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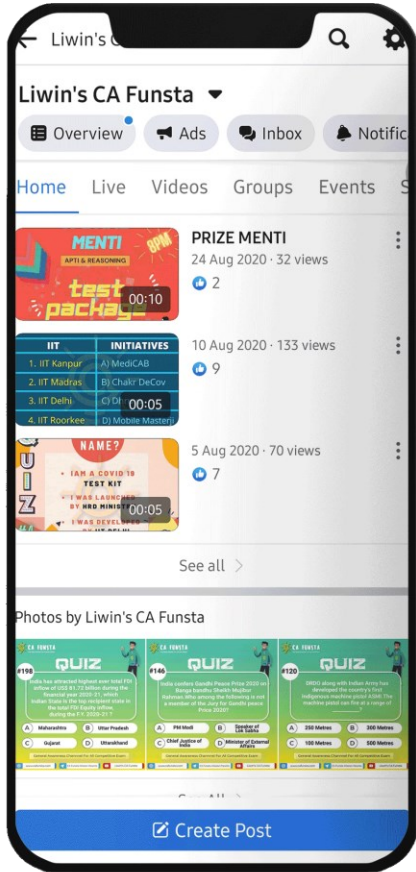


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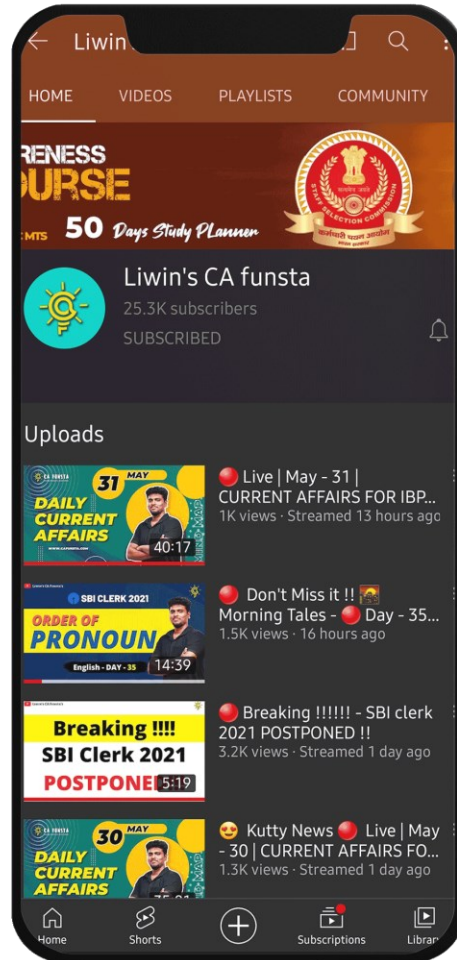
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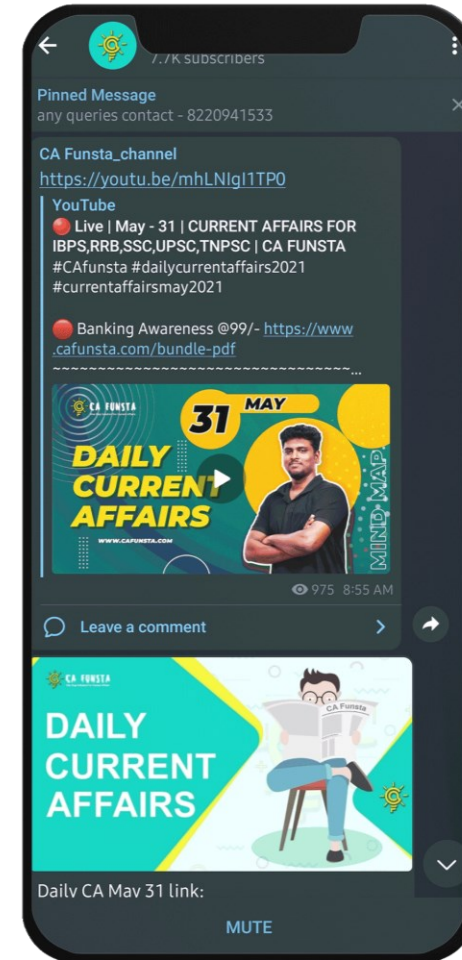
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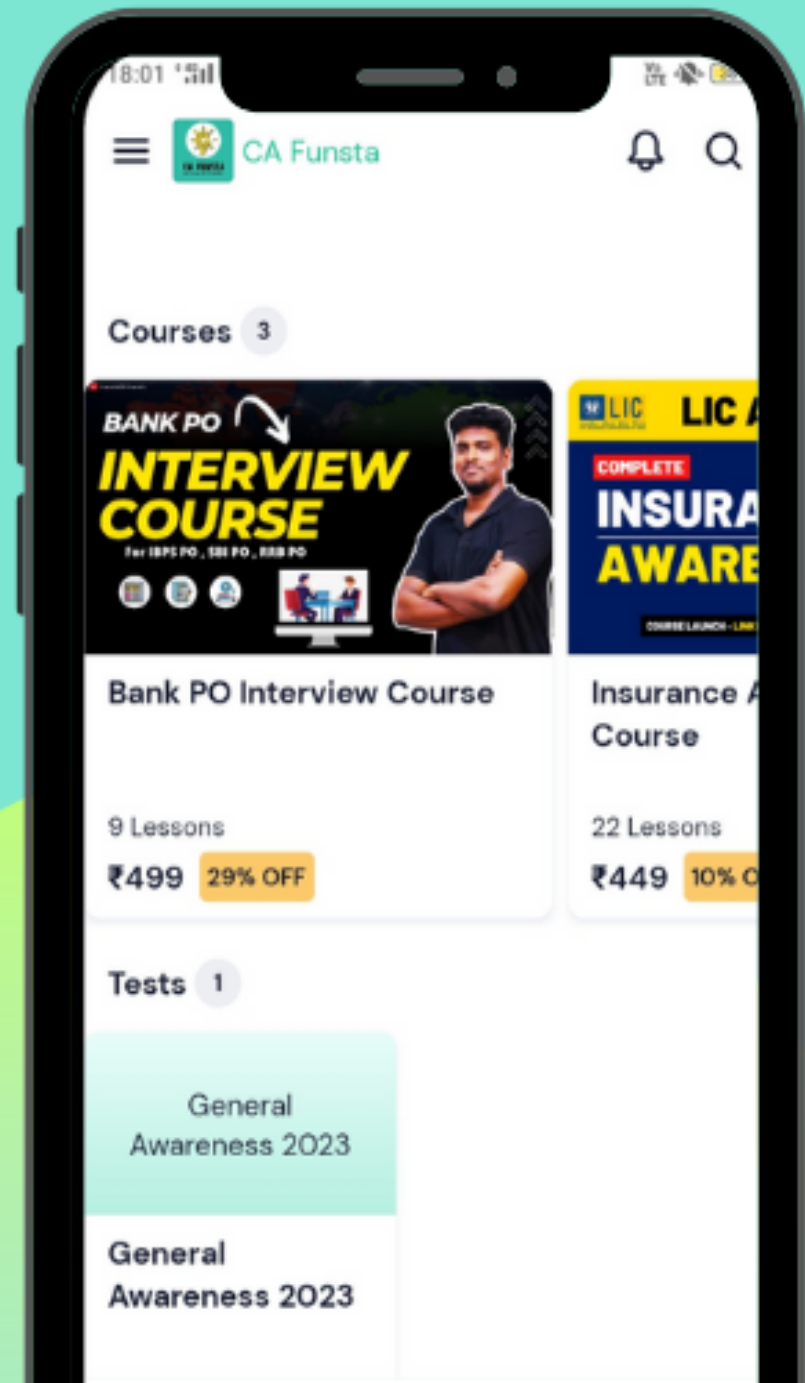
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Ruban
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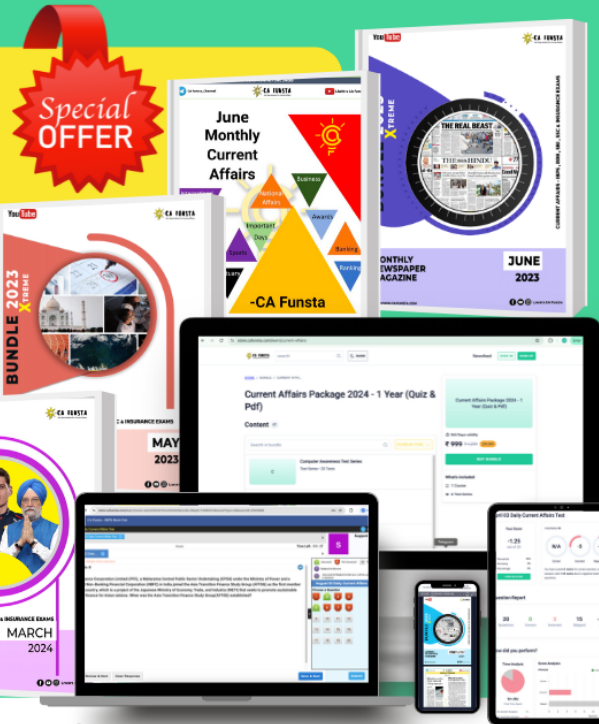


