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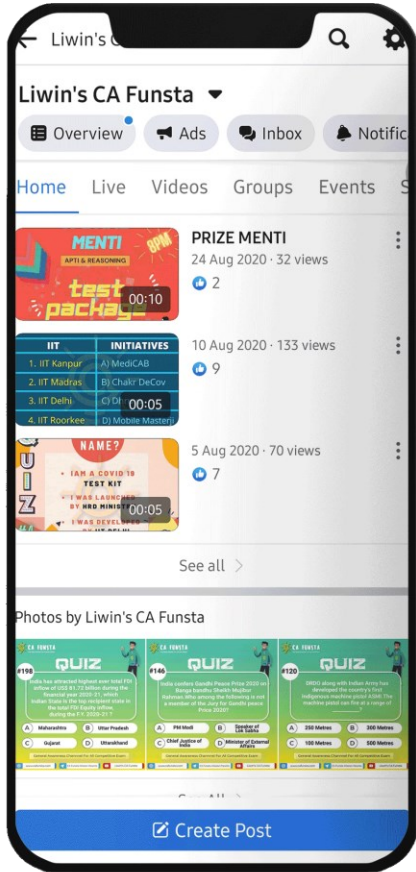


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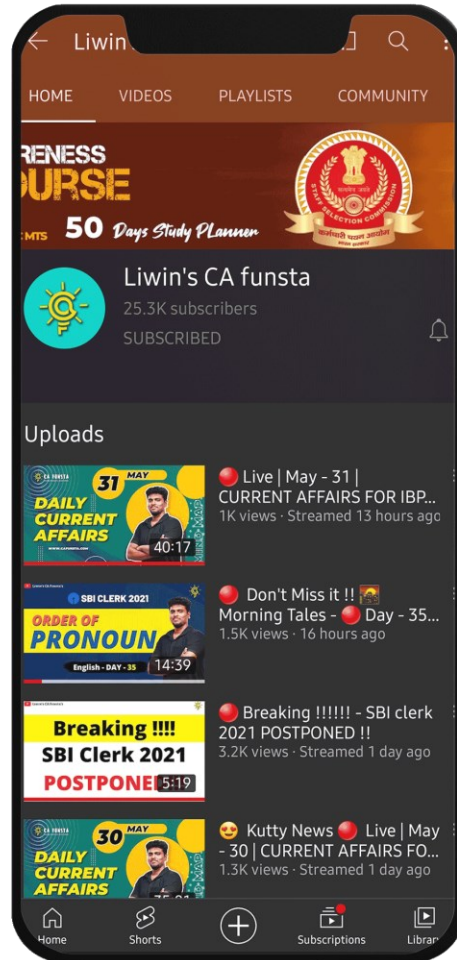
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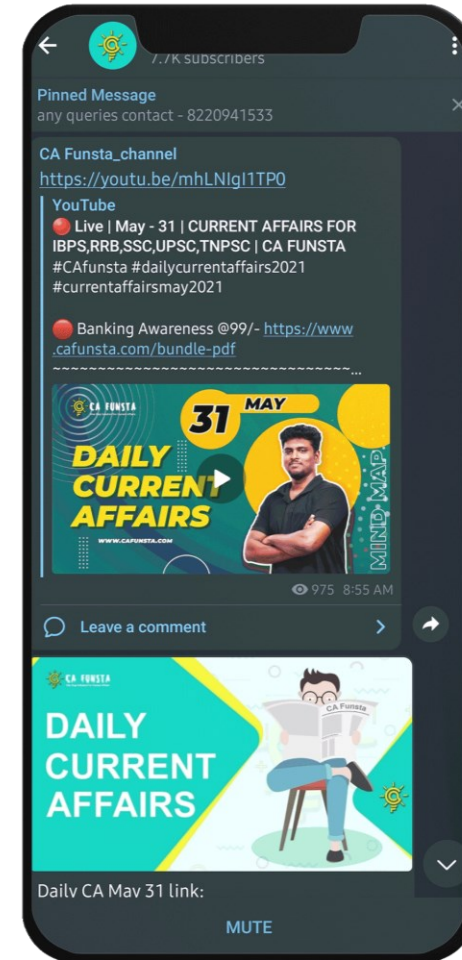
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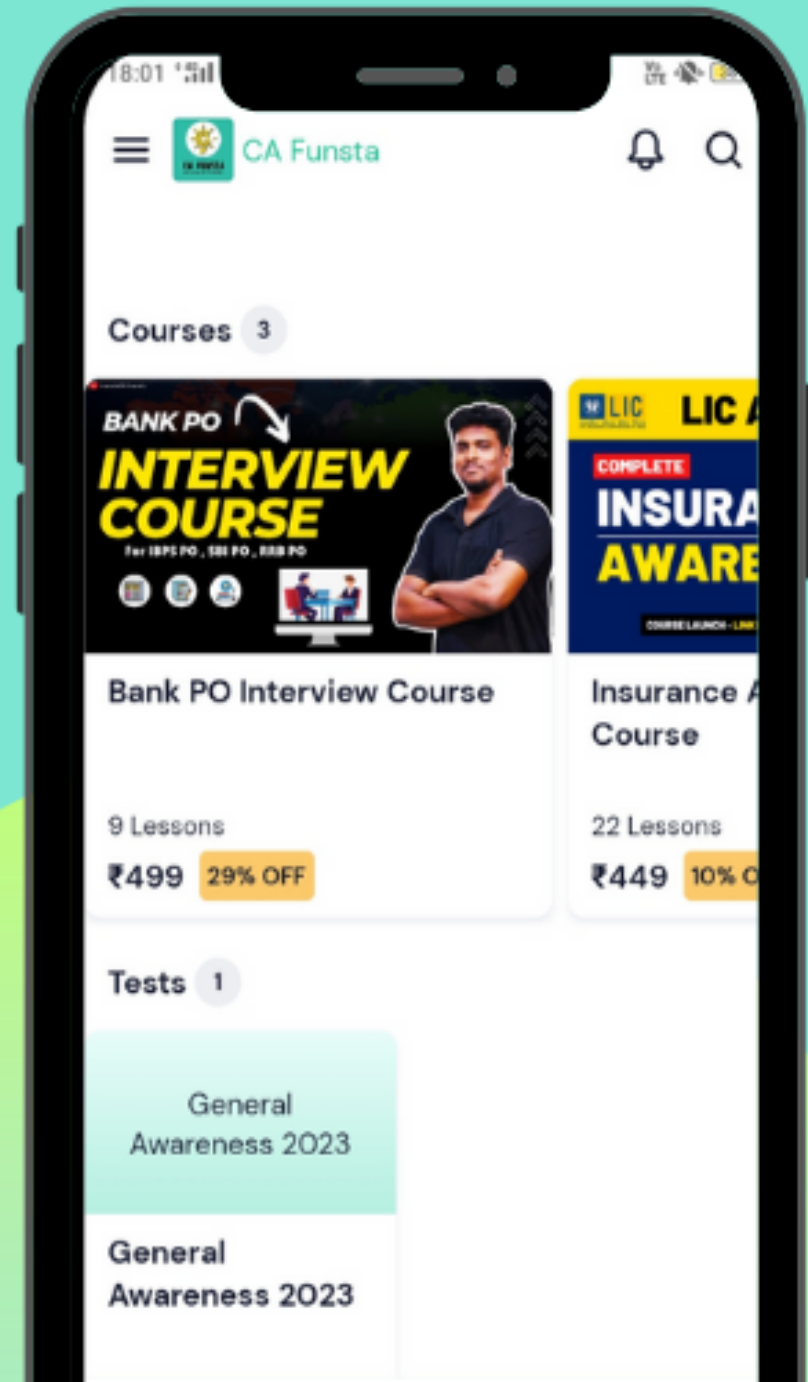
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Ruban
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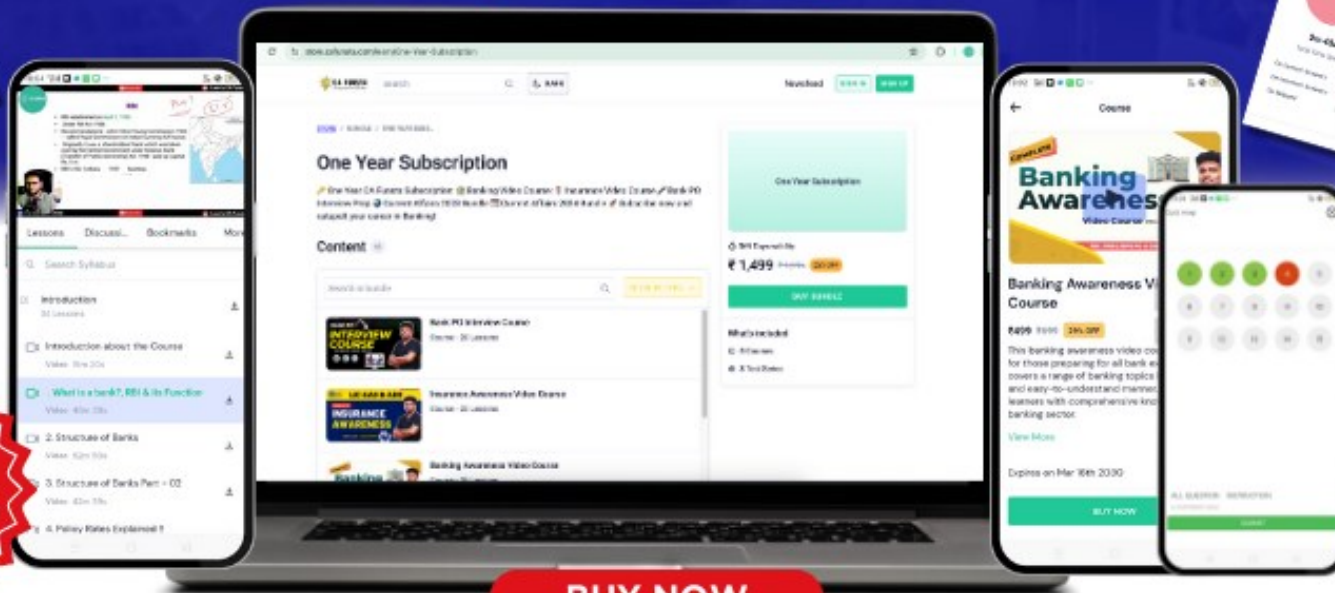
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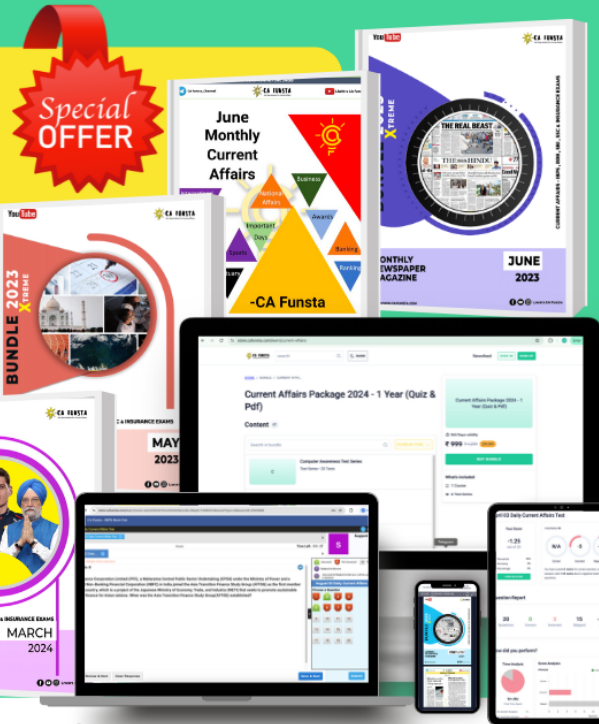


