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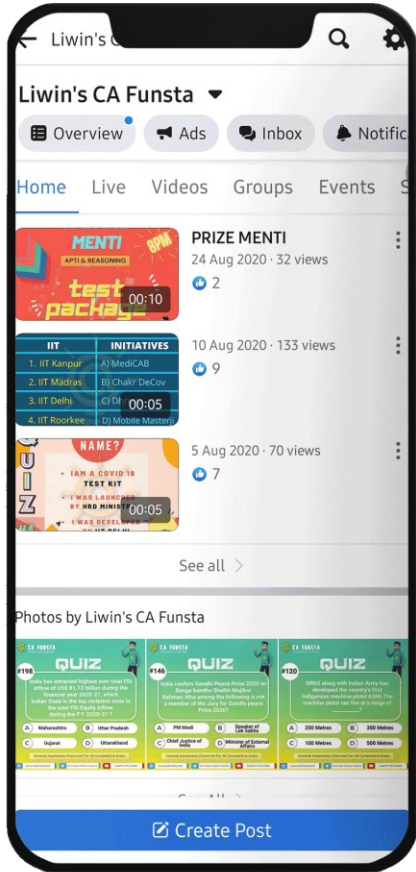


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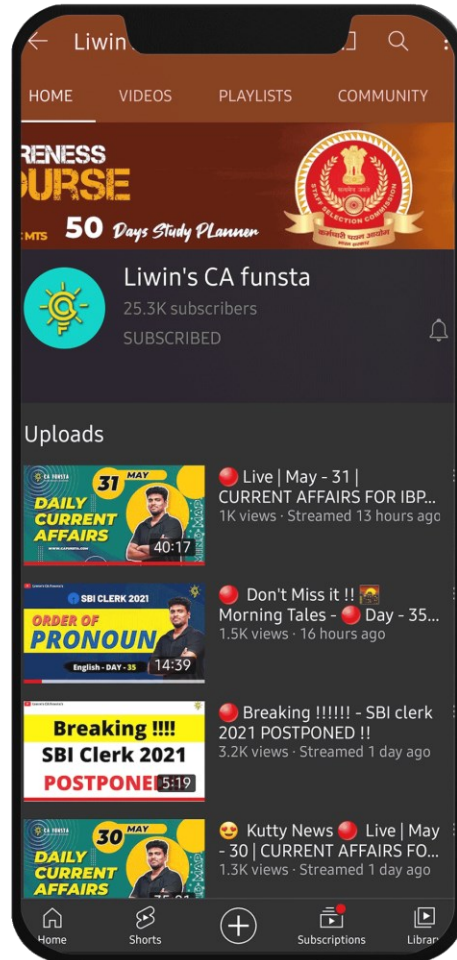
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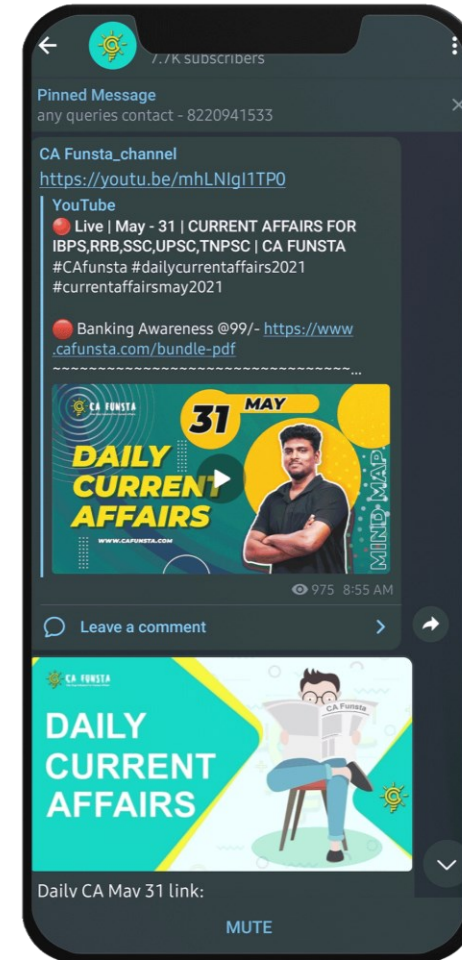
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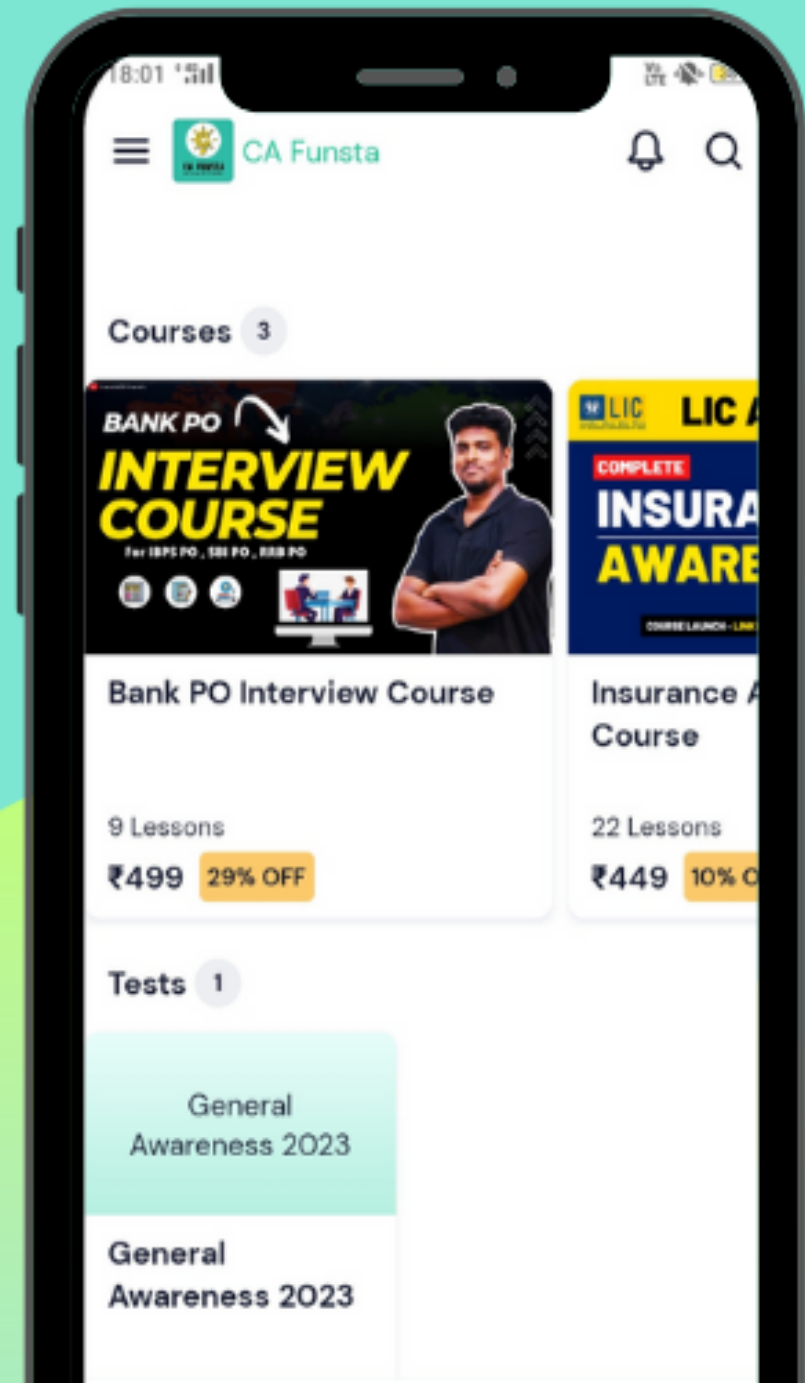
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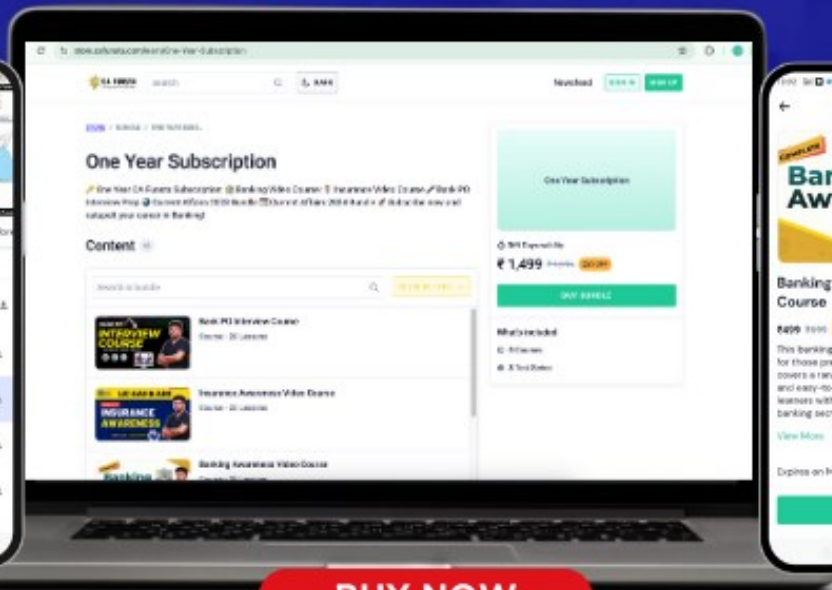
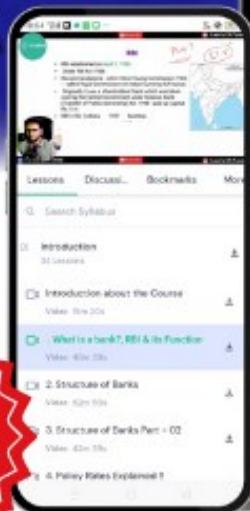
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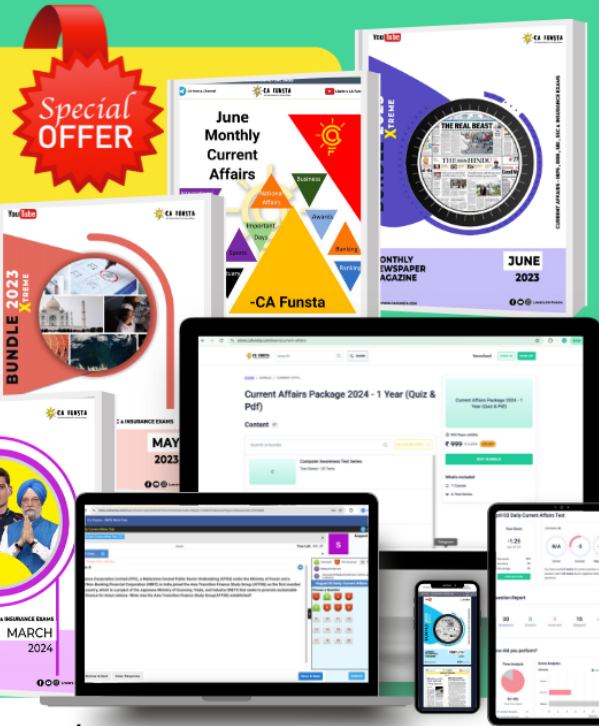
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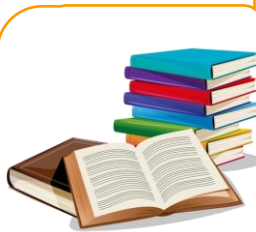
Important Days