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Important Days



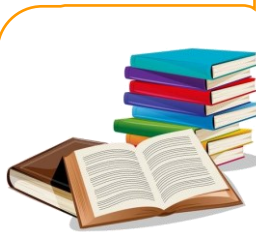
➤ **What is the theme of World Bamboo Day 2026, observed annually on September 18?**

- A) Bamboo for Climate Resilience and Green Growth
- B) Bamboo for a Regenerative Future: A Global Call to Grow, Build and Prosper with Nature
- C) Bamboo for Sustainable Cities and Communities
- D) Building a Greener World through Bamboo
- E) Bamboo for Rural Prosperity and Climate Action



Answer

B) Bamboo for a Regenerative Future: A Global Call to Grow, Build and Prosper with Nature.

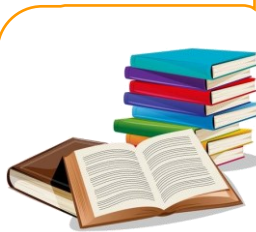


Important Days



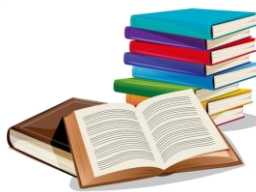
Event and Location:

- **Event: World Bamboo Day 2026** is observed to promote awareness about bamboo as a renewable resource and its environmental, economic, cultural and social significance.
- **Location:** The observance has global relevance, particularly across bamboo-producing regions in Asia, **Africa and Latin America.**
- **Date:** September **18, 2026.**



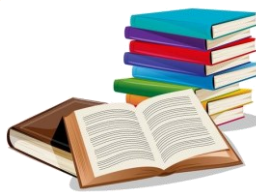
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: The World Bamboo Organization (WBO)** promotes the annual observance through bamboo planting, seminars, exhibitions, research exchanges, community programmes and visits to bamboo projects.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The **2026** observance aims to convert bamboo's potential into practical action for climate mitigation, ecosystem restoration, rural livelihoods, sustainable construction and development of a low-carbon economy.

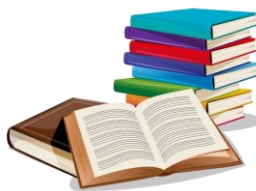


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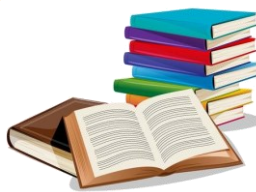
Important Terms Explained:

- **Regenerative Future:** It refers to an approach that goes beyond reducing environmental harm by restoring ecosystems, strengthening natural resources and creating sustainable economic and social systems.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Circular Economy:** It is an economic model that seeks to minimise waste by reusing, recycling and regenerating materials and resources for as long as possible.

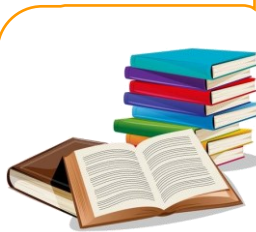


Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Bioeconomy:** It refers to economic activities based on renewable biological resources, such as plants and biomass, to produce food, materials, energy and other products.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	World Bamboo Day 2026.
Date	September 18, 2026.
Theme	“Bamboo for a Regenerative Future: A Global Call to Grow, Build and Prosper with Nature”.
Established	The observance was created in 2009.
Organising body	World Bamboo Organization.
Key purpose	To raise awareness about bamboo and its environmental, economic, cultural and social importance.
Major applications	Bamboo is used in construction, furniture, engineered products, textiles, paper, food and energy.
Strategic significance	Sustainable bamboo development can support climate action, ecosystem restoration, rural employment, sustainable construction and low-carbon economic development.



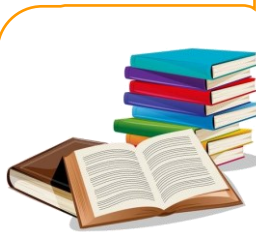
Important Days



➤ On which date is International Equal Pay Day 2026 observed to promote equal pay for work of equal value?

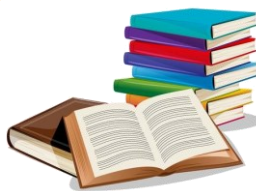
- A) September 15
- B) September 16
- C) September 17
- D) September 18
- E) September 19

Answer
D) September 18.



Event and Location:

- **Event: International Equal Pay Day 2026** is observed to raise awareness about equal pay for work of equal value and the continuing gender-based wage disparity.
- **Location:** The observance has global significance and highlights pay inequality affecting women and girls worldwide.

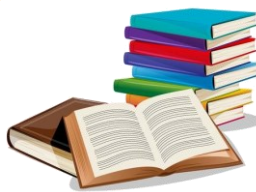


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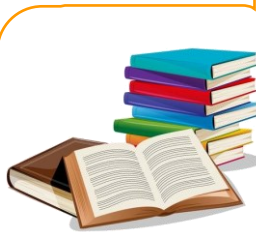
Event and Location:

- **Date:** September 18, 2026.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The observance promotes international efforts to ensure equal remuneration for women and men performing work of equal value and supports commitments against gender-based discrimination.

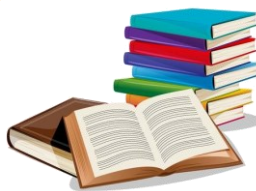


Important Days



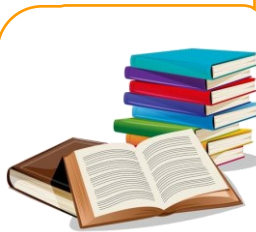
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** It aims to advance gender equality, human rights, decent work and sustainable development while addressing the global gender pay gap of approximately **20%**.



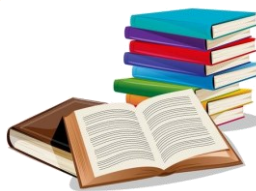
Important Terms Explained:

- **Gender Pay Gap:** It refers to the difference between the earnings of women and men, with the article stating that the global pay gap is approximately **20%**.