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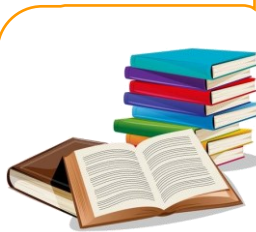
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➤ **What is the theme of World Maritime Day 2026?**

- A) Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet
- B) Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity
- C) Navigating the Future: Safety First
- D) From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence
- E) Green Shipping for Global Prosperity

Answer

D) From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence.

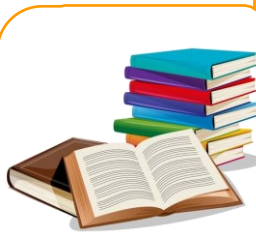


Important Days



Event and Location:

- **Event: World Maritime Day 2026** was observed with the theme “**From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence**” to highlight effective implementation of international maritime standards.

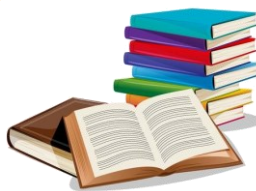


Important Days



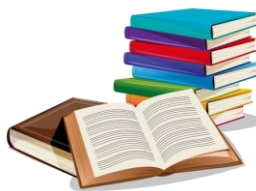
Event and Location:

- **Location:** The observance has global relevance, while the **2026 World Maritime Day Parallel Event** is associated with Busan, **Republic of Korea**.
- **Date:** **World Maritime Day 2026** was observed on **24 September 2026**.



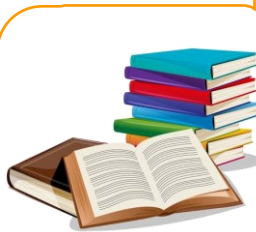
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: The International Maritime Organization** selected the **2026–2027** theme to emphasize practical implementation of international maritime conventions, codes, regulations, and standards through technical assistance, training, institutional strengthening, enforcement, and information exchange.



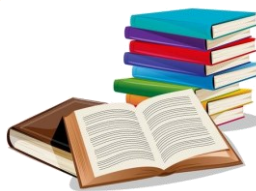
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The observance aims to strengthen maritime safety, security, efficiency, environmental protection, capacity building, innovation, and sustainable development across the international shipping sector.



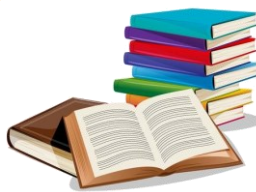
Important Terms Explained:

- **International Maritime Organization (IMO):** It is the **United Nations** specialised agency responsible for developing the global regulatory framework for the safety, security, efficiency, and environmental performance of international shipping.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Maritime Conventions:** These are international agreements that establish common rules and standards covering areas such as ship safety, maritime security, pollution prevention, and efficient shipping.

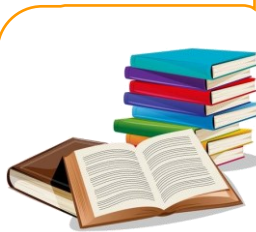


Important Days



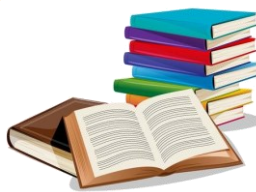
Important Terms Explained:

- **Capacity Building:** It refers to strengthening the skills, institutions, systems, and technical capabilities required to implement and enforce maritime standards effectively.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** They are global goals under the UN **2030** Agenda, with the **2026–2027** maritime theme linked particularly to **SDG 9, SDG 13, SDG 14, and SDG 17**.

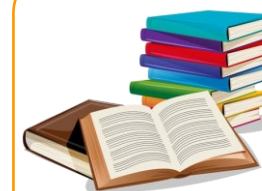


Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event name	World Maritime Day 2026.
Date	24 September 2026.
Theme	"From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence".
Theme period	The theme applies to both 2026 and 2027.
Organising body	International Maritime Organization.
Parallel event location	Busan, Republic of Korea.
Main focus	Effective implementation of international maritime rules, conventions, and codes.
Significance	Maritime transport carries more than 80% of world trade and is vital to global economic activity.

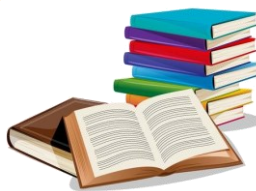


➤ Who won the silver medal for India in women's 60 kg Sanda at the Asian Games 2026 on Day 5?

- A) Parinaaz Dhaliwal
- B) Naorem Roshibina Devi
- C) Anahat Singh
- D) Sakshi Chaudhary
- E) Pranati Nayak

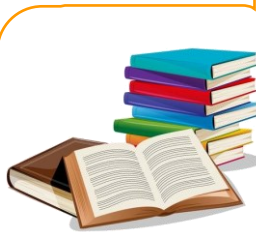


Answer
B) Naorem Roshibina Devi.



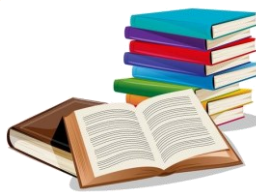
Event and Location:

- **Event:** India won three medals on Day 5 of the **Asian Games 2026**, comprising one silver and two bronze medals, taking its overall tally to **15** medals.
- **Location:** The **Asian Games 2026** are being held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.



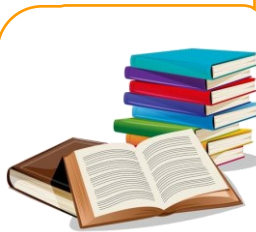
Event and Location:

- **Date:** India recorded these Day 5 results on **24 September 2026**.



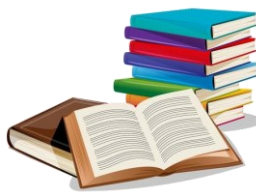
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** **Naorem Roshibina Devi** won silver in women's **60 kg** Sanda, **Satnam Singh and Salman Khan** secured bronze in men's double sculls, and **Parinaaz Dhaliwal and Anantjeet Singh Naruka** won bronze in mixed team skeet.



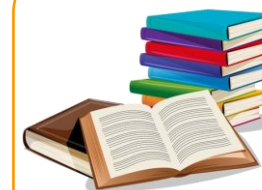
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** India aimed to strengthen its overall medal tally across individual and team events while progressing further in disciplines including kabaddi, hockey, table tennis, squash, boxing, athletics, and shooting.



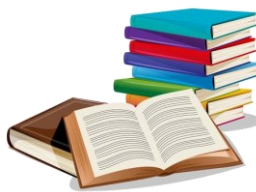
Ranking Table:

Medal/Standing	Entity / Score/Index/Remarks
Silver	Entity: Naorem Roshibina Devi. Score/Index/Remarks: Won silver in women's 60 kg Sanda after losing the final to China's Zhang Xiaoyu.
Bronze	Entity: Satnam Singh and Salman Khan. Score/Index/Remarks: Won men's double sculls bronze in 6:13.25, India's first Asian Games medal in the event.
Bronze	Entity: Parinaaz Dhaliwal and Anantjeet Singh Naruka. Score/Index/Remarks: Won bronze in mixed team skeet after qualifying fourth with 138 points.
Overall tally	Entity: India. Score/Index/Remarks: India had 15 medals comprising 1 gold, 6 silver, and 8 bronze medals after Day 5.



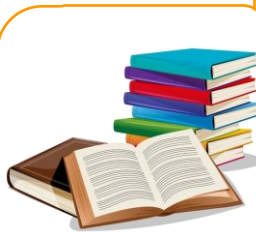
Important Terms Explained:

- **Sanda:** It is a competitive Chinese martial arts combat discipline involving striking and throwing techniques, and forms part of wushu competition.



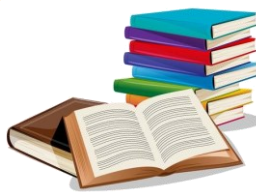
Important Terms Explained:

- **Double Sculls:** It is a rowing event in which two rowers each use two oars to propel a racing shell.
- **Mixed Skeet:** It is a shooting event in which a male and female shooter compete together as a team in skeet shooting.



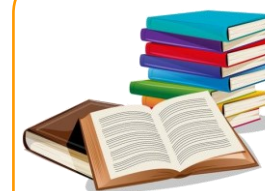
Important Terms Explained:

- **Quadruple Sculls:** It is a rowing event featuring four rowers, each using two oars.



Tabular Summary:

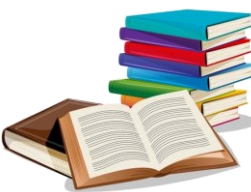
Parameter	Details
Host location	Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
Day 5 date	24 September 2026.
Day 5 medals	India won one silver and two bronze medals.
Wushu medal	Naorem Roshibina Devi won silver in women's 60 kg Sanda.
Rowing medal	Satnam Singh and Salman Khan won bronze in men's double sculls.
Shooting medal	Parinaaz Dhaliwal and Anantjeet Singh Naruka won bronze in mixed team skeet.
Overall medal tally	India reached 15 medals with 1 gold, 6 silver, and 8 bronze medals.
Historic achievement	The men's double sculls bronze was India's first-ever Asian Games medal in that event.



- To what level did the Asian Development Bank (ADB) raise India's GDP growth forecast for FY2026-27 in September 2026?

