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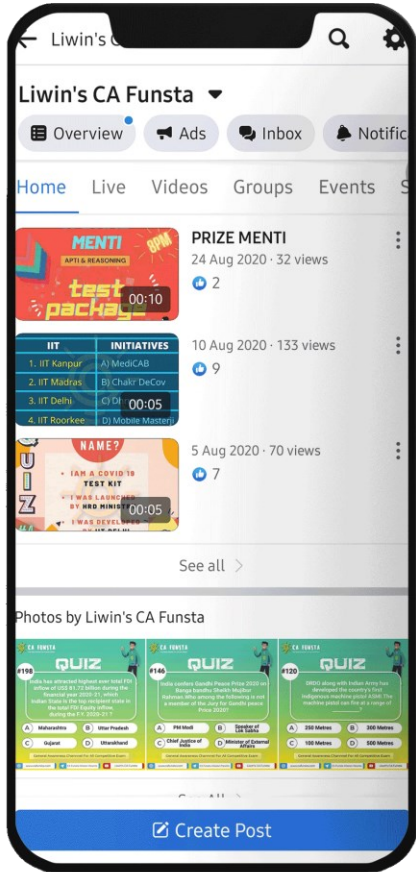


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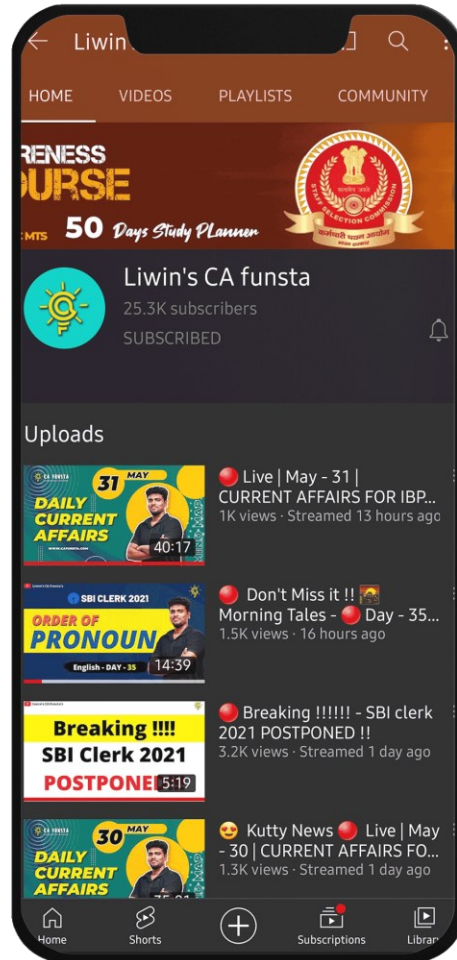
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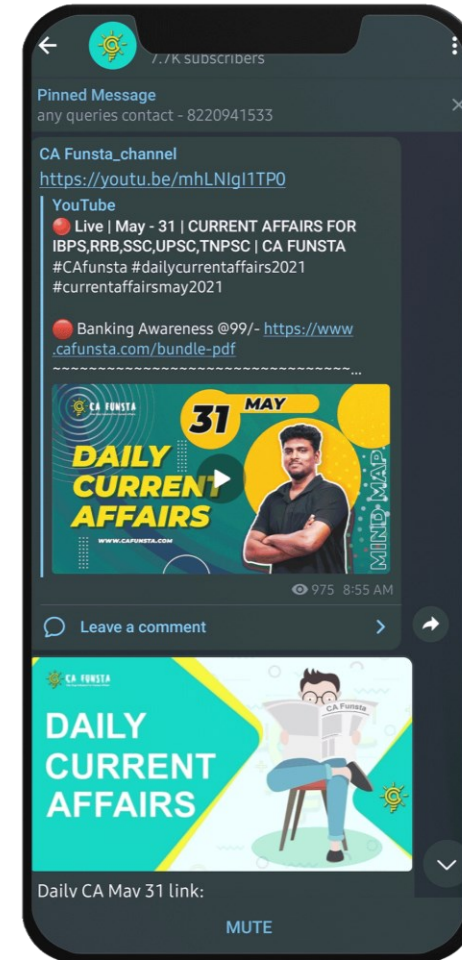
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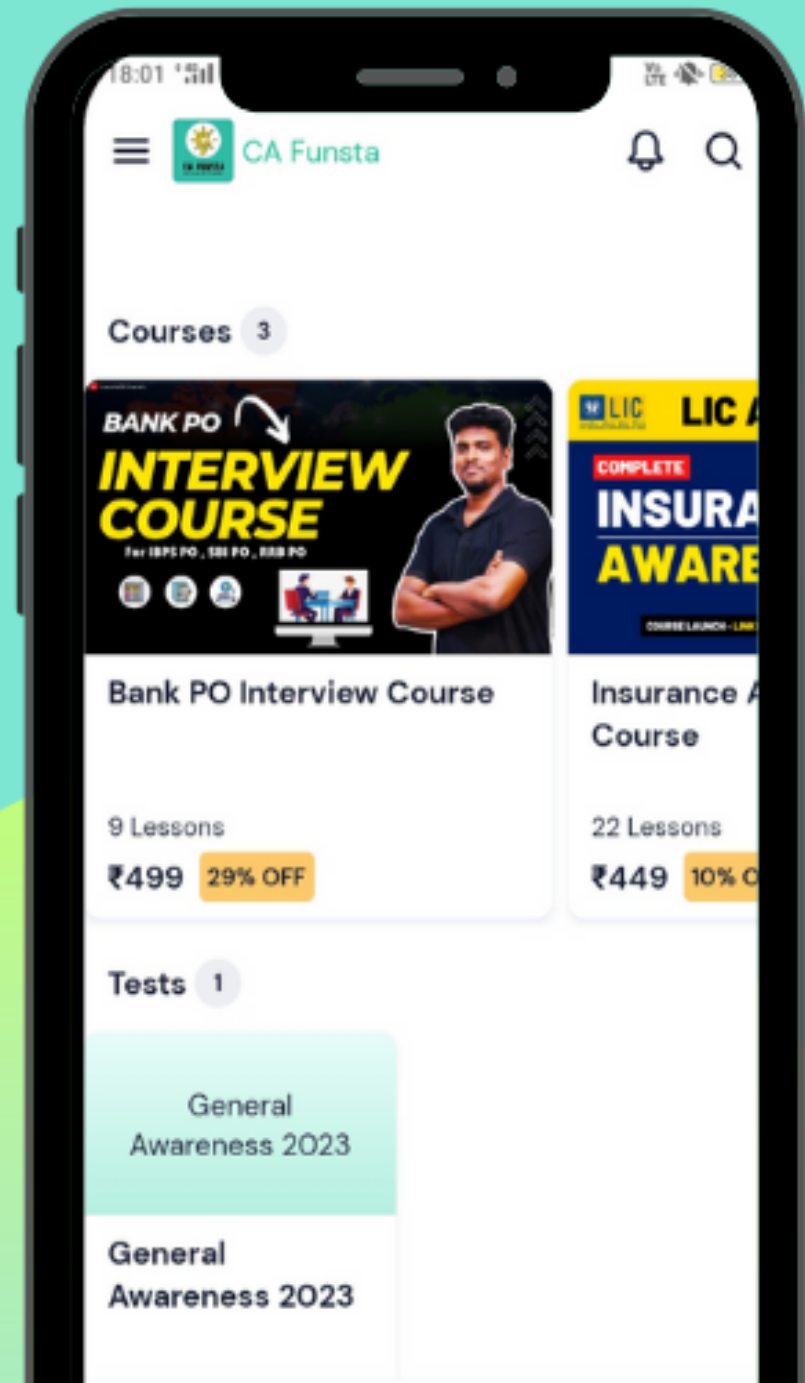
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STUDENT REVIEW

