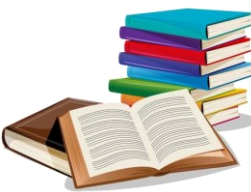


➤ **Who is set to become the first wheelchair user to travel to space on Blue Origin's NS-37 mission?**

- A) Samantha Cristoforetti
- B) Christina Koch
- C) Michaela Benthaus
- D) Anousheh Ansari
- E) Hayley Arceneaux

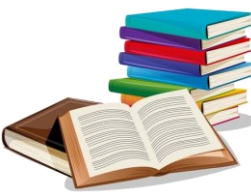
Answer

C) Michaela Benthaus



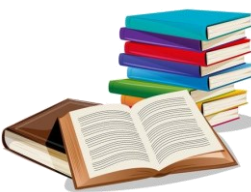
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Michaela Benthaus to become the first wheelchair user to travel to space
- **Location:** Blue Origin NS-37 mission (suborbital spaceflight)
- **Date:** December 20, 2025 (announcement)



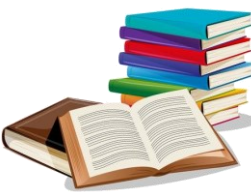
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** German aerospace engineer Michaela Benthaus will fly aboard Blue Origin's NS-37 suborbital mission as the world's first wheelchair user in space.
- **Objectives:** To promote inclusion and accessibility in space missions, break physical barriers in astronaut selection, and inspire people with disabilities to pursue careers in STEM and space sciences.



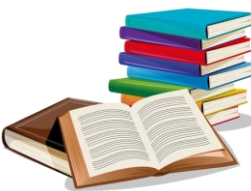
Important Terms Explained:

- **Blue Origin:** A private aerospace company founded by Jeff Bezos, focused on making space accessible through suborbital and orbital spaceflight missions.
- **NS-37 Mission:** The 37th mission of Blue Origin's New Shepard vehicle, a suborbital flight designed to take passengers briefly beyond the Kármán line.
- **Kármán Line:** An internationally recognized boundary of space located at an altitude of 100 kilometers above sea level, used to define the edge of Earth's atmosphere.



Tabular Summary:

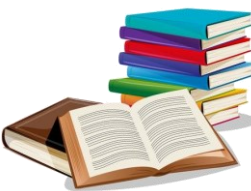
Parameter	Details
Event name	Michaela Benthaus to become first wheelchair user in space
Announcement date	December 20, 2025
Location	Blue Origin's NS-37 Suborbital Mission
Issuing authority	Blue Origin
Policy/series name	NS-37 (New Shepard Mission 37)
Key figures	Michaela Benthaus, ESA, Blue Origin
Purpose/reason	Promote inclusivity and diversity in space exploration
Feature details	Suborbital flight, crossing Kármán line, six passengers
Validity or status	Scheduled for upcoming Blue Origin launch
Strategic/significant value	Milestone in accessible human spaceflight and inclusive STEM participation



- Which country signed an MoU with India in December 2025 to collaborate on the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat?

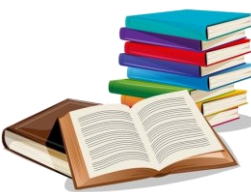
- A) France
- B) United Kingdom
- C) Netherlands
- D) Japan
- E) Germany

Answer
C) Netherlands



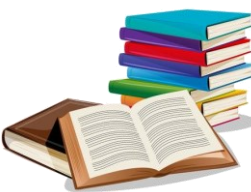
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Signing of MoU between India and the Netherlands for collaboration on National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)
- **Location:** Lothal, Gujarat (NMHC site); MoU exchanged during bilateral meeting
- **Date:** December 20, 2025



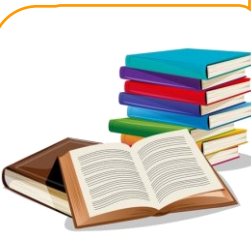
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - MoU signed between India's NMHC and National Maritime Museum, Amsterdam
 - Facilitates knowledge sharing in maritime museum design, curation, and conservation



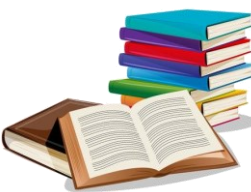
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:**
 - Strengthen global cooperation in maritime heritage and cultural exchange
 - Promote joint exhibitions, research projects, and educational initiatives
 - Enhance the visitor experience and public engagement at NMHC
 - Showcase India's 4,500-year-old maritime legacy on the global stage
 - Align with India's vision to integrate heritage with innovation, expand tourism and ensure inclusive educational access



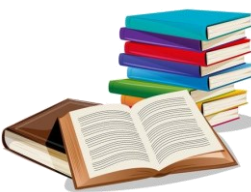
Important Terms Explained:

- **NMHC (National Maritime Heritage Complex):** A world-class museum and cultural hub being developed at Lothal, Gujarat to highlight India's ancient maritime traditions
- **MoU (Memorandum of Understanding):** A formal agreement between two or more parties outlining terms of cooperation; in this case, between India and the Netherlands on maritime heritage



Important Terms Explained:

- **Cultural Exchange Programs:** Initiatives promoting sharing of traditions, values, and knowledge between countries to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation
- **Green Shipping Initiatives:** Sustainable maritime practices aimed at reducing the carbon footprint of shipping operations

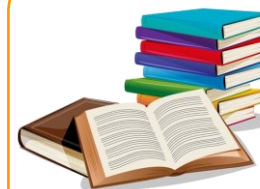


INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

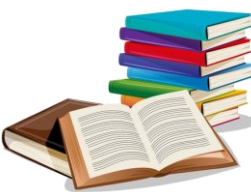
Parameter	Details
Event name	India-Netherlands MoU on Maritime Heritage Cooperation
Announcement date	December 20, 2025
Location	Lothal, Gujarat (NMHC site); bilateral MoU meeting
Issuing authority	Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways; Ministry of External Affairs
Policy/series name	National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) Collaboration
Key figures	Sarbananda Sonowal, S. Jaishankar, David van Weel
Purpose/reason	Showcase India's maritime history; share expertise in museum curation
Feature details	Joint exhibitions, student programs, cultural exchange, and conservation
Validity or status	MoU signed and cooperation to begin
Strategic/significant value	Boosts India's global heritage profile, strengthens bilateral ties, and promotes cultural diplomacy