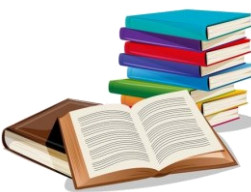
- A) 6.5%
- B) 6.6%
- C) 6.8%
- D) 7.0%
- E) 7.3%

Answer
D) 7.0%.



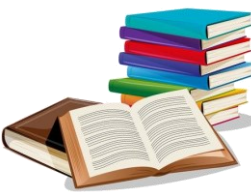
Event and Location:

- **Event:** The Asian Development Bank raised India's **GDP** growth forecast for FY**2026-27** to **7.0%** from its July **2026** estimate of **6.6%**.
- **Location:** The revised economic growth forecast applies to India.
- **Date:** The revised forecast was released in the September **2026 Asian Development Outlook**.



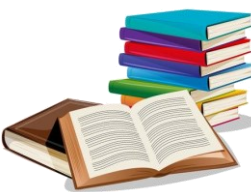
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** ADB revised India's FY2026-27 growth projection upward by **0.4 percentage** points after **GDP** expanded by **7.8%** year-on-year in the first quarter, supported by strong investment demand, consumption, manufacturing, and services.



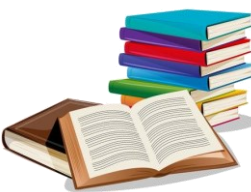
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The outlook assesses India's economic prospects by evaluating domestic demand, public and private investment, inflation, fiscal conditions, external balances, and risks from geopolitical and weather-related disruptions.



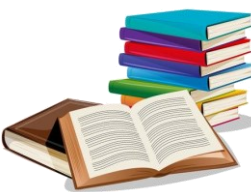
Important Terms Explained:

- **Asian Development Outlook (ADO):** It is **ADB's** economic publication providing growth, inflation, and other macroeconomic forecasts and assessments for economies in Asia and the Pacific.



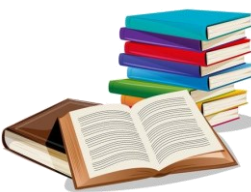
Important Terms Explained:

- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** It is the total monetary value of final goods and services produced within a country during a specified period and is a key measure of economic activity.



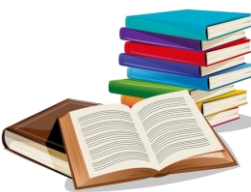
Important Terms Explained:

- **Fiscal Deficit:** It is the gap between a government's total expenditure and its total receipts excluding borrowings, and **ADB** expects India's fiscal deficit to remain around **4.3%** of **GDP**.



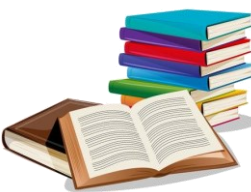
Important Terms Explained:

- **Foreign Exchange Reserves:** These are external assets held by a country's central bank, and India's reserves were reported at **USD 740.8 billion**.



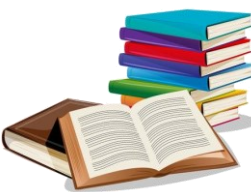
Important Terms Explained:

- **Repo Rate:** It is the interest rate at which the **Reserve Bank of India** lends short-term funds to commercial banks against eligible securities.



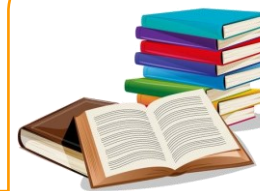
Important Terms Explained:

- **Current Account Deficit:** It occurs when a country's imports of goods, services, and transfers exceed its corresponding exports and receipts, with India's deficit expected to widen in FY**2026-27** before narrowing in FY**2027-28**.



Tabular Summary:

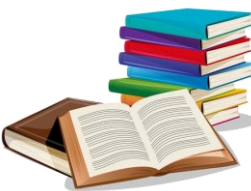
Parameter	Details
FY2026-27 GDP forecast	ADB raised India's growth forecast to 7.0%.
Previous forecast	The July 2026 projection was 6.6%.
Q1 GDP growth	India's GDP grew by 7.8% year-on-year in Q1 FY2026-27.
FY2027-28 forecast	ADB lowered the growth projection to 7.1% from 7.3%.
Inflation forecast	ADB reduced the FY2026-27 inflation estimate to 5.0% from 5.2%.
Fiscal deficit	India's fiscal deficit is expected to remain around 4.3% of GDP.
Forex reserves	India's foreign exchange reserves were reported at USD 740.8 billion.
Key growth drivers	Domestic demand, public infrastructure investment, manufacturing, services, and private investment are expected to support growth.



➤ From which date did the Punjab government's revised DA and DR rates of 50% become effective?

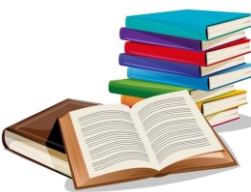
- A) 1 July 2026
- B) 1 August 2026
- C) 1 September 2026
- D) 1 October 2026
- E) 1 January 2027

Answer
C) 1 September 2026.



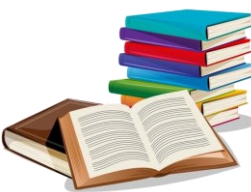
Event and Location:

- **Event: The Punjab** government notified an **8 percentage-point** increase in **Dearness Allowance** (DA) for state government employees and **Dearness Relief** (DR) for pensioners and family pensioners, raising both rates from **42%** to **50%**.



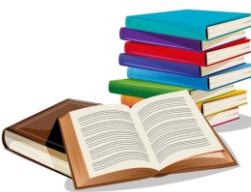
Event and Location:

- **Location:** The revised allowance and relief rates apply to eligible Punjab state government employees, pensioners, and family pensioners.
- **Date:** The revised DA and DR rates became effective from **1 September 2026**.



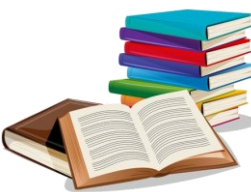
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The **Punjab** government increased DA for eligible employees and DR for pensioners and family pensioners from **42%** to **50%** following consultations with employee trade unions and **Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann**.



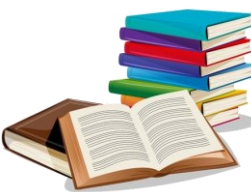
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The increase is intended to provide additional financial support to employees and pensioners against rising living expenses and the higher cost of essential commodities.



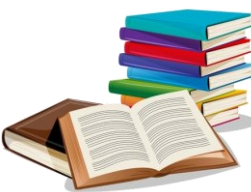
Important Terms Explained:

- **Dearness Allowance:** It is an allowance paid to eligible government employees to compensate for the impact of inflation on their salaries.



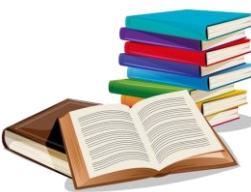
Important Terms Explained:

- **Dearness Relief:** It is the inflation-linked relief provided to pensioners and family pensioners on their pension benefits.



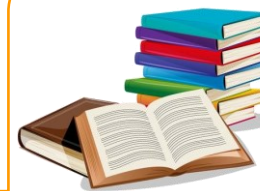
Important Terms Explained:

- **Percentage Point:** It measures the absolute difference between two percentage rates, meaning the increase from **42%** to **50%** is **8 percentage points** rather than an **8%** increase on the existing rate.



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Decision	Punjab notified an increase in DA and DR rates.
Effective date	The revised rates apply from 1 September 2026.
Previous rate	DA and DR were previously 42%.
Revised rate	DA and DR were increased to 50%.
Increase	The revision amounts to 8 percentage points.
Beneficiaries	Eligible state government employees, pensioners, and family pensioners.
Consultation	The decision followed discussions between employee trade unions and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.
Purpose	The revision provides additional support against inflation and rising living costs.

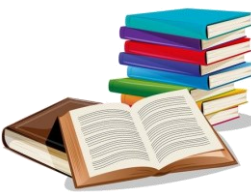


➤ Which Mizoram farmer has been selected among the FAO's 100 Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems and Rural Development?

- A) Z T Lalrithangi
- B) Lalhmingliani
- C) Vanlalruati
- D) Zothanpari
- E) Lalbiakveli

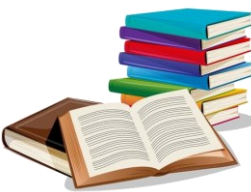
Answer

A) Z T Lalrithangi.



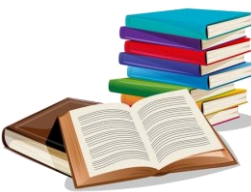
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Mizoram farmer Z T Lalrithangi, popularly known as **Pi Mari-i**, was selected among the **FAO 100 Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems and Rural Development** for her contribution to farming and rural development.



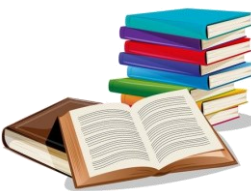
Event and Location:

- **Location:** She hails from the Sangau area of **Lawngtlai District** in southern Mizoram, while the recognition ceremony will be held at the **FAO** headquarters in Rome, Italy.
- **Date:** **FAO** informed her of the selection on **21** September **2026**, and the recognition ceremony is scheduled during the **World Food Forum** from **12** to **16** October **2026**.



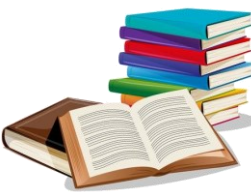
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: The Food and Agriculture Organization** is recognising **100** women for their contributions to agrifood systems and rural development as part of the **International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026**.



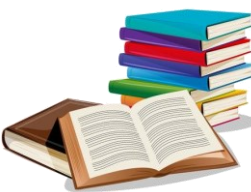
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The initiative aims to highlight women farmers' contributions and draw attention to challenges involving access to land, finance, technology, education, services, and decision-making in agrifood systems.



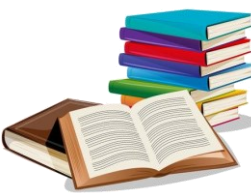
Important Terms Explained:

- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):** It is a specialised agency of the **United Nations** that works to improve food security, agriculture, nutrition, and rural development.



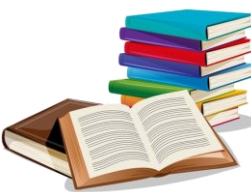
Important Terms Explained:

- **International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026:** It is a **United Nations**-designated observance aimed at recognising women farmers and promoting gender equality across agrifood systems.