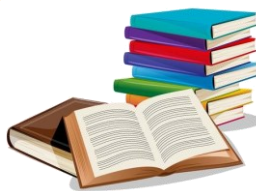
Important Terms Explained:

- **ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100):**
It establishes the principle of equal remuneration for women and men for work of equal value and is recognised as one of the **ILO Fundamental Conventions**.



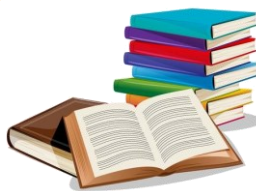
Important Terms Explained:

- **Motherhood Penalty:** It refers to the disadvantage experienced by working mothers when they earn less than men in similar positions.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC):** It is a coalition of governments, employers, employees and other organisations led by the **ILO**, UN Women and **OECD** to promote equal pay through coordinated action.



Important Days



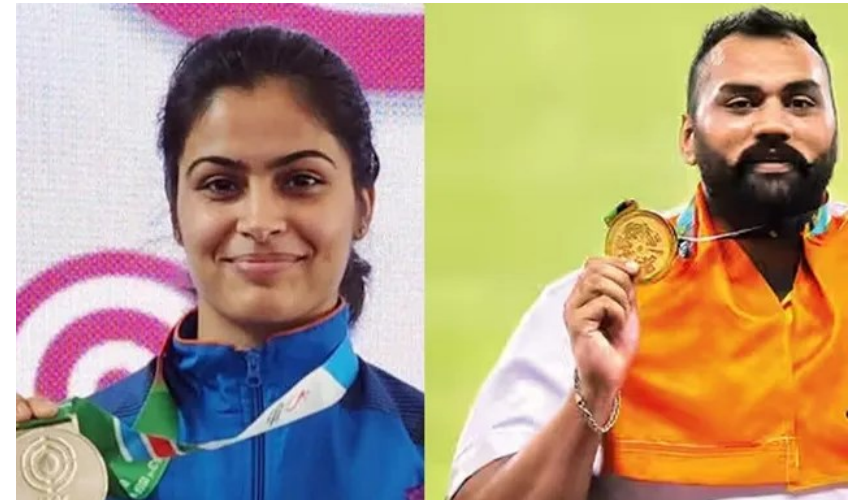
Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	International Equal Pay Day 2026.
Date	September 18, 2026.
Primary focus	Equal pay for women and men performing work of equal value.
Global pay gap	Women globally earn about 20% less than men, according to the article.
Key international standard	ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100).
Major causes highlighted	Informal employment, unpaid care work, motherhood penalty, stereotyping, discrimination and unequal promotion opportunities.
International coalition	EPIC is led by the ILO, UN Women and OECD.
Broader significance	Equal pay supports human rights, gender equality, social justice, economic resilience and women's workforce participation.



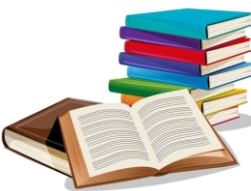
➤ Who have been named India's flag-bearers for the opening ceremony of the Asian Games 2026 in Nagoya?

- A) Manu Bhaker and Neeraj Chopra
- B) Manu Bhaker and Tajinderpal Singh Toor
- C) Tajinderpal Singh Toor and Avinash Sable
- D) Manu Bhaker and Mirabai Chanu
- E) Neeraj Chopra and Tajinderpal Singh Toor



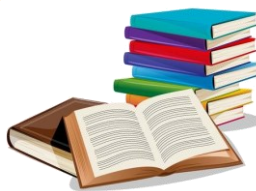
Answer

B) Manu Bhaker and Tajinderpal Singh Toor.



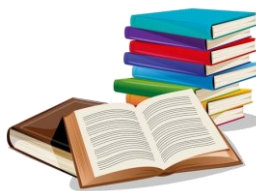
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Shooter **Manu Bhaker** and shot putter **Tajinderpal Singh Toor** have been named India's flag-bearers for the opening ceremony of the **Asian Games 2026**.
- **Location:** The opening ceremony is scheduled to be held in Nagoya, Japan.
- **Date:** The announcement was made on September **18, 2026**.



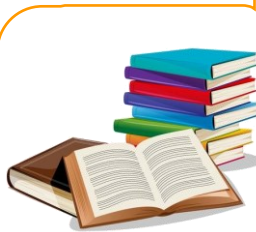
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: Manu Bhaker and Tajinderpal Singh Toor** will lead the Indian contingent as flag-bearers during the opening ceremony, representing India in the ceremonial parade.



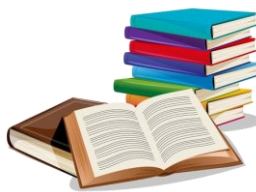
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** Their selection recognises Bhaker's Olympic achievements and Toor's successful **Asian Games** record while representing India's sporting contingent at the start of the Games.



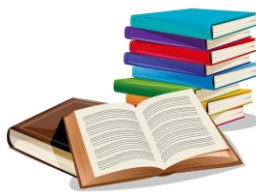
Important Terms Explained:

- **Flag-Bearer:** A flag-bearer is an athlete selected to carry the national flag and represent the country's contingent during the opening or closing ceremony of a major sporting event.



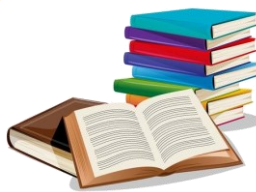
Important Terms Explained:

- Chef-de-Mission: The chef-de-mission is the official responsible for leading and coordinating a country's delegation at a major international multi-sport event.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Shot Put:** Shot put is an athletics field event in which competitors attempt to throw a heavy spherical object, called the shot, as far as possible.



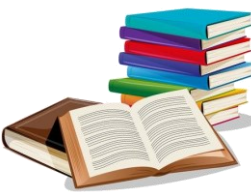
Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Flag-bearers	Manu Bhaker and Tajinderpal Singh Toor.
Event	Opening ceremony of the Asian Games 2026.
Venue city	Nagoya, Japan.
Announcement date	September 18, 2026.
Manu Bhaker's achievement	She won two Olympic medals at the Paris Games.
Tajinderpal Toor's achievement	He won shot put gold medals at the previous two Asian Games editions.
Announcement authorities	Bhaker's selection was shared by India's chef-de-mission Sahdev Yadav, while Toor's selection was announced by the Athletics Federation of India.
Significance	India will be led by an Olympic double medallist and a reigning Asian Games champion at the opening ceremony.

➤ Who became Asia's richest person with an estimated net worth of about \$105 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index?

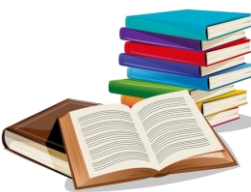
- A) Gautam Adani
- B) Mukesh Ambani
- C) Jack Ma
- D) Zhang Yiming
- E) Ma Huateng

Answer
D) Zhang Yiming.



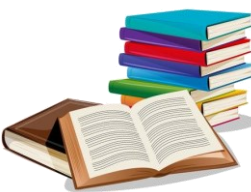
Event and Location:

- **Event:** **Zhang Yiming**, founder of ByteDance, became Asia's richest person with an estimated net worth of approximately **\$105 billion**.
- **Location:** The development concerns Asia, with **Zhang Yiming** being a Chinese technology entrepreneur born in Fujian, China.
- **Date:** The development was reported on September **18, 2026**.



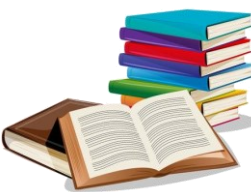
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** **Zhang Yiming**'s rise to the top of Asia's wealth ranking is linked primarily to his shareholding in ByteDance and the increasing private valuation of the technology company.



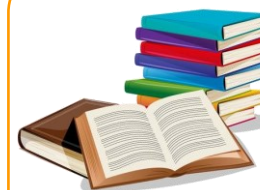
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** ByteDance continues to expand beyond social media into artificial intelligence and other technology segments, strengthening investor expectations regarding the company's valuation.



