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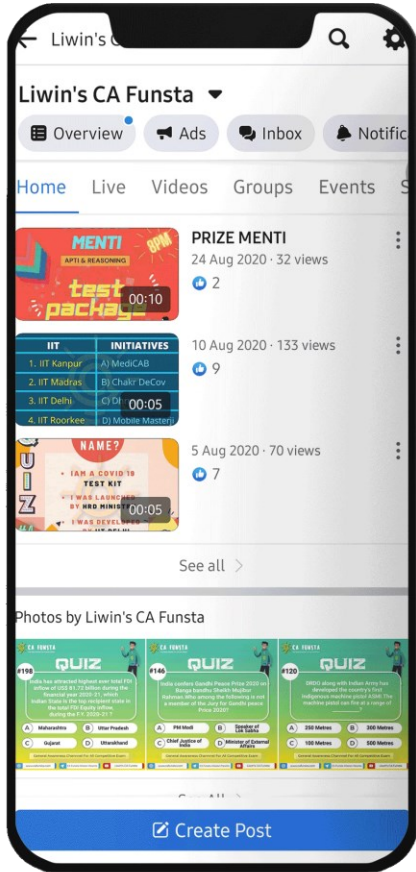


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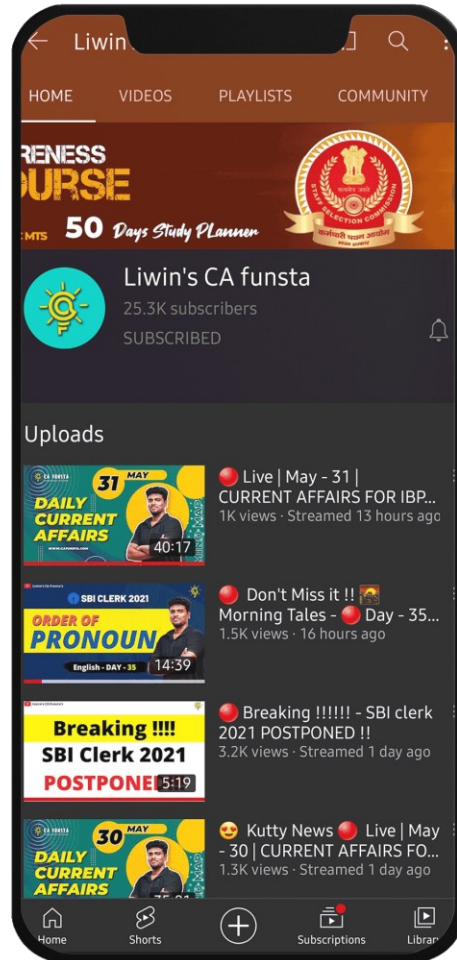
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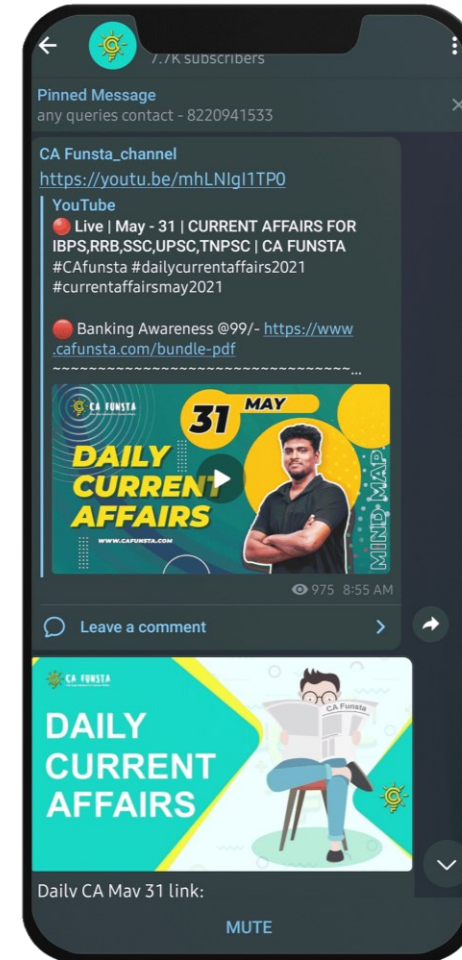
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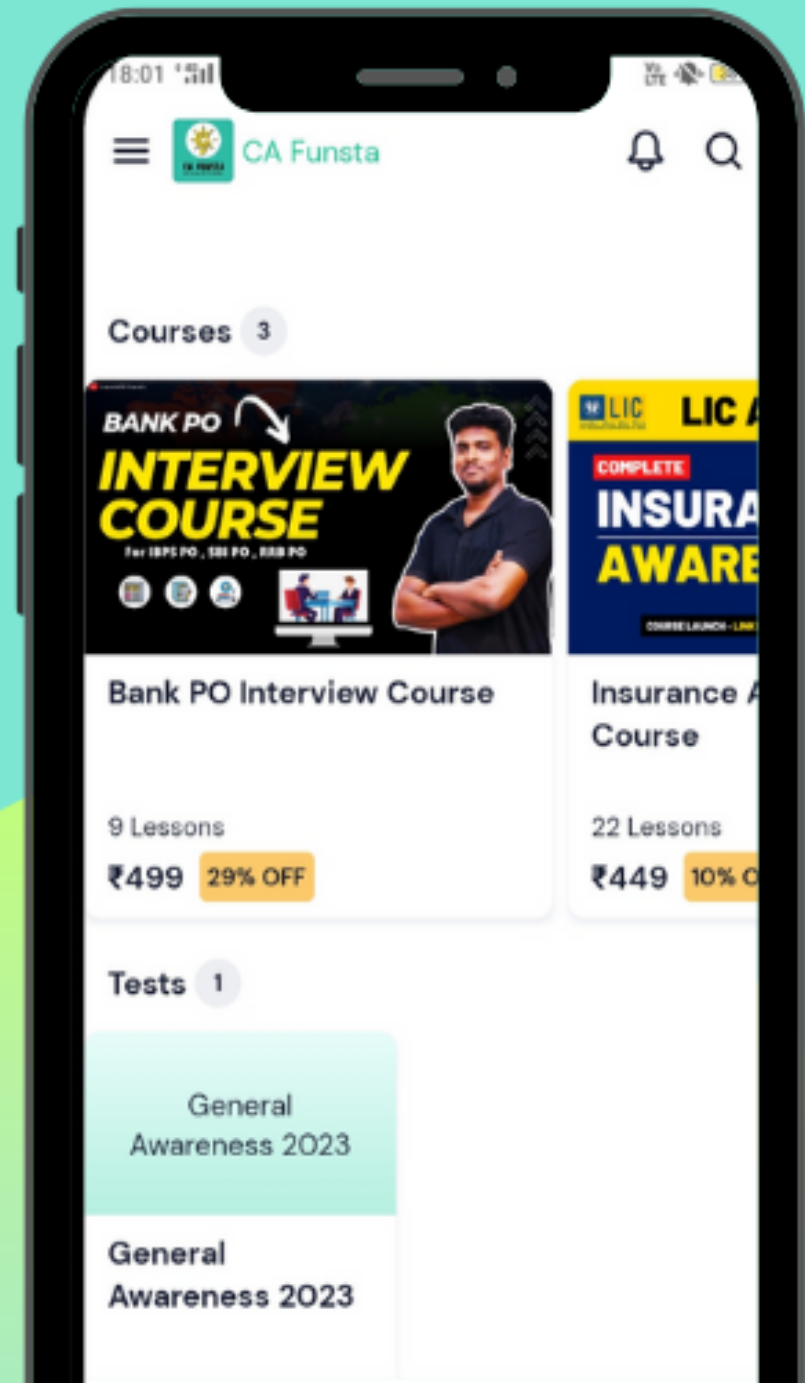
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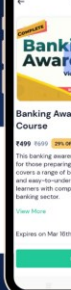