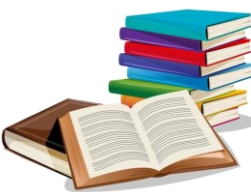
Important Terms Explained:

- **Agrifood Systems:** These encompass the entire process of producing, processing, distributing, marketing, consuming, and managing food and agricultural products.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Horticulture:** It is the branch of agriculture concerned with cultivating fruits, vegetables, flowers, and other high-value crops, including strawberries, avocados, and bananas.



AWARDS



Tabular Summary:

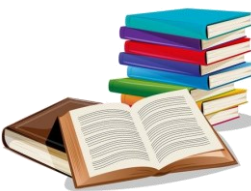
Parameter	Details
Awardee	Z T Lalrithangi, popularly known as Pi Mari-i.
Recognition	She was selected among FAO's 100 Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems and Rural Development.
Home district	She belongs to Sangau in Lawngtlai District of Mizoram.
Main crop	She developed a successful livelihood through strawberry cultivation.
Farm scale	She now cultivates more than 10,000 strawberry plants along with avocado and banana on two hectares.
Income achievement	She earned more than ₹10 lakh from strawberry farming in 2025.
Global initiative	The recognition is linked to the International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026.
Award ceremony	The recognition will be presented during the World Food Forum in Rome from 12 to 16 October 2026.



➤ **Who will receive the National Lata Mangeshkar Award 2026 for contribution to music direction?**

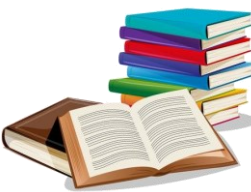
- A) A R Rahman
- B) Shantanu Moitra
- C) Pritam Chakraborty
- D) Vishal Bhardwaj
- E) Amit Trivedi

Answer
B) Shantanu Moitra.



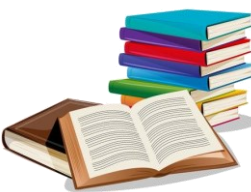
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Music composer **Shantanu Moitra** will receive the **National Lata Mangeshkar Award 2026** for his contribution to music direction.
- **Location:** The award ceremony will be held at the **Lata Mangeshkar Auditorium in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.**
- **Date:** The award will be presented on **28 September 2026.**



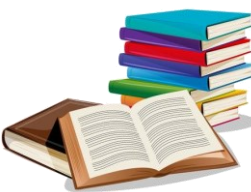
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The Government of Madhya Pradesh will confer the award on **Shantanu Moitra** during a two-day programme marking the birth anniversary of legendary playback singer **Lata Mangeshkar**.



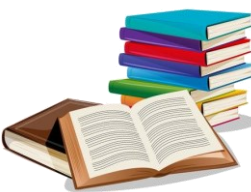
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The award recognises outstanding contribution to the music industry and preserves the musical legacy associated with **Lata Mangeshkar**.



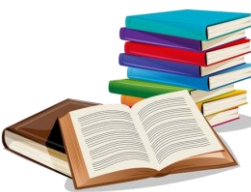
Important Terms Explained:

- **National Lata Mangeshkar Award:** It is an award instituted by the **Government of Madhya Pradesh** in **1984** to honour distinguished contributions to the field of music.



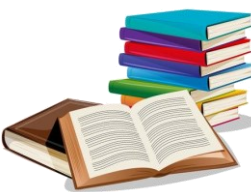
Important Terms Explained:

- **Music Direction:** It refers to composing, arranging, and supervising music for films or other productions, including songs and background scores.



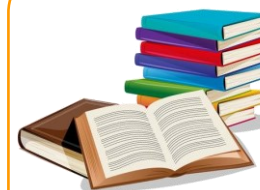
Important Terms Explained:

- **National Film Award:** It is a major Indian film honour, and **Shantanu Moitra** received the **National Film Award for Best Music Direction** in the background score category for the Telugu film **Na Bangaru Talli** in **2014**.



Tabular Summary:

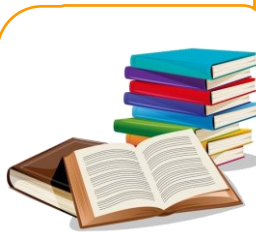
Parameter	Details
Award name	National Lata Mangeshkar Award 2026.
Recipient	Shantanu Moitra.
Awarding authority	Government of Madhya Pradesh.
Presentation date	28 September 2026.
Venue	Lata Mangeshkar Auditorium, Indore.
Award component	The award carries a tax-free cash prize of ₹5 lakh and a citation.
Reason for honour	Shantanu Moitra is being recognised for his contribution to music direction.
Associated occasion	The award ceremony forms part of a two-day celebration of Lata Mangeshkar's birth anniversary.



► Which NASA mission has advanced to Phase B for preliminary design and technology development as a far-infrared space telescope?

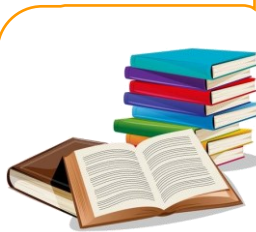
- A) James Webb Space Telescope
- B) PRIMA
- C) Hubble Space Telescope
- D) Roman Space Telescope
- E) Chandra X-ray Observatory

Answer
B) PRIMA.



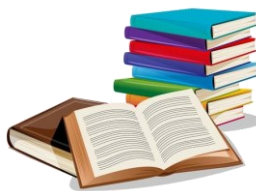
Event and Location:

- **Event: NASA** advanced PRobe far-**Infrared Mission for Astrophysics (PRIMA)** to Phase B, beginning preliminary design and technology development for a new far-infrared space telescope.
- **Location:** The mission is managed by **NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California**, with contributions from other **NASA** centres and international partners.



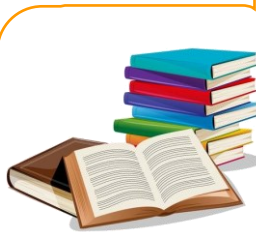
Event and Location:

- **Date:** NASA announced **PRIMA**'s advancement to Phase B on **23 September 2026**.



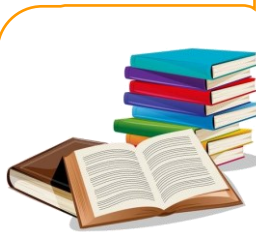
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: PRIMA** will undergo preliminary design and technology development in Phase B before a confirmation review determines whether it can proceed to Phase C for implementation.



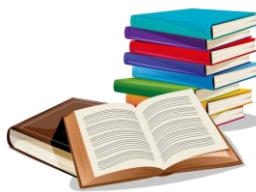
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The mission aims to study planet formation, galaxy and black-hole evolution, the accumulation of dust and heavy elements, and the origins of water on Earth through sensitive far-infrared observations.



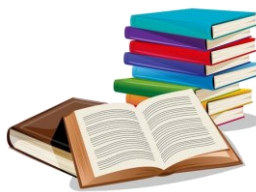
Important Terms Explained:

- **Phase B:** It is the **NASA** mission-development stage focused on preliminary design, technology development, requirements refinement, and preparation for later implementation.



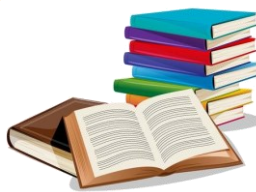
Important Terms Explained:

- Far-Infrared: It is a region of the electromagnetic spectrum between the mid-infrared wavelengths observed by telescopes such as **JWST** and the submillimetre wavelengths studied by facilities such as **ALMA**.



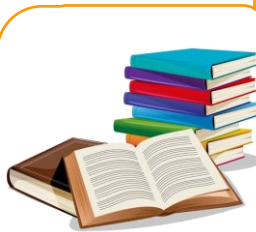
Important Terms Explained:

- **Probe Explorers:** It is a new class of mid-cost astrophysics missions within **NASA's Explorers Program** designed to address major scientific questions at lower cost than flagship observatories.



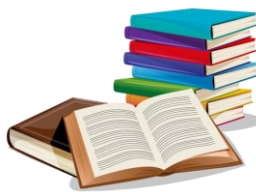
Important Terms Explained:

- **Confirmation Review:** It is the assessment of a mission's technical readiness, programme performance, cost, and schedule before approval to proceed into Phase C.



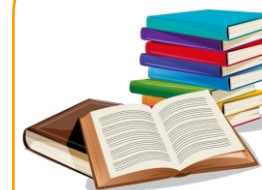
Important Terms Explained:

- **Decadal Survey:** It is a priority-setting assessment prepared by the US **National Academies** that recommends major scientific goals and mission priorities for astronomy and astrophysics.



Tabular Summary:

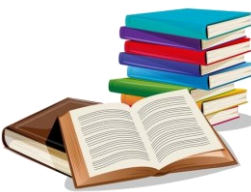
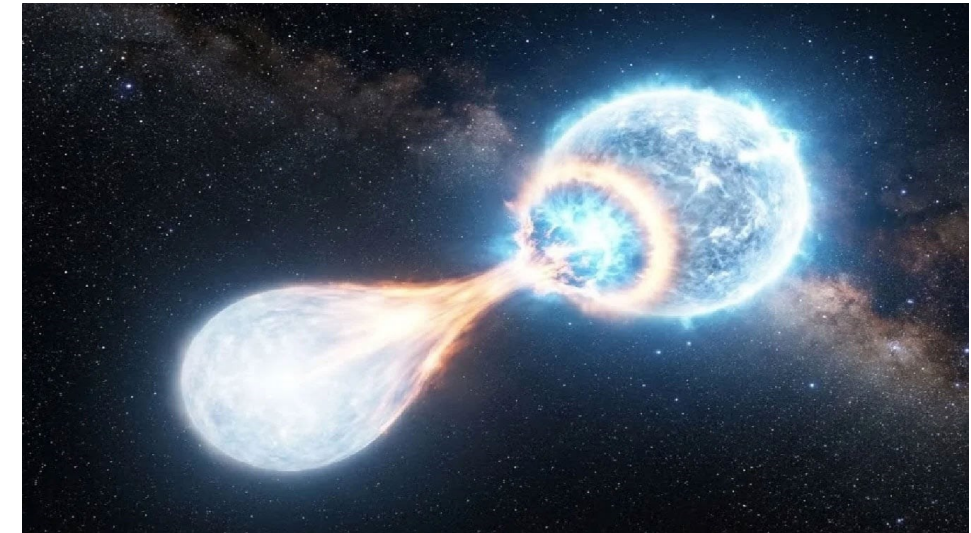
Parameter	Details
Mission name	PRobe far-Infrared Mission for Astrophysics.
Development stage	PRIMA has advanced to Phase B for preliminary design and technology development.
Announcement date	NASA announced the decision on 23 September 2026.
Telescope size	The observatory will use a 5.9-foot, or 1.8-metre, telescope.
Launch target	PRIMA is targeted for launch in 2033.
Planned mission duration	The planned operational mission length is five years.
Project cost cap	The project cost is capped at \$1.2 billion if confirmed, excluding launch and other non-project costs.
Managing centre	NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California manages the mission.