- **What is the main purpose of the newly established Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC) between India and the Netherlands?**
- A) Promote cultural exchanges
 - B) Facilitate student mobility
 - C) Strengthen bilateral trade and investments
 - D) Improve defense collaboration
 - E) Support space exploration projects

Answer

C) Strengthen bilateral trade and investments

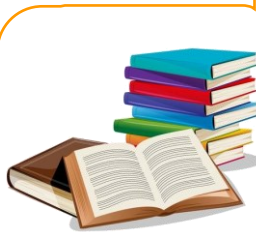


INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



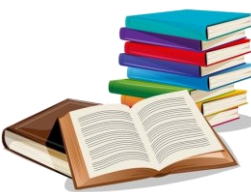
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Establishment of the Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC)
- **Location:** India and the Netherlands
- **Date:** December 20, 2025



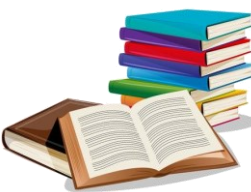
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** India and the Netherlands signed an MoU to form a Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC) for regular institutional-level engagement on economic matters.
- **Objectives:** To promote bilateral trade, enhance two-way investments, eliminate trade barriers, and deepen cooperation in strategic, sustainable, and innovation-led sectors.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC):** A bilateral platform created by India and the Netherlands for institutionalized dialogue on economic matters, aimed at improving trade and investment flows.
- **MoU (Memorandum of Understanding):** A formal agreement between two parties outlining the intent to cooperate on shared goals.
- **Two-way Investments:** Refers to mutual investment opportunities where both countries invest in each other's markets, strengthening economic interdependence.

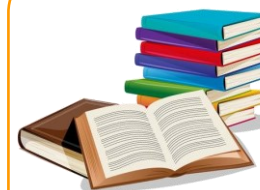


INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	Establishment of Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC)
Announcement date	December 20, 2025
Location	India and the Netherlands
Issuing authority	Ministry of Commerce and Industry (India), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Netherlands)
Policy/series name	Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC)
Key figures	Additional Secretary (India), Director General (Netherlands)
Purpose/reason	To boost bilateral trade, facilitate investments, and resolve trade barriers
Feature details	Annual meetings, co-chaired by officials, focus on trade and innovation
Validity or status	MoU signed, committee officially established
Strategic/significant value	Deepens Indo-Dutch economic ties, supports trade diversification and cooperation

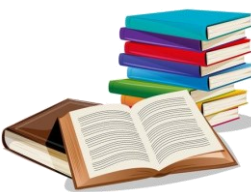


➤ **What is the main objective of the PESA Mahotsav being held in Visakhapatnam on December 23-24, 2025?**

- A) Promote tourism in Andhra Pradesh
- B) Celebrate India's Constitution Day
- C) Commemorate the cultural heritage of tribal communities under PESA
- D) Launch a rural housing scheme
- E) Conduct a national Panchayat election campaign

Answer

C) Commemorate the cultural heritage of tribal communities under PESA



SCHEMES & INITIATIVES



Event and Location:

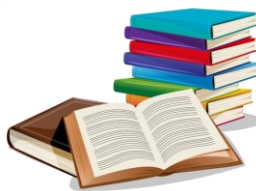
- **Event:** PESA Mahotsav: Utsav Lok Sanskriti Ka – a national-level cultural celebration of tribal heritage under PESA
- **Location:** Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- **Date:** December 23–24, 2025



Bamboo Rafting of tourist

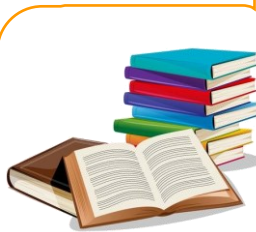


Custard Apple Pulp processing



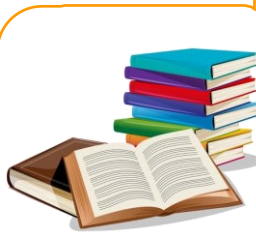
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** Organisation of a two-day festival by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to celebrate the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996
- **Objectives:**
 - To honour and promote the traditional and cultural heritage of tribal communities
 - To enhance awareness and implementation of the PESA Act across 10 notified states
 - To launch key digital tools like the PESA Portal, PESA Indicators, training modules, and e-books to support grassroots empowerment



Important Terms Explained:

- **PESA Act (Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996):** A special legislation extending Panchayati Raj provisions to tribal areas under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, empowering local self-governance and protecting tribal rights
- **PESA Portal:** A newly launched digital platform to monitor and disseminate information on the implementation of the PESA Act in different states
- **Special Gram Sabhas:** Community-level meetings conducted across all 10 PESA States to foster local participation and strengthen governance in Scheduled Areas

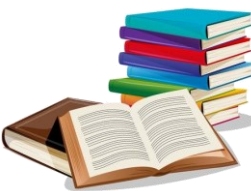


SCHEMES & INITIATIVES



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	PESA Mahotsav: Utsav Lok Sanskriti Ka
Announcement date	December 21, 2025
Location	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
Issuing authority	Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India
Policy/series name	Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996
Key figures	K. Pawan Kalyan (Deputy CM), Vivek Bharadwaj (Union Secretary)
Purpose/reason	Celebrate tribal culture and heritage; strengthen awareness of PESA
Feature details	Launch of PESA Portal, Indicators, e-books, training in tribal languages
Validity or status	Two-day national event held annually on/around December 24
Strategic/significant value	Boosts tribal empowerment, grassroots governance, cultural preservation



SCHEMES & INITIATIVES



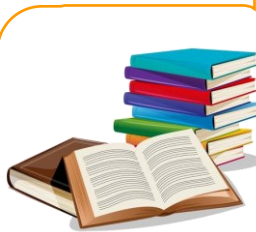
➤ **What is the theme of Swachh Survekshan 2025–26, launched by MoHUA?**