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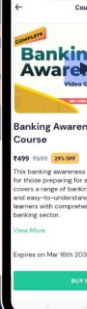


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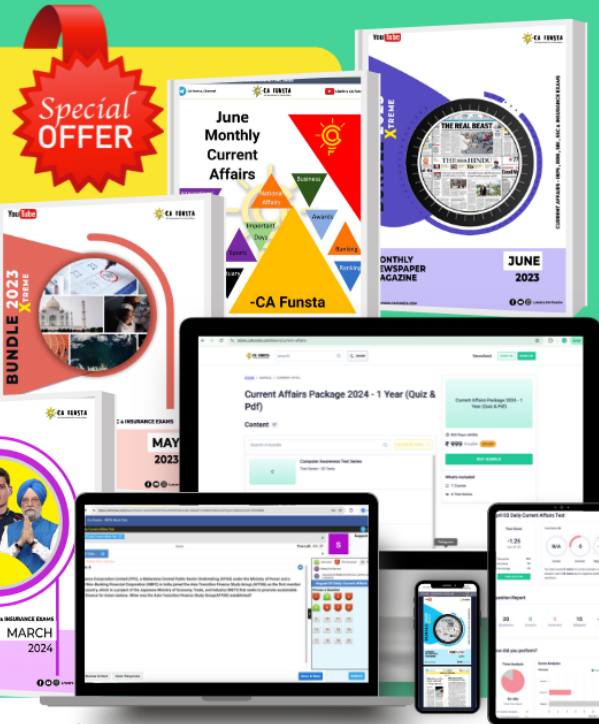


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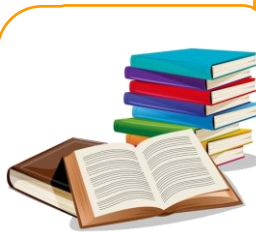


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➤ Who won the 2026 Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort?

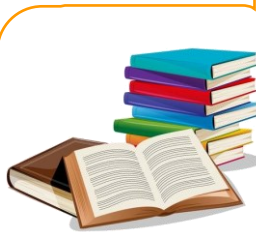
- A) Kimi Antonelli
- B) George Russell
- C) Lando Norris
- D) Lewis Hamilton
- E) Charles Leclerc

Answer
C) Lando Norris.



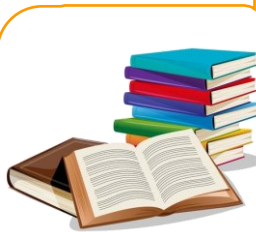
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Lando Norris of McLaren won the **2026 Dutch Grand Prix**, finishing ahead of **Kimi Antonelli** and **George Russell**.
- **Location:** The race was held at Zandvoort in the Netherlands.
- **Date:** The result was reported on August **24, 2026**.



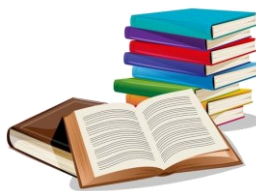
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The Formula 1 Dutch Grand Prix featured **Lando Norris** securing victory by **11.536** seconds, while **Max Verstappen** retired early following a crash and Mercedes drivers **Kimi Antonelli** and **George Russell** completed the podium.



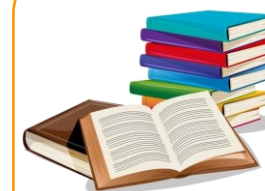
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The race formed part of the **2026** Formula 1 season, with drivers competing for race victory and championship points through on-track performance and tyre and pit-stop strategy.



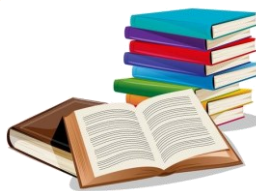
Ranking Table:

Rank	Entity / Team / Remarks
1	Entity: Lando Norris. Team / Remarks: McLaren; won the race by 11.536 seconds.
2	Entity: Kimi Antonelli. Team / Remarks: Mercedes; finished second.
3	Entity: George Russell. Team / Remarks: Mercedes; completed the podium.
4	Entity: Lewis Hamilton. Team / Remarks: Ferrari; finished fourth.
5	Entity: Charles Leclerc. Team / Remarks: Ferrari; finished fifth.



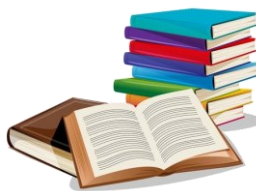
Important Terms Explained:

- **Virtual Safety Car:** A Formula 1 race-control procedure that requires all drivers to reduce their speed to a prescribed level without deploying the physical **Safety Car**.



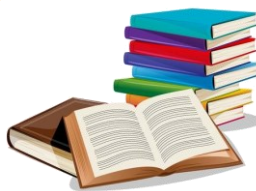
Important Terms Explained:

- **Pole Position:** The first starting position on the grid, usually awarded to the driver who records the fastest qualifying time.



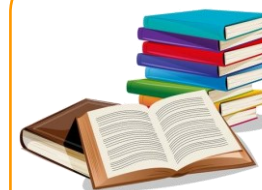
Important Terms Explained:

- **Red Flag:** A signal used to suspend a race when track conditions, an accident, debris, or another safety concern makes continued racing unsafe.



Tabular Summary:

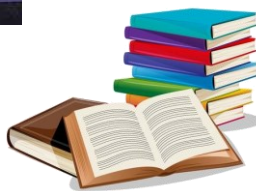
Parameter	Details
Event name	2026 Dutch Grand Prix.
Venue	Zandvoort, Netherlands.
Winner	Lando Norris of McLaren.
Runner-up	Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes.
Third place	George Russell of Mercedes.
Winning margin	Norris defeated Antonelli by 11.536 seconds.
Major retirement	Max Verstappen crashed early and retired after completing only one lap.
Race significance	Norris recorded his second successive victory of the 2026 Formula 1 season.



➤ Which Indian wrestler won the silver medal in the women's 68kg category at the U20 World Championships in Slovakia?

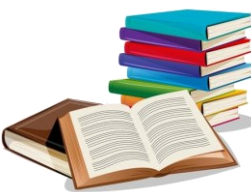
- A) Kajal Dhochak
- B) Mansi Lather
- C) Tanvi Gundesh Magdum
- D) Komal
- E) Tanu Sharma

Answer
B) Mansi Lather.



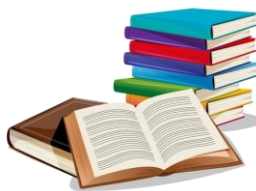
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Indian women wrestlers won three additional medals at the **U20 World Championships**, with **Mansi Lather** securing silver and **Tanvi Gundesh Magdum and Komal** winning bronze medals.
- **Location:** The **U20 World Championships** were held in Slovakia.
- **Date:** The achievements were reported on August **24, 2026**.