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Rajaganapathy A R
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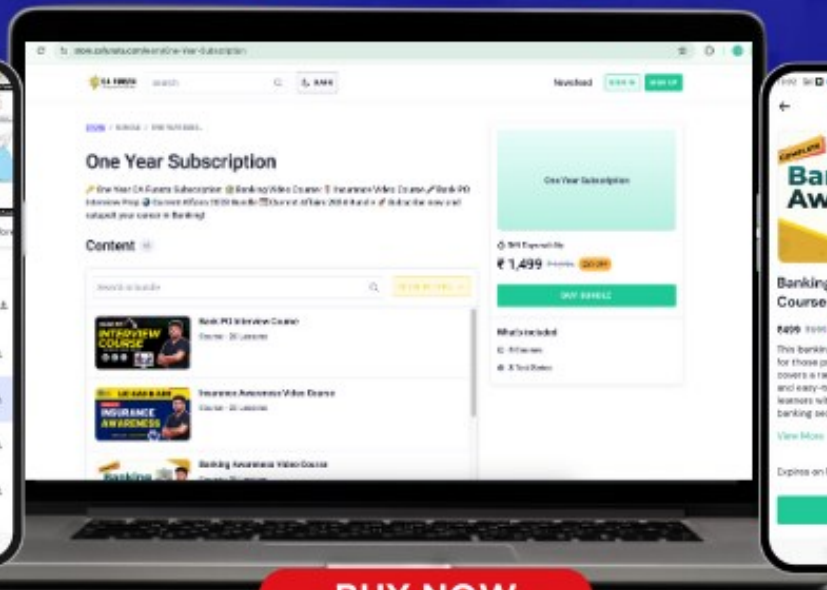
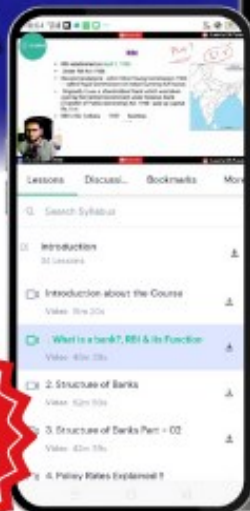
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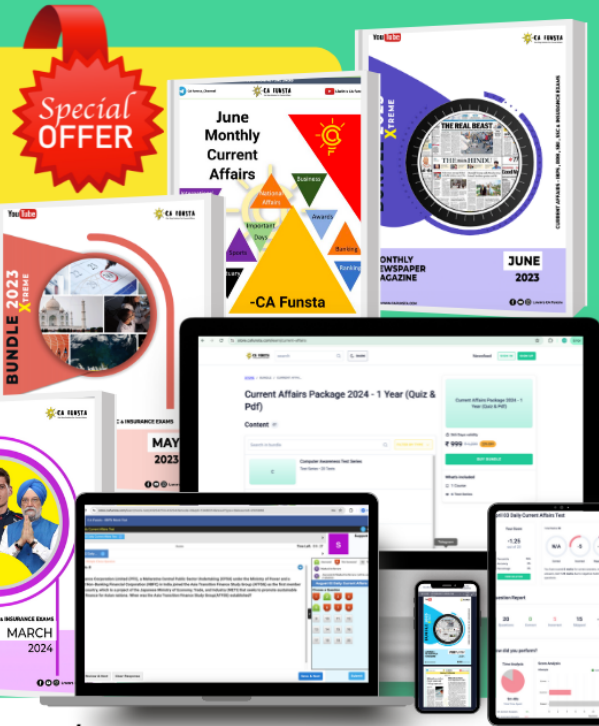
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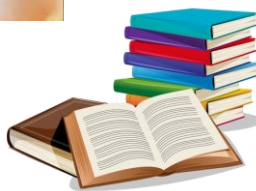
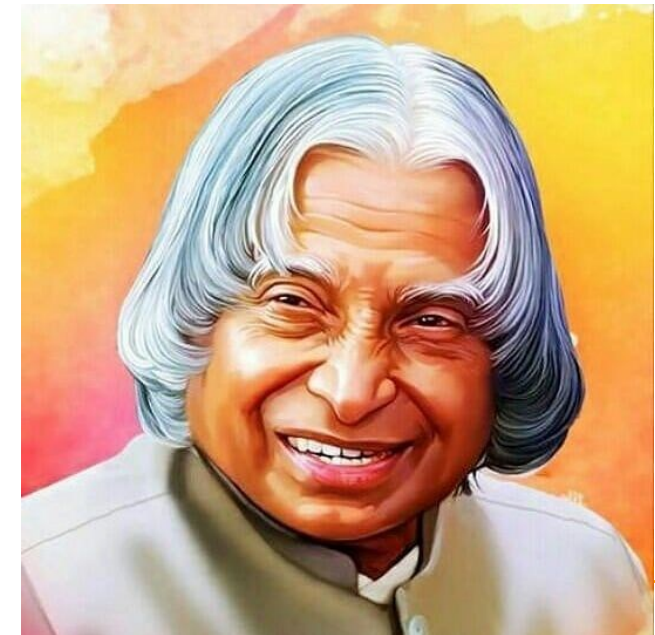


► **World Students' Day 2026 was observed on 15 October to commemorate the 95th birth anniversary of which Indian personality?**

- A) Dr. Vikram Sarabhai
- B) Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
- C) Dr. Homi J. Bhabha
- D) Dr. C. V. Raman
- E) Dr. Satish Dhawan

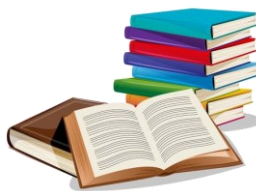
Answer

B) Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.



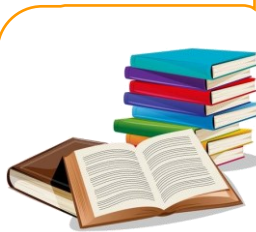
Event and Location:

- **Event:** **World Students' Day 2026** was observed to commemorate the **95th** birth anniversary of Dr. A. P. J. **Abdul Kalam**, India's **11th** President and an eminent aerospace scientist.
- **Location:** India and educational institutions worldwide, with Dr. Kalam's birthplace being Rameswaram, **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Date:** **15 October 2026** (Thursday).



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: World Students' Day** is observed to honour Dr. Kalam's contributions to education, scientific research, space technology and national development. Educational institutions organize seminars, debates, science exhibitions and interactive sessions. The observance is not officially recognized as an international day by the **United Nations**, and no globally official theme was announced for **2026**.

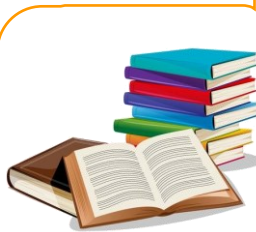


Important Days



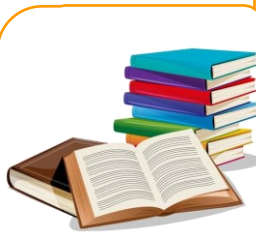
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** To promote scientific temper, creativity, independent thinking, leadership and youth empowerment while encouraging students to contribute to national development through education, research and technological innovation.



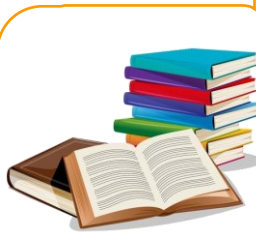
Important Terms Explained:

- Dr. A. P. J. **Abdul Kalam**: Born on **15 October 1931** in Rameswaram, **Tamil Nadu**, he served as India's **11th** President from **25 July 2002** to **25 July 2007**. Popularly known as the **Missile Man of India** and **People's** President, he received the **Bharat Ratna** in **1997** and passed away on **27 July 2015** while delivering a lecture at **IIM Shillong**.



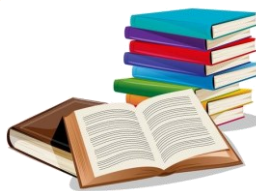
Important Terms Explained:

- **Satellite Launch Vehicle-III (SLV-III)**: India's first indigenously developed satellite launch vehicle, successfully placed the Rohini satellite into orbit in July **1980** under Dr. Kalam's leadership as **Project Director** at **ISRO**.



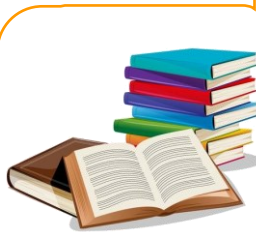
Important Terms Explained:

- **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP):** A defence research programme undertaken by **DRDO** to develop indigenous guided missile systems, including **Agni and Prithvi**, with Dr. Kalam playing a leading role in its implementation.



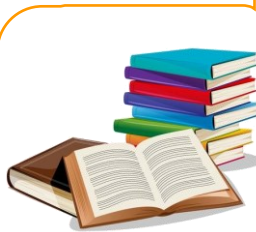
Important Terms Explained:

- **Pokhran-II Nuclear Tests:** A series of nuclear tests conducted by **India in Pokhran**, Rajasthan, in May **1998**, with Dr. Kalam contributing to scientific coordination and implementation alongside the **Department of Atomic Energy**.



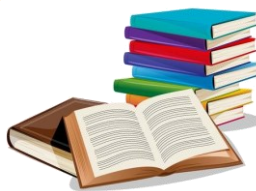
Important Terms Explained:

- **Technology Vision 2020:** A national development roadmap prepared with Dr. Kalam's involvement as **TIFAC** Chairman, focusing on technological advancement, agricultural productivity, healthcare, education and national self-reliance.



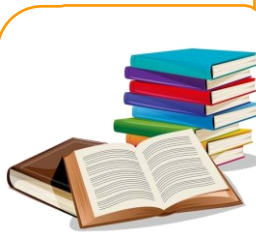
Important Terms Explained:

- **Providing Urban Amenities to Rural Areas (PURA):** A rural development concept promoted by Dr. Kalam to improve infrastructure, connectivity, essential services and economic opportunities in rural areas.



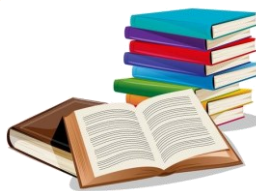
Important Terms Explained:

- **Kalam-Raju Stent and Kalam-Raju Tablet:** Healthcare innovations developed through the collaboration of Dr. Kalam and cardiologist Dr. B. **Soma Raju** to improve the affordability and accessibility of cardiac care and healthcare services.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Bharat Ratna:** India's highest civilian award, conferred on Dr. Kalam in **1997** in recognition of his exceptional contributions to science, technology and national service.

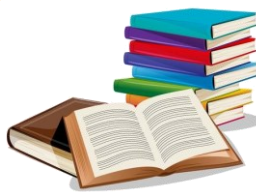


Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **International Day of Rural Women:** A United Nations-recognized international observance held annually on **15 October** under UN **General Assembly Resolution 62/136** of **2007**, distinct from **World Students' Day**.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	World Students' Day 2026, commemorating Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's 95th birth anniversary.
Date	15 October 2026 (Thursday).
Location	Observed in India and educational institutions worldwide; Dr. Kalam was born in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.
Key Personality	Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, India's 11th President from 2002 to 2007.
Major Space Achievement	SLV-III successfully placed the Rohini satellite into orbit in July 1980.
Defence Contributions	Played a leading role in IGMDP, Agni and Prithvi missile development, and the Pokhran-II nuclear tests of 1998.
Awards and Honours	Padma Bhushan (1981), Padma Vibhushan (1990) and Bharat Ratna (1997).
Significance	Promotes education, scientific temper, youth empowerment and innovation; World Students' Day is not an officially recognized UN international day.