- A) Swachh Bharat – Strong Nation
- B) Clean City, Green Future
- C) Swachhata Ki Nayi Pehel – Badhayein Haath, Karein Safai Saath
- D) My City, My Responsibility
- E) From Waste to Wealth



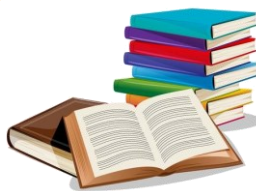
Answer

C) Swachhata Ki Nayi Pehel – Badhayein Haath, Karein Safai Saath



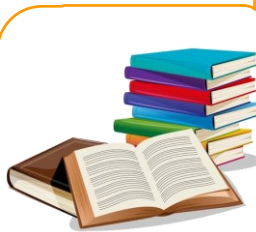
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of the 10th edition of Swachh Survekshan (2025–26) by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- **Location:** Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- **Date:** December 20, 2025



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - Union Minister Manohar Lal released the official toolkit for Swachh Survekshan 2025–26, marking a decade of the world's largest urban cleanliness survey
 - Citizens' feedback mechanisms enhanced; new award categories and assessment frameworks introduced

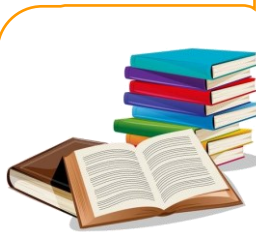


SCHEMES & INITIATIVES



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:**
 - Promote Garbage-Free Cities (GFC) and visible swachhata
 - Empower citizens as stakeholders through year-round feedback tools
 - Recognize efforts via new award categories including Swachh Shehar Jodi (SSJ) for mentorship between cities
 - Expand assessment to river and coastal towns, strengthening urban cleanliness governance

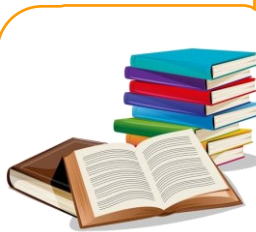


SCHEMES & INITIATIVES



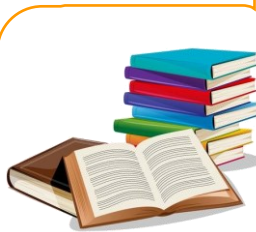
Important Terms Explained:

- **Swachh Survekshan (SS):** An annual cleanliness survey under Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U), launched in 2016 to assess and rank cities on urban sanitation and hygiene parameters
- **Swachh Shehar Jodi (SSJ):** A mentorship programme pairing cities for knowledge-sharing and peer learning, introduced in September 2025
- **Vote For My City App:** A citizen engagement platform where users can rate their city's cleanliness, now active year-round



Important Terms Explained:

- **GFC & ODF Certification:** Garbage-Free City and Open Defecation Free certifications given to cities after strict assessments under SBM-U
- **Protocol-Driven Assessment:** A structured survey with trained assessors, GPS monitoring, and digital evidence collection to ensure accuracy and transparency

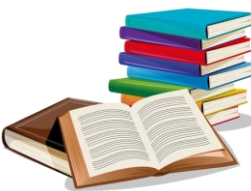


SCHEMES & INITIATIVES



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	Launch of Swachh Survekshan 2025–26 (10th Edition)
Announcement date	December 20, 2025
Location	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
Issuing authority	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
Policy/series name	Swachh Survekshan under Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban
Key figures	Union Minister Manohar Lal, State and ULB officials
Purpose/reason	Drive cleanliness, citizen participation, GFC targets, and digital transformation
Feature details	Year-round feedback, SSJ awards, river & coastal town inclusion, protocol assessment
Validity or status	Toolkit launched; on-ground surveys from Feb–March 2026
Strategic/significant value	Empowers citizens, strengthens local governance, and fosters a cleanliness culture



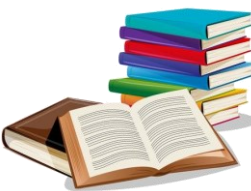
SCHEMES & INITIATIVES



➤ What is the revised number of statutory wage employment days guaranteed under the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025?

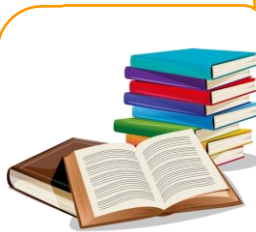
- A) 100 days
- B) 110 days
- C) 120 days
- D) 125 days
- E) 150 days

Answer
D) 125 days



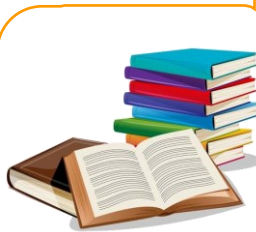
Event and Location:

- **Event:** President of India gives assent to the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025
- **Location:** Nationwide (Rural India)
- **Date:** 21 December 2025



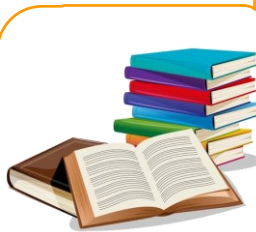
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The Act guarantees 125 days of statutory wage employment per year to eligible rural households, replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005.
- **Objectives:** The aim is to enhance livelihood security, decentralised planning, and productive rural asset creation aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.



Important Terms Explained:

- **VB-G RAM G:** Stands for Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin); a new rural employment scheme replacing MGNREGA with enhanced workdays and convergence-based development.
- **Saturation-based delivery:** A planning approach aimed at achieving 100% access to basic infrastructure and services in rural areas by ensuring full coverage.
- **Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans (VGPPs):** Grassroots-level development plans prepared by Gram Panchayats and approved by Gram Sabhas to ensure local participation and relevance.

