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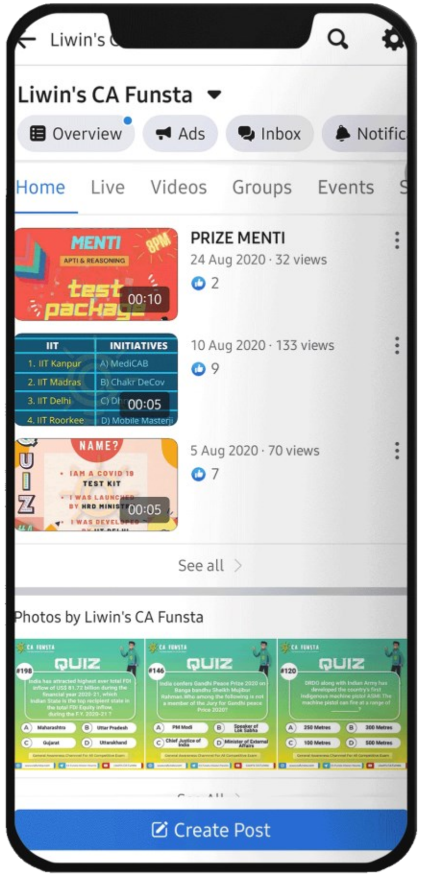

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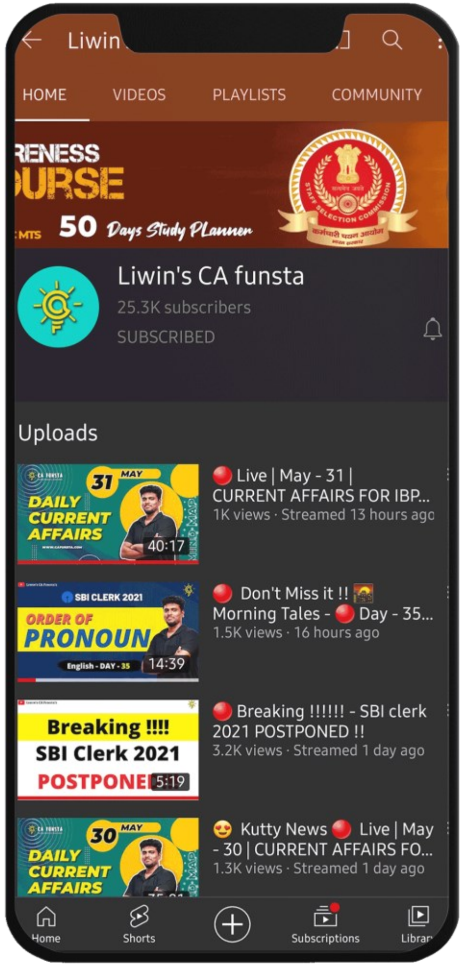

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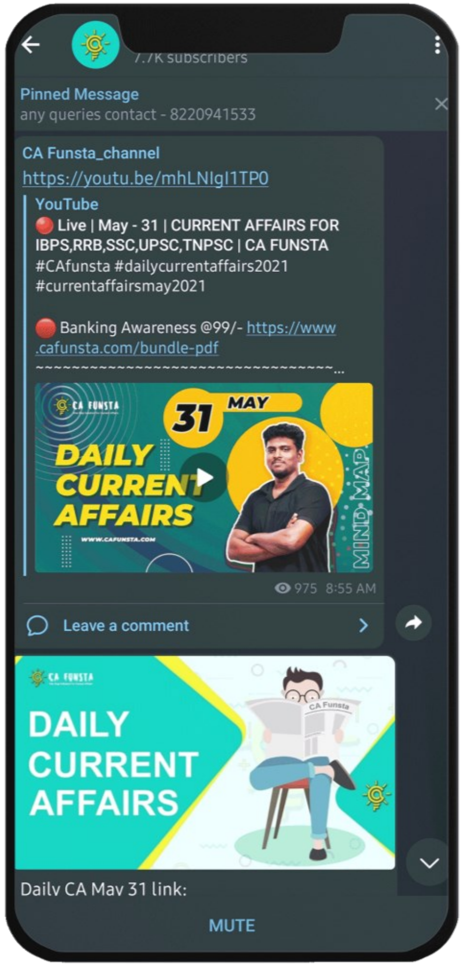

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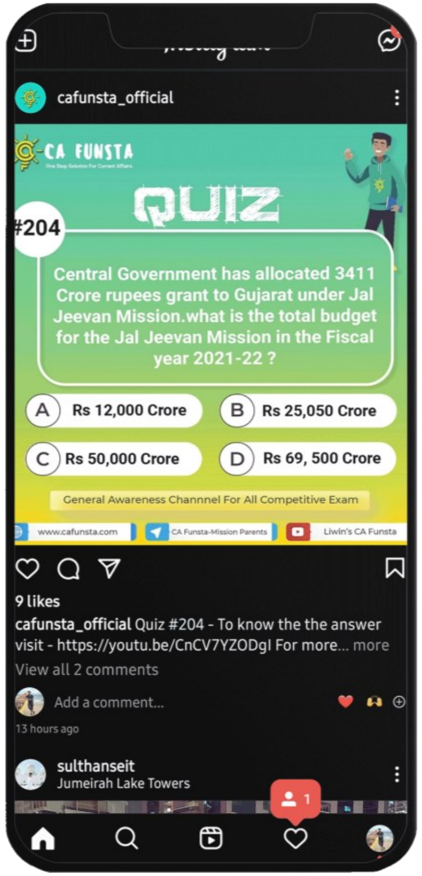