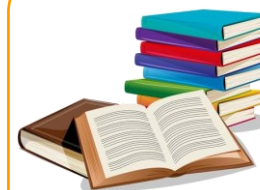
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** **Mansi Lather** competed in the women's **68kg** final and won silver, while **Tanvi Gundesh Magdum and Komal** secured bronze medals in the **57kg** and **59kg** categories respectively.
- **Objectives:** **The Indian** wrestlers competed to secure medals across different women's freestyle weight categories and strengthen India's overall performance at the championship.



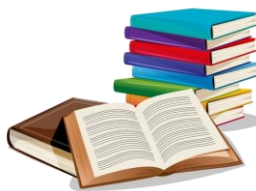
Ranking Table:

Rank	Entity / Category / Remarks
1	Entity: Kajal Dhochak. Category / Remarks: Gold medal in the women's 76kg category.
2	Entity: Mansi Lather. Category / Remarks: Silver medal in the women's 68kg category.
2	Entity: Tanu Sharma. Category / Remarks: Silver medal in the women's 72kg category.
2	Entity: Savita. Category / Remarks: Silver medal in the women's 62kg category.
3	Entity: Tanvi Gundesh Magdum. Category / Remarks: Bronze medal in the women's 57kg category.
3	Entity: Komal. Category / Remarks: Bronze medal in the women's 59kg category.



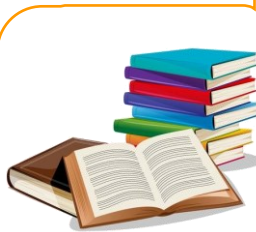
Important Terms Explained:

- **Technical Superiority:** In wrestling, technical superiority refers to ending a bout early when one wrestler establishes the prescribed points advantage over the opponent.



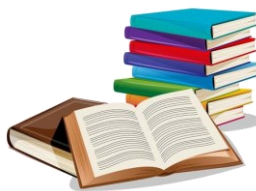
Important Terms Explained:

- **Bronze Medal Playoff:** A bronze medal playoff is a classification bout in which wrestlers compete for third place and a bronze medal after missing qualification for the final.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Weight Category:** A weight category is a competitive division that groups wrestlers according to specified body-weight limits to ensure fair competition.



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	U20 World Championships.
Host country	Slovakia.
Mansi Lather	Won silver in the women's 68kg category after losing 1-2 to China's Chenling Song.
Tanvi Gundesh Magdum	Won bronze in the women's 57kg category after defeating Canada's Agnia Krakovska 10-4.
Komal	Won bronze in the women's 59kg category after defeating Hungary's Eda Balazs 5-2.
Kajal Dhochak	Won gold in the women's 76kg category by defeating China's Jingru Sun 7-0.
Tanu Sharma	Won silver in the women's 72kg category after a 3-5 final loss to Japan's Chisato Yoshida.
Savita	Won silver in the women's 62kg category after losing 2-12 to Japan's Sakura Onishi.

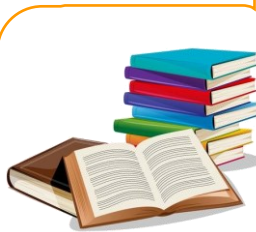


➤ Which of the following players has been selected in India's 12-member men's kabaddi squad for the Asian Games 2026?

- A) Pawan Sehrawat
- B) Naveen Kumar
- C) Maninder Singh
- D) Pardeep Narwal
- E) Deepak Hooda

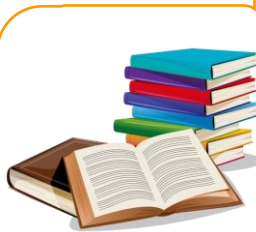
Answer

A) Pawan Sehrawat.



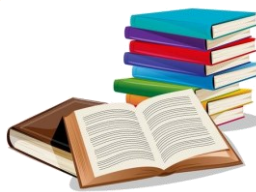
Event and Location:

- **Event:** India announced a **12**-member men's kabaddi squad for the **Asian Games 2026**, combining experienced players such as **Pawan Sehrawat** with young performers including **Ayan Lohchab** and **Devank Dalal**.
- **Location:** The **20th Asian Games** will be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.



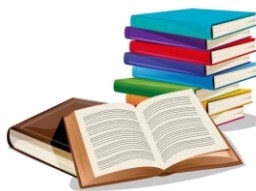
Event and Location:

- **Date:** The Asian Games will be held from September **19** to October **4, 2026**, while kabaddi events are scheduled from September **21** to **26, 2026**.



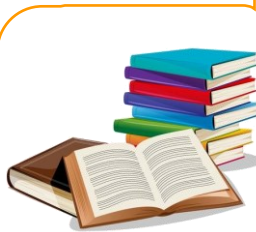
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** India selected a **12**-member men's kabaddi team comprising **Ashu Malik, Ayan Lohchab, Devank Dalal, Arjun Deshwal, Sunil Kumar, Jaideep Dahiya, Rahul Sethpal, Gaurav Khatri, Sumit Sangwan, Ankit Jaglan, Pawan Sehrawat, and Aslam Inamdar** for the continental competition.



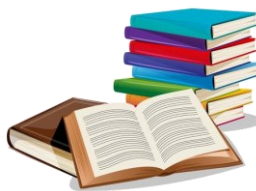
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The squad aims to combine young attacking talent, experienced raiders, and established defenders to strengthen India's challenge in men's kabaddi and compete for another **Asian Games** medal.



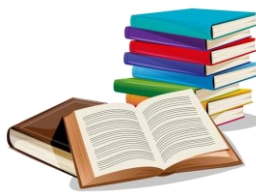
Important Terms Explained:

- **Pro Kabaddi League:** A professional franchise-based kabaddi competition in India that provides a major competitive platform for leading domestic and international kabaddi players.



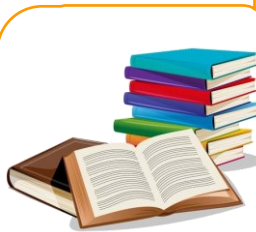
Important Terms Explained:

- **Raider:** A kabaddi player who enters the opposition half to score points by touching defenders and returning safely to the player's own half.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Shachihoko:** A mythical Japanese creature with the body of a carp and the head of a tiger that inspired Honohon, the official mascot of the Aichi-**Nagoya Asian Games**.



Tabular Summary:

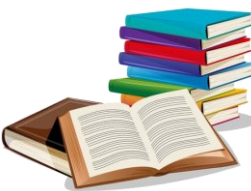
Parameter	Details
Event name	20th Asian Games 2026.
Host region	Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
Games duration	September 19 to October 4, 2026.
Kabaddi schedule	September 21 to 26, 2026.
India's men's squad strength	India has named a 12-member men's kabaddi team.
Experienced gold medallists	Arjun Deshwal, Sunil Kumar, Pawan Sehrawat, and Aslam Inamdar were members of India's Hangzhou Asian Games gold-winning side.
Key young players	Ayan Lohchab and Devank Dalal were selected after strong Pro Kabaddi League performances.
Mascot and motto	Honohon is the mascot, while "Imagine One Asia" is the official motto.