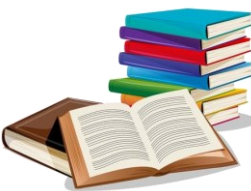


SCHEMES & INITIATIVES



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	President's assent to VB-G RAM G Act, 2025
Announcement date	21 December 2025
Location	Rural India
Issuing authority	Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development
Policy/series name	Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin)
Key figures	President Droupadi Murmu, PM Narendra Modi, Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Purpose/reason	To enhance employment guarantee and reform rural development mechanisms
Feature details	125-day statutory employment, rural asset creation, decentralised planning
Validity or status	Act passed and received Presidential assent; implementation begins FY 2026
Strategic/significant value	Supports Viksit Bharat @2047 vision through inclusive rural growth

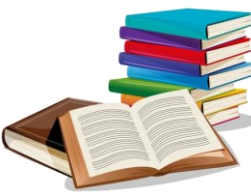


➤ **Where was the special session of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026 held by PM Modi with students from Assam?**

- A) IIT Guwahati
- B) Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra
- C) MV Charaidew 2 on the Brahmaputra River
- D) Assam Legislative Assembly
- E) Pragjyoti ITA Centre

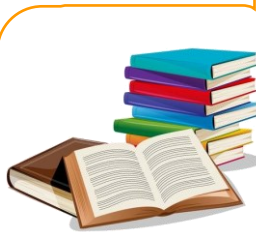
Answer

C) MV Charaidew 2 on the Brahmaputra River



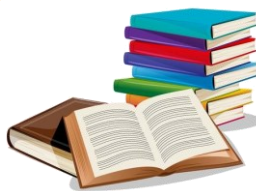
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Prime Minister Modi held a special session of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026 with students
- **Location:** Aboard MV Charaidew 2 on the Brahmaputra River, Assam
- **Date:** December 21, 2025



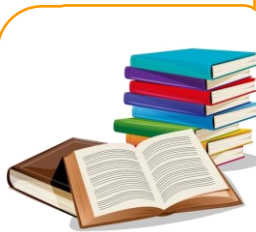
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The Prime Minister interacted with 25 selected students from various districts of Assam aboard a cruise as part of the Pariksha Pe Charcha initiative
- **Objectives:** To help students cope with exam-related stress, promote balanced preparation techniques, and encourage direct engagement with the Prime Minister before board and entrance examinations



Important Terms Explained:

- **Pariksha Pe Charcha:** An annual national-level interactive event where PM Modi engages with students, teachers, and parents to discuss exam-related issues and offer stress management advice
- **MV Charaidew 2:** A three-deck inland water cruise vessel used for the 2026 session on the Brahmaputra River, marking a departure from traditional auditorium settings
- **Inland Water Transport (IWT):** A government initiative to boost transportation through India's waterways, supported by the development of terminals like the Guwahati Gateway Terminal



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026 – Assam Special Session
Announcement date	December 21, 2025
Location	MV Charaidew 2, Brahmaputra River, Guwahati, Assam
Issuing authority	Prime Minister's Office (PMO)
Policy/series name	Pariksha Pe Charcha
Key figures	PM Narendra Modi, 25 selected students, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
Purpose/reason	To help students tackle exam-related stress through direct engagement
Feature details	Interaction aboard a cruise, participation from 11 Assam districts, security by NDRF/SDRF
Validity or status	Ongoing – National event to be held in January 2026
Strategic/significant value	Promotes mental well-being, unconventional educational outreach, strengthens inland transport

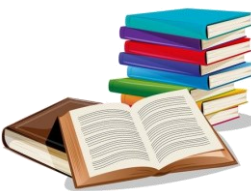


➤ What is the projected annual urea production capacity of the newly announced AVFCCL plant in Assam?

- A) 10 lakh metric tonnes
- B) 12.7 lakh metric tonnes
- C) 15 lakh metric tonnes
- D) 9.5 lakh metric tonnes
- E) 20 lakh metric tonnes

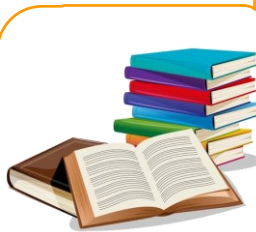
Answer

B) 12.7 lakh metric tonnes



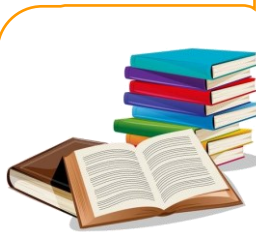
Event and Location:

- **Event:** PM Modi laid the foundation stone for a ₹10,601-crore brownfield ammonia-urea plant
- **Location:** Namrup, Dibrugarh district, Assam
- **Date:** December 21, 2025



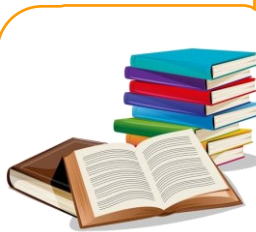
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** Construction of a modern, energy-efficient ammonia-urea plant by Assam Valley Fertiliser and Chemical Company Ltd (AVFCCL) with a ₹10,601 crore investment
- **Objectives:** To meet India's growing fertiliser demand, ensure continuous supply to farmers, reduce import dependency, promote local employment, and boost industrial development in the Northeast



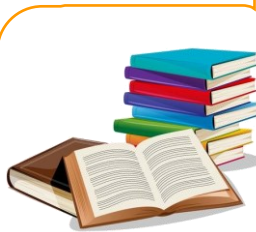
Important Terms Explained:

- **AVFCCL (Assam Valley Fertiliser and Chemical Company Ltd):** A joint venture between the Assam government, Oil India, National Fertilisers Ltd (NFL), Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL), and BVFCL, incorporated in July 2025 to establish a new fertiliser plant in Namrup
- **Brownfield Project:** A project developed on an existing site (in this case, within BVFCL's premises), involving modernization or expansion instead of building from scratch



Important Terms Explained:

- **PM Kisan Samman Nidhi:** A central government scheme providing direct income support to farmers, under which over ₹4 lakh crore has been transferred to farmers' bank accounts

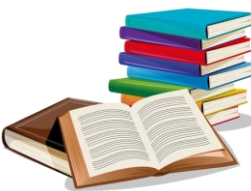


NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	Foundation stone laid for ₹10,601-cr AVFCCL ammonia-urea fertiliser plant
Announcement date	December 21, 2025
Location	Namrup, Dibrugarh district, Assam
Issuing authority	Prime Minister's Office (PMO)
Policy/series name	National Fertiliser Expansion & Farmer Welfare Measures
Key figures	PM Narendra Modi, AVFCCL, BVFCL, Oil India, NFL, HURL
Purpose/reason	To enhance domestic urea production and support farmer-centric development
Feature details	12.7 LMT capacity, ₹10,601 crore investment, commissioned by 2030
Validity or status	Foundation laid; project to be commissioned by 2030
Strategic/significant value	Reduces import dependency, generates jobs, boosts Northeast industrialisation



NATIONAL AFFAIRS

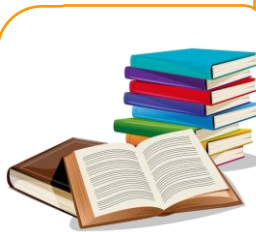


➤ Which event marked the beginning of HAL's 86th Foundation Day celebrations in 2025?