► What is the orbital period of eRASSU J060839.5–704014 (eRASSU J0608), the ultracompact double-white-dwarf binary studied by an international team led by Indian astronomers?

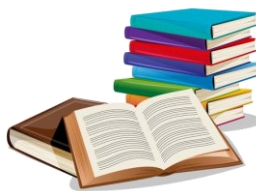
- A) 274.15 seconds
- B) 324.15 seconds
- C) 374.15 seconds
- D) 424.15 seconds
- E) 474.15 seconds

Answer
C) 374.15 seconds.



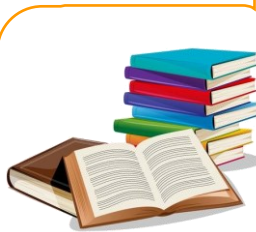
Event and Location:

- **Event:** An international team led by Indian astronomers studied eRASSU J0608 and identified it as one of the fastest-evolving ultracompact double-white-dwarf binaries, completing an orbit in about **374.15** seconds.



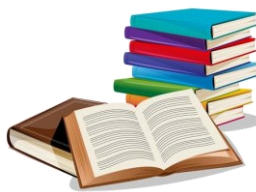
Event and Location:

- **Location:** The binary appears in the direction of the **Large Magellanic Cloud** but is considered to lie in its foreground, with its exact distance still uncertain.
- **Date:** The findings were published in **The Astrophysical Journal Letters** on **10 August 2026**.



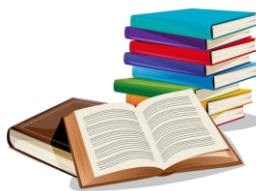
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The researchers analysed X-ray observations collected over about three-and-a-half years using **NASA's NICER**, China's **Einstein Probe**, and **ESA's XMM-Newton** to measure the binary's orbital evolution and physical characteristics.



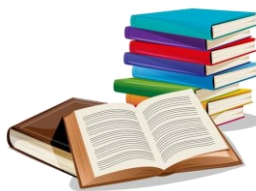
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The study aims to understand rapid orbital decay, direct transfer of matter between compact stars, and gravitational-wave emission from ultracompact stellar binaries while assessing the system as a potential verification source for future space-based detectors.



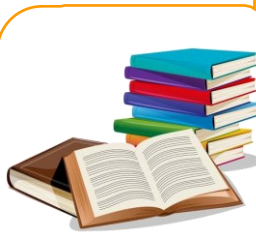
Important Terms Explained:

- **White Dwarf:** It is a dense stellar remnant left after a low- or intermediate-mass star exhausts its nuclear fuel and sheds its outer layers.



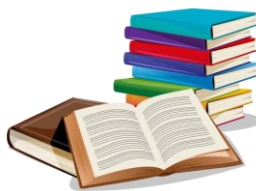
Important Terms Explained:

- **Ultracompact Binary:** It is a binary star system in which two compact objects orbit extremely close to each other with a very short orbital period.



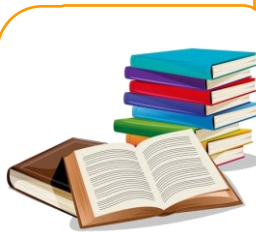
Important Terms Explained:

- **Direct-Impact Accretion:** It is a process in which matter transferred from one star strikes its companion directly without first forming an accretion disk.



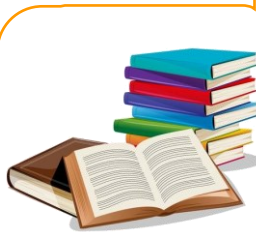
Important Terms Explained:

- **Gravitational Waves:** They are ripples in spacetime produced by accelerating massive objects, with compact binary systems losing orbital energy and angular momentum through gravitational radiation.



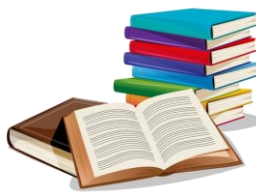
Important Terms Explained:

- **Chirp Mass:** It is a combined mass parameter derived from the masses of two orbiting objects that strongly determines the frequency evolution and amplitude of their gravitational-wave signal.



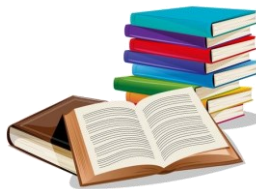
Important Terms Explained:

- **Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA):** It is a planned **European Space Agency** mission designed to detect low-frequency gravitational waves using three spacecraft separated by millions of kilometres.



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Object studied	eRASSU J060839.5–704014, also known as eRASSU J0608.
System type	It is an ultracompact double-white-dwarf binary.
Orbital period	The two white dwarfs complete an orbit in 374.15013 seconds, or about 6.24 minutes.
Orbital decay rate	The orbital period is decreasing at about 4.7×10^{-11} seconds per second.
Accretion mechanism	Matter is believed to strike the companion directly through direct-impact accretion.
Estimated chirp mass	The system has an estimated chirp mass of about 0.43 solar masses.
Observatories used	The study used data from NICER, Einstein Probe, and XMM-Newton.
Scientific significance	The system may serve as a verification source for future gravitational-wave observations, including LISA.



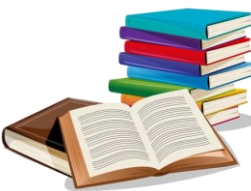
► What is the name of the UK's first dedicated military unit created to counter hostile activity in space and protect satellites?

- A) No. I Space Operations Squadron
- B) No. II Space Warning Squadron
- C) No. III Space Effects Squadron
- D) Space Defence Operations Wing
- E) Orbital Security Squadron



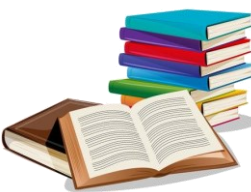
Answer

C) No. III Space Effects Squadron.



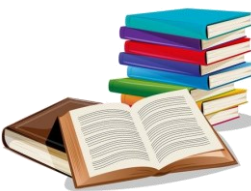
Event and Location:

- **Event: The United Kingdom** established **No. III Space Effects Squadron** as its first dedicated military unit designed to counter hostile activity in space and protect critical satellite infrastructure.



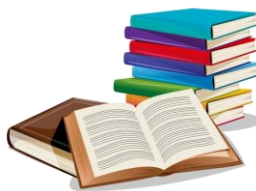
Event and Location:

- **Location:** The squadron has been established in the **United Kingdom** under UK **Space Command** and will safeguard UK and allied interests in outer space.
- **Date:** The squadron was created in September **2026**.



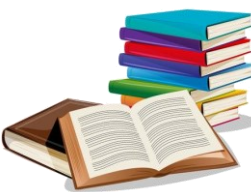
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The squadron will defend satellites, respond to hostile activities in orbit, employ electronic warfare capabilities, support defensive and offensive space operations, and disrupt, degrade, or deny adversarial space-based capabilities.



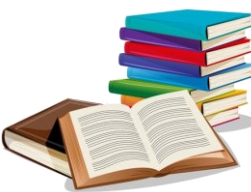
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The unit aims to protect satellite systems supporting defence, communications, navigation, intelligence, surveillance, and missile-warning functions while strengthening the UK's ability to deter threats in space.



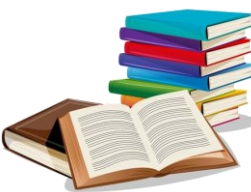
Important Terms Explained:

- **UK Space Command:** It is the military command responsible for coordinating the **United Kingdom's** defence activities and capabilities in the space domain.



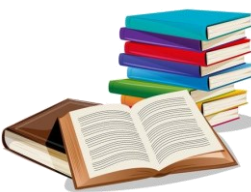
Important Terms Explained:

- **Electronic Warfare:** It involves the use of electromagnetic energy to detect, disrupt, deceive, or deny an adversary's use of electronic systems and communications.



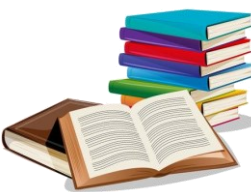
Important Terms Explained:

- Space-based **ISR**: Intelligence, **Surveillance** and **Reconnaissance** refers to the use of satellites and other space systems to collect information for monitoring, assessment, and defence operations.



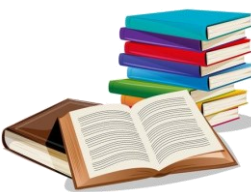
Important Terms Explained:

- **NATO Article 5:** It is **NATO's** collective-defence provision under which an armed attack against one member may be treated as an attack against all members, subject to the alliance's decision-making process.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Space Debris:** It refers to defunct satellites, fragments, and other human-made objects in orbit that can endanger operational spacecraft through high-speed collisions.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Unit name	No. III Space Effects Squadron.
Country	United Kingdom.
Established	September 2026.
Command structure	The unit operates under UK Space Command.
Main role	It will counter hostile activity in space and protect critical satellite infrastructure.
Operational capabilities	It will use electronic warfare and support defensive and offensive space operations.
Related RAF units	It will operate alongside No. I Space Operations Squadron and No. II Space Warning Squadron.
Investment	The UK has committed £880 million over four years to space-based ISR and Space Control capabilities.



SCHEMES & INITIATIVES

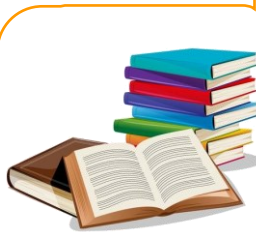


► What is the core operating principle of Bharat Taxi?

- A) Passenger First
- B) Driver is the Owner
- C) One Nation One Taxi
- D) Mobility for All
- E) Cooperative Transport Mission

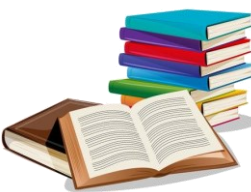


Answer
B) Driver is the Owner.



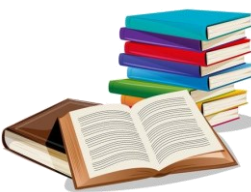
Event and Location:

- **Event: Bharat Taxi** was launched as a cooperative ride-hailing service based on the principle of “Driver is the Owner” across five cities of **Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Location:** The service was launched in Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Kanpur, and Prayagraj, with the main launch programme held in Lucknow.