► Who became the highest wicket-taker in ICC World Test Championship (WTC) history with 234 wickets?

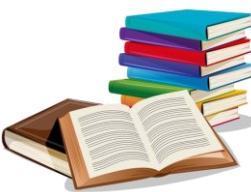
- A) Pat Cummins
- B) Nathan Lyon
- C) Mitchell Starc
- D) Kagiso Rabada
- E) Ravichandran Ashwin

Answer
C) Mitchell Starc.



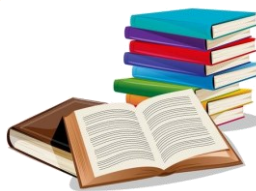
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Australian left-arm fast bowler **Mitchell Starc** became the leading wicket-taker in **ICC World Test Championship** history with **234** wickets.
- **Location:** Starc achieved the milestone during the second Test against **Bangladesh at Mackay, Australia.**
- **Date:** The achievement was reported on August **24, 2026.**



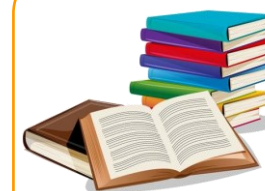
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** Starc surpassed teammates **Pat Cummins** and **Nathan Lyon** after producing a **10-wicket** match haul against Bangladesh, taking his **WTC** tally to **234** wickets.
- **Objectives:** The performance strengthened Starc's position among the leading Test bowlers and helped Australia dominate Bangladesh through his match-winning fast bowling.



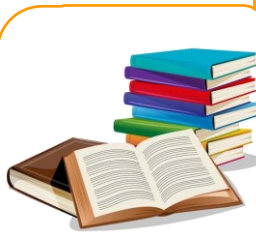
Ranking Table:

Rank	Entity / WTC Wickets / Remarks
1	Entity: Mitchell Starc. WTC Wickets / Remarks: 234 wickets at an average of 24.25.
2	Entity: Pat Cummins. WTC Wickets / Remarks: 228 wickets.
2	Entity: Nathan Lyon. WTC Wickets / Remarks: 228 wickets.



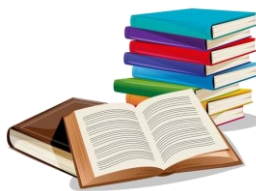
Important Terms Explained:

- **Five-Wicket Haul:** A bowling achievement in cricket where a bowler takes five or more wickets in a single innings.
- **Ten-Wicket Match Haul:** A feat in which a bowler takes at least **10** wickets across both innings of a Test match.



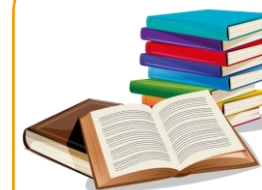
Important Terms Explained:

- **Bowling Average:** The average number of runs conceded by a bowler for each wicket taken, calculated by dividing total runs conceded by total wickets.



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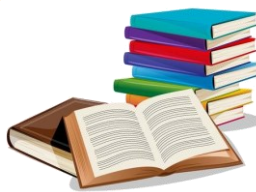
Parameter	Details
Record holder	Mitchell Starc became the highest wicket-taker in WTC history.
WTC wickets	Starc reached 234 wickets.
Players surpassed	Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon, who had 228 wickets each.
Opponent	Bangladesh in the second Test at Mackay.
Key performance	Starc recorded a 10-wicket match haul against Bangladesh.
First-innings figures	Starc took 6 wickets for 12 runs in 10 overs.
Overall Test wickets	His Test tally reached 445 wickets, moving him into the top 10 wicket-takers in Test cricket history.
2025–27 WTC cycle	Starc had taken 58 wickets from 10 matches at an average of 16.98, including four five-wicket hauls.



► Which Indian chess player won the Kanizsa Open 2026 Group A title in Hungary?

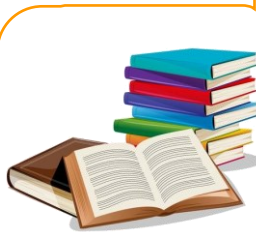
- A) Karthik Venkataraman
- B) Neelash Saha
- C) Pranesh M
- D) Nitish Belurkar
- E) Ajay Santhosh Parvathareddy

Answer
C) Pranesh M.



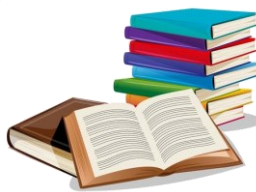
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Indian Grandmaster Pranesh M won the **Kanizsa Open 2026** Group A title after finishing with seven points from nine rounds and prevailing on superior tiebreak scores.
- **Location:** The tournament was held in Nagykanizsa, Hungary.
- **Date:** The achievement was reported on August **24, 2026**.



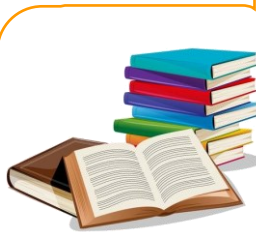
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** Pranesh M defeated Germany's **Vadim Petrovskiy** with the white pieces in the ninth and final round to reach seven points and finish level with three other players at the top.



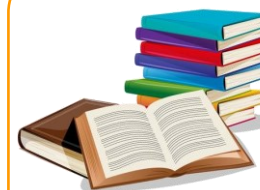
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The tournament determined the champion based on overall points and tiebreak criteria, with Pranesh securing the title ahead of the other joint leaders through superior tiebreak scores.



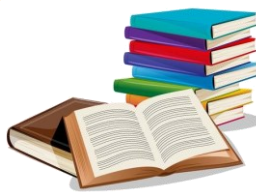
Ranking Table:

Rank	Entity / Score/Remarks
1	Entity: Pranesh M. Score/Remarks: Seven points from nine rounds and champion on superior tiebreak.
2	Entity: Or Bronstein. Score/Remarks: Seven points and finished second.
3	Entity: Andrei Volokitin. Score/Remarks: Seven points and finished third.
4	Entity: Karthik Venkataraman. Score/Remarks: Seven points and finished fourth.
10	Entity: Neelash Saha. Score/Remarks: 6.5 points.
20	Entity: Nitish Belurkar. Score/Remarks: Six points.



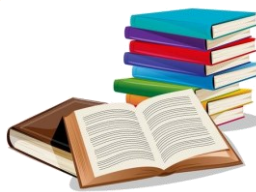
Important Terms Explained:

- **Tiebreak:** A tiebreak is a predefined method used in chess tournaments to rank players who finish with the same number of points.



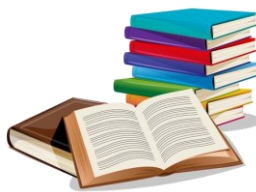
Important Terms Explained:

- **FIDE Rating:** A numerical rating issued under the international chess federation system to indicate a player's competitive strength based on tournament results.



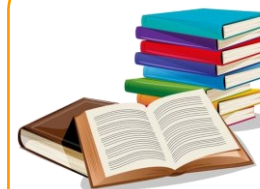
Important Terms Explained:

- **International Master:** A prestigious chess title awarded by **FIDE** to players who meet specified performance and rating requirements, ranking below the Grandmaster title.