- A) Blood Donation Camp
- B) Swachh Bharat Drive
- C) Fit India Walkathon
- D) Cultural Parade
- E) HAL Innovation Hackathon

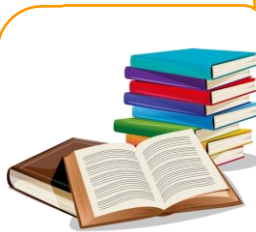
Answer

C) Fit India Walkathon



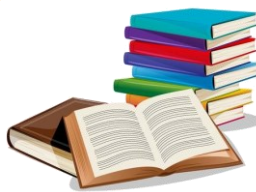
Event and Location:

- **Event:** HAL commenced its 86th Foundation Day celebrations with a Fit India Walkathon
- **Location:** Bengaluru, Karnataka
- **Date:** December 21, 2025



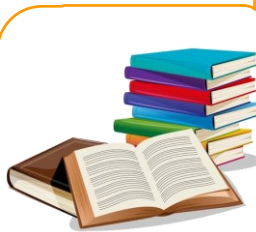
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) began its Foundation Day week with a health-focused walkathon event and a mountaineering expedition flag-off
- **Objectives:** To promote the Fit India Movement, instill values of physical well-being, unity, and resilience among employees, and celebrate HAL's legacy of excellence and courage



Important Terms Explained:

- **HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited):** A premier public sector aerospace and defence company in India, involved in the design, production, and maintenance of aircraft, helicopters, engines, and avionics systems
- **Fit India Movement:** A nationwide initiative launched by the Government of India in 2019 aimed at promoting fitness and healthy living among citizens
- **Seven-Summit Challenge:** A mountaineering challenge involving scaling the highest peak on each of the seven continents; Mount Aconcagua in South America is one of them and was chosen by Everest Summiteer Aritra Roy

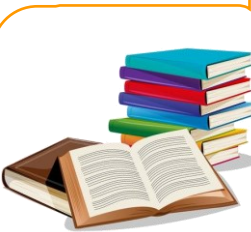


NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	HAL's 86th Foundation Day Celebrations – Fit India Walkathon
Announcement date	December 21, 2025
Location	Bengaluru, Karnataka
Issuing authority	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
Policy/series name	Fit India Movement
Key figures	Dr D.K. Sunil (CMD), Shreyanka Patil (Cricketer), Aritra Roy (Mountaineer)
Purpose/reason	To promote health, employee engagement, and inspire excellence
Feature details	Walkathon with 1000+ employees, expedition flag-off for Aconcagua summit
Validity or status	Ongoing Foundation Week events until December 23, 2025
Strategic/significant value	Strengthens organisational unity, promotes wellness and achievement culture

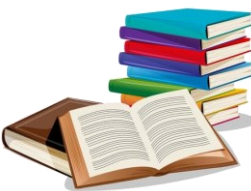


➤ **Where was the 11th CREDAI Property Expo, which drew over 14,000 visitors, held in December 2025?**

- A) Andhra University Grounds
- B) Vizag Exhibition Centre
- C) Beach Road, Visakhapatnam
- D) Gadiraju Palace Convention Centre, Visakhapatnam
- E) Vijayawada Convention Hall

Answer

D) Gadiraju Palace Convention Centre, Visakhapatnam

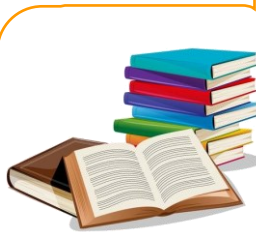


NATIONAL AFFAIRS



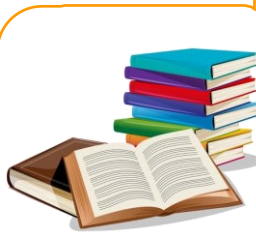
Event and Location:

- **Event:** 11th CREDAI Property Expo saw massive participation and real estate activity
- **Location:** Gadiraju Palace Convention Centre, Beach Road, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- **Date:** December 19–21, 2025



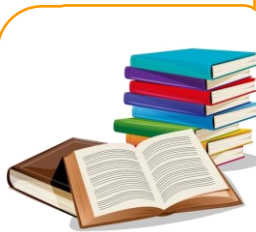
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** Organising a three-day property exhibition by CREDAI Visakhapatnam to showcase residential and commercial projects from leading developers
- **Objectives:**
 - To connect buyers, investors, and NRIs with developers, banks, and service providers
 - To highlight affordable housing, gated communities, and ready-to-move-in properties
 - To foster business enquiries, promote faster plan approvals, and boost urban development



Important Terms Explained:

- **CREDAI (Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India):** A national organisation representing real estate developers in India, working to promote ethical and transparent real estate practices
- **BR Raju Memorial Awards:** Annual awards given to meritorious B.Arch students from Andhra University for excellence in architectural education
- **GVMC (Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation):** The civic body governing Visakhapatnam, playing a key role in facilitating real estate growth via reforms and faster building plan approvals

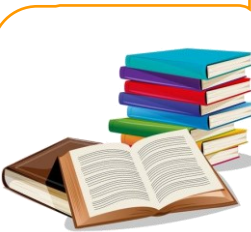


NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	11th CREDAI Property Expo, Visakhapatnam
Announcement date	December 21, 2025 (conclusion of the event)
Location	Gadiraju Palace Convention Centre, Beach Road, Vizag
Issuing authority	CREDAI Visakhapatnam Chapter
Policy/series name	CREDAI Property Expo Series
Key figures	E Ashok Kumar (CREDAI), Ketan Garg (GVMC Commissioner), Bayana Srinivas Rao
Purpose/reason	Promote real estate investments and connect buyers with developers
Feature details	850+ projects, housing loans, spot bookings, awards, bumper prize winner
Validity or status	Event completed successfully with strong footfall
Strategic/significant value	Boosts local real estate market, encourages home ownership and infrastructure