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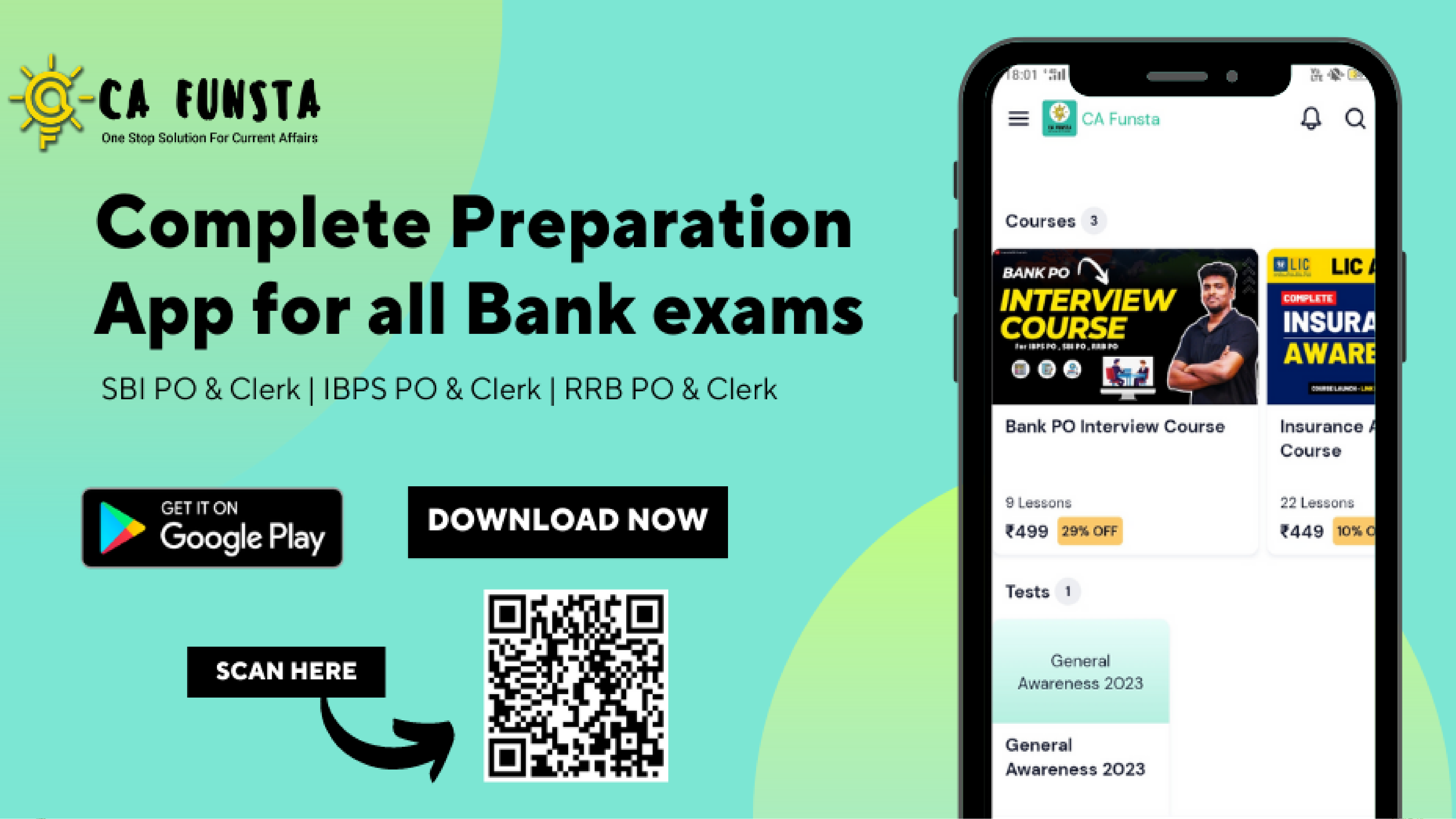
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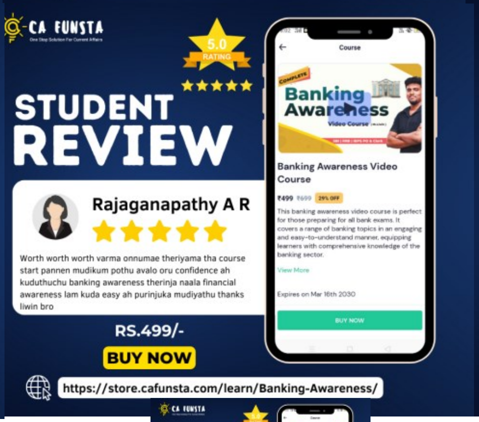
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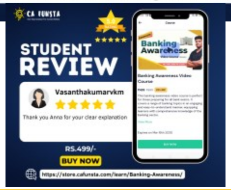
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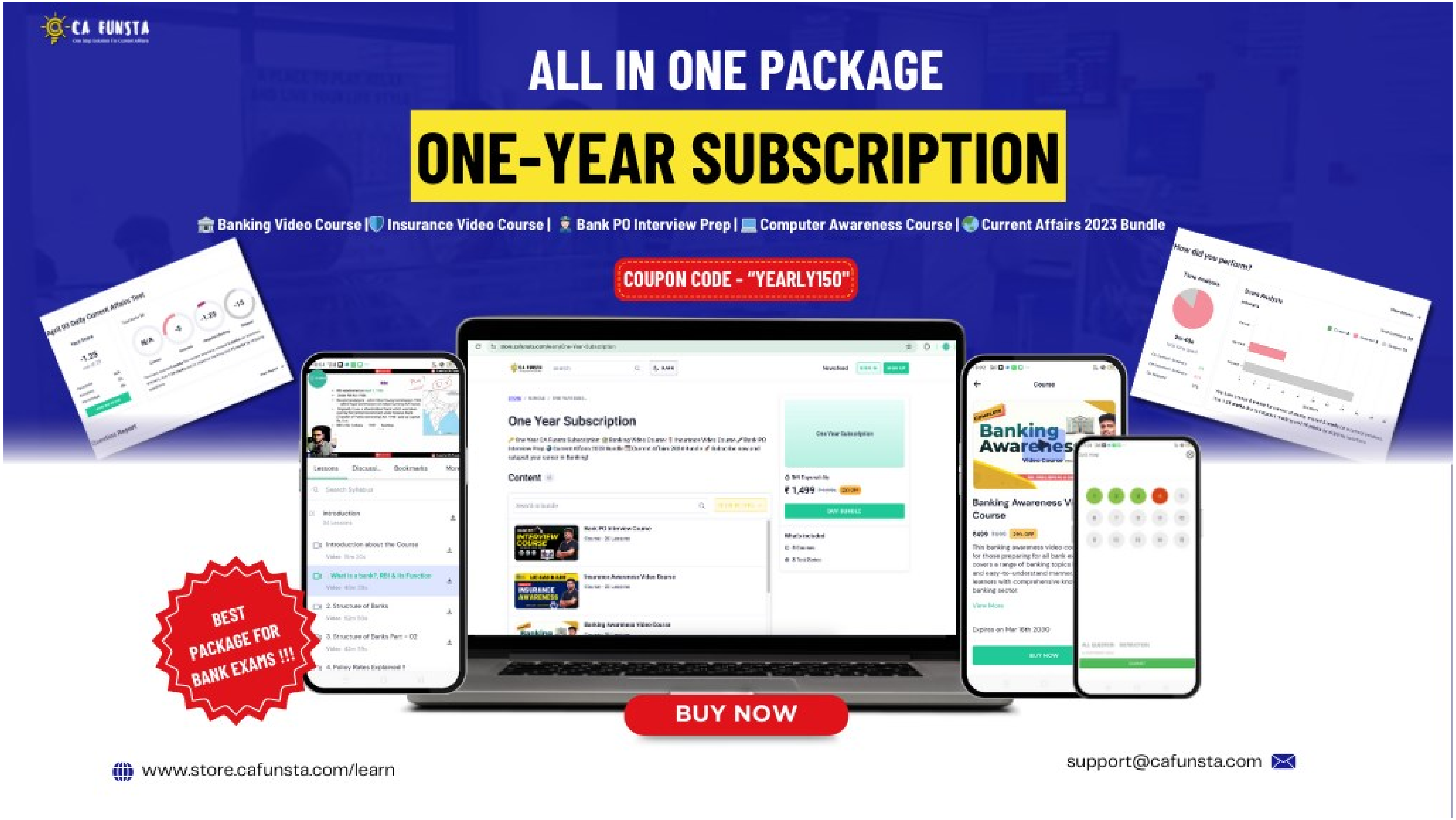
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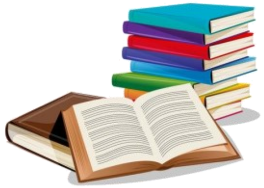
Important Days

➤ **What is the theme of India's 80th Independence Day celebration in 2026?**

A) Naya Bharat
B) Nation First, Always First
C) Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
D) Yuva Shakti
E) Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

Answer
D) Yuva Shakti.



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UNBOX THE NEW WAY OF LEARNING

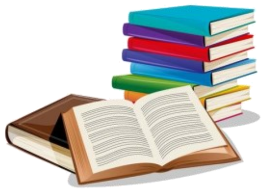
Event and Location:

- **Event:** India will celebrate its **80**th **Independence Day** with the theme **Yuva Shakti,** highlighting the role of youth in achieving **Viksit Bharat 2047**.
- **Location:** India**,** with the national **Independence Day** celebrations centred in **New Delhi**.
- **Date:** August **15, 2026**.

Important Days

Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The **2026 Independence Day** celebrations will focus on youth contributions to national development while also coinciding with the **150**th year of **Vande Mataram**.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The theme seeks to recognise young Indians as active contributors to innovation, entrepreneurship, science, technology, education, sports and nation-building towards the goal of a developed India by **2047**.

Important Terms Explained:

- **Viksit Bharat 2047**: It represents India's vision of becoming a developed nation by **2047,** when the country completes **100** years of independence.

Important Days

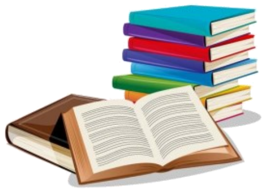
Important Terms Explained:

- **Vande Mataram:** It is India’s **National Song,** written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** and included in his novel Anandamath, which became closely associated with the freedom movement.

Important Days

Important Terms Explained:

- **Youth Power:** It refers to the role and potential of young citizens in contributing to India's social, economic, scientific and technological development.



Important Days

Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Occasion	India’s 80th Independence Day celebration.
Date	August 15, 2026.
Theme	Yuva Shakti, meaning Youth Power.
Core focus	The theme highlights the contribution of young Indians to national development and nation-building.
Development vision	The celebrations connect youth participation with India’s aspiration to become a developed country by 2047.
Years since independence	India will complete 79 years of independence on August 15, 2026, while observing its 80th Independence Day.
Historical significance	The celebration coincides with the 150th year of Vande Mataram.
Youth contribution areas	Innovation, entrepreneurship, scientific research, technology, education and other fields are highlighted.