Tabular Summary:

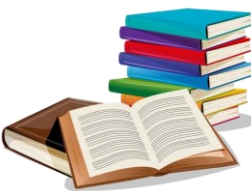
Parameter	Details
Event name	Kanizsa Open 2026 Group A.
Winner	Pranesh M of India.
Venue	Nagykanizsa, Hungary.
Winning score	Pranesh scored seven points from nine rounds.
Final-round result	Pranesh defeated Germany's Vadim Petrovskiy with the white pieces.
Title-deciding factor	Four players finished on seven points, with Pranesh winning through superior tiebreak scores.
Player profile	Pranesh is a 19-year-old Grandmaster from Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu.
Tournament field	The Group A event featured 226 players, including several Indian participants.



➤ By which year does India plan to establish the Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS)?

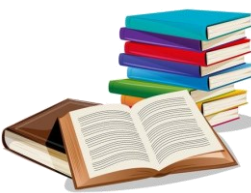
- A) 2030
- B) 2032
- C) 2035
- D) 2040
- E) 2045

Answer
C) 2035.



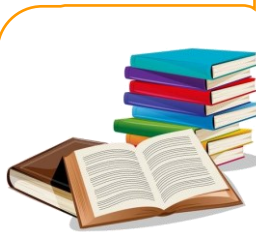
Event and Location:

- **Event:** ISRO Chairman V Narayanan announced that India plans to establish the **Bharatiya Antariksha Station** by **2035**, with its first module already approved.
- **Location:** The announcement was made during the third **National Space Day** celebrations in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.
- **Date:** The announcement was made on August **23, 2026**.



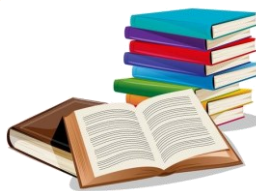
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** India plans to develop its own space station by **2035** by building on technologies and facilities developed under the Gaganyaan programme, while strengthening capabilities for sustained human activities in space.



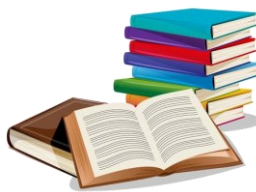
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The initiative aims to enable long-duration human space missions, conduct scientific research, test new technologies, and expand India's capabilities in human spaceflight and space exploration.



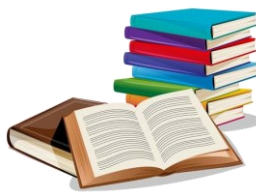
Important Terms Explained:

- **Human Spaceflight:** Human spaceflight refers to space missions in which astronauts travel beyond Earth using spacecraft designed to support human life and operations.



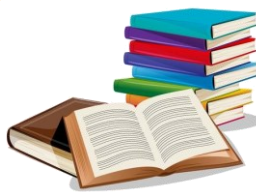
Important Terms Explained:

- **Space Station:** A space station is an orbital facility designed to support astronauts for extended periods while enabling scientific research, technology demonstrations, and other activities in space.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Remote Sensing:** Remote sensing is the collection of information about Earth's surface from satellites or other platforms without direct physical contact, commonly used for agriculture, mapping, weather monitoring, and disaster management.



Tabular Summary:

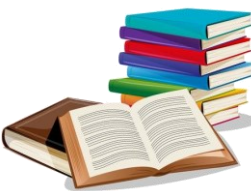
Parameter	Details
Event name	India's plan to establish the Bharatiya Antariksha Station by 2035.
Date	August 23, 2026.
Location	Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.
Announcing authority	ISRO Chairman V Narayanan.
Target year	India aims to establish its space station by 2035.
First module status	The first module of the proposed station has already been approved.
Programme linkage	The space station will build on facilities and experience developed through the Gaganyaan programme.
Strategic significance	The station is expected to support research, technology testing, and long-term human activities in space.



➤ According to the study, which country had the highest average rocket launch cost per kilogram of payload in 2025?

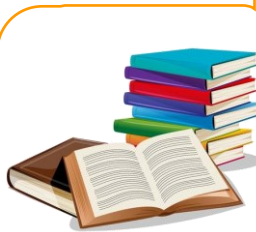
- A) China
- B) Japan
- C) India
- D) Russia
- E) USA

Answer
C) India.



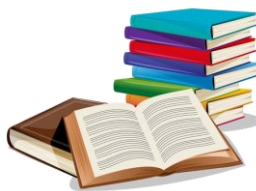
Event and Location:

- **Event:** A study published in **Economics Letters** found that India had the highest average cost per kilogram for sending payload into orbit among major space powers in **2025**.
- **Location:** The study compared major space powers including India, the **United States**, Europe, Russia, China, and Japan.
- **Date:** The findings were reported on August **24, 2026**, using launch data covering **1960** to **2025**.



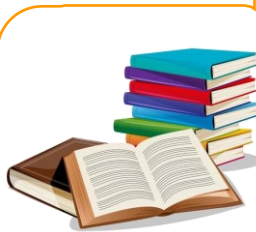
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The study titled “Geopolitics and space access: cost asymmetries and strategic dependence” analysed more than **6,740** rocket launches to compare launch costs, payload capacities, cost trends, and changing patterns of global space access.



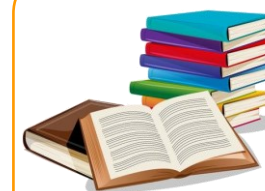
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The research aimed to examine differences in launch costs among major space powers and assess how technological capability, launch frequency, reusable systems, and domestic launch capacity influence economic efficiency and strategic autonomy.



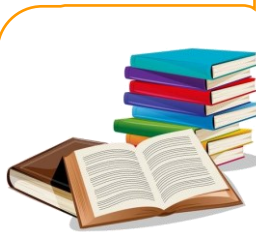
Ranking Table:

Rank	Entity / Cost per kg / Remarks
1	Entity: India. Cost per kg / Remarks: \$13,302 per kg, the highest among the major space powers compared.
2	Entity: Europe. Cost per kg / Remarks: \$9,897 per kg.
3	Entity: Russia. Cost per kg / Remarks: \$6,682 per kg.
4	Entity: China. Cost per kg / Remarks: \$5,809 per kg.
5	Entity: Japan. Cost per kg / Remarks: \$5,287 per kg.
6	Entity: USA. Cost per kg / Remarks: \$3,225 per kg, the lowest among the listed major space powers.
—	Entity: Global Average. Cost per kg / Remarks: \$3,868 per kg.



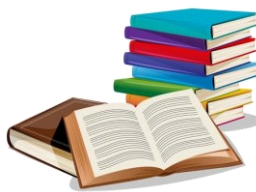
Important Terms Explained:

- **Reusable Rockets:** Launch vehicles designed so that major components can be recovered and flown again, helping reduce launch costs by spreading hardware expenses across multiple missions.



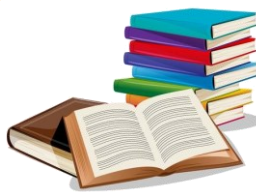
Important Terms Explained:

- **Economies of Scale:** Cost advantages achieved when higher production or launch volumes reduce the average cost per unit, including the average cost of carrying payload into orbit.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Strategic Autonomy:** A country's ability to independently access and use critical capabilities such as space-launch systems without excessive dependence on foreign providers.