NATIONAL AFFAIRS



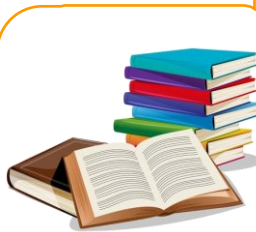
➤ **Where was Andhra Pradesh's first Gen-Z themed campus Post Office inaugurated in December 2025?**

- A) Andhra University, Visakhapatnam
- B) VIT-AP University, Amaravati
- C) IIIT Sri City, Chittoor
- D) SV University, Tirupati
- E) Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur



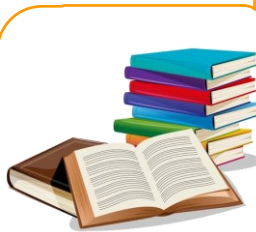
Answer

B) VIT-AP University, Amaravati



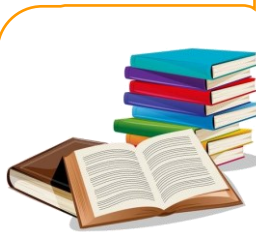
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Inauguration of Andhra Pradesh's first Gen-Z themed campus Post Office
- **Location:** VIT-AP University, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh
- **Date:** December 20, 2025



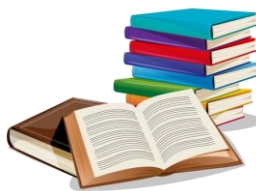
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - India Post launched a Gen-Z transformed Post Office at VIT-AP University as part of its national modernisation initiative
 - Inaugurated by Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development



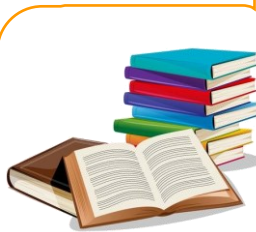
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:**
 - To reimagine traditional post offices into youth-centric service hubs with creative, tech-enabled infrastructure
 - To enhance student engagement with postal, banking, and insurance services
 - Promote financial awareness, digital inclusion, and modern service access on campus



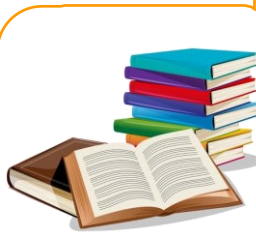
Important Terms Explained:

- **Gen-Z Themed Post Office:** A rebranded, youth-friendly version of traditional post offices featuring modern aesthetics and amenities like Wi-Fi, coffee zones, digital payment options, and creative spaces tailored for college students
- **Special Postal Cover:** A commemorative philatelic item released to mark the inauguration of unique events or initiatives—here, a cover titled “VIT: Gen-Z Themed Post Office of Andhra Pradesh” was released



Important Terms Explained:

- **India Post:** The national postal service of India, under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, providing services like mail delivery, banking, insurance, and retail across the country

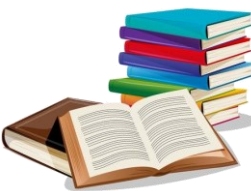


NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	Inauguration of Gen-Z themed Campus Post Office at VIT-AP
Announcement date	December 20, 2025
Location	VIT-AP University Campus, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh
Issuing authority	India Post, Ministry of Communications
Policy/series name	Campus Post Office Modernisation Initiative
Key figures	Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, B.P. Sridevi, Dr. Arulmolivarman
Purpose/reason	Engage students with postal, financial and digital services in modern settings
Feature details	Coffee zone, literature wall, free Wi-Fi, foosball table, e-services kiosk
Validity or status	Inaugurated and functional from December 20, 2025
Strategic/significant value	Enhances India Post's youth connect and drives financial/digital literacy on campuses

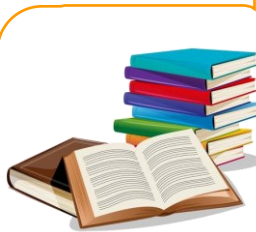


- Which paramilitary force celebrated its Raising Day on December 20, 2025, with greetings from Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

- A) CRPF
- B) BSF
- C) Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- D) CISF
- E) ITBP

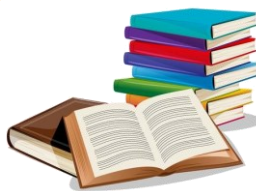
Answer

C) Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)



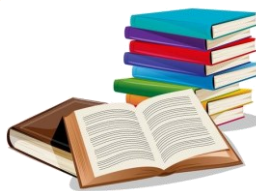
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi extends greetings on SSB Raising Day
- **Location:** Nationwide (Central Armed Police Force – SSB operates across border and remote regions)
- **Date:** December 20, 2025



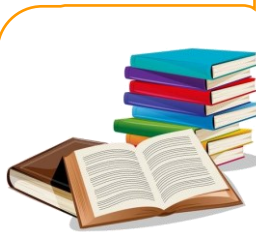
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:**
 - Commemoration of Sashastra Seema Bal's Raising Day to honour the force's service and dedication
 - Official acknowledgment and appreciation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi



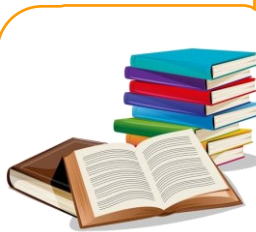
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:**
 - To recognise the sacrifice, vigilance, and dedication of SSB personnel
 - Reinforce the morale and national importance of the SSB in safeguarding India's borders and internal security
 - Highlight the operational commitment of SSB in challenging terrains and conditions



Important Terms Explained:

- **SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal):** One of India's Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), primarily responsible for guarding the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders, and performing internal security duties
- **Raising Day:** The annual celebration to commemorate the founding date of a defence or paramilitary force, marked by parades, honours, and messages from national leaders
- **Challenging Terrains:** Refers to the mountainous, forested, and remote areas where SSB personnel operate, including high-altitude regions and border posts