- What was the Government of India’s debt-to-GDP ratio in FY26?

A) 55.6%
B) 56.1%
C) 57.4%
D) 58.2%
E) 61.5%

Answer
D) 58.2%.

Event and Location:

- **Event:** India's government debt-to-**GDP** ratio stood at **58.2%** in FY**26,** exceeding the government's **56.1%** target by **210** basis points.
- **Location:** India.
- **Date:** The FY**26** debt figures were reported in Parliament and covered in the article published on August **11, 2026**.

Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: The Government of India** aims to reduce the debt-to-**GDP** ratio from **58.2%** in FY**26** to **55.6%** in FY**27** while continuing fiscal consolidation and managing expenditure**,** borrowing and economic growth.

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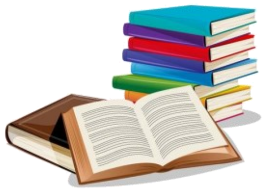
UNBOX THE NEW WAY OF LEARNING

Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The government seeks to improve fiscal sustainability, create greater fiscal space and strengthen its capacity to respond to economic and geopolitical uncertainties.

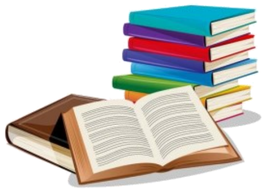
Important Terms Explained:

- Debt-to-**GDP** Ratio: It measures a government's outstanding debt as a percentage of the country's gross domestic product and is an important indicator of fiscal sustainability.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Basis Point:** A basis point is equal to one-hundredth of a percentage point, meaning **100** basis points equal one percentage point.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Fiscal Deficit:** It is the gap between the government's total expenditure and its total receipts excluding borrowings during a financial year.

Important Terms Explained:

- **Economic Stabilisation Fund:** It is a **₹1 trillion** fiscal buffer established by the government to help manage global headwinds and unforeseen events with significant financial implications.

Important Terms Explained:

- **Nominal GDP:** It refers to the value of goods and services produced in an economy measured at current market prices without adjusting for inflation.

Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
FY26 debt-to-GDP ratio	The Union government's outstanding liabilities stood at 58.2% of GDP.
FY26 target	The government had targeted a debt-to-GDP ratio of 56.1%.
Target deviation	The FY26 ratio exceeded the target by 210 basis points.
FY27 target	The Centre aims to reduce the ratio to 55.6% in FY27.
Debt reduction required	The ratio needs to decline by around 260 basis points from the FY26 level to meet the FY27 target.
Fiscal deficit trend	The central government's fiscal deficit declined from 9.2% of GDP in FY21 to 4.4% in FY26 according to provisional actual data.
Fiscal buffer	The government has established a ₹1 trillion Economic Stabilisation Fund.
Q1 FY27 fiscal deficit	The fiscal deficit increased by 9.6% year-on-year to ₹3.10 trillion during April–June FY27.

➤ **According to the RBI's 101st Survey of Professional Forecasters (SPF), what is India's real GDP growth forecast for FY27?**

A) 6.4%
B) 6.5%
C) 6.6%
D) 6.7%
E) 7.0%

Answer
C) 6.6%.

Event and Location:

- **Event: The Reserve Bank of India**’s **101**st **Survey of Professional Forecasters** raised India’s FY**27** real **GDP** growth forecast to **6.6%** and retail inflation forecast to **5%**.
- **Location:** India.
- **Date:** The survey was conducted in July **2026,** while the findings were reported on August **11, 2026**.

Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** survey assessed professional forecasters' expectations for economic growth, inflation, merchandise trade and the current account balance for FY**27** and FY**28**.

Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The survey aims to provide an assessment of India's macroeconomic outlook by tracking expectations regarding growth, inflation, external trade and other major economic indicators.

Important Terms Explained:

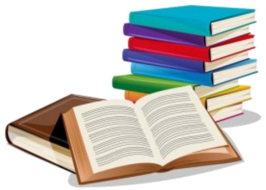
- **Real GDP Growth:** It measures the increase in the value of goods and services produced in an economy after adjusting for inflation.

Important Terms Explained:

- **Retail Inflation:** It refers to the increase in prices faced by consumers and is generally measured through changes in the consumer price index.

Important Terms Explained:

- **Current Account Deficit (CAD):** It arises when a country’s total payments to the rest of the world on goods, services and income exceed its corresponding receipts.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Goldilocks Economy:** It describes an economic situation characterised by relatively strong growth alongside moderate inflation, allowing expansion without excessive price pressures.

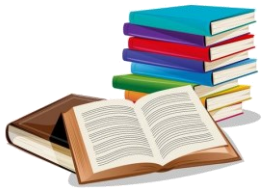
Important Terms Explained:

- **Core Inflation:** It measures underlying inflation after excluding relatively volatile components such as food and fuel prices.

BANKING AND FINANCE

Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
FY27 GDP growth forecast	The SPF raised India's real GDP growth forecast from 6.5% to 6.6%.
FY27 inflation forecast	Retail inflation was revised upward from 4.9% to 5%.
RBI growth projection	RBI projected FY27 GDP growth at 6.7% in its August 5 monetary policy review.
FY28 outlook	The SPF projected real GDP growth of 7% and inflation of 4.5%.
Merchandise exports	FY27 merchandise export growth was revised upward from 5% to 7%.
Merchandise imports	FY27 merchandise import growth was revised downward from 10.5% to 9.9%.
Current account deficit	The FY27 CAD forecast narrowed from 2.1% to 1.4% of GDP.
IMF comparison	The IMF projected India's FY27 growth at 6.4% and FY28 growth at 6.7% in its July 2026 outlook.



- What was India's overall Labour Force Participation Rate for persons aged 15 years and above during April–June 2026?

A) 50.2%
B) 51.7%
C) 54.6%
D) 56.9%
E) 58.2%

Answer
C) 54.6%.

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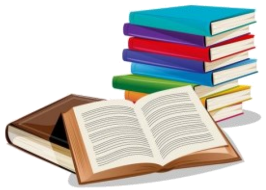
Event and Location:

- **Event: The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Quarterly Bulletin for April**–June **2026** reported key employment, labour-force participation and unemployment indicators for India.
- **Location:** The bulletin covers rural and urban areas across India.
- **Date:** The bulletin relates to the April–June **2026** quarter and was reported on August **11, 2026**.

Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: The National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** released labour-market indicators for rural and urban India using the **Current Weekly Status** methodology.



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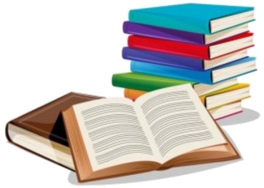
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The survey aims to measure employment, unemployment, labour-force participation, workforce distribution and sector-wise employment trends to support labour-market analysis and policymaking.



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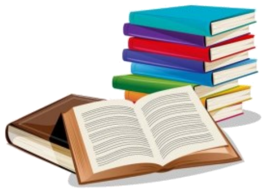
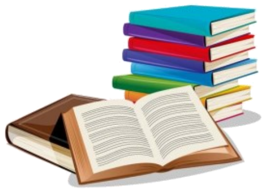
Important Terms Explained:

- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** It represents the percentage of the population that is either employed or actively seeking employment.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** It represents the percentage of the population that is employed.
- **Unemployment Rate (UR):** It represents the percentage of persons in the labour force who are unemployed.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Current Weekly Status (CWS):** It is a **PLFS** measurement approach used to determine a person's employment or unemployment status with reference to the preceding seven days.

Important Terms Explained:

- **Regular Wage/Salaried Employment:** It refers to workers who receive wages or salaries on a regular basis under comparatively structured employment arrangements.

Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Report	PLFS Quarterly Bulletin for April–June 2026.
Overall LFPR	The LFPR for persons aged 15 years and above stood at 54.6%, down from 55.5% in the previous quarter.
Rural and urban LFPR	Rural LFPR stood at 56.9%, while urban LFPR remained unchanged at 50.2%.
Overall WPR	The Worker Population Ratio for persons aged 15 years and above was 51.7%.
Unemployment rate	Rural unemployment stood at 4.8%, while urban unemployment was 6.7%.
Female labour participation	Overall female LFPR stood at 33.2%, compared with 34.7% in the previous quarter.
Regular salaried employment	Its share increased to 16.1% in rural areas and 49.3% in urban areas.
Estimated workers	Around 56.6 crore persons aged 15 years and above were working in India, including 40.2 crore males and 16.4 crore females.