Tabular Summary:

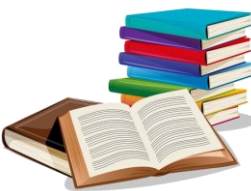
Parameter	Details
Study scope	Researchers analysed more than 6,740 rocket launches conducted between 1960 and 2025.
India's 2025 cost	India's estimated average launch cost was \$13,302 per kilogram of payload.
US 2025 cost	The United States recorded an estimated average cost of \$3,225 per kilogram.
Global average	The estimated global average launch cost was \$3,868 per kilogram in 2025.
Main reason for India's high cost	Smaller rockets distribute substantial fixed launch expenses across fewer kilograms of payload.
Cost improvement trend	Only the United States and Europe recorded statistically significant launch-cost improvements between 2010 and 2025.
SpaceX contribution	SpaceX accounted for around 75% of global payload sent into orbit in 2025.
India's future focus	Higher launch frequency, larger payload capacity, technological innovation, and reusable launch systems could help reduce costs.

➤ Where was India's first 100% indigenous AK-203 'Sher' rifle manufactured?

- A) Lucknow
- B) Kanpur
- C) Amethi
- D) Nagpur
- E) Pune

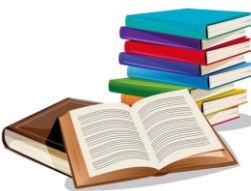


Answer
C) Amethi.



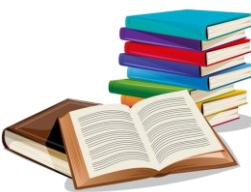
Event and Location:

- **Event:** India successfully manufactured and test-fired its first fully indigenous AK-**203** 'Sher' rifle, made entirely with Indian components and raw materials.
- **Location:** The rifle was manufactured at the Korwa factory of Indo-**Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL)** in Amethi, **Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Date:** The achievement was reported on August **24, 2026**, while **Indian Army** trials are planned for September **2026**.



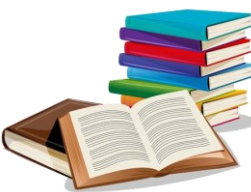
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** IRRPL is developing fully indigenous AK-203 prototypes for **Indian Army** trials and plans to manufacture around six lakh rifles ordered by the Army while increasing production capacity and localisation.



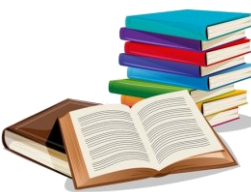
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The programme aims to achieve complete indigenisation of assault-rifle manufacturing, accelerate deliveries to the **Indian Army**, and support the replacement of ageing **INSAS** rifles with modern **AK-203** rifles.



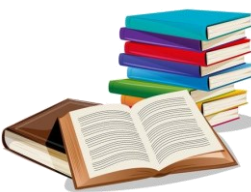
Important Terms Explained:

- **Make in India:** A **Government of India** initiative aimed at promoting domestic manufacturing, investment, innovation, and production capabilities across strategic sectors, including defence.



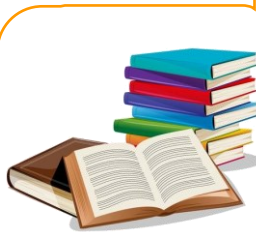
Important Terms Explained:

- **Atmanirbhar Bharat:** An initiative focused on strengthening India's self-reliance by expanding domestic production capacity and reducing dependence on imported goods and technologies.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Gas-Operated Mechanism:** A firearm operating system that uses gas generated during firing to cycle the weapon's action and prepare it for the next round.



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Achievement	India produced and successfully test-fired its first AK-203 'Sher' rifle made with 100% indigenous components and raw materials.
Manufacturing location	Korwa factory in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.
Manufacturer	Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited, an India-Russia joint venture established in 2019.
Army trials	Fully indigenous prototypes are being prepared for Indian Army trials scheduled for September 2026.
Army order	Around six lakh AK-203 rifles have been ordered for the Indian Army.
Production target	IRRPL plans to reach a manufacturing rate of one AK-203 rifle every 100 seconds.
Key specifications	The rifle uses 7.62×39 mm ammunition, has a firing rate of about 700 rounds per minute, and a stated range of 800 metres.
Operational purpose	The rifles are intended to support the replacement of ageing INSAS rifles and improve combat effectiveness.

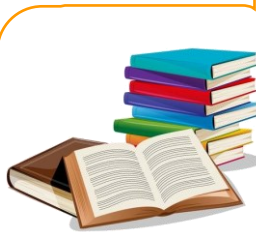
➤ Which three countries are parties to the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA)?

- A) Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan
- B) Saudi Arabia, Iran and Pakistan
- C) Türkiye, Qatar and Pakistan
- D) Saudi Arabia, UAE and Türkiye
- E) Pakistan, Iran and Türkiye



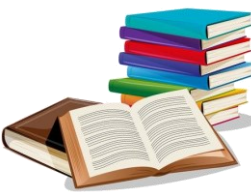
Answer

A) Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan.



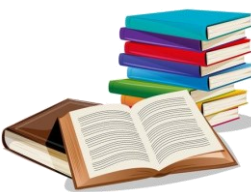
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan signed the **Makkah Joint Defence Agreement**, establishing a trilateral security framework based on collective defence and enhanced military cooperation.
- **Location:** The agreement was signed at **Al-Safa Palace in Makkah, Saudi Arabia**, with implications for security dynamics across **West Asia**.
- **Date:** Türkiye joined the framework in August **2026**, transforming the earlier Saudi-Pakistan bilateral defence arrangement into a trilateral pact.



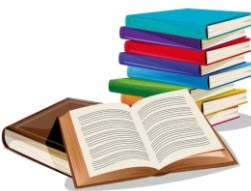
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The agreement provides that an armed attack against one member will be regarded as an attack against all three, while envisaging joint military training, exercises, intelligence sharing, security coordination and collective deterrence.



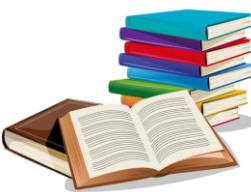
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The pact aims to strengthen regional security cooperation by combining **Saudi Arabia's** financial resources, Türkiye's defence-industrial capabilities and Pakistan's military strength amid heightened geopolitical tensions in **West Asia**.



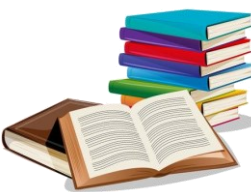
Important Terms Explained:

- **Collective Defence:** A security principle under which an attack on one member of an alliance or pact is treated as an attack on all participating members.



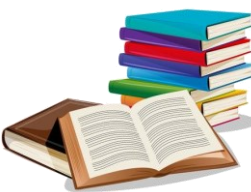
Important Terms Explained:

- **Strategic Deterrence:** The use of military capability, alliances and credible defensive commitments to discourage an adversary from initiating aggression.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement:**
A bilateral defence framework signed in September **2025** that formed the basis for the subsequent trilateral arrangement after Türkiye joined in August **2026**.