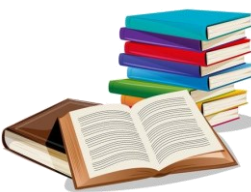
Ranking Table:

Rank	Entity / Score/Index/Remarks
1	Entity: Zhang Yiming. Score/Index/Remarks: Estimated net worth of approximately \$105 billion, making him Asia's richest person.
—	Entity: Gautam Adani. Score/Index/Remarks: The Indian industrialist was surpassed by Zhang Yiming in the Asian wealth ranking.



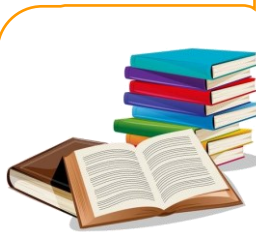
Important Terms Explained:

- **Private-Company Valuation:** It refers to the estimated economic value of a privately held company based on factors such as investor transactions, business performance and market expectations.



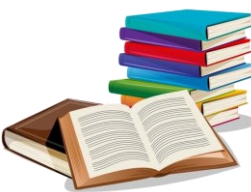
Important Terms Explained:

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** It refers to technologies that enable computer systems to perform tasks such as learning, reasoning, language processing and pattern recognition.



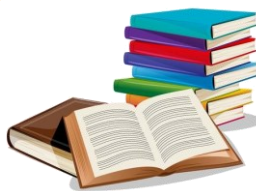
Important Terms Explained:

- **Large Language Models:** These are AI systems trained on large volumes of data to understand and generate human-like text and perform language-related tasks.



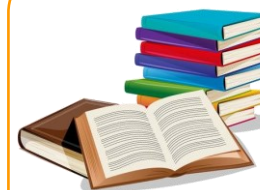
Important Terms Explained:

- **Multimodal AI:** It refers to artificial intelligence systems capable of processing and combining multiple types of information such as text, images, audio and video.



Tabular Summary:

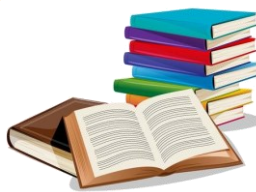
Parameter	Details
Person	Zhang Yiming.
Achievement	He became Asia's richest person.
Estimated net worth	Approximately \$105 billion.
Company	ByteDance, co-founded by Zhang Yiming and Rubo Liang in 2012.
Education	Zhang Yiming studied software engineering at Nankai University.
Major platforms	ByteDance's products include TikTok, CapCut, TikTok Shop and Lark.
Career milestone	Zhang Yiming stepped down as CEO of ByteDance in 2021.
AI expansion	ByteDance's Doubao Seed Team works on large language models, multimodal AI, deep learning, reinforcement learning, speech and computer vision.



➤ Which service allows FASTag users to change their issuer bank without replacing the physical tag?

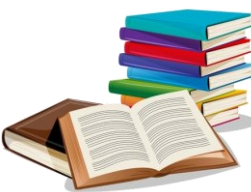
- A) BharatTag
- B) OneTag
- C) TollSwitch
- D) FastPort
- E) BankTag

Answer
B) OneTag.



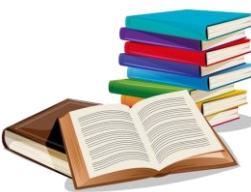
Event and Location:

- **Event:** NHAI's OneTag FASTag portability service has become available through the Rajmargyatra app, allowing users to change their FASTag issuer bank without replacing the physical tag.
- **Location:** The service is available for eligible FASTag users across India through the Rajmargyatra mobile application.
- **Date:** The service went live on September **17, 2026**.



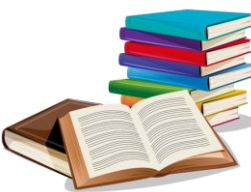
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The portability facility enables users to retain their existing FASTag ID and physical tag while shifting to a new issuer bank after completing verification, **KYC** and wallet onboarding requirements.



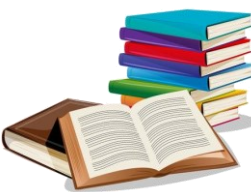
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The initiative aims to provide greater flexibility to FASTag users, simplify issuer-bank switching and reduce unnecessary tag replacement, dispatch and reissuance.



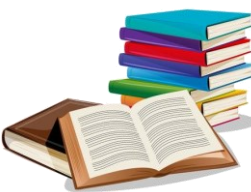
Important Terms Explained:

- **Rajmargyatra App:** It is the mobile application through which users can check eligibility and initiate the process of switching their FASTag issuer bank.



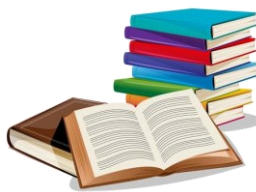
Important Terms Explained:

- **Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL):** It is an entity promoted by **NHAI** that jointly developed the OneTag portability facility with **NPCI**.



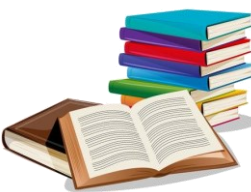
Important Terms Explained:

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI):** It provides the technology platform supporting portability within the **National Electronic Toll Collection** system.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Cooling Period:** It refers to the six-month period during which an interoperable FASTag cannot be ported again after a successful issuer-bank change.



Tabular Summary:

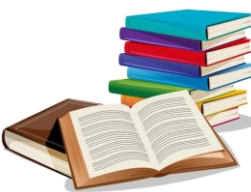
Parameter	Details
Service name	OneTag FASTag portability.
Launch date	September 17, 2026.
Access platform	Rajmargyatra mobile application.
Launched by	Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari at Global Fintech Fest 2026 in Mumbai.
Developed by	IHMCL and NPCI.
Key feature	Users can change their issuer bank without replacing the physical FASTag or changing the existing FASTag ID.
Cooling period	A successfully ported FASTag can be ported again only after six months.
FASTag reach	FASTag penetration exceeds 98%, with around 13 crore NETC FASTags in India.



➤ To what level has Moody's raised India's real GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal year?

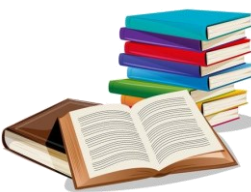
- A) 5.5%
- B) 6%
- C) 6.5%
- D) 7%
- E) 7.5%

Answer
D) 7%.



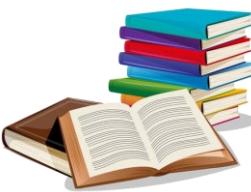
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Moody's has raised India's real **GDP** growth forecast for the current fiscal year to **7%** from its previous estimate of **6%**.
- **Location:** The forecast relates to India's economy and its performance relative to other **G20** economies and similarly rated emerging market sovereigns.



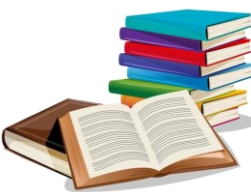
Event and Location:

- **Date:** The revised forecast was reported on September **18, 2026**.



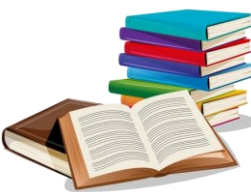
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The revised projection reflects Moody's assessment of India's economic resilience despite the **West Asia** shock and broader economic uncertainties.



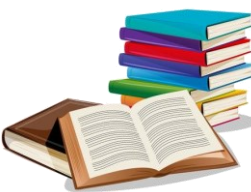
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The forecast evaluates India's growth outlook while considering investment, production activity, energy prices, food inflation, fiscal pressures and external geopolitical risks.