APPOINTMENTS

➤ **Who has assumed charge as Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)?**

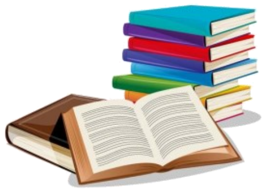
A) M Ravichandran
B) N Kalaiselvi
C) Srinivasa Kumar Tummala
D) K Radhakrishnan
E) S Somanath

Answer
C) Srinivasa Kumar Tummala.

APPOINTMENTS

Event and Location:

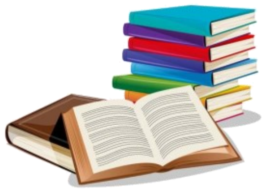
- **Event: Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala** assumed charge as Secretary of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences,** bringing over three decades of experience in oceanography**,** remote sensing and disaster management.
- **Location: Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, New Delhi**.
- **Date:** The appointment was reported on August **11, 2026**.



APPOINTMENTS

Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: As Secretary, Dr Tummala** will oversee key areas including oceanography, meteorology, climate studies, polar science, disaster preparedness and initiatives such as the **Deep Ocean Mission** and multi-hazard early warning systems.



Mandates and Objectives:

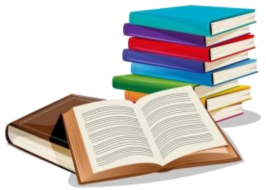
- **Objectives:** His leadership is expected to strengthen India's earth and ocean science capabilities, improve disaster readiness and enhance scientific services for coastal communities, policymakers and other stakeholders.

CA FUNSTA

UNBOX THE NEW WAY OF LEARNING

Important Terms Explained:

- **Tsunami Early Warning System:** It is a scientific monitoring and alert mechanism designed to detect potential tsunami events and provide timely warnings to reduce loss of life and property.

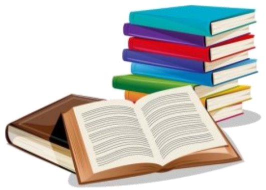


Important Terms Explained:

- **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS):** It is an institution that provides ocean information, advisory and early warning services, including support for fishermen, coastal communities and disaster-management agencies.

Important Terms Explained:

- **Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) Advisories:** These are scientific advisories that identify areas with a higher probability of fish availability using oceanographic and satellite data.



Important Terms Explained:

- Multi-**Hazard Vulnerability Mapping**: It is the assessment and mapping of areas vulnerable to multiple natural hazards to support disaster-risk reduction and preparedness.

APPOINTMENTS

Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Appointment	Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala assumed charge as Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
Professional background	He is an oceanographer and scientist with more than three decades of experience.
Key expertise	His areas of expertise include satellite oceanography, remote sensing, coastal hazard mitigation and disaster management.
Previous responsibility	He served as Director of ESSO-INCOIS, Hyderabad, from August 2020 onwards.
Major contribution	He served as Project Manager for India's advanced tsunami early warning system after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.
Key scientific services	His work covered PFZ advisories, coral reef bleaching alerts, multi-hazard vulnerability mapping and ocean information services.
Major awards	He received the Indian National Geospatial Award in 2008 and the National Geoscience Award in 2010.
Academic contribution	He has authored more than 100 papers in international scientific journals.

➤ **Which Indian physicist has been selected for the 2026 Dirac Medal for contributions to statistical mechanics, optimisation, theoretical neuroscience and artificial intelligence?**

A) Ashoke Sen
B) Deepak Dhar
C) C N R Rao
D) Rajesh Gopakumar
E) Ajay Sood

Answer
B) Deepak Dhar.

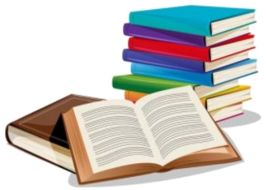
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Indian theoretical physicist **Deepak Dhar** was selected as a recipient of the **2026 Dirac Medal** for major contributions to statistical mechanics, complex systems, optimisation, theoretical neuroscience and artificial intelligence.

AWARDS

Event and Location:

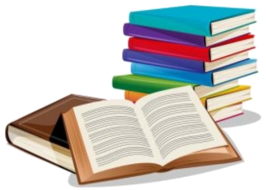
- **Location:** The award was announced by the **Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)**, based in Trieste, Italy.
- **Date:** August **8, 2026**.



AWARDS

Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: The Dirac Medal** recognises scientists who have made significant contributions to theoretical physics, with the **2026** award honouring work spanning equilibrium and non-equilibrium statistical mechanics, optimisation, theoretical neuroscience and artificial intelligence.



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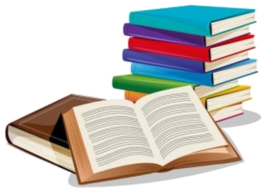
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The award aims to recognise outstanding advances in theoretical physics and honour researchers whose work has significantly expanded understanding of complex physical systems.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Statistical Mechanics:** It is a branch of physics that uses statistical and probabilistic methods to study the collective behaviour of systems containing very large numbers of particles.

Important Terms Explained:

- Self-**Organised Criticality**: It describes a state in which a complex system naturally evolves toward a critical condition where small disturbances can sometimes produce large-scale effects.

Important Terms Explained:

- **Sandpile Model:** It is a mathematical model used to study self-organised criticality and the collective behaviour of complex systems without requiring an external controller.

Important Terms Explained:

- Non-**Equilibrium Statistical Mechanics**: It studies physical systems that are not in thermodynamic equilibrium and are undergoing change or energy and matter flows.

AWARDS

Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Award	The Dirac Medal 2026.
Indian recipient	Deepak Dhar was selected as one of the 2026 recipients.
Awarding institution	The medal is awarded by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy.
Announcement date	The 2026 recipients were announced on August 8, 2026.
Other recipients	Bernard Derrida, Marc Mézard and Haim Sompolinsky were also selected for the 2026 medal.
Key contribution	Dhar was recognised for work in statistical mechanics, complex systems, optimisation, theoretical neuroscience and artificial intelligence.
Award background	The Dirac Medal was instituted in 1985 and is awarded annually on Paul Dirac's birth anniversary.
Prize value	The award carries a monetary prize of US$5,000.

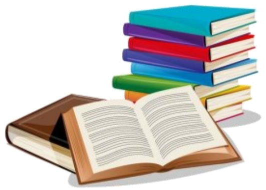
- **What is the maximum farmer premium for Kharif food and oilseed crops under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)?**

A) 1%
B) 1.5%
C) 2%
D) 3%
E) 5%

Answer
C) 2%.

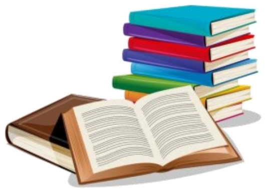
Event and Location:

- **Event: PMFBY 2026** provides crop-insurance protection to eligible farmers against financial losses arising from specified crop risks.
- **Location:** The scheme operates across notified crops and notified areas in India, subject to applicable **State Government** notifications.



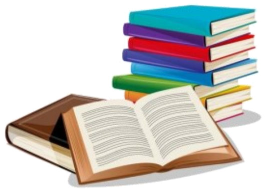
Event and Location:

- **Date: PMFBY** was originally launched in **2016,** while the article detailing its **2026** provisions was published on August **11, 2026**.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: The Government of India** scheme provides insurance coverage for notified crops against specified risks such as natural calamities, adverse weather conditions, pests, diseases, localised calamities and eligible post-harvest losses, subject to scheme provisions.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The scheme aims to provide affordable crop insurance, stabilise farmers' income after crop losses, encourage continuity in farming and promote the adoption of modern agricultural practices.

Important Terms Explained:

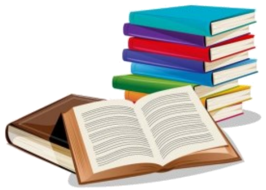
- **Notified Crops and Notified Areas:** These are crops and geographic areas officially declared eligible for insurance coverage under the scheme through the applicable **State Government** notification.

Important Terms Explained:

- **Actuarial Premium:** It is the insurance premium determined on the basis of assessed risk, of which the farmer pays only the prescribed capped share while the remaining eligible amount is supported through government subsidy.

Important Terms Explained:

- **YESTECH:** It is a technology-based system used under **PMFBY** to support crop-yield estimation and improve the accuracy of insurance assessments.