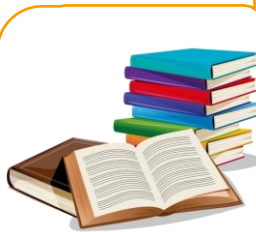


➤ **What is the theme of Mahila Kisan Diwas 2026, observed on 15 October 2026 in New Delhi?**

- A) Women Empowerment through Sustainable Agriculture
- B) Role of Women Farmers in Developing Agriculture and Developed India
- C) Empowering Rural Women for Food Security
- D) Women Farmers and Agricultural Innovation
- E) Sustainable Farming for Viksit Bharat

Answer

B) Role of Women Farmers in Developing Agriculture and Developed India.



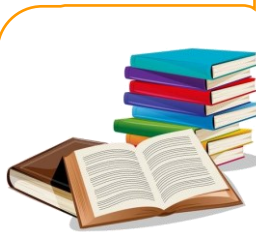
Event and Location:

- **Event: Mahila Kisan Diwas 2026** was celebrated to recognize the contributions of women farmers to Indian agriculture, rural development and the vision of **Viksit Bharat**.
- **Location:** Dr. B. R. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, India.
- **Date:** 15 October 2026 (Thursday).



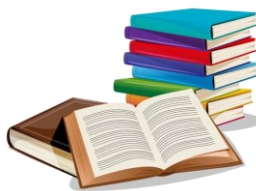
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, organized the national-level celebration with the theme “**Role of Women Farmers in Developing Agriculture and Developed India.**” The event coincided with the **International Day of Rural Women** and formed part of the **United Nations-declared International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026**. Participants included women farmers from **States and Union Territories**, agricultural officers, extension workers and government officials.



Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** To recognize women's contributions to agricultural production, livestock management, biodiversity conservation and rural entrepreneurship while promoting modern agricultural technologies, sustainable farming practices and improved access to finance, productive resources, training and markets. The initiative also aims to strengthen women's participation in agricultural decision-making and support India's vision of becoming a developed nation.

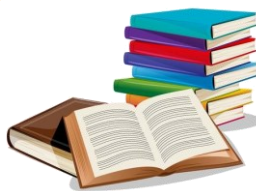


Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF 2026):** A **United Nations**-declared international observance for **2026** that recognizes women farmers' contributions to agrifood systems and promotes their empowerment through improved access to technology, finance, education, markets and agricultural resources.

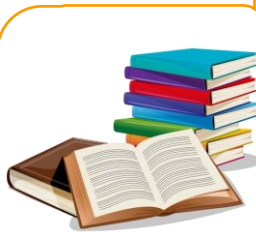


Important Days



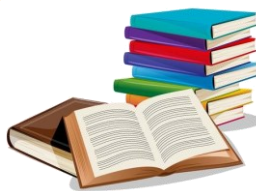
Important Terms Explained:

- **International Day of Rural Women:** A United Nations-recognized observance celebrated annually on **15 October**, established through UN **General Assembly Resolution 62/136** in **2007** to acknowledge rural women's contributions to agricultural development, food security and poverty eradication.



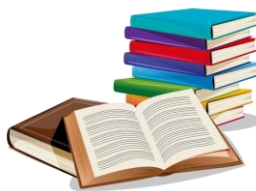
Important Terms Explained:

- **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):** A labour market survey conducted by the **National Statistical Office** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**. According to the January–December **2025** survey figures cited, women accounted for **59.8%** of India's total agricultural workforce.



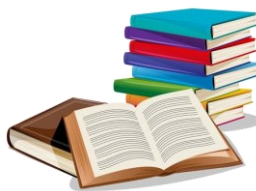
Important Terms Explained:

- **National Statistical Office (NSO):** An organization under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** responsible for collecting, compiling and disseminating official statistics, including employment and labour force data through **PLFS**.



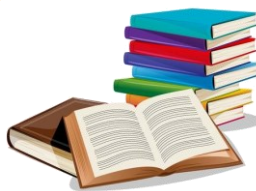
Important Terms Explained:

- **Viksit Bharat:** India's vision of becoming a developed nation by **2047**, emphasizing economic growth, technological advancement, sustainable development, inclusive opportunities and stronger agricultural productivity.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Agricultural Extension Services:** Services that connect agricultural research with farming communities by providing training, scientific farming knowledge, information about modern technologies and awareness of government schemes to improve agricultural productivity.

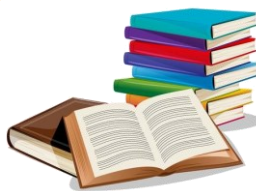


Important Days



Important Terms Explained:

- **Sustainable Agriculture:** Farming practices that maintain agricultural productivity while conserving soil, water, biodiversity and natural resources to support long-term food security and environmental sustainability.



Important Days



Tabular Summary:

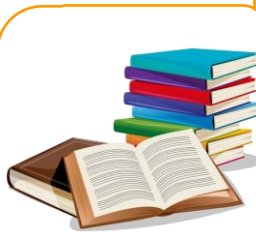
Parameter	Details
Event	Mahila Kisan Diwas 2026.
Date	15 October 2026 (Thursday).
Venue	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
Organizing Authority	Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
Theme 2026	Role of Women Farmers in Developing Agriculture and Developed India.
Agricultural Workforce Data	Women accounted for 59.8% of India's agricultural workforce during January–December 2025, according to PLFS figures cited in the report.
International Significance	Coincided with the International Day of Rural Women and the UN-declared International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026.
Key Objectives	Recognize women farmers' contributions and promote sustainable agriculture, technology adoption, rural entrepreneurship and agricultural empowerment.



- According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for September 2026, what was the urban female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), the highest since October 2025?

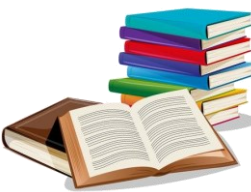
- A) 23.5%
- B) 24.8%
- C) 25.4%
- D) 25.9%
- E) 26.5%

Answer
D) 25.9%.



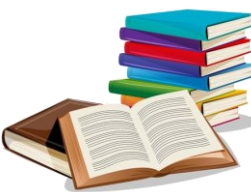
Event and Location:

- **Event:** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Monthly Bulletin for September 2026**, reporting an overall unemployment rate of **5.0%**, a **Labour Force Participation Rate** of **55.5%** and urban female **LFPR** of **25.9%**, its highest level since October **2025**.



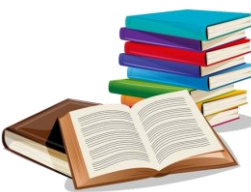
Event and Location:

- **Location:** India, covering rural and urban areas across the country.
- **Date:** 15 October 2026, reporting labour market statistics for September 2026.



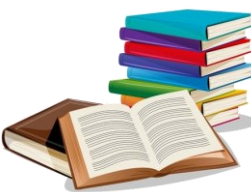
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates: The National Statistical Office (NSO)** under MoSPI released the eighteenth monthly **PLFS** bulletin under the methodology introduced in January **2025**, using the **Current Weekly Status (CWS)** approach for persons aged **15** years and above. The survey reported an overall **LFPR** of **55.5%**, **Worker Population Ratio** of **52.7%** and unemployment rate of **5.0%**. Urban female **LFPR** increased from **25.4%** in August to **25.9%** in September **2026**, while rural female **LFPR** reached **38.9%** and overall female **LFPR** stood at **34.6%**.



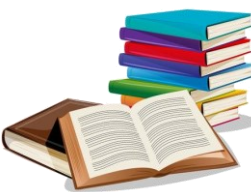
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** To monitor employment, unemployment and labour force participation across rural and urban India, assess gender-based workforce trends and provide reliable statistics for labour market analysis and policymaking. The survey also helps identify changes in women's economic participation, employment opportunities and regional labour market conditions.



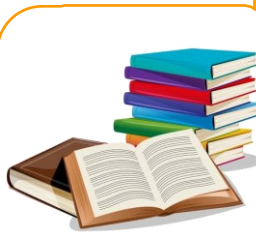
Important Terms Explained:

- **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):** An official labour market survey conducted by the **National Statistical Office** under MoSPI to estimate employment, unemployment, labour force participation and workforce participation across rural and urban India.



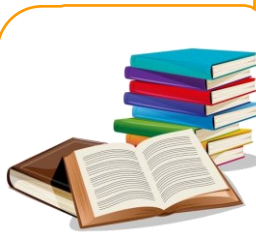
Important Terms Explained:

- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** The percentage of people in a specified age group who are either employed or unemployed but seeking or available for work. India's overall **LFPR** for persons aged **15** years and above stood at **55.5%** in September **2026**, compared with **55.6%** in August **2026**.



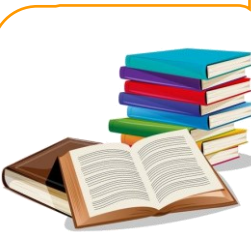
Important Terms Explained:

- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** The percentage of people in a specified age group who are employed. India's overall **WPR** stood at **52.7%** in September **2026**, compared with **52.8%** in August and **52.4%** in September **2025**.



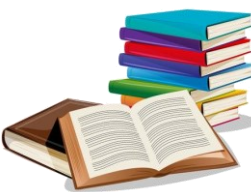
Important Terms Explained:

- **Unemployment Rate (UR):** The percentage of unemployed persons within the total labour force. India's overall unemployment rate remained unchanged at **5.0%** from **August to September 2026**, while rural unemployment stood at **4.2%** and urban unemployment at **6.9%**.