➤ On which date is Subhas Chandra Bose Death Anniversary 2026 observed?

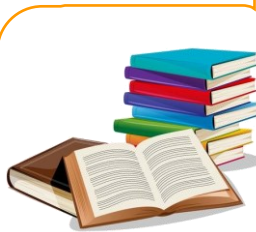
- A) August 15
- B) August 18
- C) August 21
- D) January 23
- E) October 21

Answer
B) August 18.



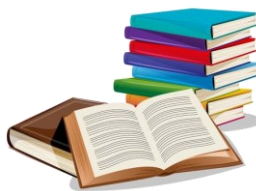
Event and Location:

- **Event: Subhas Chandra Bose Death Anniversary 2026** was observed to mark **81** years since the reported death of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**.
- **Location:** The anniversary was observed in India, while Bose's reported death occurred near Taihoku, Formosa, now **Taipei in Taiwan**.
- **Date:** August **18, 2026**.



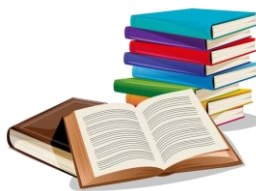
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The observance commemorates **Subhas Chandra Bose**'s role in India's freedom movement, including his leadership of the **Indian National Army** and establishment of the **Provisional Government of Free India**.



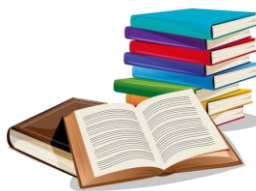
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The anniversary aims to remember Bose's contribution to India's struggle for complete independence, his advocacy of armed resistance against British rule, and his enduring political and nationalist legacy.



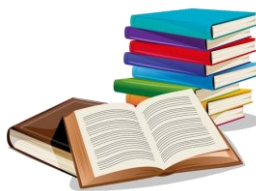
Important Terms Explained:

- **Indian National Army (INA):** Also known as the **Azad Hind Fauj**, it was led by **Subhas Chandra Bose** in **Southeast Asia** and fought alongside Japanese forces against British rule during the **Second World War**.



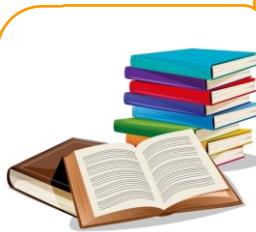
Important Terms Explained:

- **Azad Hind Government: The Provisional Government of Free India** was proclaimed by Bose on October **21, 1943**, as a government representing the objective of establishing an independent India.



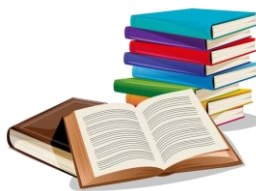
Important Terms Explained:

- **Forward Bloc:** It was formed by Bose after his differences with the **Indian National Congress** leadership and aimed to consolidate left-wing and nationalist political forces.



Important Terms Explained:

- **National Planning Committee:** It was established in **1938** during Bose's tenure as Congress president to focus on industrialisation and planned economic development in India.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

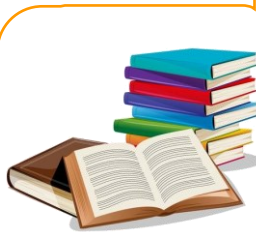
Parameter	Details
Event name	Subhas Chandra Bose Death Anniversary 2026.
Date	August 18, 2026, marking 81 years since his reported death on August 18, 1945.
Birth details	Bose was born on January 23, 1897, in Cuttack in the Bengal province.
Congress leadership	He served as Indian National Congress president in 1938 and was re-elected in 1939 before resigning due to ideological differences.
Escape from India	Bose escaped house arrest in Calcutta on January 26, 1941, and later reached Germany through Kabul and Moscow.
INA leadership	He reached Japanese-controlled Southeast Asia in 1943 and assumed command of the INA.
Azad Hind Government	Bose proclaimed the Provisional Government of Free India on October 21, 1943.
Reported death	Bose was officially reported to have died from injuries sustained in a plane crash near Taihoku, Formosa, on August 18, 1945.



➤ **Who won the Open section gold medal at the Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship 2026?**

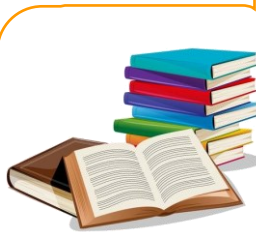
- A) Sharnarthi Viresh
- B) Nandish V S
- C) Vignesh Vermula
- D) Akshay Borgaonkar
- E) Madhavendra Pratap Sharma

Answer
C) Vignesh Vermula.