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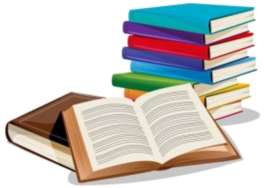
Important Terms Explained:

- **WINDS:** It is a technology platform associated with weather-information systems used to strengthen crop-risk monitoring and assessment.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Crop Loss Assessment Platform (CLAP):** It is a digital platform used to support technology-based assessment and processing of crop-loss information.

Important Terms Explained:

- **National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP):** It is the official digital platform that provides services such as farmer enrolment, premium calculation, application-status tracking and crop-loss reporting.

CA FUNSTA

Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Scheme name	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.
Launch year and ministry	The scheme was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
Main purpose	It provides financial protection to eligible farmers against insured crop losses.
Farmer premium	The maximum farmer share is 2% for Kharif food and oilseed crops, 1.5% for Rabi food and oilseed crops, and 5% for annual commercial and horticultural crops.
Eligibility	Farmers cultivating notified crops in notified areas, including eligible sharecroppers and tenant farmers, may be covered subject to applicable requirements.
Application channels	Farmers can enrol through the official portal and authorised channels such as banks, Common Service Centres and insurance intermediaries.
Crop-loss reporting	Certain localised and specified post-harvest losses must be reported through the prescribed channel within 72 hours.
Helpline	The Krishi Rakshak Portal and Helpline provides assistance through helpline number 14447.

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➤ **What is the key support provided to farmers under the UP Khet Suraksha Yojana 2026 for protecting crops from stray cattle and wild animals?**

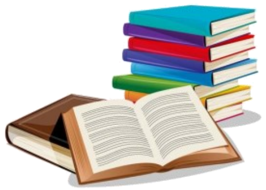
A) Free crop insurance
B) Solar-powered electric fencing
C) Interest-free farm loans
D) Free irrigation pumps
E) Minimum support price subsidy

Answer
B) Solar-powered electric fencing.

SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

Event and Location:

- **Event:** The UP **Khet Suraksha Yojana 2026,** also known as the **Mukhyamantri Khet Suraksha Yojana,** supports farmers in protecting standing crops from stray cattle and wild animals through solar-powered fencing.



Event and Location:

- **Location:** The scheme is applicable in **Uttar Pradesh,** subject to the relevant **Agriculture Department** guidelines and district-level availability.
- **Date:** The scheme details for **2026** were reported on August **11, 2026**.

Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: The Government of Uttar Pradesh** provides eligible farmers with financial assistance, subject to applicable rules, for installing solar-powered electric fencing around agricultural fields vulnerable to damage from stray cattle, nilgai and wild boar.

Mandates and Objectives:

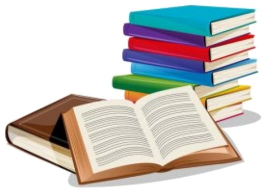
- **Objectives:** The scheme aims to reduce animal-related crop losses, improve farm security, support farmers financially and promote the use of solar-powered technology in agriculture.

Important Terms Explained:

- **Solar Fencing:** It is a protective fencing system powered by solar energy and designed to deter animals from entering agricultural fields and damaging standing crops.

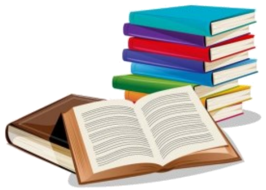
Important Terms Explained:

- **Khasra/Khatauni:** These are land-record documents commonly used to establish details relating to agricultural land, cultivation and landholding.



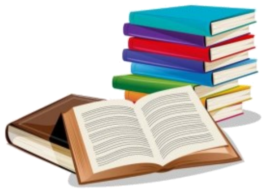
Important Terms Explained:

- **Subsidy:** It refers to government financial assistance that reduces the farmer's share of the cost of installing eligible fencing infrastructure.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Nilgai:** It is a large antelope found in India that can enter agricultural fields and cause damage to standing crops.



SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Scheme name	UP Khet Suraksha Yojana, also known as Mukhyamantri Khet Suraksha Yojana.
Implementing government	The initiative is associated with the Government of Uttar Pradesh and its Agriculture Department.
Main purpose	It seeks to protect agricultural crops from stray cattle and wild animals such as nilgai and wild boar.
Key support	Eligible farmers can receive assistance for installing solar-powered fencing around agricultural fields.
Reported subsidy	Several 2026 references cited assistance of up to 60% of the fencing cost, with a reported ceiling of ₹1.43 lakh per kilometre, subject to verification of current rules.
Eligibility	Applicants are generally required to be Uttar Pradesh farmers with eligible agricultural land and valid supporting records.
Required documents	Common documents include Aadhaar, land records, Khasra or Khatauni, bank details, residence proof and caste certificate where applicable.
Application process	Farmers should register through official Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Department channels, submit documents and undergo verification before approval.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

➤ **Which national song will be played from the Red Fort ramparts for the first time during India's 80th Independence Day celebrations in 2026?**

A) Sare Jahan Se Achha
B) Jana Gana Mana
C) Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon
D) Vande Mataram
E) Vijayi Vishwa Tiranga Pyara

Answer
D) Vande Mataram.

Event and Location:

- **Event:** India's **80**th **Independence Day** ceremony will include **Vande Mataram** in the ceremonial sequence at the **Red Fort** for the first time.
- **Location: Red Fort, New Delhi,** India.
- **Date:** August **15, 2026**.

Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will reach the **Red Fort** ramparts**,** after which **Vande Mataram** will be played with attendees standing**,** followed by the unfurling of the **National Flag** and the **National Anthem**.

Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The revised ceremonial sequence aims to give greater prominence to India's **National Song** while the **2026** celebrations, themed **Yuva Shakti**, will highlight the achievements and contributions of Indian youth.

Important Terms Explained:

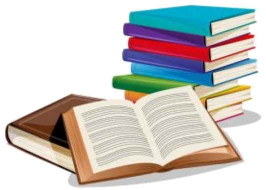
- **Vande Mataram:** India's **National Song,** written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay,** which gained prominence during the Indian freedom movement.

Important Terms Explained:

- **National Anthem: Jana Gana Mana** is India's **National Anthem** and will be played after the **Prime Minister** unfurls the **National Flag** during the **Independence Day** ceremony.

Important Terms Explained:

- **Yuva Shakti:** The theme of the **2026 Independence Day** celebration, meaning “power of youth”**,** which focuses on the achievements and contributions of students and young citizens.



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	India’s 80th Independence Day celebration.
Date	August 15, 2026.
Location	Red Fort, New Delhi.
Key ceremonial change	Vande Mataram will be played from the Red Fort ramparts as part of the Independence Day sequence for the first time.
Key leader	Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unfurl the National Flag.
Ceremonial sequence	Vande Mataram will be followed by flag unfurling and the National Anthem.
Theme	Yuva Shakti, highlighting the power and contributions of youth.
Issuing authority	The Ministry of Defence announced details of the revised ceremonial sequence.

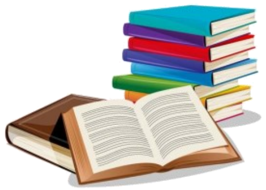
NATIONAL AFFAIRS

➤ **Which legislation has been passed by Parliament in 2026 to give explicit legal recognition to electronic and digital banking records as evidence?**

A) Banking Regulation Bill 2026
B) Digital Evidence Bill 2026
C) Bankers' Book Evidence Bill 2026
D) Financial Records Bill 2026
E) Electronic Banking Bill 2026

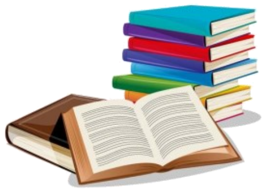
Answer

C) Bankers' Book Evidence Bill 2026.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** Parliament passed the Bankers' **Book Evidence Bill 2026,** replacing the colonial-era Bankers' **Book Evidence Act, 1891,** and explicitly recognising electronic and digital banking records as legal evidence.
- **Location: Parliament of India, New Delhi**.

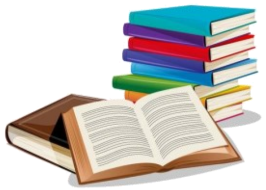


Event and Location:

- **Date: The Rajya Sabha** passed the Bill by voice vote on August **10, 2026,** after its earlier passage by the **Lok Sabha**.