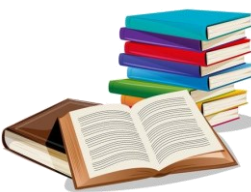
Important Terms Explained:

- **Current Weekly Status (CWS):** A labour force measurement approach that determines a person's employment or unemployment status based on activities during the seven days preceding the survey, providing short-term labour market estimates.



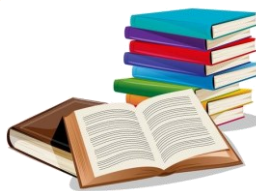
Important Terms Explained:

- **Urban Female Labour Force Participation:** The proportion of urban women aged **15** years and above who are employed or actively participating in the labour market. The rate increased from **25.4%** in August to **25.9%** in September **2026**, reaching its highest level since October **2025**.



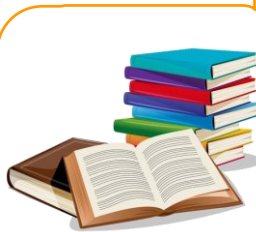
Important Terms Explained:

- **Rural Female Labour Force Participation:** The proportion of rural women participating in the labour force. It increased from **37.9%** in September **2025** to **38.9%** in September **2026**, representing an annual rise of **1.0 percentage point**.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Percentage Point:** A unit used to express the arithmetic difference between two percentages. For example, an increase in urban female **LFPR** from **25.4%** to **25.9%** represents a rise of **0.5 percentage points**.



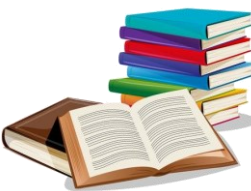
Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Release of the PLFS Monthly Bulletin for September 2026.
Release Date	15 October 2026.
Releasing Authority	National Statistical Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
Overall LFPR	55.5% for persons aged 15 years and above, compared with 55.6% in August 2026.
Urban Female LFPR	25.9%, increasing from 25.4% in August and reaching its highest level since October 2025.
Female Labour Participation	Overall female LFPR was 34.6%, while rural female LFPR reached 38.9%.
Worker Population Ratio	Overall WPR was 52.7%, with rural WPR at 55.5% and urban WPR at 47.2%.
Unemployment Rate	Overall unemployment stood at 5.0%, with rural unemployment at 4.2% and urban unemployment at 6.9%.

► What is the total financial outlay approved by the Union Cabinet for the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) from 2026–27 to 2030–31?

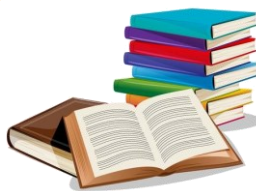
- A) ₹43,428 crore
- B) ₹48,428 crore
- C) ₹53,428 crore
- D) ₹58,428 crore
- E) ₹63,428 crore

Answer
C) ₹53,428 crore.



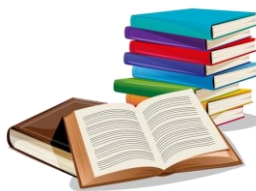
Event and Location:

- **Event: The Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the continuation of the **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** for five years with an outlay of **₹53,428 crore** and its renaming as **Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana**.



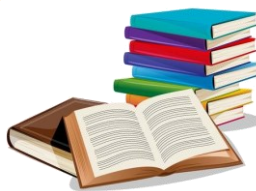
Event and Location:

- **Location:** New Delhi, India, with implementation across all **36 States and Union Territories**.
- **Date:** 14 October **2026**, covering the financial years **2026–27 to 2030–31**.



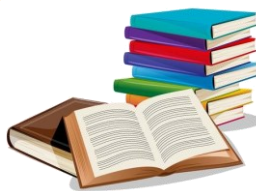
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The Union Cabinet approved the five-year continuation of **NSAP** under the **Department of Rural Development**, benefiting approximately **3.20 crore** people. The programme and its four major sub-schemes will be renamed, while the disability pension eligibility threshold will be reduced from **80%** to **40%**, with eligibility beginning from birth. Revised disability pension assistance will be **₹375** for beneficiaries aged **0–79** years and **₹625** for those aged **80** years and above, with operational guidelines to be issued within three months.



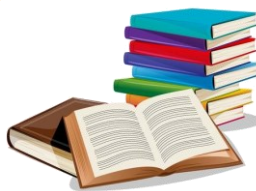
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** To strengthen financial assistance for economically vulnerable groups, including elderly persons, widows, persons with disabilities and poor families. The revised disability eligibility provisions aim to expand social protection in alignment with the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**, while maintaining existing provisions for old-age pensions, widow pensions and family benefits.



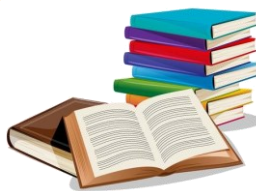
Important Terms Explained:

- **Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana:** The approved new name of **NSAP**, a centrally supported social assistance programme originally launched on **15 August 1995** to provide financial support to vulnerable individuals and families.



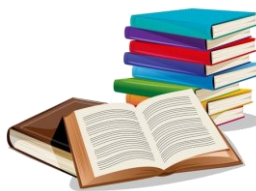
Important Terms Explained:

- **Pradhan Mantri Vridhavastha Pension Yojana:** The renamed **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)**, providing pension assistance to eligible elderly persons from economically disadvantaged households without changes to existing benefits.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Pradhan Mantri Vidhawa Pension Yojana:** The renamed **Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)**, providing financial assistance to eligible widows from poor households under the existing provisions.



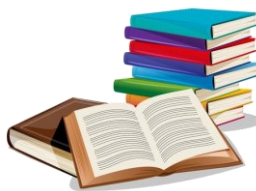
Important Terms Explained:

- **Pradhan Mantri Divyangjan Pension Yojana:** The renamed **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)**, with the disability eligibility threshold reduced from **80%** to **40%**, eligibility starting from birth and revised assistance of **₹375** for persons aged **0–79** years and **₹625** for those aged **80** years and above.



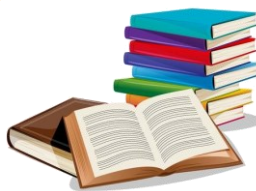
Important Terms Explained:

- **Pradhan Mantri Parivar Labh Yojana:** The renamed **National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)**, providing financial assistance to eligible poor families following the death of their primary breadwinner, with existing provisions remaining unchanged.



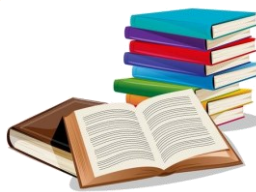
Important Terms Explained:

- **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016:** Indian legislation protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and defining benchmark disability as at least **40%** of a specified disability, certified by the competent authority.



Important Terms Explained:

- Article **41** of the **Indian Constitution**: A **Directive Principle of State Policy** under Part IV directing the State, within its economic capacity and development, to make provisions for public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement.



SCHEMES & INITIATIVES



Tabular Summary:

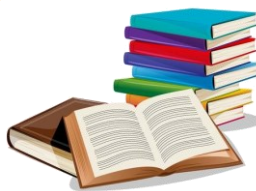
Parameter	Details
Event	Union Cabinet approved the five-year continuation and renaming of NSAP.
Approval Date	14 October 2026.
Financial Outlay	₹53,428 crore for 2026–27 to 2030–31.
New Programme Name	Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana.
Implementing Department	Department of Rural Development, covering all 36 States and Union Territories.
Beneficiaries	Approximately 3.20 crore people across eligible vulnerable categories.
Revised Disability Eligibility	Minimum disability threshold reduced from 80% to 40%, with eligibility beginning from birth.
Disability Pension Assistance	₹375 for ages 0–79 years and ₹625 for ages 80 years and above, with payment frequency not specified in the provided announcement.



- **How many days of Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) were approved by the Union Cabinet for eligible Indian Railways employees in October 2026?**

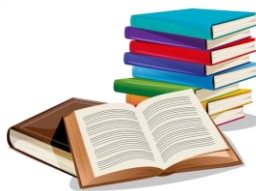
- A) 60 days
- B) 65 days
- C) 70 days
- D) 75 days
- E) 78 days

Answer
E) 78 days.



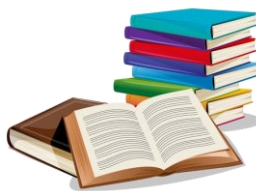
Event and Location:

- **Event:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a **78-day Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB)** worth **₹2,009.61 crore** for **11,40,770** eligible **Indian Railways** employees.
- **Location:** **New Delhi**, India, with benefits applicable to eligible non-gazetted employees across **Indian Railways**.
- **Date:** **14 October 2026**.



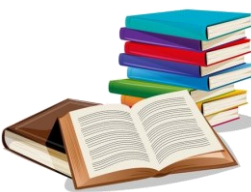
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The Union Cabinet sanctioned ₹2,009.61 crore for the payment of a **78-day Productivity Linked Bonus** to approximately **11.40 lakh** eligible non-gazetted railway employees, with a maximum payment of ₹17,951 per employee. The bonus is intended to be distributed before **Durga Puja and Dussehra** and covers eligible personnel, including track maintainers, locomotive pilots, train managers, station masters, supervisors, technicians, pointsmen, ministerial staff and Group C employees.



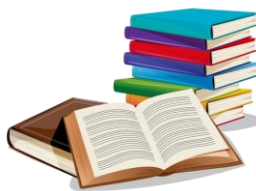
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** To recognize and reward railway employees for their contributions to operational efficiency, freight transportation, passenger services and overall railway performance during **2025–26**. The incentive aims to improve employee motivation, productivity and service delivery while acknowledging **Indian Railways'** achievements in freight loading and passenger transportation.