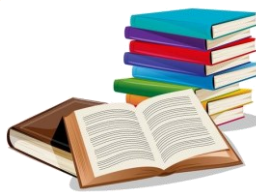
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Indian chess players **Vignesh Vermula** and **Saranya Devi** won gold medals in the **Open and Girls'** sections respectively at the **Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship 2026**.
- **Location:** The championship was held at **ITC Maratha Sheraton in Mumbai, Maharashtra**.



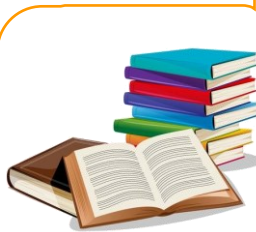
Event and Location:

- **Date:** The blitz event was held on August **17, 2026**.



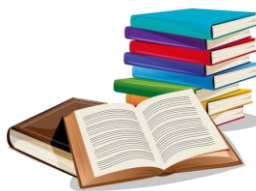
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: The Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship** featured separate **Open and Girls'** competitions for junior chess players from across Asia, with rankings determined by tournament scores and applicable tie-break criteria.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The championship aims to provide young Asian chess players with high-level competitive exposure while testing tactical ability, quick decision-making and time management in the blitz format.



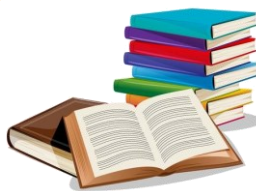
Ranking Table:

Rank	Entity / Score/Index/Remarks
1	Entity: Vignesh Vermula. Score/Index/Remarks: Open section gold medallist and winner on tie-break scores.
2	Entity: Sharnarthi Viresh. Score/Index/Remarks: Finished second in the Open section.
3	Entity: Nandish V S. Score/Index/Remarks: Finished third in the Open section.
1	Entity: Saranya Devi. Score/Index/Remarks: Girls' section gold medallist.
2	Entity: Prishita Gupta. Score/Index/Remarks: Girls' section silver medallist.
3	Entity: Shanmathi Sree. Score/Index/Remarks: Girls' section bronze medallist.
4	Entity: Lala Shohradova. Score/Index/Remarks: Top seed from Turkmenistan who finished fourth in the Girls' section.



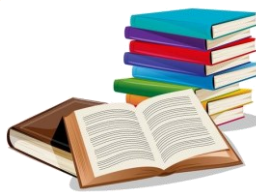
Important Terms Explained:

- **Blitz Chess:** It is a fast-paced format of chess in which players must complete their games within a short fixed time, placing greater emphasis on tactics, quick calculation and time management.



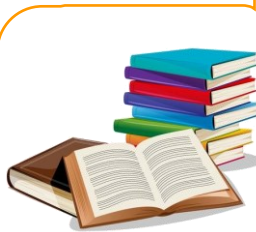
Important Terms Explained:

- Tie-break Score: It is a secondary scoring criterion used to determine final rankings when two or more players finish with the same number of points.



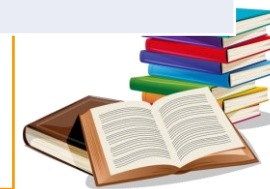
Important Terms Explained:

- **Asian Junior Chess Championship:** It is a continental-level chess competition for junior players from Asian countries, featuring different competitive categories including **Open and Girls'** events.



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship 2026.
Date	August 17, 2026.
Location	ITC Maratha Sheraton, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
Organiser	Maharashtra Chess Association.
Open gold medallist	Vignesh Vermula, who was seeded 23rd and won on tie-break scores.
Girls' gold medallist	Saranya Devi, who entered the event as the ninth seed.
Inauguration	The championship was inaugurated by Jayraj Pathak, former Commissioner of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.
Significance	Indian players secured both Open and Girls' blitz gold medals and occupied several leading positions.



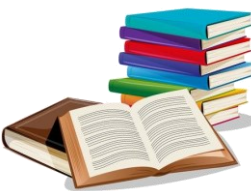
➤ **Who will succeed Sunil Bharti Mittal as Chairperson of Airtel Payments Bank from October 1, 2026?**

- A) Shabnam Sinha
- B) Naina Lal Kidwai
- C) Renu Sud Karnad
- D) Arundhati Bhattacharya
- E) Kalpana Morparia



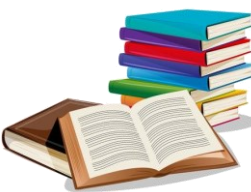
Answer

A) Shabnam Sinha.



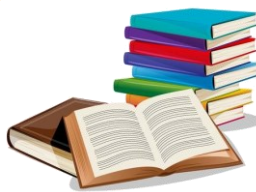
Event and Location:

- **Event:** **Shabnam Sinha** has been appointed **Chairperson of Airtel Payments Bank** for a three-year term, succeeding **Sunil Bharti Mittal**.
- **Location:** The leadership transition concerns **Airtel Payments Bank**'s operations across India.



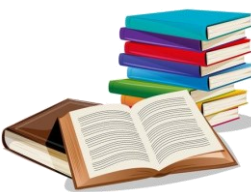
Event and Location:

- **Date:** **Shabnam Sinha** will assume office on October **1, 2026**, after **Sunil Bharti Mittal** steps down on September **30, 2026**.



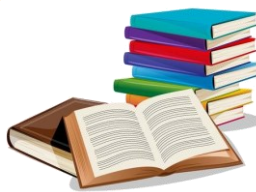
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The appointment was approved by the **Board of Airtel Payments Bank** and the **Reserve Bank of India**, with Sinha set to lead the bank for three years from October **1, 2026**.



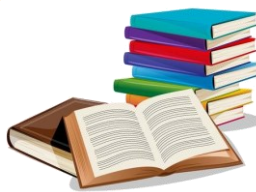
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The leadership transition is expected to support the bank's financial inclusion, digital banking, institutional development, and expansion of accessible financial services across urban and rural India.



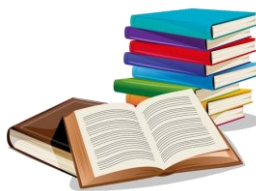
Important Terms Explained:

- **Payments Bank:** A payments bank is a differentiated bank designed to promote financial inclusion by offering services such as deposits, payments, remittances, and digital banking, subject to regulatory restrictions prescribed by the **RBI**.



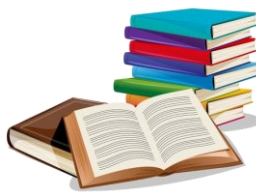
Important Terms Explained:

- **Financial Inclusion:** It refers to providing affordable and accessible financial products and services to individuals and communities that are underserved or excluded from the formal banking system.



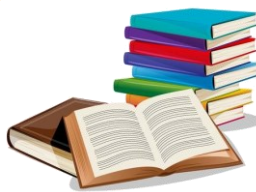
Important Terms Explained:

- **UPI Autopay:** It is a feature of the **Unified Payments Interface** that enables customers to create recurring electronic payment mandates for services such as subscriptions, bills, and other periodic payments.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Banking Correspondent:** A banking correspondent is an authorised agent who provides basic banking services on behalf of a bank, particularly in areas where conventional bank branches may not be easily accessible.



APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
New Chairperson	Shabnam Sinha will become Chairperson of Airtel Payments Bank.
Effective date	She will assume office on October 1, 2026.
Tenure	Her appointment is for a three-year term.
Predecessor	Sunil Bharti Mittal will step down from the bank's Board on September 30, 2026.
Approval	The appointment was approved by the company's Board and the Reserve Bank of India.
Current role	Sinha is an independent director and chairs the Special Committee of the Board for Monitoring Frauds.
Banking reach	Airtel Payments Bank has over 121 million monthly active users, nearly 30 million account holders, and more than 500,000 banking points.
Strategic focus	The bank continues to focus on digital banking, mobile banking, financial inclusion, and wider access to banking services.