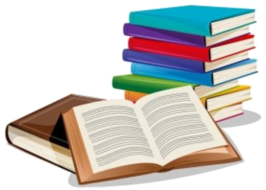
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The legislation establishes a technology-neutral framework for bankers' books, recognises physical, electronic and digital records as evidence, standardises certification procedures and provides certain protections to bank officials from unnecessary court summonses.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives: The Bill** aims to modernise the legal framework for banking records in line with technological developments, facilitate the use of digitally stored records in judicial proceedings and replace the outdated **1891** law designed primarily for paper-based banking.



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Important Terms Explained:

- Technology-**Neutral Legal Framework**: It is a legal framework designed to apply irrespective of the specific technology used to create, store or maintain banking records.

Important Terms Explained:

- **Electronic and Digital Banking Records:** These include banking information maintained electronically or digitally, including records stored on premises, off premises, in cloud systems, backups and disaster-recovery systems.

Important Terms Explained:

- **Certification of Bank Records:** It is the prescribed process through which bank records can be authenticated for use as legal evidence through manual, digital or electronic signatures.

Important Terms Explained:

- **Voice Vote:** It is a parliamentary voting method in which members verbally indicate their support or opposition, and the presiding officer determines the result based on the collective response.

Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Legislation	Bankers’ Book Evidence Bill 2026.
Law replaced	It replaces the Bankers’ Book Evidence Act, 1891.
Rajya Sabha passage	The Upper House passed the Bill by voice vote on August 10, 2026.
Key purpose	It modernises the evidentiary framework for banking records in the digital era.
Records recognised	Physical, electronic and digital banking records can fall within the legal framework.
Storage coverage	Records stored on premises, off premises, in cloud systems, backups and disaster-recovery systems are covered.
Certification mechanism	Records may be certified using manual, digital or electronic signatures according to prescribed procedures.
Protection for officials	The framework provides safeguards against unnecessary summonses of bank officials when the bank is not a party to the dispute, subject to court powers.

➤ **After the addition of 11 new international ports in 2026, how many designated entry points are available in India for foreign nationals holding a valid e-Visa?**

A) 77
B) 82
C) 85
D) 88
E) 91

Answer
D) 88.

CA FUNSTA
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Event and Location:

- **Event: The Government of India** added **11** new international ports as designated entry points for foreign nationals holding valid Indian e-Visas**,** taking the total number of such entry points to **88**.
- **Location:** The newly added entry points include nine land ports and two airports located across India.

Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: The Government of India** notified nine additional land ports and two airports through which eligible foreign nationals with valid e-Visas can enter India.

Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The expansion aims to improve ease of international travel, strengthen regional connectivity, support tourism and widen India's electronic visa infrastructure while maintaining immigration and security requirements.

CA FUNSTA
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Important Terms Explained:

- **Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA):** It is the electronic travel approval issued to eligible foreign nationals under India's e-Visa system before their journey to the country.

Important Terms Explained:

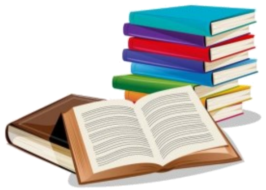
- **Land Port:** It is an officially designated border entry point through which international passengers and goods can cross into or out of a country by land.

Important Terms Explained:

- **Electronic Visa System:** It is a digital visa mechanism that allows eligible foreign nationals to apply for travel authorisation online instead of following the conventional physical visa application process.

Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Key development	India added 11 new international entry points for foreign nationals holding valid e-Visas.
Total e-Visa entry points	The total number increased to 88.
Airport entry points	India now has 37 designated airports for e-Visa entry.
Seaport entry points	India has 38 designated seaports for e-Visa entry.
Land-port entry points	India now has 13 designated land ports for e-Visa entry.
Newly added ports	The latest expansion includes nine land ports and two airports.
New airports	Bhopal and Tirupati were added as designated e-Visa entry airports.
Main purpose	The expansion is intended to improve travel convenience, tourism access, connectivity and visa infrastructure.

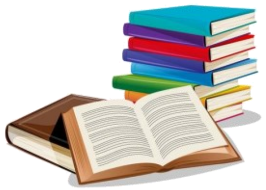


NATIONAL AFFAIRS

➤ **Which mechanism is being used under the NSP-DBT scholarship initiative to provide monthly scholarship and fellowship payments directly to agriculture students?**

A) Unified Payments Interface
B) Direct Benefit Transfer
C) Public Financial Management System
D) National Education Portal
E) Aadhaar Payment Bridge

Answer
B) Direct Benefit Transfer.



Event and Location:

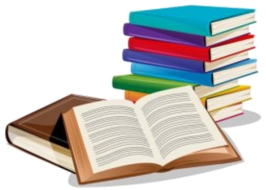
- **Event: Union Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the **NSP-DBT** scholarship initiative to provide monthly scholarship and fellowship payments directly to agriculture students.
- **Location: ICAR-IARI**, Pusa, **New Delhi**.
- **Date:** The initiative was reported on August **11, 2026**.

Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The initiative integrates the **National Scholarship Portal** (**NSP**) with **Direct Benefit Transfer** (**DBT**) to transfer scholarship and fellowship funds directly into the bank accounts of eligible agriculture students on a monthly basis.

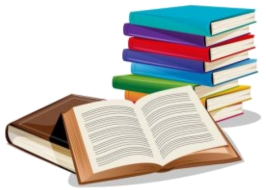
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The system aims to make scholarship disbursement faster, transparent, seamless and timely, reduce payment delays and enable students to focus better on their education, research and practical training.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Scholarship and Fellowship:** These are forms of financial assistance provided to eligible students and researchers to support education, academic training and research activities.



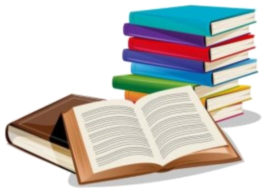
Important Terms Explained:

- **ICAR-IARI**: **The Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Indian Agricultural Research Institute** is a major agricultural research and education institution where the launch event was held.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Important Terms Explained:

- **Practical Agricultural Training:** It refers to hands-on learning through farms, laboratories and research activities to develop skills required for careers in farming, agricultural science and entrepreneurship.



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Initiative	NSP-DBT scholarship and fellowship payment initiative for agriculture students.
Launched by	Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
Venue	ICAR-IARI, Pusa, New Delhi.
Beneficiaries	More than 6,000 agriculture students received financial assistance in the latest disbursement.
Amount disbursed	₹21.35 crore was transferred directly to eligible students.
Payment frequency	Eligible students will receive scholarship support on a monthly basis.
Payment mechanism	Funds are transferred directly into students' bank accounts through DBT using the National Scholarship Portal framework.
Main purpose	The initiative seeks to reduce delays, improve transparency and ensure timely financial support for agriculture students.

➤ **Which state government has moved the Supreme Court against a High Court ruling permitting consideration of motorcycles for registration and operation as bike taxis?**

A) Maharashtra
B) Tamil Nadu
C) Karnataka
D) Telangana
E) Kerala

Answer
C) Karnataka.

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Event and Location:

- **Event: The Government of Karnataka** moved the **Supreme Court** challenging a **Karnataka High Court** ruling concerning registration of motorcycles as transport vehicles and their operation as bike taxis.
- **Location:** Karnataka**,** with the legal challenge filed before the **Supreme Court of India**.

CA FUNSTA

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Event and Location:

- **Date: The Karnataka High Court** order under challenge was passed on January **23, 2026,** while the development was reported on August **11, 2026**.

Mandates and Objectives:

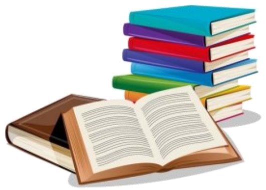
- **Mandates:** Karnataka has sought judicial reconsideration of the **High Court** ruling, arguing that commercial passenger transport by motorcycles requires a proper framework covering registration, permits, passenger safety, insurance, traffic and enforcement.

Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The state aims to ensure that any bike-taxi operations are governed by clear legal and regulatory standards before motorcycles are widely permitted for commercial passenger transportation.

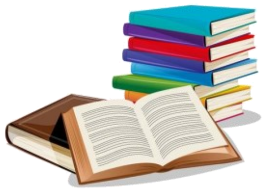
Important Terms Explained:

- **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**: It is the principal central legislation regulating motor vehicles, registration, permits, licensing and transport operations in India.



Important Terms Explained:

- Article **19**(**1**)(g): It is a constitutional provision guaranteeing citizens the right to practise any profession or carry on any occupation, trade or business, subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by law.