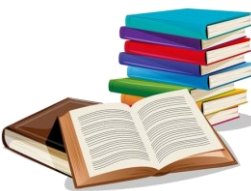
Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Agreement name	Makkah Joint Defence Agreement.
Member countries	Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan.
Signing location	Al-Safa Palace, Makkah, Saudi Arabia.
Framework evolution	The pact developed from the Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement signed in September 2025.
Türkiye's entry	Türkiye joined the arrangement in August 2026, converting it into a trilateral framework.
Core provision	Armed aggression against one member is to be considered an attack against all three members.
Key cooperation areas	Joint military exercises, training, intelligence sharing, security coordination and deterrence.
India-related significance	The pact could affect India's western strategic environment, Gulf relations, defence competition and security calculations involving Pakistan.

➤ How many days of maternity leave can eligible female Uttar Pradesh state government employees avail twice during their service under the revised rules?

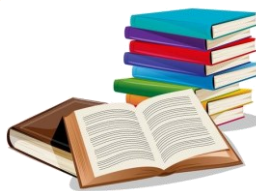
- A) 90 days
- B) 120 days
- C) 150 days
- D) 180 days
- E) 240 days

Answer
D) 180 days.



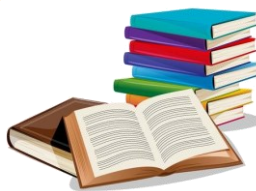
Event and Location:

- **Event:** The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** approved **180** days of maternity leave twice during service for eligible female state government employees and removed the mandatory two-year gap between two maternity leaves.
- **Location:** The revised maternity leave provisions apply to eligible female state government employees in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Date:** The **Cabinet** approved the decision on August **22, 2026**.



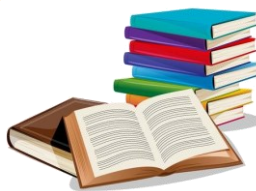
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The amendment to Rule **153(1)** of the **Uttar Pradesh Financial Handbook** allows eligible women state government employees to avail **180** days, or six months, of maternity leave twice during their service without maintaining the earlier two-year interval between the two leaves.



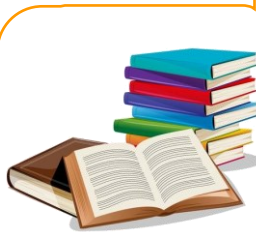
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The revised provision aims to provide working mothers adequate time for pregnancy, childbirth, recovery, childcare, and related family responsibilities while removing the restrictive waiting-period condition.



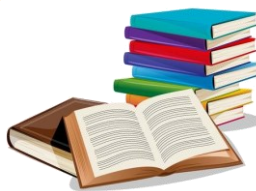
Important Terms Explained:

- **Maternity Leave:** Maternity leave is authorised leave granted to eligible women employees in connection with pregnancy, childbirth, recovery, and care of a newborn child.



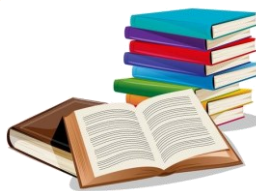
Important Terms Explained:

- **Adoptive Mothers:** Adoptive mothers are women who legally adopt a child and, under the revised provision cited in the article, are also covered for the **180-day** maternity leave benefit.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Two-Year Waiting Period:** The two-year waiting period was the earlier requirement that restricted employees from taking a second maternity leave within two years of the first, and this condition has now been removed.



Tabular Summary:

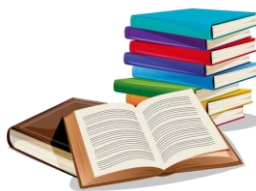
Parameter	Details
Decision	Uttar Pradesh approved 180 days of maternity leave twice during an eligible woman employee's service.
Approval date	August 22, 2026.
Eligible employees	Female employees of the Uttar Pradesh state government.
Leave duration	Each eligible maternity leave period can extend up to 180 days, or six months.
Service limit	The benefit can be availed twice during the employee's service period.
Major amendment	The mandatory two-year gap between two maternity leaves has been removed.
Relevant rule	The amendment concerns Rule 153(1) of the Uttar Pradesh Financial Handbook.
Additional coverage	The revised provision has also been reported to extend the 180-day benefit to adoptive mothers.



- What is the proposed capacity of the Green Integrated AI Data Centre Facility approved by the Andhra Pradesh government in Visakhapatnam?

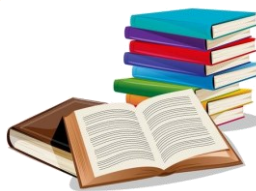
- A) 256 MW
- B) 384 MW
- C) 512 MW
- D) 640 MW
- E) 768 MW

Answer
C) 512 MW.



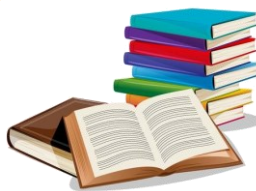
Event and Location:

- **Event:** The **Andhra Pradesh** government approved a **₹31,387**-crore-plus green artificial intelligence data centre project to be developed by AM AI Factory (Vizag) **Pvt Ltd**.
- **Location:** The proposed facility will be established at Amanam village in Bheemunipatnam mandal of Visakhapatnam district, **Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Date:** The project approval was reported on August **24, 2026**.



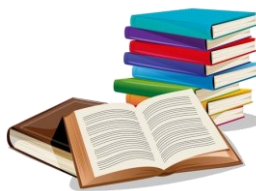
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** AM AI Factory (Vizag) Pvt Ltd will establish a **512 MW** integrated AI data centre facility with state support for power infrastructure, water supply, stamp duty exemption and electricity duty incentives.



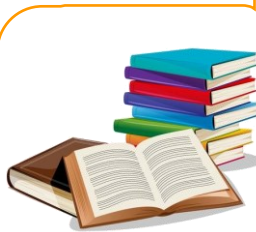
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The project aims to attract large-scale technology investment to **Andhra Pradesh**, develop advanced AI and data centre infrastructure, and create employment opportunities for about **1,000** people.



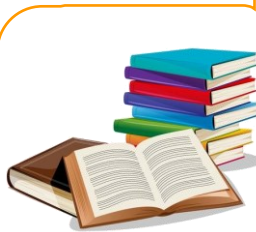
Important Terms Explained:

- **Artificial Intelligence Data Centre:** A specialised data centre designed to provide high-performance computing, storage and processing infrastructure required for artificial intelligence workloads and applications.



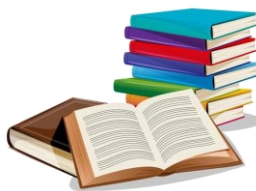
Important Terms Explained:

- **Green Data Centre:** A data centre designed to reduce its environmental impact through efficient energy use, sustainable infrastructure and resource optimisation.



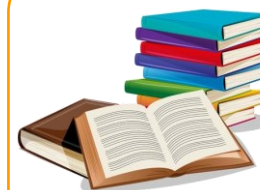
Important Terms Explained:

- **Fiscal Incentives:** Financial benefits provided by a government to encourage investment, such as exemptions from stamp duty and electricity duty in this project.