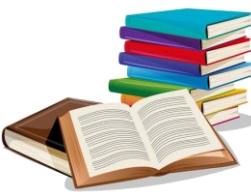


➤ **Who conferred Nepal's honorary General rank on Indian Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth in Kathmandu?**

- A) Ram Chandra Paudel
- B) Ashok Raj Sigdel
- C) Pradeep Jung KC
- D) Naveen Srivastava
- E) Pushpa Kamal Dahal

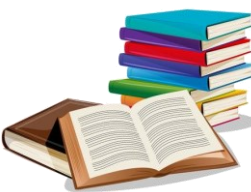


Answer
A) Ram Chandra Paudel.



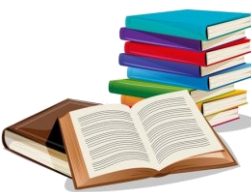
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Indian Army Chief **General Dhiraj Seth** was awarded the honorary rank of General of the **Nepali Army by Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel** as part of a longstanding military tradition between **India and Nepal**.
- **Location:** The honour was conferred in Kathmandu, Nepal, during **General Seth's** official visit.



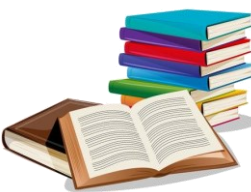
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: General Dhiraj Seth's** official engagements included receiving the honorary General rank, a **Guard of Honour at Nepali Army Headquarters**, paying homage at the **Army Pavilion in Tundikhel**, and holding military-level discussions with senior Nepali officials.



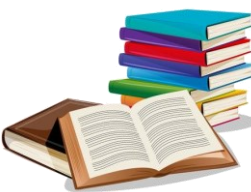
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The visit aims to strengthen bilateral military cooperation, sustain the traditional ties between the **Indian and Nepali** armies, and facilitate discussions on matters of mutual defence interest.



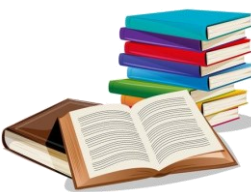
Important Terms Explained:

- **Honorary General Rank Tradition:** It is a reciprocal military tradition dating back to **1950** under which the Army chiefs of **India and Nepal** are conferred the honorary rank of General in each other's armies.



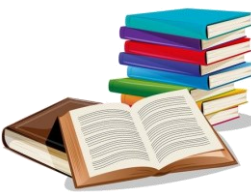
Important Terms Explained:

- **Guard of Honour:** It is a ceremonial military tribute accorded to distinguished dignitaries and senior officials during formal visits or official occasions.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Bilateral Military Talks:** These are official discussions between military representatives of two countries to strengthen defence cooperation, exchange views on security matters, and enhance institutional ties.



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Main event	General Dhiraj Seth received Nepal's honorary rank of General of the Nepali Army.
Date of honour	August 17, 2026.
Location	Kathmandu, Nepal.
Awarding authority	Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel conferred the honorary rank.
Tradition since	The reciprocal honorary General rank tradition between India and Nepal dates back to 1950.
Ceremonial engagements	General Seth received a Guard of Honour and laid a wreath at the Army Pavilion in Tundikhel.
Key military dialogue	He was scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Nepali Army Chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel.
Significance	The visit reinforces longstanding defence and military relations between India and Nepal.

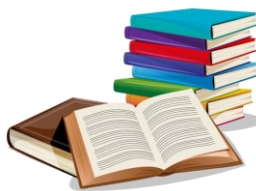
AWARDS



- How many sportspersons were selected for the Arjuna Awards for Outstanding Performance under the National Sports Awards 2025?

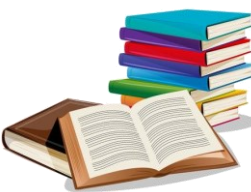
- A) 15
- B) 16
- C) 17
- D) 18
- E) 20

Answer
C) 17.



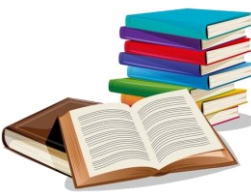
Event and Location:

- **Event:** The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the **National Sports Awards 2025**, selecting **17** sportspersons for the **Arjuna Awards** along with recipients in other award categories.
- **Location:** The awards were announced by the **Government of India** for achievements across various sports disciplines in India.
- **Date:** August **18, 2026**.



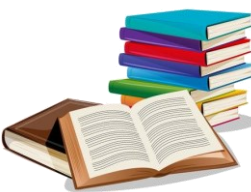
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: The National Sports Awards** recognise outstanding sportspersons, coaches and organisations for excellence, sustained contribution and promotion of sports and games.



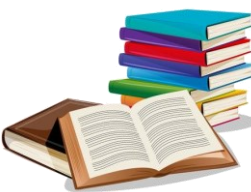
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The awards aim to honour exceptional sporting performances, recognise coaches who nurture sporting talent and acknowledge organisations contributing to sports development.



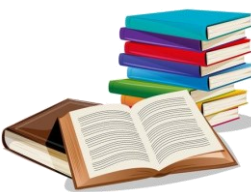
Important Terms Explained:

- **Arjuna Award:** It is a national sports honour presented to sportspersons for outstanding achievements and distinguished performance in sports and games.



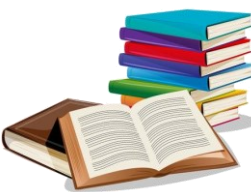
Important Terms Explained:

- **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award:** It is India's highest sporting honour for exceptional achievements by sportspersons, with no recipient selected for the **2025** awards.



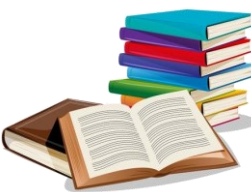
Important Terms Explained:

- **Dronacharya Award:** It recognises coaches for outstanding and meritorious work in training and developing sportspersons.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar:** It recognises organisations, corporate entities and other institutions for significant contributions to the promotion and development of sports.



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

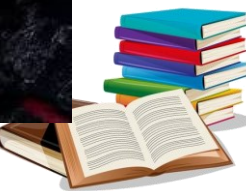
Parameter	Details
Announcement	National Sports Awards 2025 were announced by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
Announcement date	August 18, 2026.
Arjuna Awards	A total of 17 sportspersons were selected for outstanding performance in sports and games.
Notable Arjuna awardees	Divya Jitendra Deshmukh, Vidit Santosh Gujarathi, Pullela Gayatri Gopichand, Treesa Jolly and Tejaswin Shankar were among the recipients.
Arjuna Lifetime Award	Former footballer I. Arumainayagam was selected in the Lifetime Achievement category.
Dronacharya Awards	Three coaches were selected in the Regular category and two coaches in the Lifetime category.
Sports promotion award	Pune-based Army Paralympic Node received the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2025.
Khel Ratna status	No sportsperson was selected for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2025.

➤ What is the name of the newly discovered Himalayan plant species named after mountaineer Nirmal “Nimsdai” Purja?

- A) Impatiens purjai
- B) Impatiens nimspurjai
- C) Impatiens myagdiensis
- D) Impatiens nirmalii
- E) Impatiens himalayensis

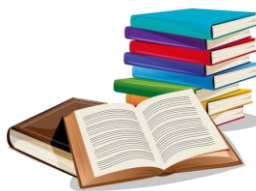
Answer

B) Impatiens nimspurjai.



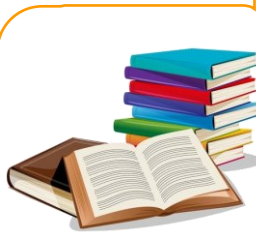
Event and Location:

- **Event:** A newly discovered Himalayan flowering plant species, *Impatiens nimspurjai*, has been named in honour of Nepalese mountaineer Nirmal “Nimsdai” Purja.
- **Location:** The plant was discovered in Myagdi district of **Gandaki Province**, Nepal, at an altitude of about **2,800–2,900** metres.
- **Date:** The discovery and naming were reported in August **2026**.