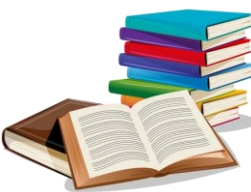
Important Terms Explained:

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



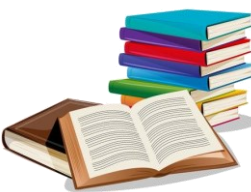
Important Terms Explained:

- **Fiscal Consolidation:** It refers to government efforts to improve public finances by controlling expenditure, reducing deficits and managing debt sustainably.



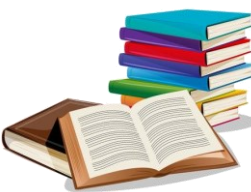
Important Terms Explained:

- El Niño: It is a climatic phenomenon involving abnormal warming of the central and eastern tropical **Pacific Ocean**, which can affect rainfall patterns and agricultural output.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Credit Rating:** It is an assessment by a rating agency of the ability and willingness of a government or entity to meet its financial obligations.



Tabular Summary:

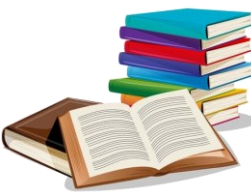
Parameter	Details
Revised GDP forecast	India's real GDP growth forecast has been raised to 7%.
Previous forecast	Moody's had earlier projected growth of 6%.
Reason for revision	India's economic resilience despite the West Asia shock supported the upward revision.
Comparative outlook	India is expected to grow faster than other G20 economies and similarly rated emerging market sovereigns.
Quarterly growth cited	The article states that India's economy expanded by 7.8% in Q1 FY24.
Growth drivers	Strong investment and production activity supported economic expansion.
Major risks	Elevated energy prices, food-price pressures linked to El Niño and geopolitical uncertainty remain concerns.
Fiscal challenge	Higher subsidies, defence spending and infrastructure expenditure could add pressure to fiscal consolidation.



➤ To what level has the Bank of Japan (BOJ) raised its key interest rate, marking the highest borrowing cost since 1995?

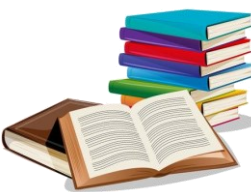
- A) 0.75%
- B) 1%
- C) 1.25%
- D) 1.5%
- E) 2%

Answer
C) 1.25%.



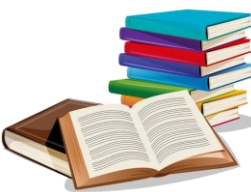
Event and Location:

- **Event:** The Bank of Japan has raised its benchmark interest rate from 1% to 1.25%, its highest level since 1995.
- **Location:** The monetary policy decision applies to Japan amid inflationary pressures, a weak yen and rising energy costs.
- **Date:** The rate hike was reported on September 18, 2026.



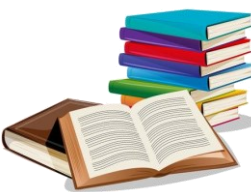
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The **BOJ** raised its key policy rate as part of its gradual shift away from years of negative and ultra-low interest rates in response to inflationary pressures.
- **Objectives:** The rate hike seeks to address price pressures arising from higher energy costs and a weak yen while keeping inflation close to the **BOJ's** 2% target.



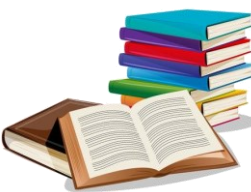
Important Terms Explained:

- **Negative Interest Rate Policy:** It is a monetary policy under which a central bank sets certain interest rates below zero to encourage borrowing, spending and economic activity.



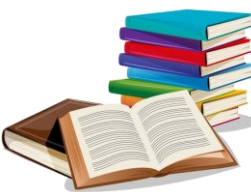
Important Terms Explained:

- **Core Inflation:** It is a measure of underlying consumer price changes that excludes selected volatile components and is used to assess persistent inflation trends.



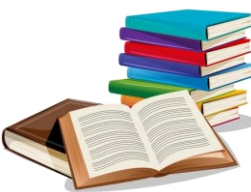
Important Terms Explained:

- **Monetary Tightening:** It refers to measures such as raising interest rates to restrain demand and control inflationary pressures in an economy.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Weak Yen:** It refers to depreciation of Japan's currency, which can make imported goods and energy more expensive and contribute to domestic inflation.



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Policy decision	The Bank of Japan raised its benchmark interest rate from 1% to 1.25%.
Historic level	The 1.25% rate is Japan's highest borrowing cost since 1995.
Rate cycle	The tightening cycle began in 2024 when the interest rate stood at -0.1%.
Core inflation	Japan's core consumer inflation stood at 1.7% in August, down from 1.8%.
Inflation target	The BOJ's inflation target is 2%.
Key pressures	Rising energy costs, a weak yen and broader price pressures contributed to the decision.
Energy risk	Disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz have contributed to higher global energy prices, according to the article.
Economic impact	Higher rates can increase borrowing costs, encourage savings and potentially reduce demand in the economy.



APPOINTMENTS

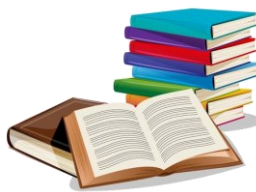


➤ Who has been appointed as the ICC Deputy Chairperson until November 2027?

- A) Jay Shah
- B) Imran Khwaja
- C) Tavengwa Mukuhllani
- D) Sikandar Raza
- E) Hamilton Masakadza

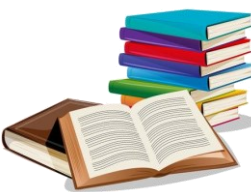
Answer

C) Tavengwa Mukuhllani.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** **Tavengwa Mukuhlani, Chairman of Zimbabwe Cricket**, has been appointed as **ICC Deputy Chairperson**, becoming the first Zimbabwean to hold the position.
- **Location:** The appointment has global relevance within the **International Cricket Council**, with particular significance for **Zimbabwe and African** cricket.

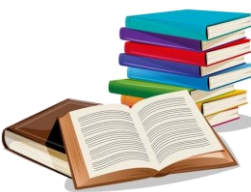


APPOINTMENTS



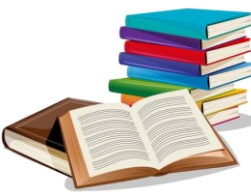
Event and Location:

- **Date:** The appointment was reported on September **18, 2026**, with the tenure continuing until November **2027**.



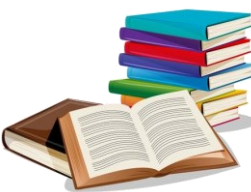
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** Mukuhlanani will serve as **Deputy Chairperson** of the **International Cricket Council** while continuing to contribute to **ICC** governance and preparations surrounding major international cricket developments.



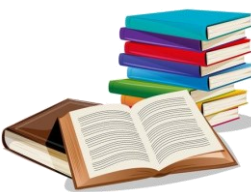
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** His appointment is expected to support **ICC** governance, the development of cricket in Africa, preparations for the **2027 Men's Cricket World Cup** and the sport's continuing global expansion.



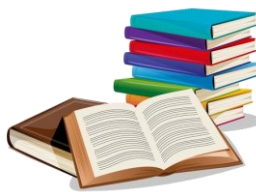
Important Terms Explained:

- **International Cricket Council (ICC):** It is the global governing body responsible for administering and promoting international cricket.



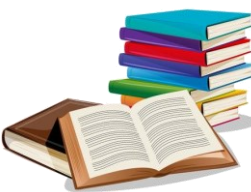
Important Terms Explained:

- **Finance and Commercial Affairs Committee (F&CA):**
It is an **ICC** committee dealing with financial and commercial matters related to the administration and development of international cricket.