Tabular Summary:

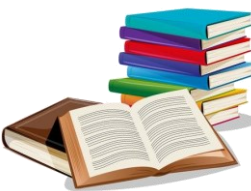
Parameter	Details
Project name	512 MW Green Integrated AI Data Centre Facility.
Investment	More than ₹31,387 crore.
Location	Amanam village, Bheemunipatnam mandal, Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh.
Developer	AM AI Factory (Vizag) Pvt Ltd.
Capacity	The proposed integrated AI data centre will have a capacity of 512 MW.
Completion period	The facility is expected to be established within two years and four months.
Employment potential	The project is expected to generate employment for about 1,000 people.
Government support	Incentives include power and water infrastructure support along with stamp duty and electricity duty exemptions.



QUICK RECALL



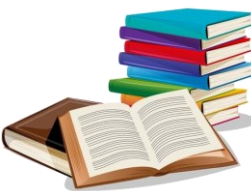
- **Lando Norris won the 2026 Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort for McLaren.**
- **Mansi Lather won the women's 68kg silver medal after a narrow 1-2 defeat against China's Chenling Song.**
- **India has named a 12-member men's kabaddi squad for the Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya.**
- **Mitchell Starc became the leading wicket-taker in World Test Championship history with 234 wickets.**
- **Pranesh M won the Kanizsa Open 2026 Group A title with seven points from nine rounds.**



QUICK RECALL



- India plans to establish the Bharatiya Antariksha Station by 2035.
- India's estimated launch cost of \$13,302 per kilogram in 2025 was more than four times the US figure of \$3,225 per kilogram.
- The first fully indigenous AK-203 'Sher' rifle was manufactured at Korwa in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Makkah Joint Defence Agreement brings Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan into a trilateral security framework.
- Uttar Pradesh has approved 180 days of maternity leave twice during the service of eligible female state government employees.
- Andhra Pradesh has approved a green AI data centre project involving an investment of more than ₹31,387 crore.



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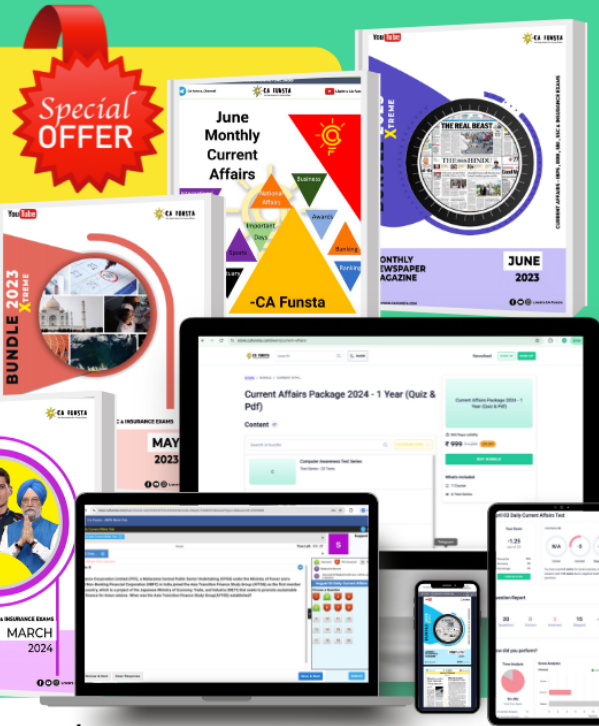


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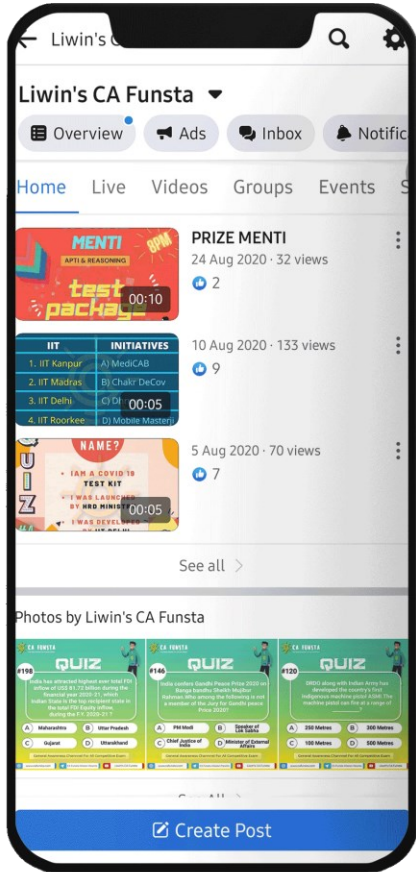
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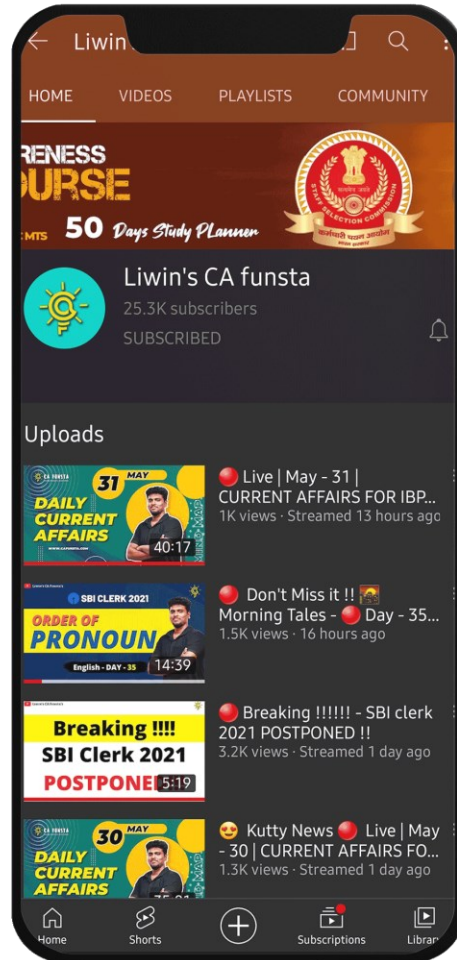


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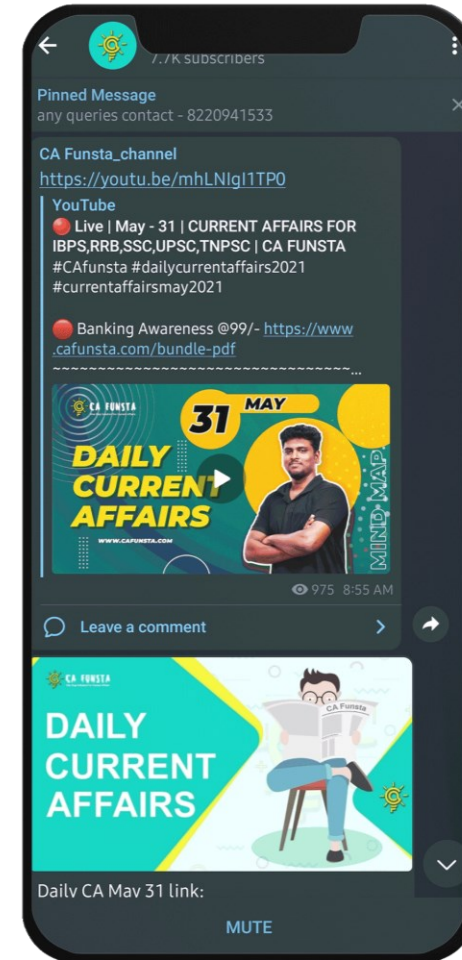
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