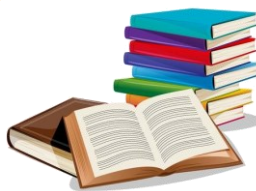
Important Terms Explained:

- **Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB):** A performance-related financial incentive provided to eligible employees based on organizational productivity. Under the **2026** approval, eligible railway employees will receive a bonus equivalent to **78** days' wages, subject to a maximum payment of **₹17,951** per employee.



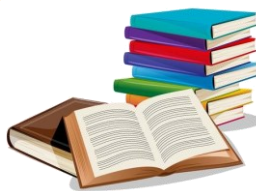
Important Terms Explained:

- **Indian Railways:** India's national railway system, operating under the **Ministry of Railways** and responsible for passenger transportation, freight movement, railway infrastructure and associated services across the country.



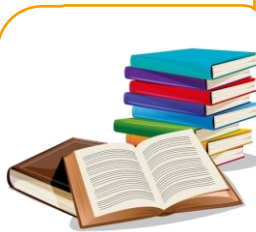
Important Terms Explained:

- **Non-Gazetted Railway Employees:** Railway personnel who do not hold gazetted officer status and serve in operational, technical, maintenance, supervisory and administrative positions, including eligible Group C employees covered under the **PLB** scheme.



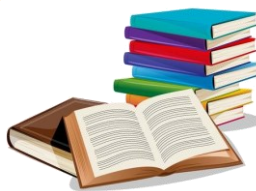
Important Terms Explained:

- **Freight Loading:** The total quantity of goods loaded onto railway wagons for transportation during a specified period. **Indian Railways** reported freight loading of **1,670 million** tonnes during the financial year **2025–26**.



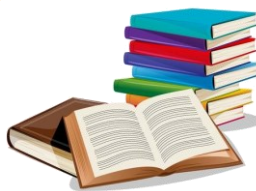
Important Terms Explained:

- **Passenger Traffic:** The total number of passenger journeys recorded by a transport system during a specified period. **Indian Railways** reported approximately **7.41 billion** passenger journeys during **2025–26**.



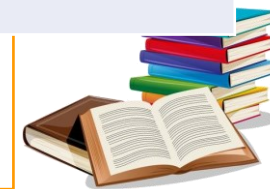
Important Terms Explained:

- **Dearness Allowance (DA):** An allowance provided to eligible government employees and pensioners to help offset the impact of inflation. Unlike **PLB**, **Dearness Allowance** is linked to changes in the cost of living rather than organizational productivity.



Tabular Summary:

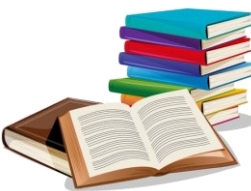
Parameter	Details
Event	Union Cabinet approved a 78-day Productivity Linked Bonus for eligible railway employees.
Approval Date	14 October 2026.
Approving Authority	Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
Total Financial Outlay	₹2,009.61 crore.
Bonus Amount	Equivalent to 78 days' wages, with a maximum of ₹17,951 per eligible employee.
Total Beneficiaries	11,40,770 eligible non-gazetted railway employees.
Payment Period	Before Durga Puja and Dussehra.
Railway Performance 2025–26	Freight loading of 1,670 million tonnes and approximately 7.41 billion passenger journeys.



➤ From which date has the Supreme Court directed Indian Railways to extend travel insurance coverage to tickets booked at railway station counters?

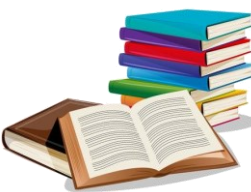
- A) 15 October 2026
- B) 20 October 2026
- C) 25 October 2026
- D) 27 October 2026
- E) 1 November 2026

Answer
D) 27 October 2026.



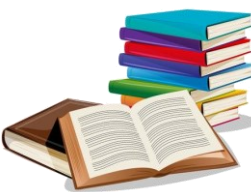
Event and Location:

- **Event: The Supreme Court** directed **Indian Railways** to extend travel insurance coverage to railway station counter-booked tickets from **27 October 2026**, ensuring benefits comparable to those available for eligible online bookings.



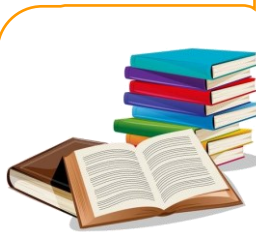
Event and Location:

- **Location:** India, covering railway station ticket counters across the **Indian Railways** network.
- **Date:** 6 October **2026** (**Supreme Court** order), with implementation scheduled from **27 October 2026**.



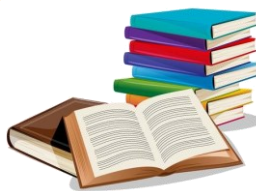
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** A **Supreme Court Bench** comprising **Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah** and R. Mahadevan directed **Indian Railways** to provide insurance coverage for tickets booked through railway station counters from **27 October 2026**. **The Railway Board** is responsible for implementation. Under the existing online insurance scheme, coverage includes **₹10 lakh** for death or permanent total disability, **₹7.5 lakh** for permanent partial disability, **₹2 lakh** for hospitalization expenses and **₹10,000** for transportation of mortal remains. The reported online insurance premium is **45 paise** per passenger, including taxes, while the premium collection process and other operational arrangements for counter bookings remain to be clarified.



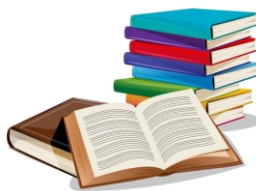
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** To eliminate disparities in insurance protection between online and offline railway ticket bookings, strengthen passenger financial security and ensure equitable compensation in the event of railway accidents. The direction also aims to improve passenger welfare and accountability in railway safety measures following concerns raised after the Odisha train accident of June **2023**.



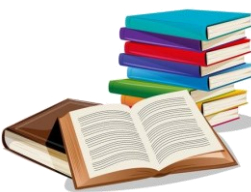
Important Terms Explained:

- **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC):** A public sector enterprise under the **Ministry of Railways** that provides online railway ticket booking, catering and tourism services. Its website and mobile application offer eligible passengers the option to purchase travel insurance during booking.



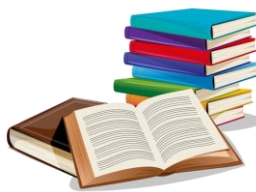
Important Terms Explained:

- **Optional Travel Insurance Scheme:** An insurance facility available to eligible passengers booking railway tickets online through **IRCTC**, providing financial protection against specified railway accidents and related injuries, disabilities or death, subject to policy conditions.



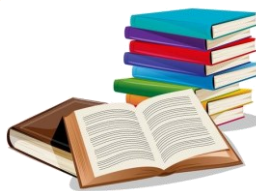
Important Terms Explained:

- **Insurance Premium:** The amount paid to obtain insurance protection. The existing optional online railway travel insurance scheme reportedly charges **45** paise per passenger, including taxes, while the payment procedure for counter-booked tickets has not been specified.



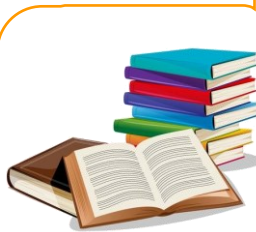
Important Terms Explained:

- **Insurance Coverage:** The maximum financial protection available under an insurance policy for specified events. The existing railway travel insurance scheme provides up to **₹10 lakh** for death or permanent total disability, **₹7.5 lakh** for permanent partial disability, **₹2 lakh** for hospitalization and **₹10,000** for transportation of mortal remains.



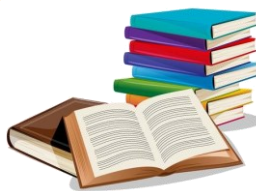
Important Terms Explained:

- **Permanent Total Disability:** A condition in which an insured person suffers permanent disability meeting the policy's criteria for total disablement. The existing railway insurance scheme provides coverage of up to **₹10 lakh** for this category.



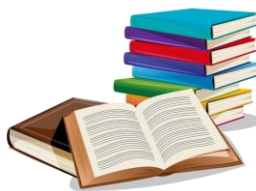
Important Terms Explained:

- **Permanent Partial Disability:** A lasting disability that partially affects a person's physical functioning according to the applicable insurance policy. The existing railway insurance scheme provides coverage of up to **₹7.5 lakh** for this category.



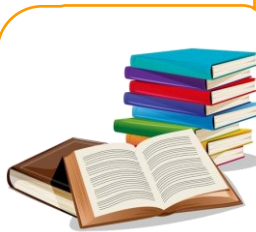
Important Terms Explained:

- **Railway Board:** The apex administrative body responsible for the management and policy implementation of **Indian Railways** under the **Ministry of Railways**. It has been assigned responsibility for implementing the **Supreme Court's** insurance direction.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Kavach Train Protection System:** An indigenously developed **Automatic Train Protection** system designed to improve railway safety by helping prevent train collisions and signal-passing incidents through automatic braking and other safety functions.



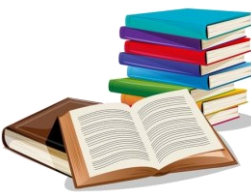
Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Supreme Court directed Indian Railways to extend travel insurance coverage to counter-booked railway tickets.
Supreme Court Order Date	6 October 2026.
Implementation Date	27 October 2026.
Judicial Bench	Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and R. Mahadevan.
Implementing Authority	Railway Board, Ministry of Railways.
Maximum Insurance Coverage	₹10 lakh for death or permanent total disability and ₹7.5 lakh for permanent partial disability under the existing scheme.
Additional Benefits and Premium	Up to ₹2 lakh for hospitalization and ₹10,000 for transportation of mortal remains; existing online premium is 45 paise per passenger, including taxes.
Significance	Extends insurance protection to offline railway ticket bookings and promotes equitable passenger financial security.