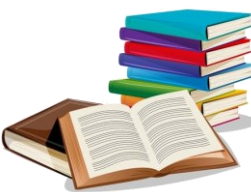
Important Terms Explained:

- **ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027:** It is the upcoming men's **ODI World Cup** that will be co-hosted by Zimbabwe, **South Africa and Namibia**.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Olympic Return of Cricket:** It refers to cricket's re-entry into the Olympic programme, which the article identifies as an important part of the sport's international expansion.

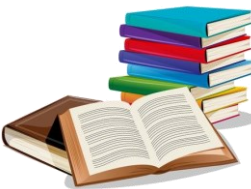


APPOINTMENTS



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Appointee	Tavengwa Mukuhlani.
New position	ICC Deputy Chairperson.
Tenure	Until November 2027.
Current role	Chairman of Zimbabwe Cricket and representative on the ICC Board.
Predecessor	Imran Khwaja, who resigned from the ICC Board.
Historic significance	Mukuhlani is the first Zimbabwean to become ICC Deputy Chairperson.
2027 World Cup hosts	Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia.
Key relevance	The appointment comes ahead of the 2027 Men's Cricket World Cup and amid cricket's global expansion and Olympic return.



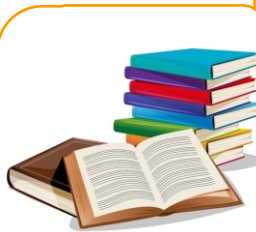
AWARDS



➤ Which Marathi thriller has been selected as India's official entry for the Oscars 2027 in the Best International Feature Film category?

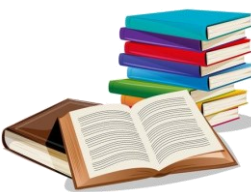
- A) Angh
- B) Dorothy
- C) Gondhal
- D) Homebound
- E) Suman

Answer
C) Gondhal.



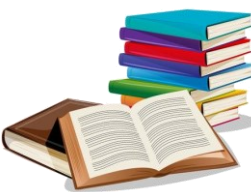
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Gondhal, a Marathi thriller directed by **Santosh Davakhar**, has been selected as India's official entry for the **99th Academy Awards** in the **Best International Feature Film** category.
- **Location:** The **99th Academy Awards** will be held at the **Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, United States**.



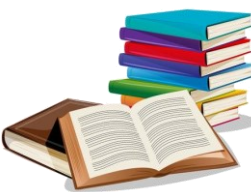
Event and Location:

- **Date:** The **Film Federation of India** announced the selection on September **18, 2026**, while the **Academy Awards** ceremony is scheduled for March **14, 2027**.



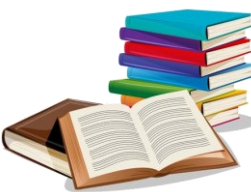
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: The Film Federation of India (FFI)** selected Gondhal from **33** films as India's official submission for consideration in the **Best International Feature Film** category at the **99th Academy Awards**.



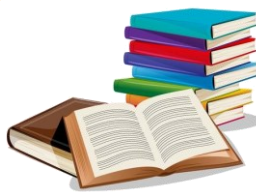
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The selection aims to represent Indian cinema internationally through a film rooted in Maharashtra's traditional Gondhal folk performance while presenting themes of relationships, betrayal, desire and deception.



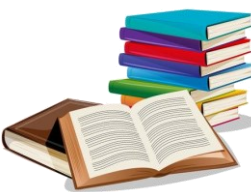
Important Terms Explained:

- **Best International Feature Film:** It is an **Academy Awards** category for feature-length films produced outside the **United States** with predominantly non-English dialogue.



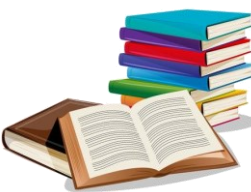
Important Terms Explained:

- **Gondhal Folk Tradition:** Gondhal is a traditional folk performance associated with Maharashtra and forms the cultural backdrop of the selected film.



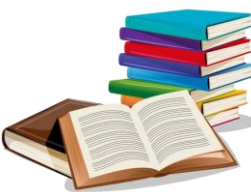
Important Terms Explained:

- **Official Oscar Entry:** It refers to the film formally submitted by a country for consideration in the **Academy Awards' International Feature Film** category, but selection as the official entry does not guarantee an Oscar nomination.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Silver Peacock Award:** It is an award associated with the **International Film Festival of India**, where **Santosh Davakhar**'s previous directorial work received recognition in **2025**.

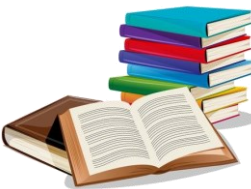


AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

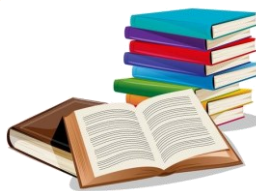
Parameter	Details
Film name	Gondhal.
Language and genre	Marathi thriller.
Director	Santosh Davakhar.
Selected by	Film Federation of India.
Category	Best International Feature Film at the 99th Academy Awards.
Selection pool	Gondhal was chosen from 33 films considered for India's official entry.
Release date	Gondhal was released in India on November 14, 2025.
Oscars ceremony	The 99th Academy Awards will be held on March 14, 2027, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.



➤ **At what altitude have the twin flower fields in Ladakh been developed to promote commercial floriculture and farmer livelihoods?**

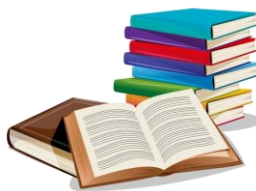
- A) 8,600 feet
- B) 9,500 feet
- C) 10,000 feet
- D) 10,600 feet
- E) 11,200 feet

Answer
D) 10,600 feet.



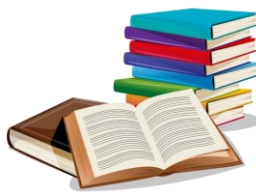
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Ladakh has unveiled twin high-altitude flower fields covering **40** acres and containing more than **25 lakh** flowers to promote commercial floriculture and farmer livelihoods.
- **Location:** The twin flower fields are located at **Choglamsar and Stakna in Leh** district at an altitude of **10,600** feet.



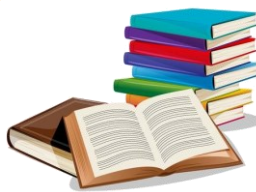
Event and Location:

- **Date:** The flower fields were inaugurated on September **17, 2026**.



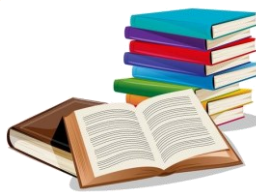
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The Agriculture Department will cultivate the flowers during the first year and later transfer operations to selected self-help groups and cooperatives for cultivation, harvesting, value addition and marketing.



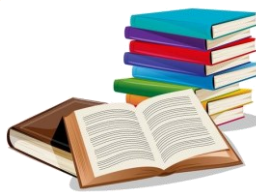
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The project aims to diversify agriculture in Ladakh, develop commercial floriculture as a livelihood opportunity and connect local flower production with domestic and international markets.



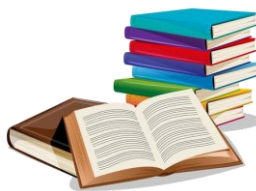
Important Terms Explained:

- **Commercial Floriculture:** It refers to the cultivation of flowers and ornamental plants on a commercial scale for sale in domestic and international markets.



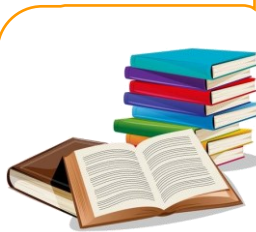
Important Terms Explained:

- **Self-Help Groups (SHGs):** These are small community-based groups whose members collectively undertake economic activities, access resources and improve livelihood opportunities.