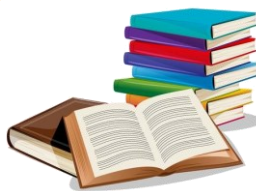
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: Researchers Bhakta Bahadur Raskoti and Rita Ale** identified the new species belonging to the Impatiens genus and named it after **Nirmal Purja** in recognition of his association with the Himalayas.



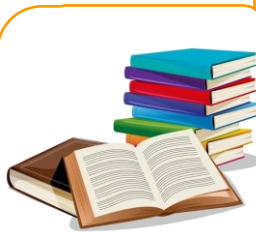
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The naming aims to honour Purja's mountaineering achievements and environmental activities while highlighting the botanical diversity of Nepal's Himalayan region.



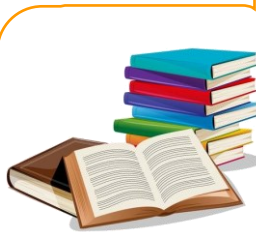
Important Terms Explained:

- **Impatiens Genus:** It is a genus of flowering plants found across several regions of Asia, with species commonly known as tiuri in Nepal.



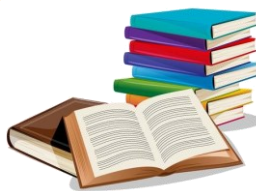
Important Terms Explained:

- **Himalayan Biodiversity:** It refers to the wide variety of plant and animal species found across the Himalayan ecosystem, including many species adapted to high-altitude environments.



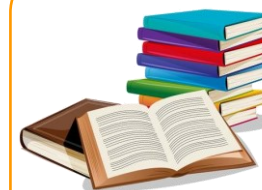
Important Terms Explained:

- **Nimsdai Foundation:** It is an initiative associated with **Nirmal Purja** that supported environmental activities, including mountain clean-up programmes aimed at removing expedition waste from high-altitude regions.



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Species name	Impatiens nimspurjai.
Named after	Nepalese mountaineer Nirmal “Nimsdai” Purja.
Discoverers	Bhakta Bahadur Raskoti and Rita Ale.
Discovery location	Myagdi district, Gandaki Province, Nepal.
Altitude	Approximately 2,800–2,900 metres.
Plant group	The species belongs to the Impatiens genus, commonly known as tiuri in Nepal.
Purja’s major achievement	In 2019, he climbed all 14 peaks above 8,000 metres in six months and six days.
Significance	The discovery links Himalayan botanical diversity with the mountaineering and environmental legacy of Nirmal Purja.

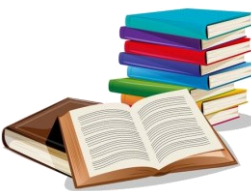


► Where is Exercise MAITREE-XV 2026 being conducted?

- A) Umroi, Meghalaya
- B) Surat Thani, Thailand
- C) Bangkok, Thailand
- D) Pune, Maharashtra
- E) Chiang Mai, Thailand

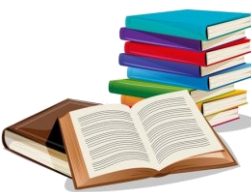
Answer

B) Surat Thani, Thailand.



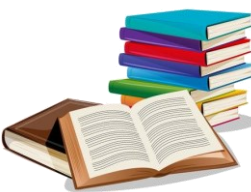
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Exercise **MAITREE-XV 2026** is the **15th** joint military exercise between **India and Thailand**, involving joint training in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations.
- **Location:** The exercise is being conducted at **Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp in Surat Thani**, Thailand.
- **Date:** August **18** to **31, 2026**.



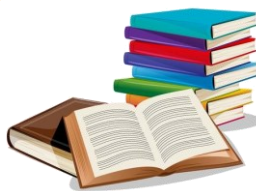
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The Indian Army and Royal Thai Army are conducting company-level joint training involving field exercises, combat discussions, demonstrations, operational experience exchange, modern military equipment displays, and a final validation exercise.



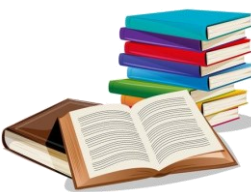
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The exercise aims to strengthen interoperability, enhance joint counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism capabilities in jungle and semi-urban terrain, exchange best practices, and deepen defence cooperation between **India and Thailand**.



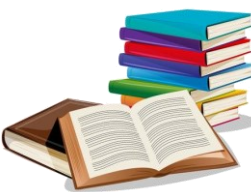
Important Terms Explained:

- **Counter-Insurgency Operations:** These are military and security operations undertaken to counter organised insurgent groups while restoring stability and maintaining control in affected areas.



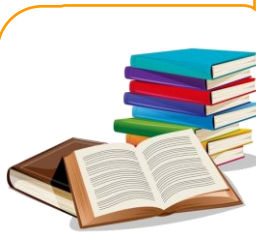
Important Terms Explained:

- **Counter-Terrorism Operations:** These are coordinated military or security actions designed to prevent, deter, and respond to terrorist threats and attacks.



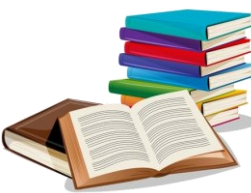
Important Terms Explained:

- **UN Chapter VII:** Chapter **VII** of the **United Nations Charter** provides the framework for actions relating to threats to peace, breaches of peace, and acts of aggression, including enforcement measures.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Interoperability:** It refers to the ability of armed forces from different countries to operate together effectively through coordinated procedures, communication, and joint training.



Tabular Summary:

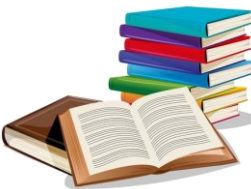
Parameter	Details
Exercise name	MAITREE-XV 2026, the 15th joint military exercise between India and Thailand.
Exercise dates	August 18 to 31, 2026.
Location	Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand.
Participating armies	Indian Army and Royal Thai Army.
Indian contingent	85 personnel, mainly from 9 Gorkha Rifles.
Thai contingent	85 personnel from the 3rd Battalion, 25th Infantry Brigade, 5th Division.
Training focus	Joint counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in jungle and semi-urban terrain.
Previous edition	The previous edition was held at the Foreign Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya, in September 2025.



► For how long will the Indian Navy lease two MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones under the ₹1,943 crore contract?

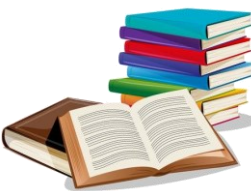
- A) 18 months
- B) 24 months
- C) 30 months
- D) 36 months
- E) 48 months

Answer
C) 30 months.



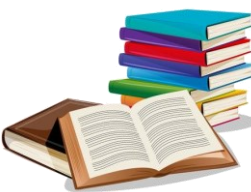
Event and Location:

- **Event:** The Ministry of Defence signed a ₹1,943 crore contract with **General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.** for leasing two MQ-9B **Sea Guardian HALE RPAS** for the **Indian Navy**.
- **Location:** The contract was signed at **Kartavya Bhawan-2** in **New Delhi**, while the drones will support surveillance across India's maritime areas, particularly the **Indian Ocean Region**.
- **Date:** August 17, 2026.



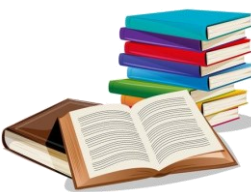
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The contract provides for the lease of two MQ-9B **Sea Guardian** remotely piloted aircraft systems to the **Indian Navy** for **30** months, equipped with advanced sensors, mission payloads, and extended surveillance capabilities.



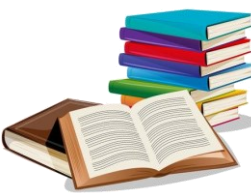
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The lease aims to strengthen the **Indian Navy's Maritime Domain Awareness** and enable persistent intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions over extensive maritime areas.



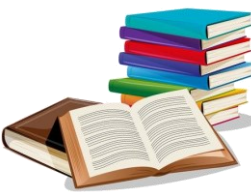
Important Terms Explained:

- High-**Altitude Long**-Endurance (**HALE**): It refers to aircraft systems capable of operating at high altitudes for extended periods, making them suitable for long-duration surveillance and reconnaissance missions.