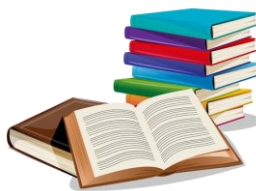
Event and Location:

- **Date: Bharat Taxi** was launched in the five **Uttar Pradesh** cities on **23 September 2026**.



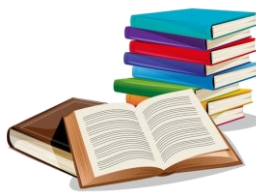
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The cooperative-led platform operated by **Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited** allows taxi, two-wheeler, and three-wheeler drivers called Saarthis to register, earn without ride commissions, receive payments directly, and participate in cooperative ownership and decision-making.



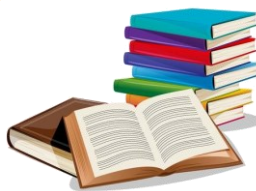
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The initiative aims to extend the cooperative model into urban mobility, strengthen drivers' ownership and income security, provide social-security benefits, and create a driver-centric alternative in the ride-hailing sector.



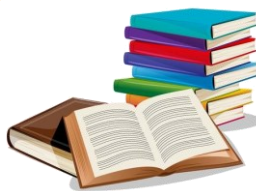
Important Terms Explained:

- **Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited (STCL):** It is the cooperative entity operating **Bharat Taxi** and enabling participating drivers to hold a stake in the platform.



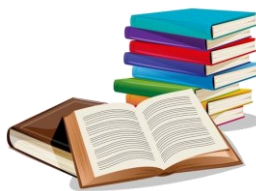
Important Terms Explained:

- **Saarthis:** This is the term used for drivers registered with **Bharat Taxi**, who participate as stakeholders in the cooperative-based mobility platform.



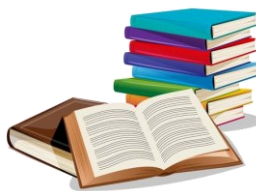
Important Terms Explained:

- **Zero Commission Model:** It means registered drivers do not pay commission on individual rides, allowing their ride earnings to be credited directly to their accounts.



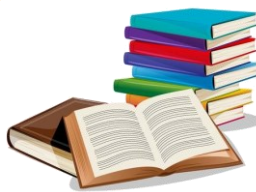
Important Terms Explained:

- e-Shram: It is a national database platform for unorganised workers that can facilitate access to eligible social-security, health, and insurance benefits.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):** It is a formal agreement outlining cooperation between organisations, with **Lucknow Airport, Lucknow Metro,** and **Lucknow Police** signing MoUs with **Bharat Taxi**.



SCHEMES & INITIATIVES



Tabular Summary:

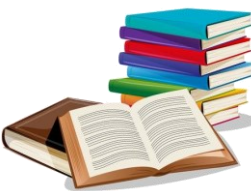
Parameter	Details
Launch date	Bharat Taxi was launched in the five Uttar Pradesh cities on 23 September 2026.
Cities covered	Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Kanpur, and Prayagraj.
Operating principle	The service follows the “Driver is the Owner” model.
Operating entity	The platform is operated by Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited.
Registered drivers in five cities	Around 40,000 Saarthis had registered across the five Uttar Pradesh cities.
National participation	More than 10 lakh Saarthis had joined nationally since the service began in February 2026.
Platform scale	Around 40 lakh passengers had joined, with approximately 20,000 daily rides.
Driver earnings	More than Rs 100 crore had been credited to Saarthis.



► Under the DURGA Scheme, how many pink electric autos will be allocated in the first phase?

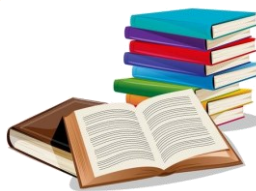
- A) 1,000
- B) 1,100
- C) 1,200
- D) 1,300
- E) 1,500

Answer
D) 1,300.



Event and Location:

- **Event:** The Delhi Cabinet approved the **Driving Upliftment and Rozgar for Women/Transgender Green E-Auto (DURGA)** Scheme to allocate **1,300** pink electric autos to women and transgender persons in its first phase.
- **Location:** The scheme applies across **13** revenue districts of Delhi.

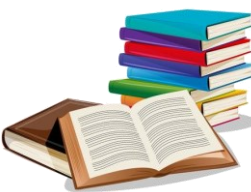


SCHEMES & INITIATIVES



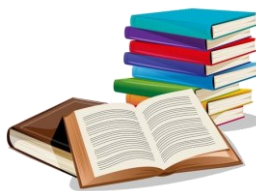
Event and Location:

- **Date: The Delhi Cabinet** approved the scheme on **23 September 2026**.



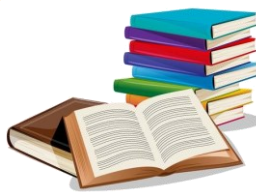
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The scheme provides **1,170** pink e-autos for women and **130** for transgender beneficiaries, with recipients owning and driving the vehicles and applications to be accepted through a dedicated online portal.



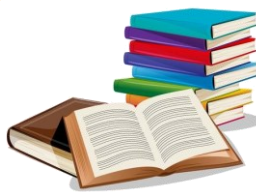
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The scheme aims to promote self-employment among women and transgender persons, improve passenger safety, expand their participation in the transport sector, strengthen last-mile connectivity, and encourage cleaner electric mobility.



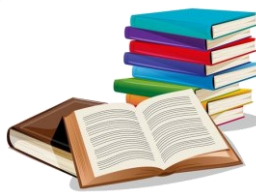
Important Terms Explained:

- Pink E-Auto: It is an electric auto-rickshaw with distinct **DURGA** branding intended to provide identifiable public transport operated by eligible women and transgender beneficiaries.



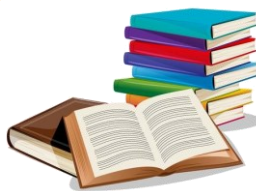
Important Terms Explained:

- **Lock-In Period:** It is the mandatory three-year period during which a vehicle allotted under the scheme cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise disposed of.



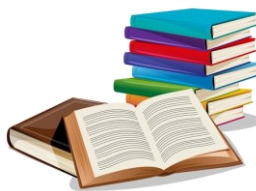
Important Terms Explained:

- **Public Service Vehicle (PSV) Badge:** It is an authorisation required for eligible drivers to operate specified passenger transport vehicles for public service.



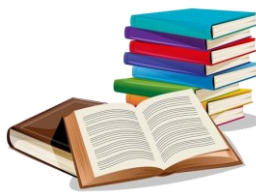
Important Terms Explained:

- **Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) Licence:** It is a driving licence category required under the scheme for applicants seeking to operate the allotted electric autos.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Last-Mile Connectivity:** It refers to transport services that connect passengers between major public transport points and their final destinations.

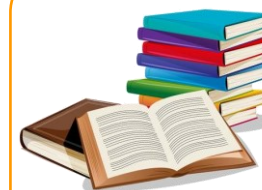


SCHEMES & INITIATIVES



Tabular Summary:

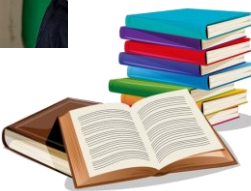
Parameter	Details
Scheme name	Driving Upliftment and Rozgar for Women/Transgender Green E-Auto Scheme.
Approval date	The Delhi Cabinet approved the scheme on 23 September 2026.
Total e-autos	The first phase provides 1,300 pink electric autos.
Beneficiary allocation	1,170 autos are reserved for women and 130 for transgender persons.
District cap	A maximum of 90 autos for women and 10 for transgender persons are allotted per revenue district.
Eligibility age	Applicants must be between 20 and 40 years of age.
Lock-in period	Each allotted e-auto carries a mandatory three-year lock-in period.
Charging support	DMRC has provided space for EV charging at parking areas of 70 metro stations.



➤ What is the maximum combined rooftop solar subsidy available for systems up to 3 kW through the Delhi PM Surya Ghar initiative?

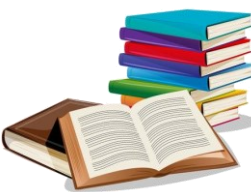
- A) ₹78,000
- B) ₹1.00 lakh
- C) ₹1.20 lakh
- D) ₹1.56 lakh
- E) ₹2.00 lakh

Answer
D) ₹1.56 lakh.



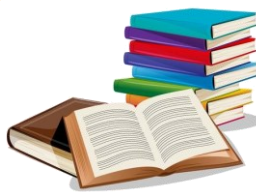
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Delhi Chief Minister **Rekha Gupta** launched the Delhi PM **Surya Ghar** registration portal to facilitate rooftop solar installations and access to combined **Central and Delhi** government subsidies.
- **Location:** The portal and additional rooftop solar benefits apply to eligible households in Delhi.
- **Date:** The portal was launched on **21 September 2026**.



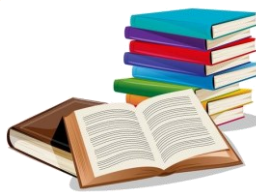
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The initiative provides online registration, information on authorised vendors, subsidy details, complaint facilities, and a rooftop solar calculator, while offering combined subsidies of up to **₹1.56 lakh** for systems of up to **3 kW**.



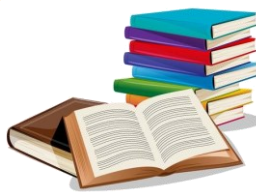
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The initiative aims to expand residential rooftop solar adoption, lower household electricity costs, promote clean energy, and support Delhi's target of covering around **2.30 lakh** families.



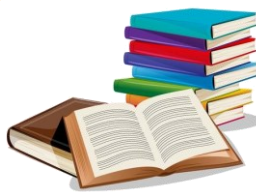
Important Terms Explained:

- **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana:** It is a Central government rooftop solar programme launched on **13 February 2024** with an outlay of **₹75,021 crore** to cover one crore households and enable up to **300** units of free electricity per month.



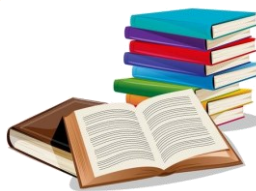
Important Terms Explained:

- **Delhi PM Surya Ghar Portal:** It is Delhi's rooftop solar registration platform at solar.delhi.gov.in, providing registration, subsidy information, authorised vendor details, complaint facilities, and solar-capacity calculations.



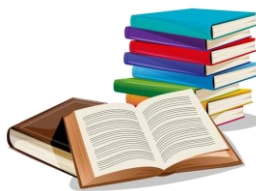
Important Terms Explained:

- **Rooftop Solar System:** It is a solar photovoltaic installation placed on a building's roof to generate electricity for household or common-area consumption.