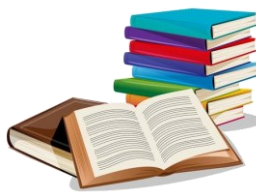
Important Terms Explained:

- **Lilium:** It is a genus of ornamental flowering plants commonly known as lilies and is one of the principal flower varieties cultivated under the Ladakh project.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Gladiolus:** It is an ornamental flowering plant cultivated commercially for its tall flower spikes and decorative value.



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Project	Twin high-altitude flower fields at Choglamsar and Stakna.
Altitude	The fields are situated at 10,600 feet.
Total area	The project covers 40 acres.
Flower count	More than 25 lakh flowers, including about 24 lakh Lilium plants and 1 lakh Gladiolus plants.
Inaugurated by	Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena.
Farmer model	Cultivation will initially be handled by the Agriculture Department and later transferred to selected SHGs and cooperatives.
Commercial purpose	The project aims to develop floriculture as an additional source of income and facilitate marketing in domestic and foreign markets.
Demonstration centre	Choglamsar will serve as a demonstration and model centre for Lilium, Gladiolus, Tulips and other ornamental flowers.

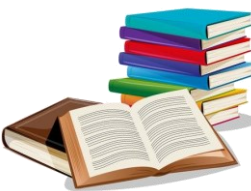
► Under the Passports (Amendment) Rules, 2026, how long will an ordinary passport issued to a child below 15 years remain valid?

- A) Three years only
- B) Five years only
- C) Until the child turns 15
- D) Five years or until the child turns 18, whichever is earlier
- E) Until the child turns 21



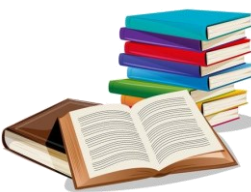
Answer

D) Five years or until the child turns 18, whichever is earlier.



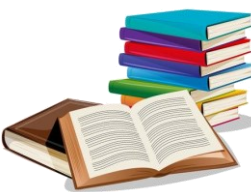
Event and Location:

- **Event:** The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has amended passport validity rules for children below **15** years through the Passports (Amendment) Rules, **2026**.
- **Location:** The amended passport rules apply across India.



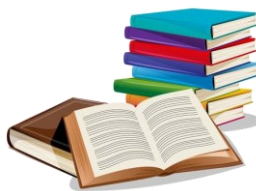
Event and Location:

- **Date:** The amendment was notified in the **Gazette of India** on September **17, 2026**.



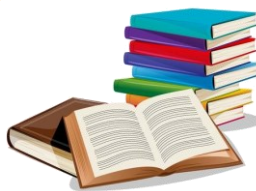
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** An ordinary passport issued to a child below **15** years will now remain valid for five years or until the child attains **18** years of age, whichever occurs earlier.
- **Objectives:** The amendment clarifies the validity period of ordinary passports issued to children below **15** years by modifying the relevant provisions of the **Passports Rules, 1980**.



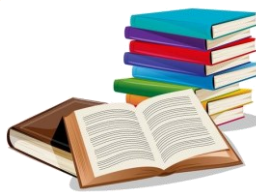
Important Terms Explained:

- **Passports Rules, 1980:** These are the rules governing various procedural and validity provisions relating to passports in India, including rules applicable to passports issued to minors.



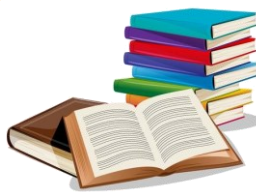
Important Terms Explained:

- Rule **12(1A)**: It is the provision concerning the validity period of ordinary passports issued to eligible minors and has been amended under the **2026** rules.



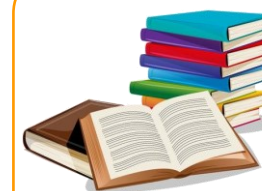
Important Terms Explained:

- **Gazette of India:** It is the official government publication used for notifying laws, rules, amendments and other government decisions.



Tabular Summary:

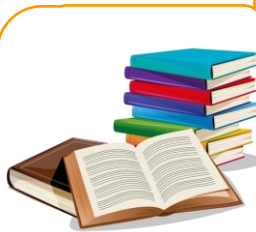
Parameter	Details
Amendment	Passports (Amendment) Rules, 2026.
Issuing authority	Ministry of External Affairs.
Notification date	September 17, 2026.
Affected category	Ordinary passports issued to children below 15 years of age.
New validity	Five years or until the child turns 18 years, whichever is earlier.
Rules amended	Passports Rules, 1980.
Relevant provision	Rule 12(1A) relating to passport validity for minors.
Practical effect	If a child reaches 18 before the five-year validity period ends, the passport will expire upon attaining 18 years of age.



QUICK RECALL



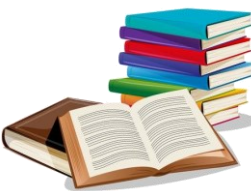
- **World Bamboo Day 2026**, promoted by the World Bamboo Organization on September 18, highlights bamboo's role in climate action, ecosystem restoration, livelihoods and sustainable development.
- **International Equal Pay Day 2026** is observed globally on September 18 to promote equal pay for work of equal value and highlight the persistent gender pay gap affecting women and girls.
- **Manu Bhaker and Tajinderpal Singh Toor** have been selected as India's flag-bearers for the Asian Games 2026 opening ceremony in Nagoya, representing an Olympic double medallist and a successful Asian Games champion.
- **Zhang Yiming**, founder of ByteDance, became Asia's richest person with an estimated fortune of about \$105 billion as ByteDance's valuation and AI ambitions strengthened investor interest.
- **NHAI's OneTag service**, launched through the Rajmargyatra app on September 17, 2026, allows FASTag users to switch issuer banks while retaining their existing physical tag and FASTag ID.
- **Moody's** raised India's real GDP growth forecast to 7% from 6%, citing the economy's resilience despite the West Asia shock and continued strength in domestic activity.



QUICK RECALL



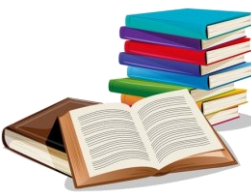
- **The Bank of Japan raised its benchmark interest rate from 1% to 1.25%, the highest since 1995, as it responded to inflationary pressures, higher energy costs and a weak yen.**
- **Tavengwa Mukuhlani, Chairman of Zimbabwe Cricket, has been appointed ICC Deputy Chairperson until November 2027, becoming the first Zimbabwean to hold the post.**
- **Marathi thriller Gondhal, directed by Santosh Davakhar, was selected by the Film Federation of India as the country's official entry for the Best International Feature Film category at the 99th Academy Awards.**



QUICK RECALL



- **Ladakh unveiled twin flower fields at Choglamsar and Stakna in Leh district at 10,600 feet, featuring over 25 lakh flowers to promote commercial floriculture and strengthen local farmer livelihoods.**
- **The Ministry of External Affairs amended passport rules in 2026 so that ordinary passports issued to children below 15 years remain valid for five years or until age 18, whichever is earlier.**