➤ What is the installed capacity of the solar power project with battery energy storage inaugurated at Rongtong in Himachal Pradesh's Spiti Valley?

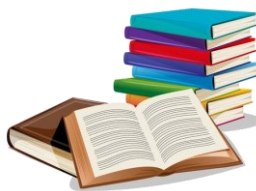
- A) 1 MW
- B) 2 MW
- C) 3 MW
- D) 4 MW
- E) 5 MW

Answer
B) 2 MW.



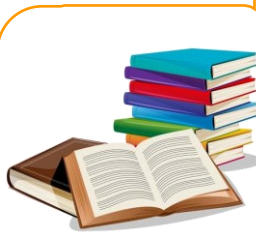
Event and Location:

- **Event:** **Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** inaugurated the state's first solar power project with a **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** at Rongtong, with an installed capacity of **2 MW** and an expected annual electricity generation of **36 lakh** units.
- **Location:** Rongtong, Kaza region, **Spiti Valley**, Lahaul-Spiti district, **Himachal Pradesh**.



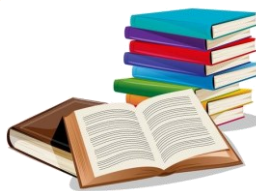
Event and Location:

- **Date:** Inauguration reported on **15 October 2026**, with construction commencing on **30 May 2023** and commissioning completed in December **2024**.



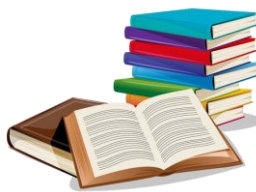
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The **Himachal Pradesh** government inaugurated the **2 MW** Rongtong solar power project, developed at a cost of **₹4.42 crore** and equipped with a **1 MWh** battery storage facility. The project is expected to generate approximately **36 lakh** units of electricity annually. During the visit, the **Chief Minister** also inaugurated or initiated development works worth **₹116.28 crore**, laid foundation stones for two **66/22 kV** substations at **Sumdo and Kaza** costing **₹47.95 crore**, and announced **₹6 crore** for making the **Rongtong Hydel Power Project** functional.



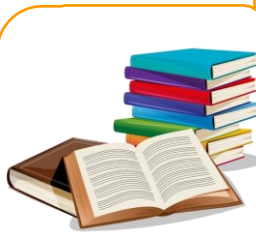
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** To strengthen renewable energy infrastructure, improve electricity reliability in the remote and high-altitude **Spiti Valley**, reduce dependence on conventional energy sources and support sustainable regional development. The battery storage facility aims to store surplus solar electricity for later use, improve energy availability and address fluctuations in solar power generation.



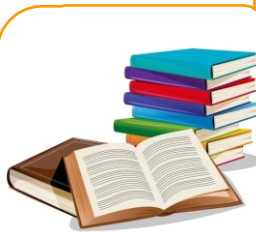
Important Terms Explained:

- **Rongtong Solar Power Project:** A **2 MW** solar electricity generation facility developed at **Rongtong in Spiti Valley** at a cost of **₹4.42 crore**, integrated with a **1 MWh** battery storage system and designed to generate approximately **36 lakh** units of electricity annually.



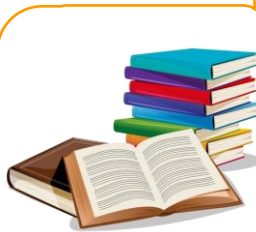
Important Terms Explained:

- **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS):** A technology that stores electrical energy in rechargeable batteries and releases it when required, helping manage fluctuations in renewable energy generation and improving electricity supply flexibility.



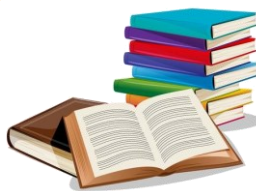
Important Terms Explained:

- **Megawatt (MW):** A unit of electrical power equal to one million watts, commonly used to measure the installed generation capacity of power plants. **The Rongtong** solar project has a capacity of **2 MW**.



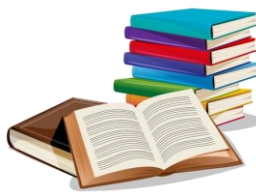
Important Terms Explained:

- Megawatt-hour (MWh): A unit of electrical energy equivalent to one megawatt of power supplied for one hour. **The Rongtong** project's battery storage capacity is **1 MWh**, representing energy storage rather than electricity generation capacity.



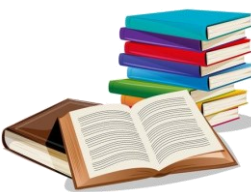
Important Terms Explained:

- **Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Technology:** A renewable energy technology that converts sunlight directly into electricity using semiconductor-based solar cells, enabling electricity generation without burning conventional fuels.



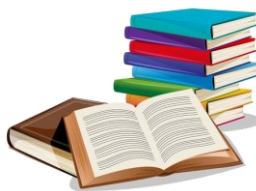
Important Terms Explained:

- **66/22 kV Substation:** An electrical infrastructure facility that steps down voltage from **66** kilovolts to **22** kilovolts for power distribution. Two such substations are planned at **Sumdo in Kinnaur** district and **Kaza in Spiti Valley** at a combined cost of **₹47.95 crore**.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Rongtong Hydel Power Project:** A hydroelectric power project in the Rongtong area for which the **Himachal Pradesh** government announced an allocation of **₹6 crore** to make the facility operational.



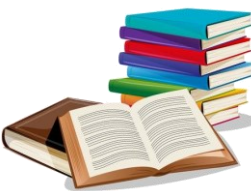
Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Inauguration of Himachal Pradesh's first solar power project integrated with battery energy storage.
Location	Rongtong, Kaza region, Spiti Valley, Lahaul-Spiti district, Himachal Pradesh.
Inaugurated By	Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.
Installed Capacity	2 MW solar power generation capacity with 1 MWh battery energy storage.
Project Cost	₹4.42 crore.
Annual Electricity Generation	Approximately 36 lakh units, equivalent to 3.6 million units.
Project Timeline	Construction began on 30 May 2023, commissioning took place in December 2024, and inauguration was reported on 15 October 2026.
Additional Development Works	Development initiatives worth ₹116.28 crore, including two 66/22 kV substations costing ₹47.95 crore and ₹6 crore allocated for the Rongtong Hydel Power Project.

➤ From which date has India proposed implementing Phase 1 of the Bharat Stage VII (BS-VII) emission standards for new cars and SUVs?

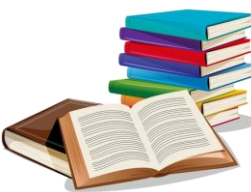
- A) 1 April 2027
- B) 1 April 2028
- C) 1 April 2029
- D) 1 April 2031
- E) 1 April 2035

Answer
C) 1 April 2029.



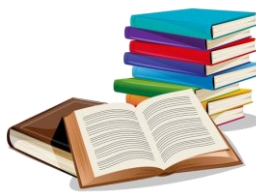
Event and Location:

- **Event: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** (MoRTH) proposed introducing stricter **Bharat Stage VII (BS-VII)** emission standards for new cars and SUVs through a three-phase implementation plan aimed at reducing harmful vehicle emissions.



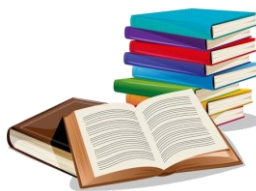
Event and Location:

- **Location:** India, covering new vehicles subject to the proposed national emission regulations.
- **Date:** 12 October **2026** (draft notification), with implementation proposed from 1 April **2029**.



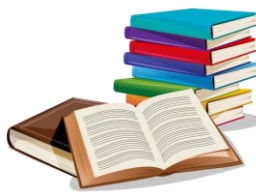
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** MoRTH issued a draft notification proposing the phased implementation of BS-VII emission standards from **1 April 2029**, followed by subsequent phases on **1 April 2031** and **1 April 2035**. The proposed standards aim to introduce stricter limits on pollutants such as nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons and particulate matter. New cars and SUVs are targeted under the initial phase, while detailed technical requirements, vehicle categories and compliance conditions remain subject to final government notification.



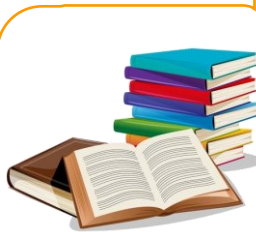
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** To reduce vehicular air pollution, improve public health, encourage advanced emission-control technologies and support cleaner transportation. The phased implementation is intended to provide automobile manufacturers sufficient time to upgrade vehicle technologies, conduct research and development, and comply with stricter environmental regulations without automatically affecting the operational lifespan of existing vehicles.



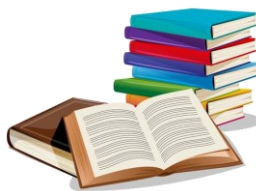
Important Terms Explained:

- **Bharat Stage (BS) Emission Standards:** Government-prescribed regulations that establish permissible limits for harmful pollutants emitted by motor vehicles, including carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons and particulate matter.



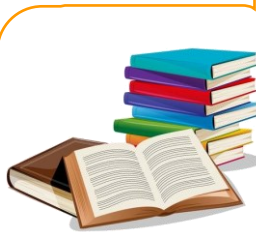
Important Terms Explained:

- **Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI):** Vehicle emission standards implemented nationwide in April **2020**, introducing stricter pollutant limits and cleaner fuel requirements. India directly transitioned from BS-IV to BS-VI, bypassing BS-V to accelerate emission reduction.