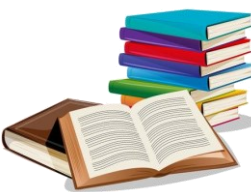
Important Terms Explained:

- **Central Subsidy:** It provides ₹30,000 per kW for the first 2 kW and ₹18,000 for the additional capacity up to 3 kW, with the Central support capped at ₹78,000.



Important Terms Explained:

- **New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC):** It is the civic body that separately approved measures including electric vehicles, EV parking concessions, an Ayush hospital, street-lighting upgrades, and other municipal initiatives.



SCHEMES & INITIATIVES



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Portal launch date	The Delhi PM Surya Ghar portal was launched on 21 September 2026.
Launched by	Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta launched the registration portal.
Maximum subsidy	Combined Central and Delhi government support can reach ₹1.56 lakh for systems up to 3 kW.
Central support	The Central subsidy is capped at ₹78,000 for rooftop solar capacity up to 3 kW.
Delhi support	The Delhi government provides an additional subsidy of up to ₹78,000.
Household target	The Delhi initiative aims to cover around 2.30 lakh families.
Zero upfront provision	Domestic consumers using up to 400 units per month can get systems up to 3 kW installed without upfront payment.
Maintenance support	Authorised vendors will operate and maintain installed systems for the first five years.



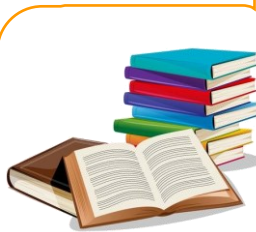
➤ Which two Indian entries were included in Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2027?

- A) Gujarat and Nilgiri Mountain Railway
- B) Gujarat and Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
- C) Rajasthan and Kalka–Shimla Railway
- D) Kerala and Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
- E) Gujarat and Konkan Railway



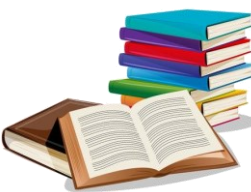
Answer

B) Gujarat and Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.



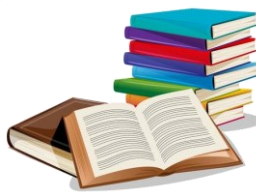
Event and Location:

- **Event: Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2027** included Gujarat among **25** recommended destinations and the **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway** among **25** recommended travel experiences.
- **Location:** Gujarat and the Darjeeling region of **West Bengal** represented India in the **2027** selection.



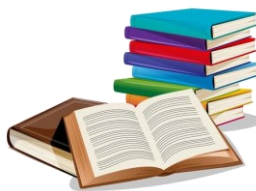
Event and Location:

- **Date:** The Best in Travel 2027 selection was reported on **24 September 2026**.



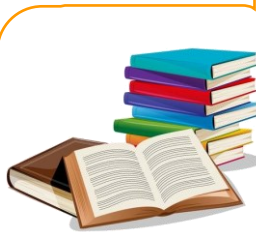
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** **Lonely Planet** selected **25** destinations and **25** travel experiences across six global regions, with Gujarat recognised for its landscapes, wildlife, heritage, and craftsmanship, and the **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway** chosen for its distinctive mountain rail journey.



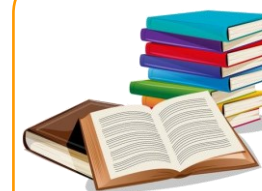
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The selection highlights noteworthy global destinations and travel experiences while showcasing India's natural diversity, cultural heritage, historic railway engineering, and tourism potential.



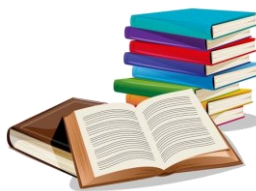
Ranking Table:

Category	Entity / Listing/Remarks
Destination	Entity: Gujarat, India. Listing/Remarks: Included among 25 destinations in Best in Travel 2027.
Travel experience	Entity: Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, India. Listing/Remarks: Included among 25 travel experiences in Best in Travel 2027.
Asia destinations	Entity: Gujarat, Okinawa, Chengdu, Danang, and Fulidhoo. Listing/Remarks: Five Asian destinations were included in the selection.
Asia experiences	Entity: Darjeeling Himalayan Railway and four other experiences. Listing/Remarks: Five Asian travel experiences were included in the selection.



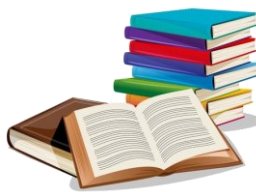
Important Terms Explained:

- **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR):** Popularly known as the **Toy Train**, it is a 2-foot narrow-gauge mountain railway running from **New Jalpaiguri to Darjeeling** through the hills of **West Bengal**.



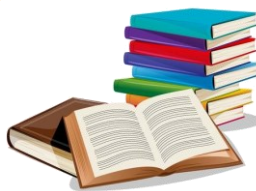
Important Terms Explained:

- **Mountain Railways of India:** It is a **UNESCO World Heritage** property comprising the **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, Nilgiri Mountain Railway,** and **Kalka–Shimla Railway.**



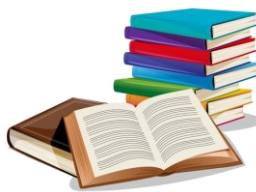
Important Terms Explained:

- **UNESCO World Heritage Site:** It is a place recognised by **UNESCO** for outstanding cultural or natural value, with the **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway** first inscribed in **1999**.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Rann of Kachchh:** It is a major salt desert landscape in Gujarat and was among the natural features highlighted in the state's selection.



Tabular Summary:

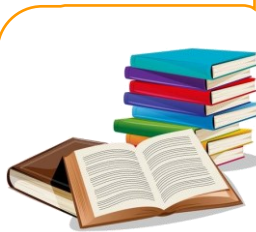
Parameter	Details
List name	Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2027.
Total selections	The list contains 25 destinations and 25 travel experiences.
Indian destination	Gujarat was selected among the 25 destinations.
Indian experience	Darjeeling Himalayan Railway was selected among the 25 travel experiences.
Gujarat highlights	Salt flats, coastal areas, wildlife, historic towns, handicrafts, and textile traditions were highlighted.
Railway significance	The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway offers a mountain journey through hills and tea plantations.
UNESCO status	The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1999.
Railway route	The narrow-gauge railway runs from New Jalpaiguri to Darjeeling via Ghoom.



➤ Under which project is ISRO's Advanced Radar Research Centre at Chandrapur being developed?

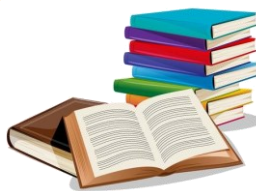
- A) Project Gaganyaan
- B) Project NETRA
- C) Project NISAR
- D) Project Shukrayaan
- E) Project NavIC

Answer
B) Project NETRA.



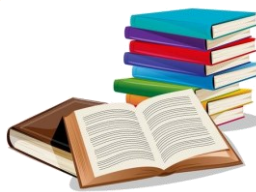
Event and Location:

- **Event:** The foundation stone for **ISRO's Advanced Radar Research Centre** was laid to strengthen India's capability to track satellites, space debris, and other objects in orbit.
- **Location:** The centre is being established at Chandrapur near **Guwahati in Assam** and is described as the first facility of its kind in **Northeast India**.



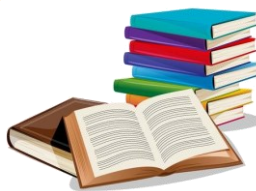
Event and Location:

- **Date:** The foundation stone was laid on **21 September 2026**.



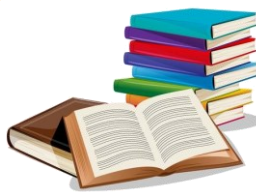
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The centre is being developed under Project **NETRA (Network for Space Object Tracking and Analysis)** with a phased-array radar and other tracking systems for detecting orbital objects, determining their trajectories, and supporting collision and re-entry monitoring.



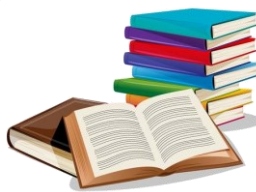
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** The facility aims to improve India's space situational awareness, protect important space assets, strengthen debris-tracking capability, and support research related to clouds, rainfall, floods, and other space-linked observations.



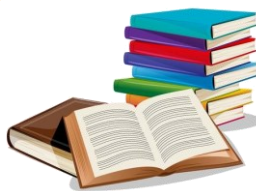
Important Terms Explained:

- **Space Situational Awareness (SSA):** It refers to detecting, tracking, and predicting the movement of satellites, rocket bodies, and space debris to reduce collision risks and protect space assets.



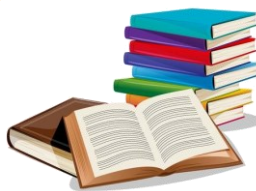
Important Terms Explained:

- **Phased-Array Radar:** It is a radar system that electronically steers its beam using multiple fixed antenna elements, allowing rapid scanning without mechanically moving the antenna.



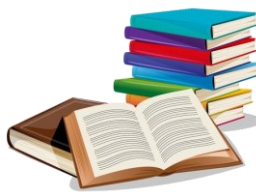
Important Terms Explained:

- **Multi-Object Tracking Radar (MOTR):** It is an existing **ISRO** radar facility at Sriharikota designed to track multiple space objects simultaneously.



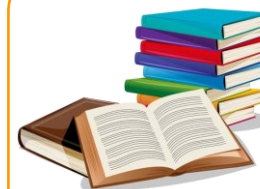
Important Terms Explained:

- **Space Debris:** It consists of defunct satellites, spent rocket stages, fragments, and other human-made objects remaining in Earth orbit.



Tabular Summary:

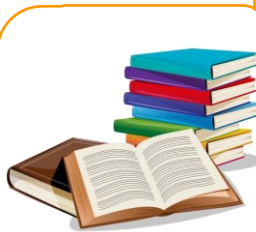
Parameter	Details
Facility name	ISRO Advanced Radar Research Centre.
Location	Chandrapur near Guwahati, Assam.
Foundation stone date	21 September 2026.
Project	The centre is part of Project NETRA.
Key officials	Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and ISRO Chairperson V Narayanan were present at the ceremony.
Radar type	The proposed facility will use phased-array radar technology.
Reported capability	The radar is expected to detect objects as small as 10 cm at ranges of up to 2,000 km.
First radar timeline	A radar intended for cloud research is expected by February 2027.