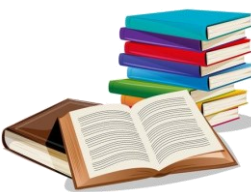
Important Terms Explained:

- **Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS):** It is an unmanned aircraft system operated remotely by trained personnel and equipped with associated control, communication, sensor, and mission systems.



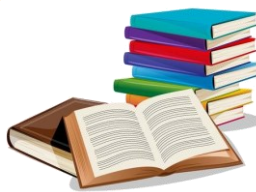
Important Terms Explained:

- **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA):** It refers to comprehensive awareness and understanding of activities, developments, and potential threats occurring within the maritime environment.



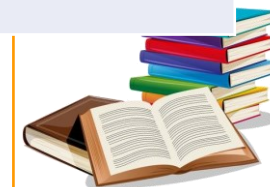
Important Terms Explained:

- **Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR):**
It refers to coordinated activities used to collect, monitor, and analyse information for operational awareness and security decision-making.



Tabular Summary:

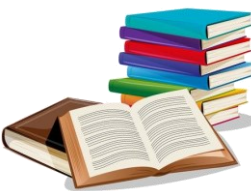
Parameter	Details
Contract	Lease of two MQ-9B Sea Guardian HALE RPAS for the Indian Navy.
Contract value	Approximately ₹1,943 crore.
Date	The agreement was signed on August 17, 2026.
Location	Kartavya Bhawan-2, New Delhi.
Contracting parties	Ministry of Defence and General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.
Lease duration	The two aircraft systems will be leased for 30 months.
Key capability	The systems provide persistent maritime surveillance using advanced sensors and mission payloads.
Strategic significance	The platforms will strengthen the Indian Navy's surveillance and ISR capabilities, especially in the Indian Ocean Region.



➤ Where did the 8th edition of the India-USN EOD Exercise 2026 conclude?

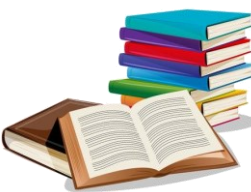
- A) Visakhapatnam
- B) Mumbai
- C) Kochi
- D) Chennai
- E) Goa

Answer
C) Kochi.



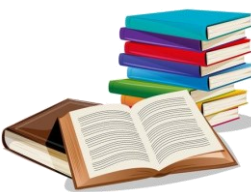
Event and Location:

- **Event:** The **8th** edition of the India-**USN EOD** Exercise **2026** concluded after specialised joint training between the **Indian Navy** and the **United States Navy** in explosive ordnance disposal and maritime operations.
- **Location:** The exercise was conducted at the **Southern Naval Command in Kochi**, Kerala, India.
- **Date:** The exercise concluded on August **14, 2026**.



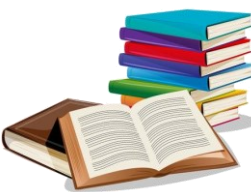
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** Indian and US naval personnel conducted expert discussions, demonstrations and practical training covering improvised explosive devices, mine neutralisation, render-safe procedures, unmanned underwater systems, specialised diving, wreck location, salvage and slithering operations.



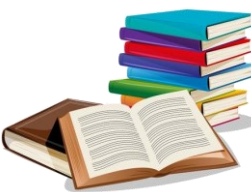
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The exercise aimed to enhance professional skills, exchange specialised knowledge, improve interoperability and strengthen maritime defence cooperation between the **Indian Navy** and the **United States Navy**.



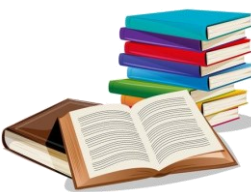
Important Terms Explained:

- **Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD):** It refers to specialised procedures used to detect, identify, assess, render safe and dispose of explosive threats such as bombs, mines and improvised explosive devices.



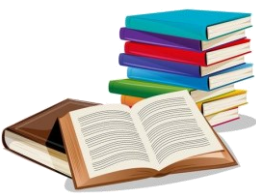
Important Terms Explained:

- **Improvised Explosive Device (IED):** It is an explosive weapon constructed and deployed through unconventional methods, requiring specialised detection and disposal techniques.



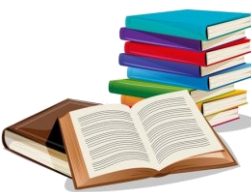
Important Terms Explained:

- **Render-Safe Operations:** These are specialised procedures undertaken to neutralise or disable explosive devices so that they no longer pose an immediate threat.



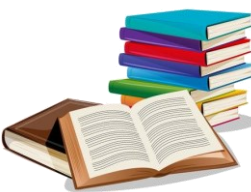
Important Terms Explained:

- **Mine Neutralisation:** It refers to the detection and safe destruction or disabling of naval or underwater mines that may threaten vessels, ports or maritime operations.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Unmanned Underwater Systems:** These are remotely operated or autonomous underwater platforms used for tasks such as surveillance, mine detection, inspection and specialised maritime missions.



Tabular Summary:

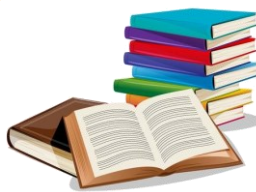
Parameter	Details
Exercise name	India-USN EOD Exercise 2026.
Edition	The 2026 exercise was the 8th edition.
Conclusion date	The exercise concluded on August 14, 2026.
Location	Southern Naval Command, Kochi, Kerala.
Participants	Personnel from the Indian Navy and the United States Navy.
Core training areas	EOD procedures, IED threats, render-safe actions, mine neutralisation and underwater operations.
Specialised activities	Training included diving equipment, unmanned underwater systems, wreck location, salvage and slithering operations.
Significance	The exercise enhanced interoperability, professional competency and bilateral maritime defence cooperation.



➤ What is the minimum disability percentage required to be eligible for UP Divyangjan Sashaktikaran Yojana 2026?

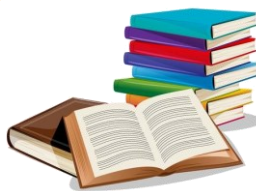
- A) 20 percent
- B) 30 percent
- C) 40 percent
- D) 50 percent
- E) 60 percent

Answer
C) 40 percent.



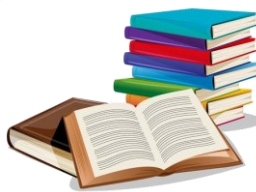
Event and Location:

- **Event:** The UP **Divyangjan Sashaktikaran Yojana 2026** provides financial assistance, assistive devices, scholarships, travel facilities, and skill development opportunities to eligible Persons with Disabilities.
- **Location:** The scheme is implemented across **Uttar Pradesh** by the **Government of Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Date:** The scheme was originally launched in **2016** and continues as a welfare initiative in **2026**.



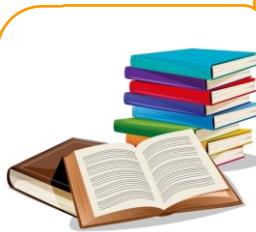
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The scheme provides eligible Persons with Disabilities with welfare support such as monthly pension assistance, free assistive devices, UP Roadways travel facilities, scholarships, and industry-relevant skill training.



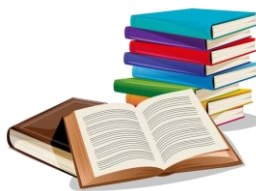
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The scheme aims to promote economic independence, self-reliance, dignified livelihood, employability, and greater social and economic participation of Persons with Disabilities.



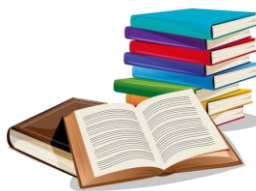
Important Terms Explained:

- **Persons with Disabilities (PwDs):** Individuals having disabilities that may affect physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory functioning, with the scheme requiring a minimum disability level of **40 percent** for eligibility.