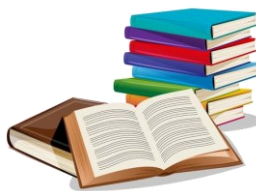
Important Terms Explained:

- **Bharat Stage VII (BS-VII):** Proposed next-generation vehicle emission standards intended to impose tighter pollution-control requirements than BS-VI, with implementation planned in three phases during **2029**, **2031** and **2035**, subject to final regulatory approval.



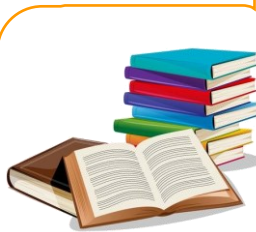
Important Terms Explained:

- Phase-wise Implementation: A regulatory approach in which new standards are introduced gradually over different dates. The proposed BS-VII rollout consists of Phase 1 on 1 April 2029, Phase 2 on 1 April 2031 and Phase 3 on 1 April 2035.



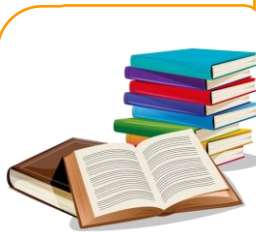
Important Terms Explained:

- **Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x):** Harmful gases produced during high-temperature fuel combustion in vehicle engines that contribute to air pollution, ground-level ozone formation and respiratory health problems.



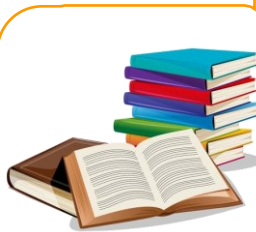
Important Terms Explained:

- **Hydrocarbons (HC):** Organic compounds released through incomplete fuel combustion and evaporation that can contribute to photochemical smog and ground-level ozone formation.



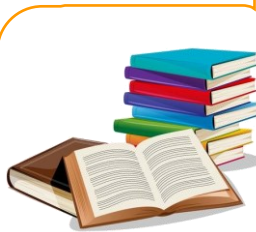
Important Terms Explained:

- **Particulate Matter (PM):** Tiny solid particles and liquid droplets released from vehicle exhaust and other sources that can penetrate the respiratory system and cause adverse health effects.



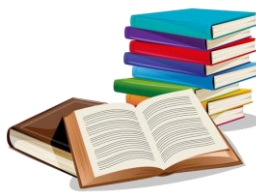
Important Terms Explained:

- **Carbon Monoxide (CO):** A colourless, odourless and poisonous gas produced through incomplete combustion of carbon-based fuels, reducing the blood's ability to transport oxygen.



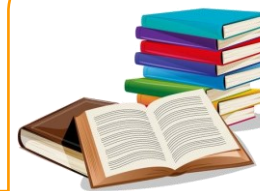
Important Terms Explained:

- **Low-Sulfur Fuel:** Petrol or diesel containing reduced sulfur levels, supporting cleaner combustion and the effective operation of advanced vehicle emission-control technologies.



Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Proposal to introduce stricter Bharat Stage VII emission standards for vehicles in India.
Issuing Authority	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
Draft Notification Date	12 October 2026.
Phase 1 Implementation	1 April 2029, targeting new cars and SUVs.
Phase 2 Implementation	1 April 2031.
Phase 3 Implementation	1 April 2035.
Major Emission Controls	Proposed tighter limits on nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons and particulate matter.
Current Standard and Status	BS-VI has been implemented nationwide since April 2020, while BS-VII remains a draft proposal subject to final notification.



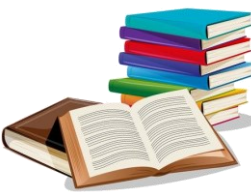
➤ In which wildlife sanctuary of Gujarat have Asiatic lions returned after approximately 144 years, establishing a second habitat beyond the Gir forest region?

- A) Wild Ass Sanctuary
- B) Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary
- C) Barda Wildlife Sanctuary
- D) Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary
- E) Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary



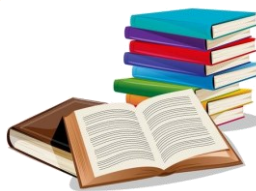
Answer

C) Barda Wildlife Sanctuary.



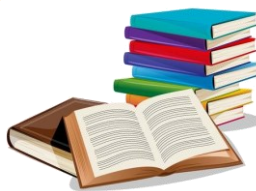
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Asiatic lions have returned to **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary** after approximately **144** years, establishing an important second habitat beyond the Gir forest region, with **17** lions recorded in the **2025** population estimate.
- **Location:** **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary**, spanning **Porbandar and Devbhumi Dwarka** districts in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat.



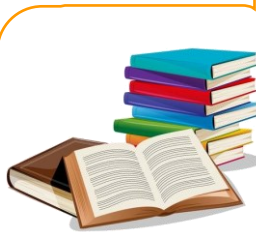
Event and Location:

- **Date:** 15 October **2026** (reported), with natural lion dispersal beginning in January **2023** and a population of **17** recorded in **2025**.



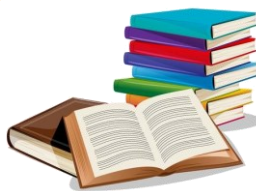
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The Gujarat Forest Department has supported the establishment of Barda as an additional Asiatic lion habitat following the natural dispersal of a male lion from the Gir landscape in January **2023** and the subsequent introduction of five female lions. The **2025** population estimate recorded **17** lions, comprising six adults and **11** cubs. Conservation activities include scientific habitat monitoring, prey-base enhancement through the relocation of spotted deer and sambar, habitat protection and measures to reduce human-lion conflict.



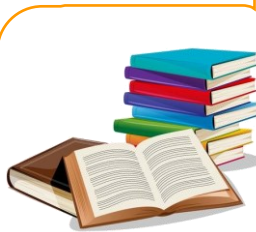
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** To establish a sustainable second habitat for Asiatic lions outside the core Gir forest region, reduce the species' dependence on a single habitat, strengthen long-term population security and support biodiversity conservation. The initiative also aims to improve prey availability, maintain ecological balance and encourage the natural expansion of Asiatic lions across the Saurashtra landscape.



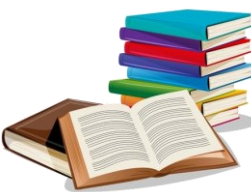
Important Terms Explained:

- **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary:** A protected wildlife habitat covering approximately **192.31** skm across **Porbandar and Devbhumi Dwarka** districts in Gujarat. Declared a wildlife sanctuary in **1979**, it is situated approximately **15 km** from Porbandar and is emerging as an additional habitat for Asiatic lions.



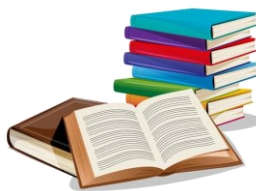
Important Terms Explained:

- **Gir Forest Landscape:** The principal natural habitat of India's wild Asiatic lions, located in Gujarat's Saurashtra region. It includes **Gir National Park, Gir Wildlife Sanctuary** and surrounding areas into which lion populations have expanded.



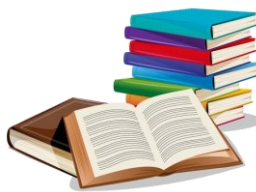
Important Terms Explained:

- **Gir-Barda Conservation Programme:** A conservation initiative associated with efforts beginning in **1979** to develop Barda as an alternative habitat for Asiatic lions, supporting habitat expansion and reducing dependence on the Gir region.



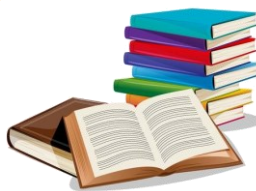
Important Terms Explained:

- **Natural Dispersal:** The movement of wild animals from their original habitat to new areas without direct human relocation. The expansion into Barda began when a male Asiatic lion naturally moved from the Gir landscape in January **2023**.



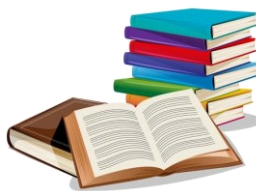
Important Terms Explained:

- **Prey-Base Enhancement:** A wildlife conservation measure aimed at improving the availability of prey animals for predators. **In Barda**, efforts have included relocating spotted deer and sambar from the Gir protected area to support the lion population.



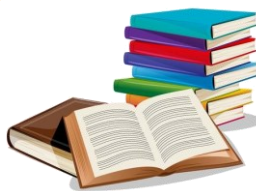
Important Terms Explained:

- Human-**Wildlife Conflict**: Interactions between wild animals and human populations that may result in livestock losses, property damage or threats to safety. Managing human-lion conflict is essential for the long-term conservation of lions in Barda.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Habitat Conservation:** The protection and management of natural environments to support the survival of wildlife species. Barda contains vegetation such as babul, dhav, rayan, ber, jamun, bamboo and guggal, and supports animals including leopards, hyenas, jackals and deer.



Tabular Summary:

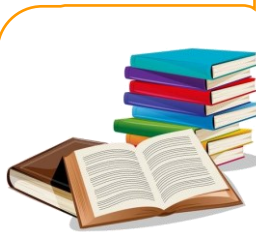
Parameter	Details
Event	Return of Asiatic lions to Barda Wildlife Sanctuary after approximately 144 years.
Location	Porbandar and Devbhumi Dwarka districts, Saurashtra region, Gujarat.
Sanctuary Area	Approximately 192.31 skm.
Year of Sanctuary Declaration	1979.
Asiatic Lion Population	17 lions in the 2025 estimate, comprising six adults and 11 cubs.
Recolonization Timeline	A male lion naturally dispersed into Barda in January 2023, followed by the introduction of five females.
Conservation Authority	Gujarat Forest Department, supporting habitat management and prey-base enhancement.
Conservation Significance	Development of an additional lion habitat beyond Gir to support population security, biodiversity conservation and reduced dependence on a single core habitat.