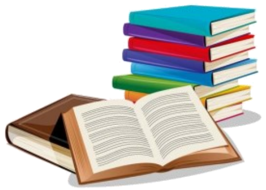


Important Terms Explained:

- **Contract Carriage:** It generally refers to a motor vehicle hired under a contract for carrying passengers on agreed terms, subject to applicable transport laws and permit requirements.

Important Terms Explained:

- **Bike Taxi:** It refers to the commercial use of a motorcycle to carry a passenger for consideration, although the article notes that the term is not specifically defined under the **Motor Vehicles Act** or its rules.



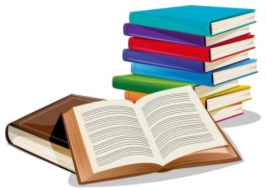
NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Legal development	Karnataka challenged the High Court ruling on bike-taxi operations before the Supreme Court.
High Court order date	The Karnataka High Court passed the relevant order on January 23, 2026.
State's key concern	Karnataka cited passenger safety, insurance, traffic congestion, pollution and regulatory gaps.
Core legal issue	The dispute concerns whether motorcycles can be registered and permitted for commercial passenger transport under existing law.
High Court view	The High Court held that taxi operations are a legitimate business protected under Article 19(1)(g), subject to lawful regulation.
Statutory issue	The state cited the absence of a specific definition of "bike taxi" under the Motor Vehicles Act or its rules.
Existing state rules	Karnataka argued that its 2016 aggregator rules were designed for four-wheeled motor cabs and were inadequate for motorcycles.
Potential impact	The Supreme Court's decision could affect bike-taxi operators, aggregators, passengers, insurers and transport departments.

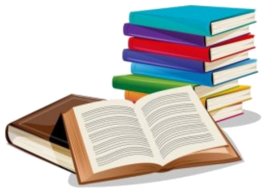
QUICK RECALL

- India gained independence from British rule on August 15, 1947.
- The Union government's debt-to-GDP ratio declined from 61.5% in FY21 to 58.2% in FY26.
- The SPF raised its FY27 GDP growth forecast by 10 basis points to 6.6%.
- India's overall LFPR for persons aged 15 years and above declined from 55.5% in January–March 2026 to 54.6% in April–June 2026.



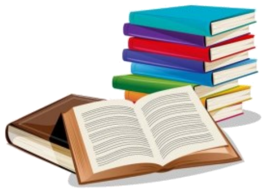
QUICK RECALL

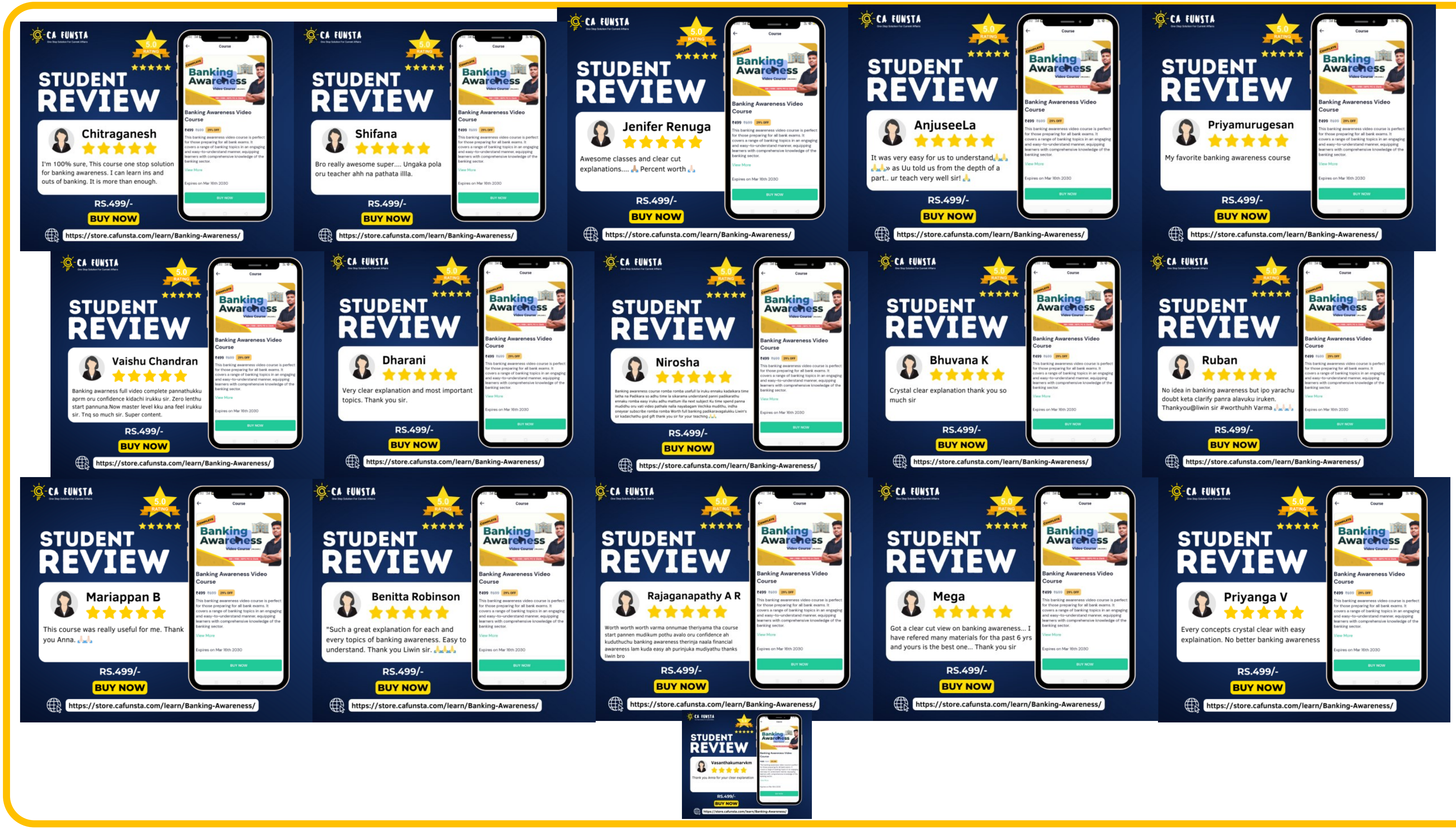
- Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala succeeded Dr N Kalaiselvi, who had been handling the Ministry of Earth Sciences in an additional-charge capacity.
- Deepak Dhar is an Indian theoretical physicist known primarily for his work in statistical mechanics and complex systems.
- PMFBY is a crop-insurance scheme and not a general cash-support programme.
- The UP Khet Suraksha Yojana focuses on reducing crop damage caused by stray cattle and wild animals in Uttar Pradesh.
- India will celebrate its 80th Independence Day on August 15, 2026.



QUICK RECALL

- The Bankers' Book Evidence Bill 2026 replaces a law that had governed banking records since 1891.
- The nine newly added land ports are Agartala, Darranga, Gede, Ghojadanga, Haridaspur, Jaigaon, Dawki, Moreh and Attari Road.
- More than 6,000 agriculture students received ₹21.35 crore under the latest scholarship and fellowship disbursement.
- Karnataka argued that motorcycles used for passenger transport require a dedicated regulatory framework covering permits, safety and insurance.