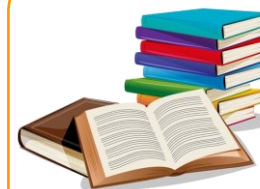


NATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

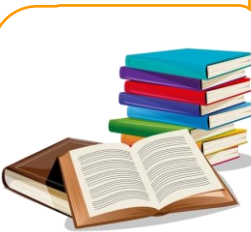
Parameter	Details
Event name	Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Raising Day 2025
Announcement date	December 20, 2025
Location	Nationwide (celebrated by SSB units and formations)
Issuing authority	Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Home Affairs
Policy/series name	CAPF Commemoration – SSB Raising Day
Key figures	PM Narendra Modi, DG Rashmi Shukla, SSB personnel
Purpose/reason	To honour the foundation of SSB and appreciate its service to the nation
Feature details	Online message from PM, parades, ceremonial observance across units
Validity or status	Observed annually on December 20
Strategic/significant value	Reinforces national security, border protection, and paramilitary recognition



QUICK RECALL



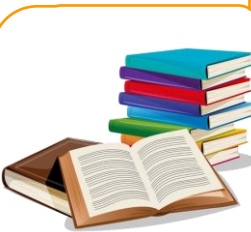
- **International Human Solidarity Day 2025** was observed globally on December 20 to promote unity and cooperation among nations.
- The United Nations officially observes **World Meditation Day** every year on 21 December, emphasizing its role in mental and physical well-being.
- **Winter Solstice 2025** was observed on December 21, marking the shortest day and longest night in the Northern Hemisphere.
- **Kylian Mbappe** scored his 59th goal of the calendar year in Real Madrid's 2-0 win over Sevilla, equalling Cristiano Ronaldo's club record from 2013.
- **Canara Bank** launched an e-ticketing kiosk at Pilikula Nisargadhama in Mangaluru on December 21, 2025.
- **SEBI** confirmed there is no change in the regulatory framework for short selling amid false media reports.
- **South Indian Bank** launched the RuPay SIB Paytag, an NFC-enabled sticker for secure contactless payments.
- **BSNL** signed a 10-year MoU with GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Ltd (GVIAL) to power telecom services at the Bhogapuram Greenfield Airport.
- The **Indian Biogas Association (IBA)** projects over ₹5,000 crore investment in India's biogas sector during 2026–27.



QUICK RECALL



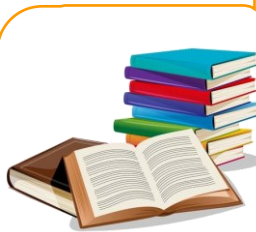
- India's forex reserves rose by \$1.68 billion to reach \$688.94 billion for the week ending December 12, 2025.
- The transcript of the classical dance drama Harihara Leela Vilasam was released in Chennai on December 21, 2025.
- Dr Alexander Smith of Northwestern University, USA, received the 2025 SASTRA–Ramanujan Award in Kumbakonam.
- Violin maestro Annavarapu Ramaswamy received the Gotuvadyam Narayana Iyengar International Award for Excellence in Chennai.
- ISRO has released the RESPOND Basket 2025 to invite focused research proposals from Indian academia.
- Michaela Benthaus will become the first wheelchair-bound person to fly to space on Blue Origin's NS-37 mission.
- India and the Netherlands signed an MoU to collaborate on the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat.
- India and the Netherlands have signed an MoU to establish the Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC).
- President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the VB-G RAM G Act, which officially replaces the MGNREGA scheme.



QUICK RECALL



- A two-day PESA Mahotsav will be held in Visakhapatnam on December 23–24, 2025, to celebrate the tribal heritage under the PESA Act.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the 10th edition of Swachh Survekshan with the theme “Swachhata Ki Nayi Peהל – Badhayein Haath, Karein Safai Saath.”
- The President of India has given assent to the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025, replacing the MGNREGA Act.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a special session of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026 with 25 selected students from Assam on a cruise over the Brahmaputra River.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for a ₹10,601-crore brownfield ammonia-urea plant in Namrup, Assam.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) launched its 86th Foundation Day celebrations with a Fit India Walkathon in Bengaluru on December 21, 2025.
- The 11th CREDAI Property Expo concluded in Visakhapatnam with over 14,000 visitors exploring more than 850 real estate projects.
- Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar inaugurated Andhra Pradesh’s first Gen-Z themed campus Post Office at VIT-AP University on December 20, 2025.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended greetings to SSB personnel on their Raising Day celebrated on December 20, 2025.