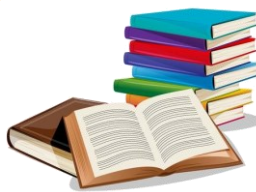
Important Terms Explained:

- **AVGC:** Animation, **Visual Effects**, **Gaming** and **Comics** is a high-growth industry segment included among the skill-development areas targeted under the scheme.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Assistive Devices:** These are aids or equipment provided to help persons with disabilities overcome functional limitations and improve mobility, accessibility, or independent living.



SCHEMES & INITIATIVES



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Scheme name	UP Divyangjan Sashaktikaran Yojana 2026.
Implementing authority	Government of Uttar Pradesh.
Launch year	The initiative was launched in 2016.
Key benefits	Eligible beneficiaries may receive ₹1,000 monthly pension, assistive devices, free UP Roadways travel, scholarships, and skill training.
Disability criterion	Applicants must have a minimum disability of 40 percent.
Age criterion	Applicants must be at least 18 years old and residents of Uttar Pradesh.
Income limit	Annual family income must not exceed ₹46,080 in rural areas and ₹56,460 in urban areas.
Application process	Applications are submitted online and benefits are provided after verification by the competent local welfare authorities.

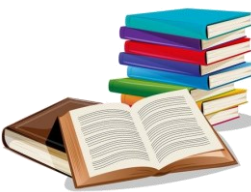


➤ **Where will Asia's first desert-themed night safari be developed?**

- A) Juna Deesa, Gujarat
- B) Kutch, Gujarat
- C) Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- D) Gir, Gujarat
- E) Bikaner, Rajasthan

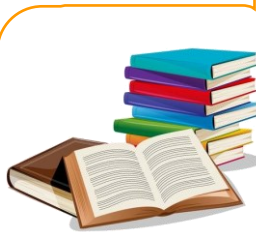
Answer

A) Juna Deesa, Gujarat.



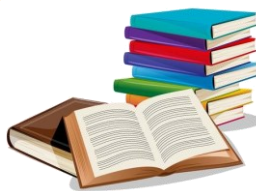
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Gujarat will develop Asia's first **Desert Zoological Park and Night Safari**, approved by the **Central Zoo Authority** on August **12, 2026**.
- **Location:** The project will be developed at **Juna Deesa in Banaskantha** district, Gujarat, over approximately **103** hectares of government-owned land.
- **Date:** The **Central Zoo Authority (CZA)** approved the project on August **12, 2026**.



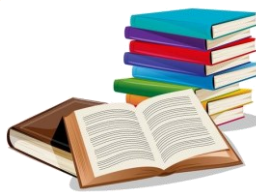
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The Gujarat Forest Department will develop a desert-themed zoological park featuring a drive-through night safari, five dedicated night safari enclosures, a day zoo, and facilities for approximately **2,700** animals and birds representing about **83** species.



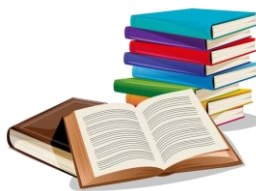
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The project aims to promote wildlife awareness and eco-tourism while showcasing native and exotic species suited to desert and arid ecosystem settings.



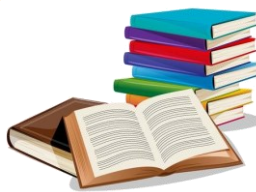
Important Terms Explained:

- **Night Safari:** A night safari is a wildlife tourism facility designed to allow visitors to observe animals during nighttime, with the Gujarat project planning a drive-through experience across five dedicated enclosures.



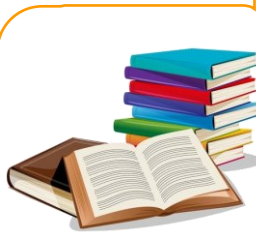
Important Terms Explained:

- **Desert and Arid Ecosystem:** It refers to an environment characterised by low rainfall and dry conditions, supporting plants and animals adapted to limited water availability.



Important Terms Explained:

- Eco-tourism: It refers to nature-based tourism that promotes environmental awareness and responsible engagement with natural habitats and wildlife.



Tabular Summary:

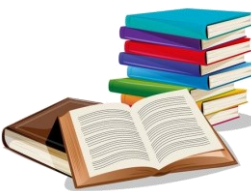
Parameter	Details
Project name	Desert Zoological Park and Night Safari.
Location	Juna Deesa, Banaskantha district, Gujarat.
Approval date	August 12, 2026.
Implementing authority	Gujarat Forest Department.
Project area	Approximately 103 hectares of government-owned land.
Estimated cost	Approximately ₹542.14 crore.
Animal collection	Around 2,700 animals and birds belonging to nearly 83 species.
Key feature	The project will have five dedicated night safari enclosures along with a day zoo and a drive-through night safari.



➤ **At which international event was India's first Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems launched?**

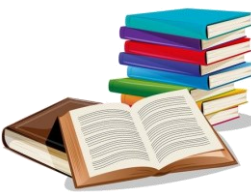
- A) UNFCCC COP31
- B) UNCCD COP17
- C) CBD COP17
- D) G20 Environment Summit
- E) World Conservation Congress

Answer
B) UNCCD COP17.



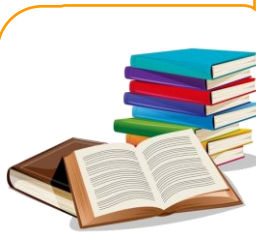
Event and Location:

- **Event:** India launched its first-ever **Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONES)** at the **17th Session** of the Conference of the Parties to the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**.
- **Location:** The guide was launched at **UNCCD COP17** in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- **Date:** The conference began on August **17, 2026**.



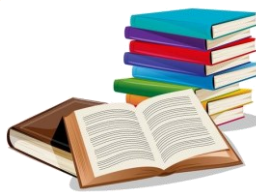
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The guide documents India's grasslands, savannahs, deserts, scrublands, rocky plateaus, ravines, coastal ecosystems and other open landscapes, along with their biodiversity, ecological characteristics and associated communities.



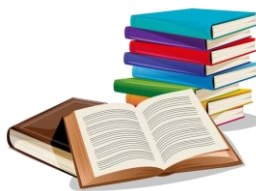
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The initiative seeks to promote science-based conservation, restoration and sustainable land management while recognising the importance of open ecosystems for biodiversity, livelihoods, carbon storage and climate resilience.



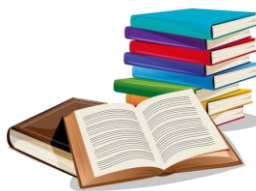
Important Terms Explained:

- **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):** It is an international convention focused on combating desertification, addressing land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought through sustainable land management.



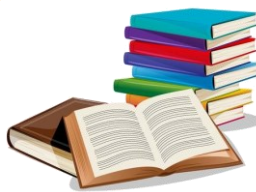
Important Terms Explained:

- **Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs):** These are naturally occurring non-forest landscapes such as grasslands, savannahs, deserts, scrublands and rocky plateaus that support distinct biodiversity and human livelihoods.



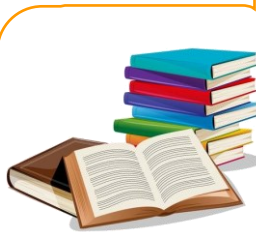
Important Terms Explained:

- **Pastoralism:** It is a livelihood system based primarily on the rearing and movement of livestock across grazing landscapes such as grasslands and rangelands.



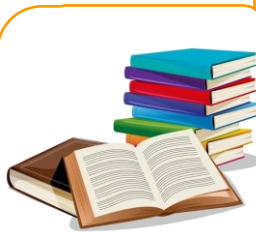
Important Terms Explained:

- **Carbon Sequestration:** It is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon, including in soils and vegetation, thereby contributing to climate-change mitigation.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN):** It is an approach aimed at maintaining or improving the amount and quality of productive land resources by balancing land degradation with restoration and sustainable management.