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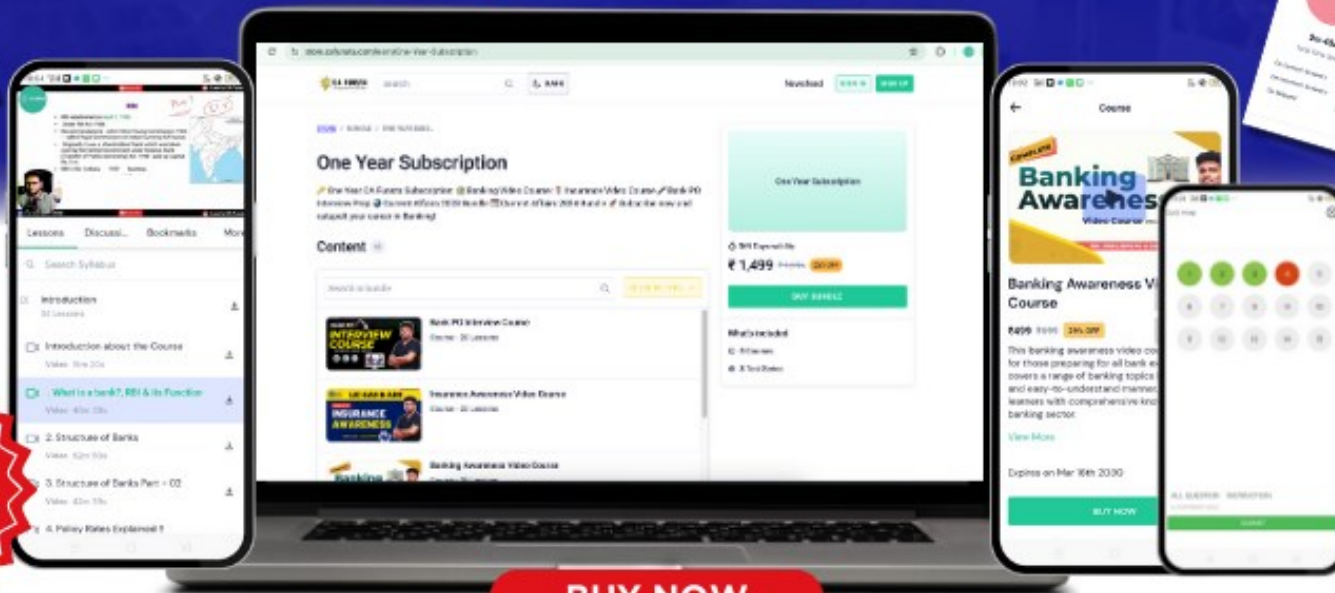
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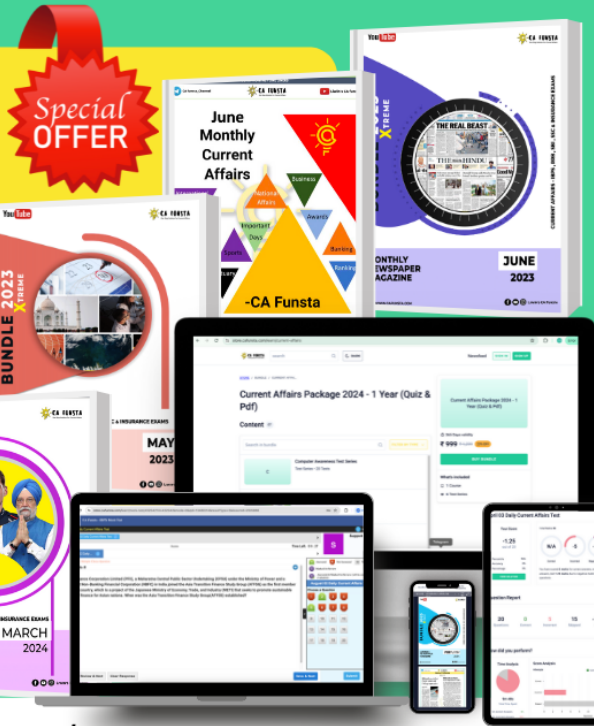


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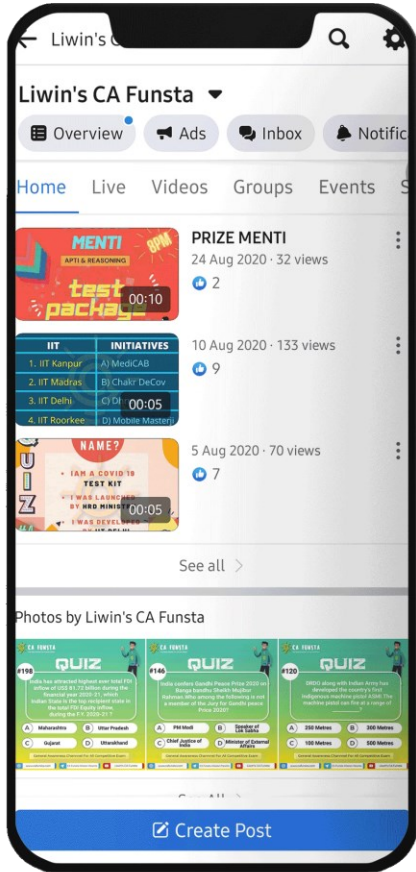
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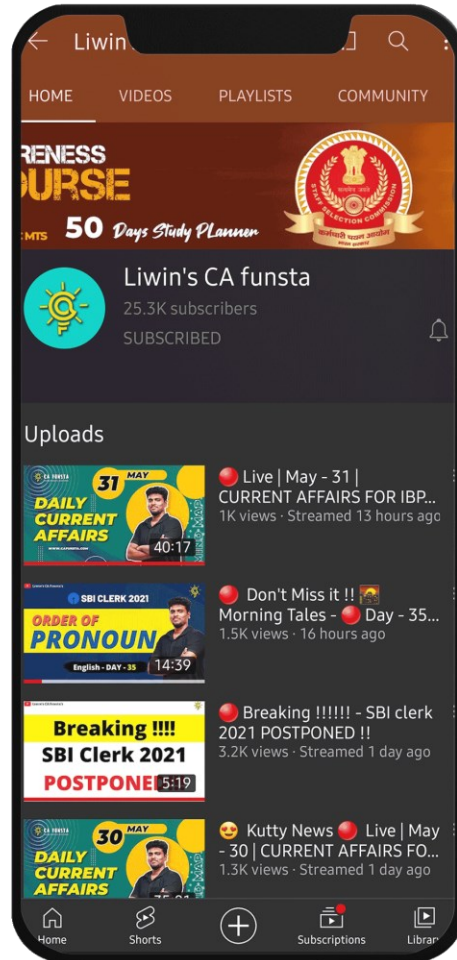


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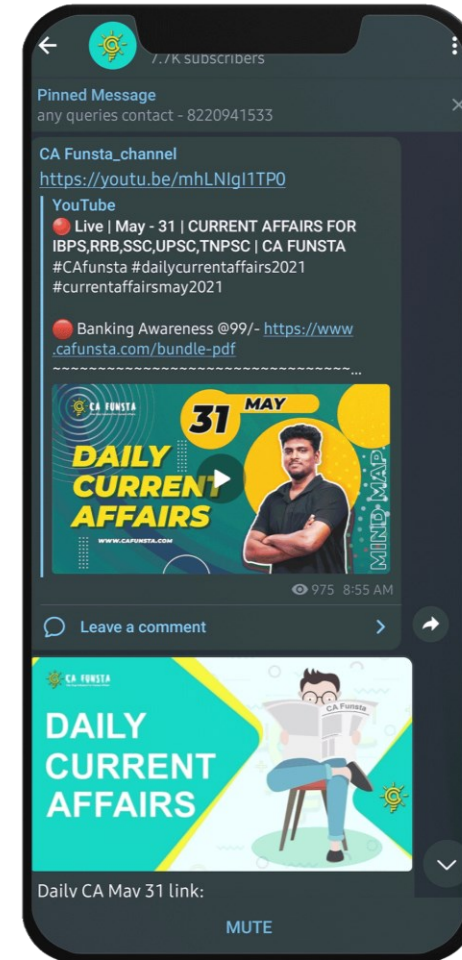
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