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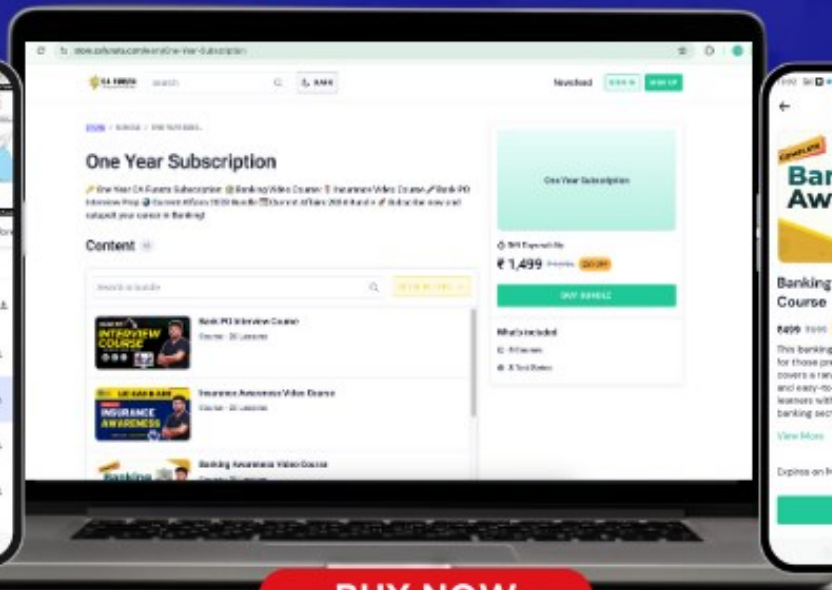
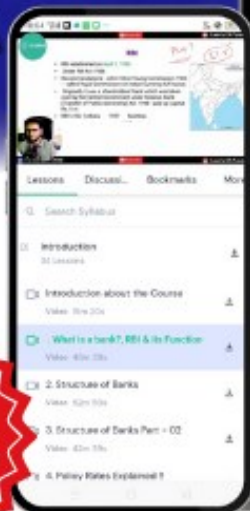
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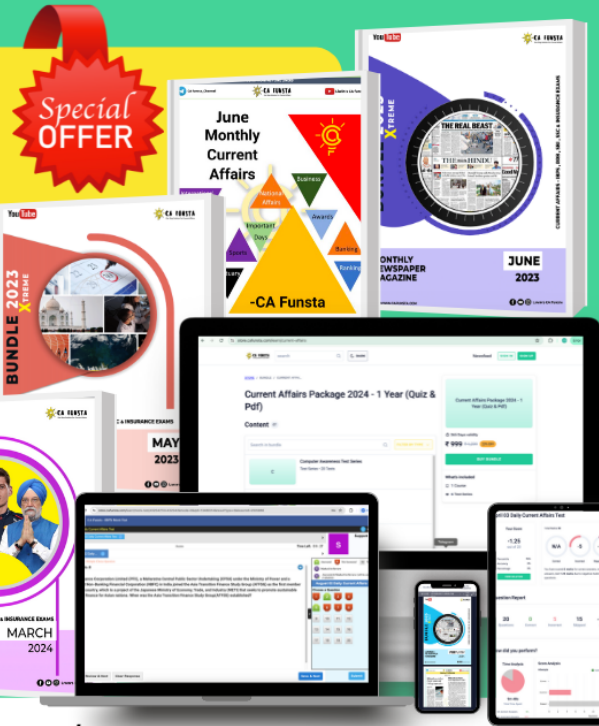
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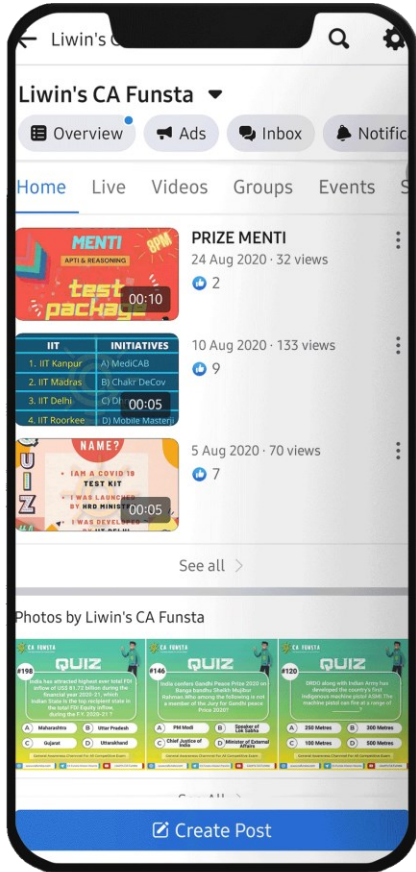
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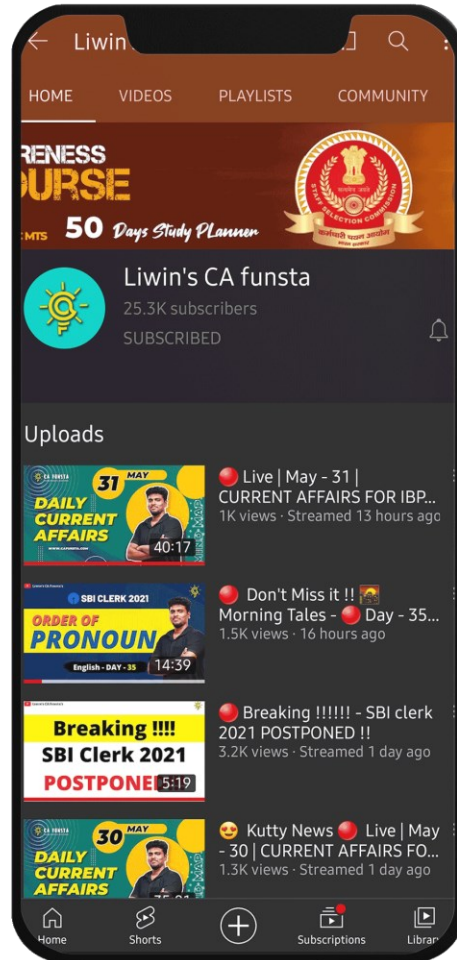


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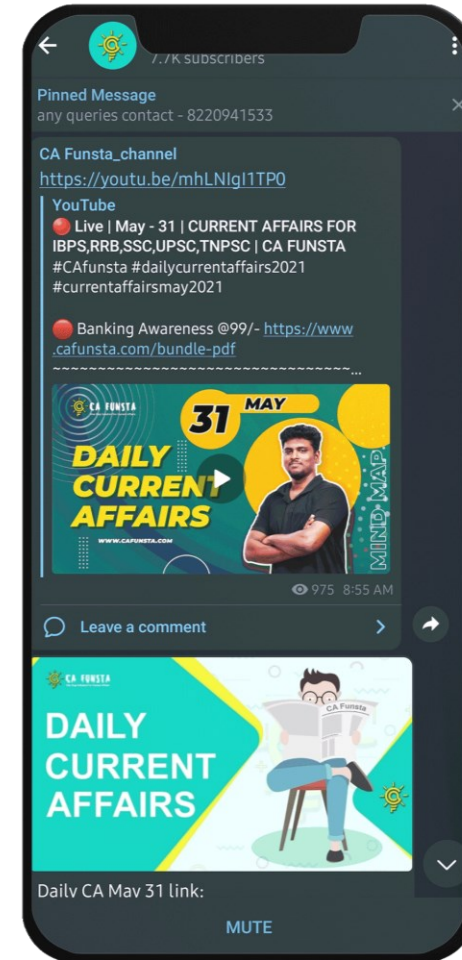
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