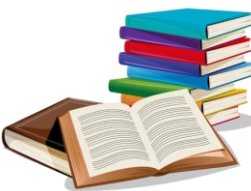
Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Publication	India's first Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems.
Launch platform	The guide was launched during a side event at UNCCD COP17.
Location	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
Government guidance	The event was organised under the guidance of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
Key organisers	ATREE jointly organised the initiative with IUCN, CoE-SLM, ICFRE and SAC-ISRO.
Ecosystems covered	Himalayan and Terai grasslands, Thar and Banni landscapes, Deccan savannas, rocky plateaus, ravines, scrublands, coastal areas and deserts.
Thematic focus	The guide includes pastoralism, fire ecology, carbon sequestration, biodiversity and land restoration.
Significance	It promotes recognition and science-based conservation of open ecosystems alongside forests while supporting India's land restoration agenda.

QUICK RECALL



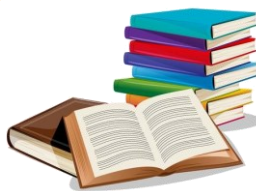
- **Subhas Chandra Bose** passed the Indian Civil Service examination in 1920 but gave up his candidature in 1921 to join the freedom movement.
- **Vignesh Vermula** won the Open blitz title after finishing level on points and prevailing on tie-break scores.
- **Sunil Bharti Mittal** has served as the non-executive chairman of Airtel Payments Bank since April 2016.



QUICK RECALL



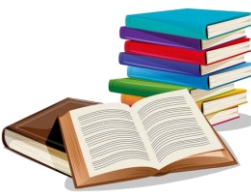
- General Dhiraj Seth arrived in Kathmandu on August 16, 2026, with a five-member delegation.
- Divya Jitendra Deshmukh and Vidit Santosh Gujarathi were selected for the Arjuna Award in chess.
- Myagdi district lies in Nepal's Gandaki Province and is associated with the Annapurna and Dhaulagiri mountain ranges.
- Exercise MAITREE was established in 2006 as a platform for military cooperation between India and Thailand.
- The contract was signed between the Ministry of Defence and General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. on August 17, 2026.
- The India-USN EOD Exercise 2026 brought together specialised personnel from the Indian and United States Navies.
- The scheme seeks to make eligible persons with disabilities economically independent and self-reliant.



QUICK RECALL



- The project is planned as Asia's first desert-themed night safari.
- India's first guide on grasslands and other open natural ecosystems was launched at UNCCD COP17 in Mongolia.




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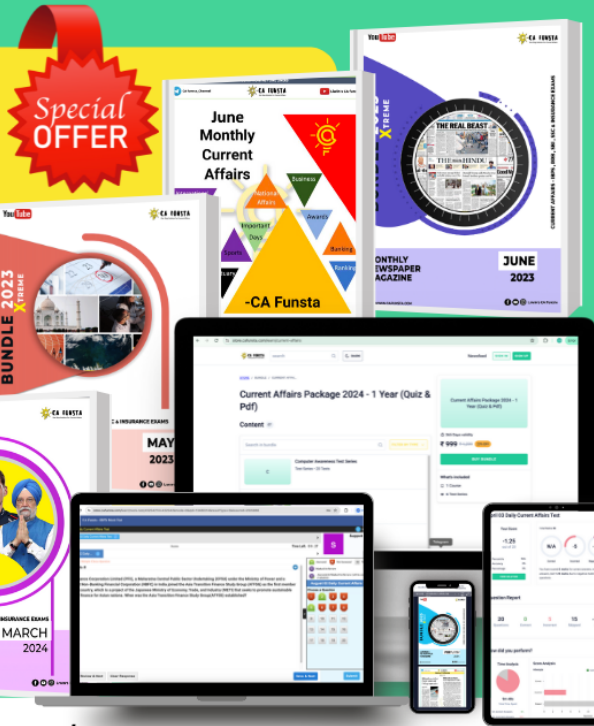


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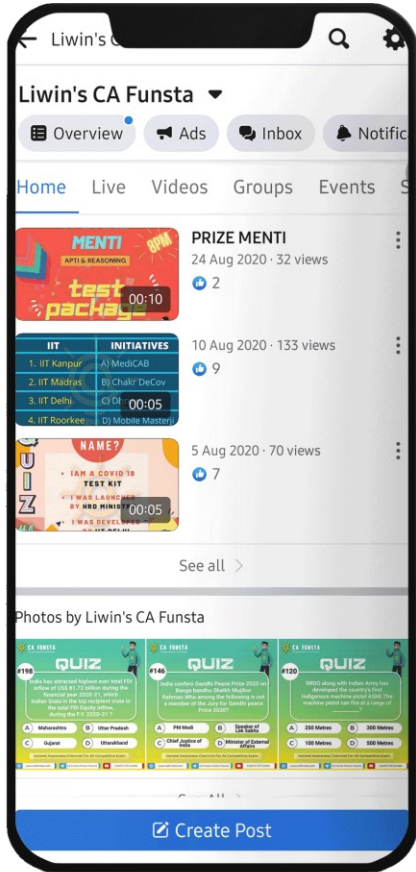
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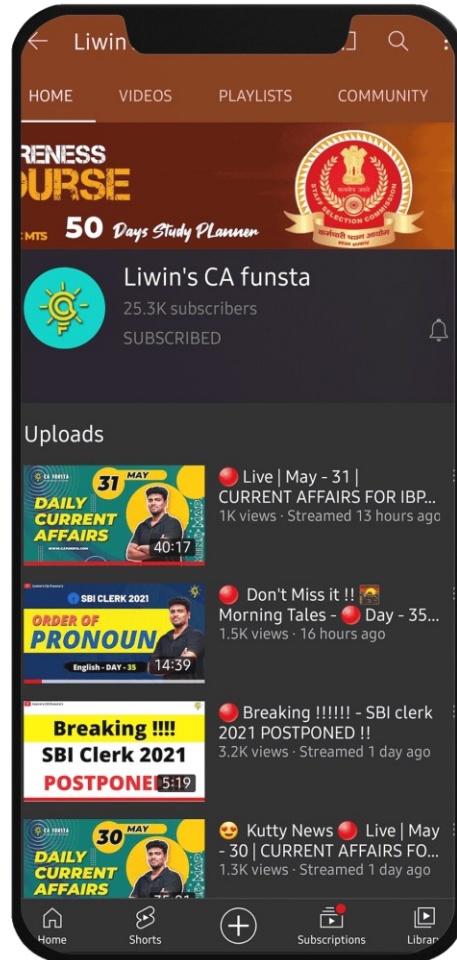


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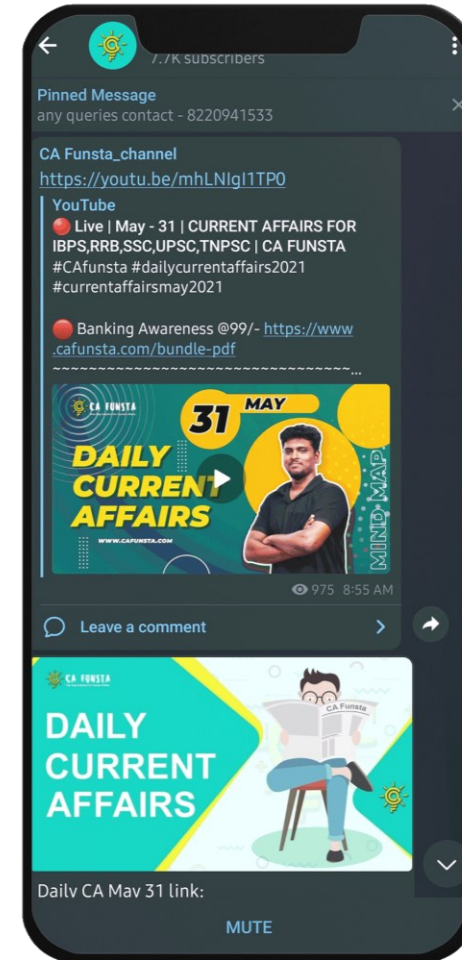
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