QUICK RECALL



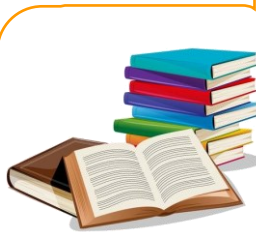
- **World Maritime Day 2026** was observed on 24 September under the International Maritime Organization's theme "From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence", highlighting stronger implementation of global maritime standards.
- **India won three medals** on Day 5 of the Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, with Naorem Roshibina Devi taking silver and Indian rowers and shooters adding two bronzes to lift the overall tally to 15 medals.
- **ADB raised India's FY2026-27 GDP growth forecast** to 7.0% from 6.6%, citing stronger-than-expected Q1 growth, resilient domestic demand, investment, manufacturing, and services.
- **The Punjab government notified an 8 percentage-point hike** in DA and DR from 42% to 50% with effect from 1 September 2026, benefiting eligible employees, pensioners, and family pensioners.
- **Mizoram farmer Z T Lalrithangi, known as Pi Mari-i**, was selected among FAO's 100 Women Heroes for her contribution to agrifood systems and rural development under the International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026.



QUICK RECALL



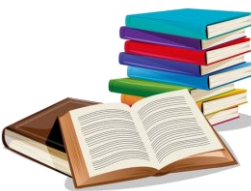
- The Government of Madhya Pradesh will confer the National Lata Mangeshkar Award 2026 on music composer Shantanu Moitra in Indore on 28 September 2026 for his contribution to music direction.
- NASA advanced PRIMA to Phase B on 23 September 2026, beginning preliminary design and technology development for a far-infrared observatory intended to address major questions in astrophysics.
- An international team led by Indian astronomers studied eRASSU J0608, a double-white-dwarf binary orbiting every 374.15013 seconds, and found exceptionally rapid orbital decay that makes it important for gravitational-wave astrophysics.
- The United Kingdom established No. III Space Effects Squadron under UK Space Command in September 2026 as its first dedicated military unit for countering hostile space activity and protecting critical satellites.
- Bharat Taxi was launched across five Uttar Pradesh cities on 23 September 2026 under Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited, promoting a cooperative “Driver is the Owner” model for ride-hailing services.



QUICK RECALL



- The Delhi Cabinet approved the DURGA Scheme on 23 September 2026 to allot 1,300 pink e-autos to women and transgender persons, promoting self-employment, safer mobility, and cleaner last-mile transport.
- Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta launched the Delhi PM Surya Ghar portal on 21 September 2026, offering combined rooftop solar subsidies of up to ₹1.56 lakh and targeting around 2.30 lakh households.
- Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2027 included Gujarat among 25 destinations and the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway among 25 travel experiences, highlighting India's landscapes, heritage, and historic mountain railway tourism.
- ISRO's Advanced Radar Research Centre at Chandrapur in Assam had its foundation stone laid on 21 September 2026 under Project NETRA to strengthen India's satellite and space-debris tracking capability.



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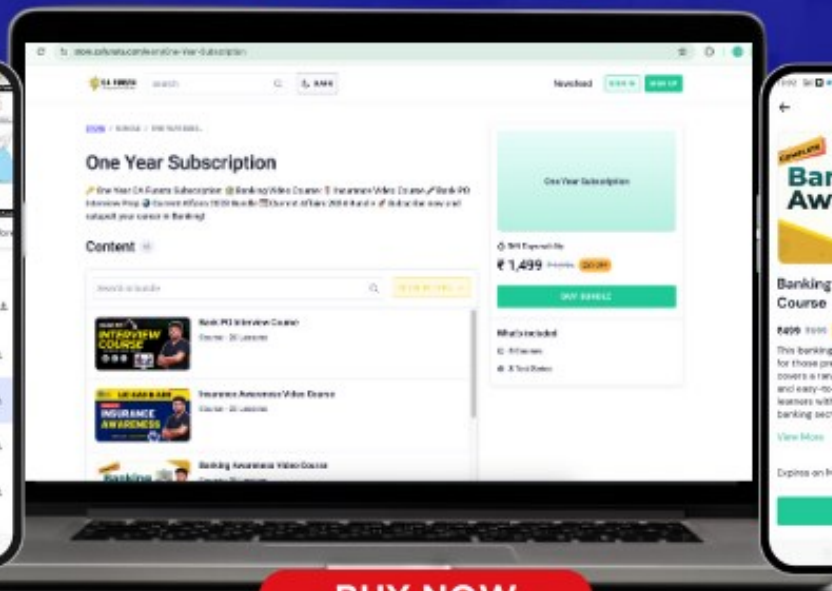
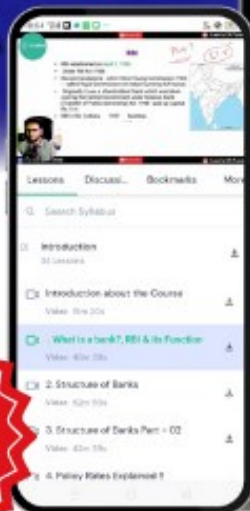
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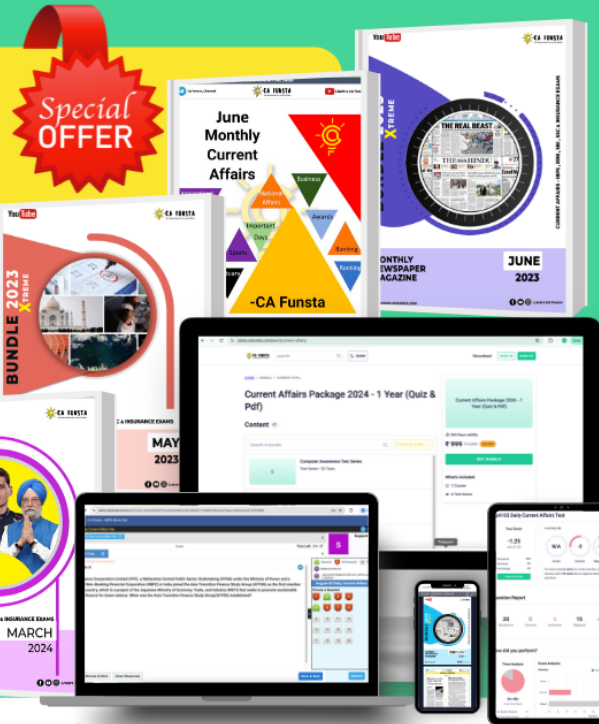


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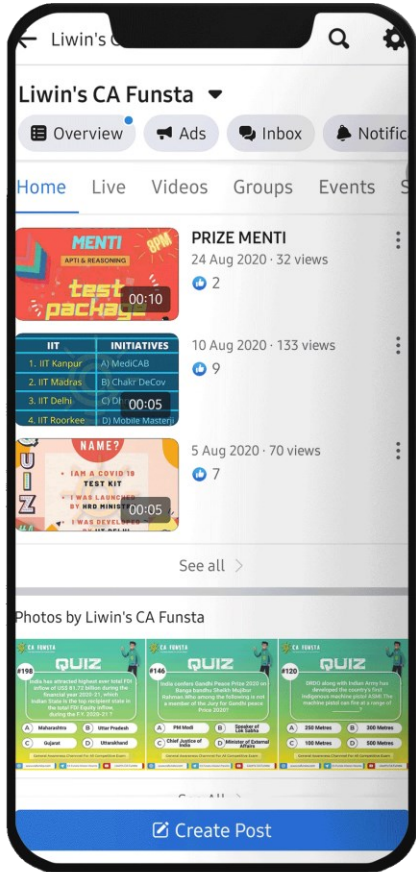
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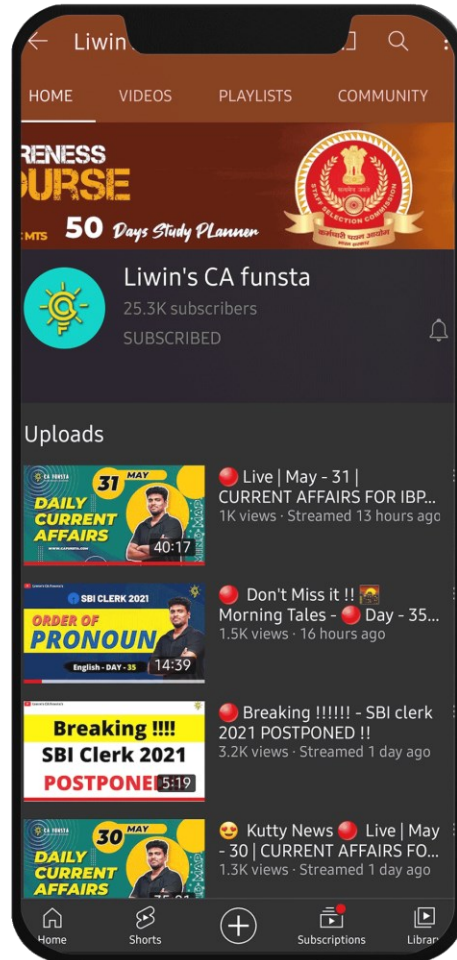


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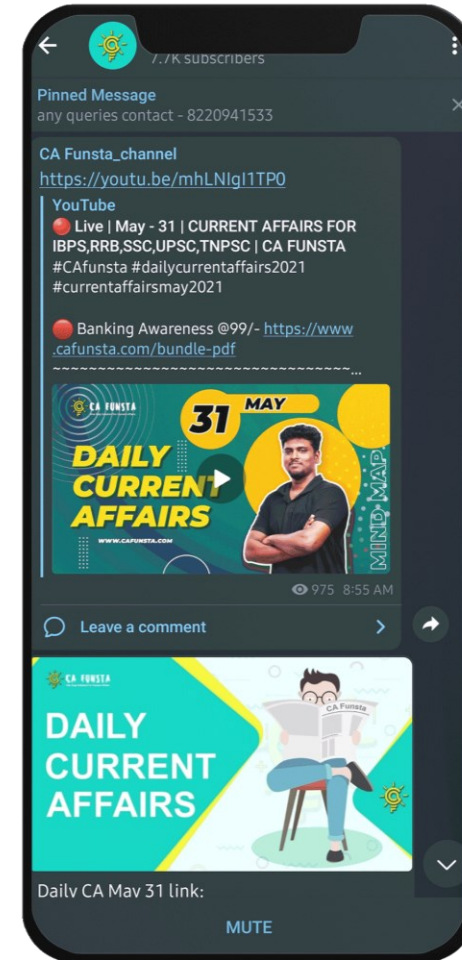
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