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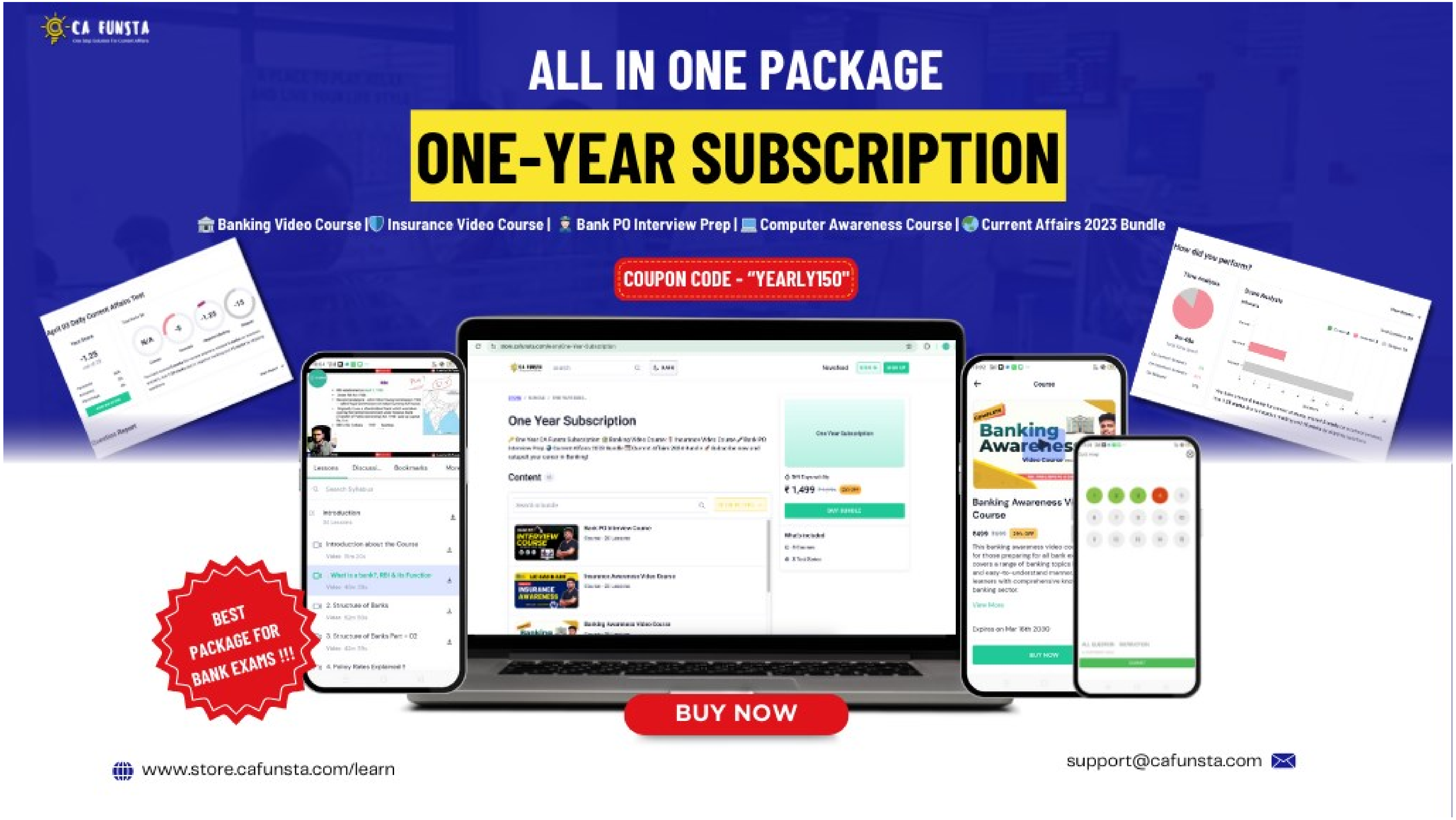

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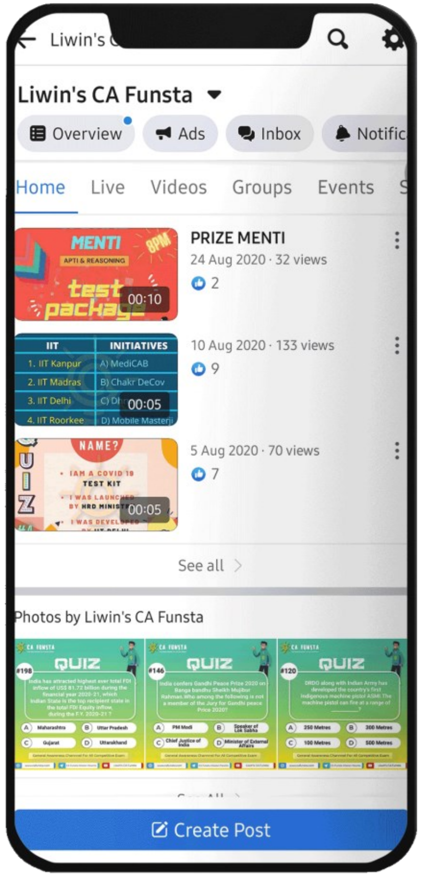

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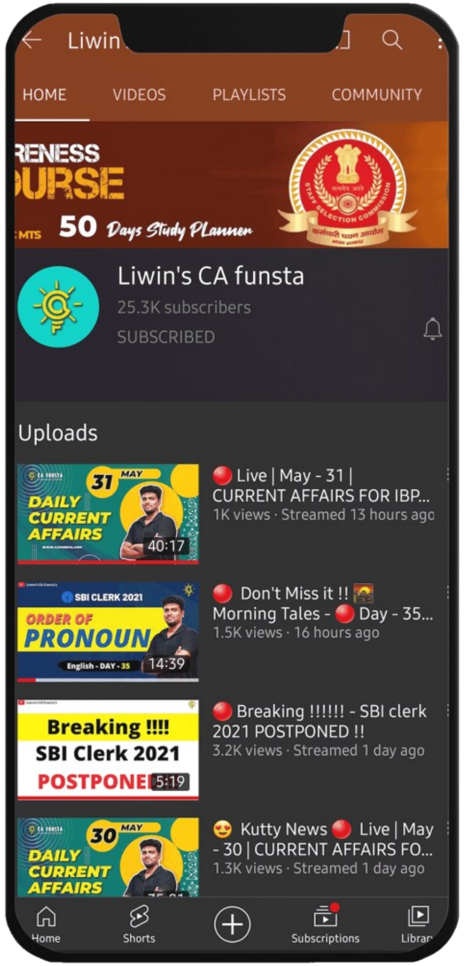

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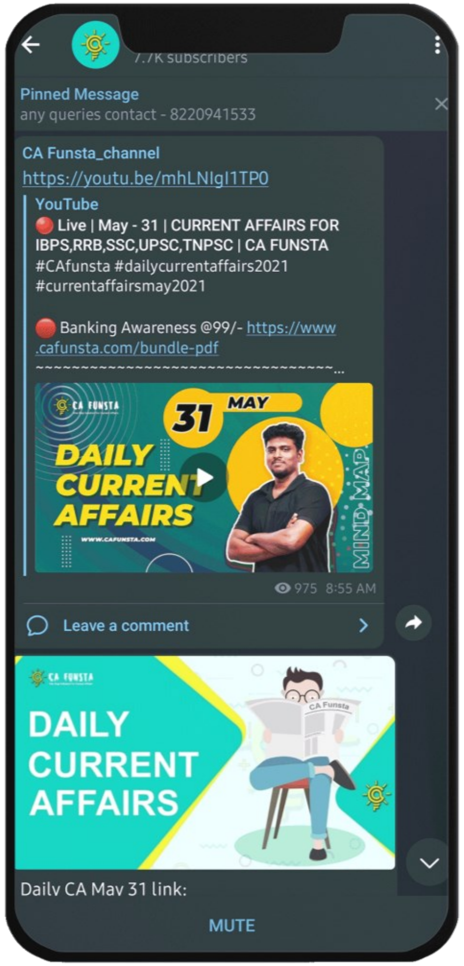

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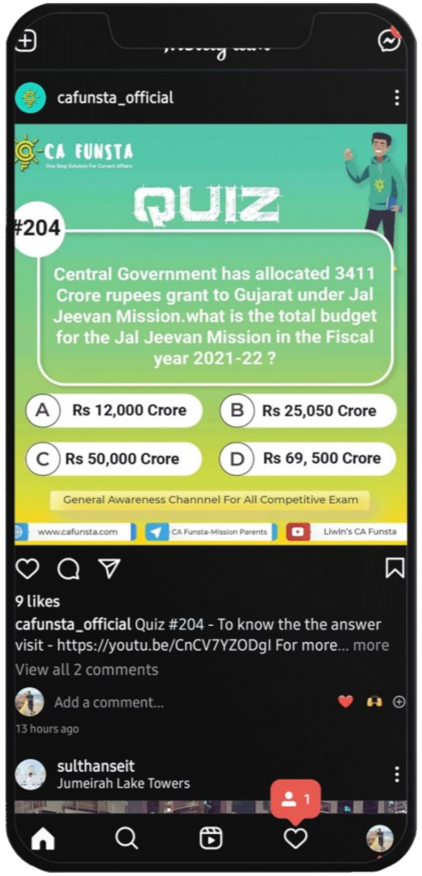

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