➤ Who inaugurated the third international KAUMARACON-2026 conference organized by the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi?

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) J. P. Nadda
- C) C. P. Radhakrishnan
- D) Droupadi Murmu
- E) Prataprao Jadhav

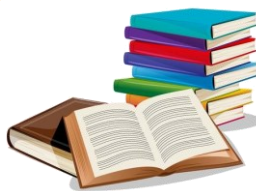
Answer

C) C. P. Radhakrishnan.



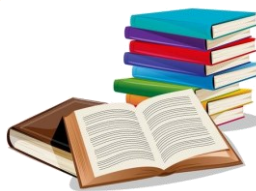
Event and Location:

- **Event:** Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated **KAUMARACON-2026**, the third international conference on Kaumarabhritya, organized by the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**, and launched digital initiatives to strengthen Ayurveda research, innovation and healthcare services.



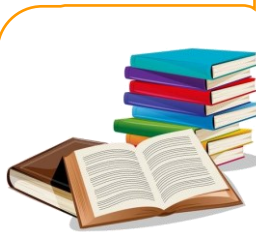
Event and Location:

- **Location:** All India Institute of Ayurveda campus, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi, India.
- **Date:** 15 October 2026, with the conference scheduled from 15 to 17 October 2026.



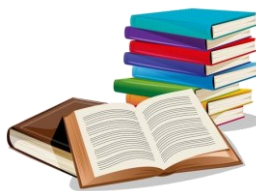
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mandates:** The **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**, an autonomous institution under the **Ministry of Ayush**, organized the third international **KAUMARACON** conference with the theme “**Shaping the Future of Child Health: Global Perspectives, Research Innovations, and Clinical Frontiers in Kaumarabhritya.**” The **Vice-President** unveiled digital initiatives including the **AYUSH** Start-up Portal, **Ayurveda Digital Innovation and Venture Acceleration Facility (AyuDIVA)**, **Vamana App** and **Panchakarma Assessment App**. The programme also featured the **AIIA–iCAINE** website initiative and an international **Memorandum of Understanding** between **AIIA** and **Maharishi International University, USA**



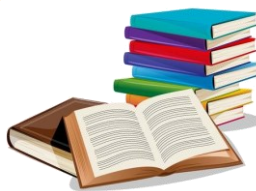
Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objectives:** To promote research, clinical innovation and international collaboration in Ayurvedic child healthcare while strengthening scientific discussions on child nutrition, growth, development and disease prevention. The conference also aims to encourage **AYUSH** entrepreneurship, digital healthcare solutions, institutional cooperation and the integration of traditional medical knowledge with modern research practices.



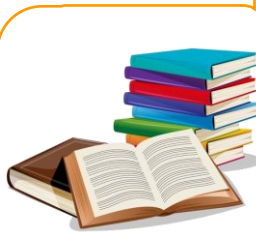
Important Terms Explained:

- **KAUMARACON-2026:** The third international conference on Kaumarabhritya, held from **15 to 17 October 2026** at **AIIA, New Delhi**, bringing together scientists, clinicians, academicians and healthcare professionals to discuss research and clinical advancements in Ayurvedic child healthcare.



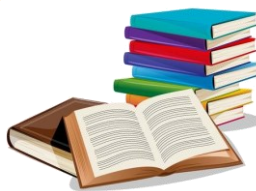
Important Terms Explained:

- **Kaumarabhritya:** A specialized branch of Ayurveda focusing on child healthcare, including infant and child development, nutrition, disease prevention and the management of childhood health conditions.



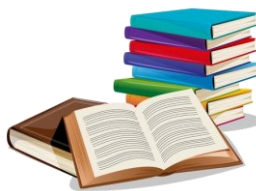
Important Terms Explained:

- **AYUSH** Start-up Portal: A digital platform launched to enhance the visibility, development and growth of start-ups operating in traditional Indian healthcare systems covered under **AYUSH**.



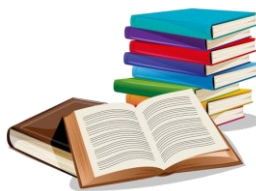
Important Terms Explained:

- **Ayurveda Digital Innovation and Venture Acceleration Facility (AyuDIVA):** An initiative introduced to promote digital innovation, entrepreneurship and venture development in Ayurveda, supporting technology-based approaches to traditional healthcare services.



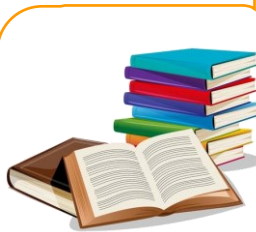
Important Terms Explained:

- **Vamana App:** A digital application associated with Vamana, an Ayurvedic therapeutic procedure involving medically supervised therapeutic emesis as part of traditional cleansing practices.



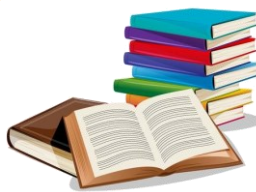
Important Terms Explained:

- **Panchakarma Assessment App:** A digital application associated with the assessment of Panchakarma, a group of traditional Ayurvedic therapeutic procedures used in individualized treatment approaches.



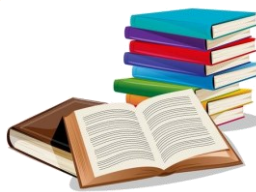
Important Terms Explained:

- **AIIA**–iCAINE Website: A digital initiative presented in connection with **AIIA** and iCAINE, supporting institutional digital development, with specific operational features not detailed in the provided information.



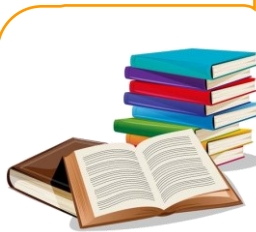
Important Terms Explained:

- **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):** A formal agreement outlining cooperation between institutions. During the conference, **AIIA, New Delhi**, and **Maharishi International University (MIU), USA**, exchanged an international MoU in the presence of the Vice-President.



Important Terms Explained:

- **Ministry of Ayush:** A **Government of India** ministry responsible for promoting education, research and development in Ayurveda, **Yoga and Naturopathy**, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy.



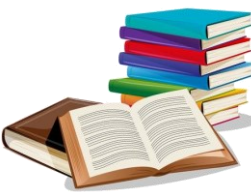
Tabular Summary:

Parameter	Details
Event	Inauguration of the third international KAUMARACON-2026 conference and launch of AIIA digital initiatives.
Inaugurated By	Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan.
Date and Venue	15–17 October 2026, AIIA campus, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi.
Organizing Institution	All India Institute of Ayurveda, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Ayush.
Conference Theme	Shaping the Future of Child Health: Global Perspectives, Research Innovations, and Clinical Frontiers in Kaumarabhritya.
Digital Initiatives	AYUSH Start-up Portal, AIIA–iCAINE website, AyuDIVA, Vamana App and Panchakarma Assessment App.
International Collaboration	MoU exchanged between AIIA, New Delhi, and Maharishi International University, USA.
Institutional Significance	AIIA celebrated its 10th Foundation Day in October 2026 and promoted advancements in Ayurveda education, research, digital innovation and child healthcare.

QUICK RECALL



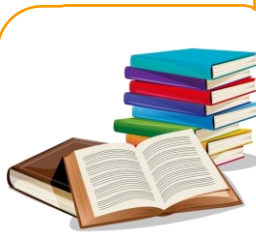
- **World Students' Day 2026** was observed on 15 October to mark the 95th birth anniversary of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and honour his contributions to education, science and youth empowerment.
- **Mahila Kisan Diwas 2026** was celebrated on 15 October in New Delhi by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to recognize women farmers' contributions to agriculture and the vision of Viksit Bharat.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the September 2026 PLFS bulletin on 15 October, reporting 5.0% unemployment and 55.5% overall labour force participation, with urban female LFPR reaching its highest level since October 2025.



QUICK RECALL



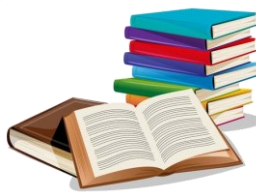
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved ₹53,428 crore for continuing NSAP from 2026–27 to 2030–31, strengthening social assistance for approximately 3.20 crore beneficiaries.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a ₹2,009.61 crore Productivity Linked Bonus equivalent to 78 days' wages for 11,40,770 eligible Indian Railways employees on 14 October 2026.
- The Supreme Court directed Indian Railways to extend travel insurance to railway station counter-booked tickets from 27 October 2026, aiming to ensure insurance protection comparable to eligible online bookings.
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu inaugurated the state's first 2 MW solar power project with battery storage at Rongtong in Spiti Valley to strengthen renewable energy infrastructure.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways proposed BS-VII emission standards through a draft notification dated 12 October 2026, aiming to reduce vehicular pollution through phased implementation beginning in April 2029.
- Asiatic lions have returned to Gujarat's Barda Wildlife Sanctuary after approximately 144 years, with 17 lions recorded in the 2025 estimate, strengthening efforts to establish a second habitat beyond Gir.



QUICK RECALL



- **Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated KAUMARACON-2026 at the All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi on 15 October 2026, launching digital initiatives to strengthen Ayurvedic child healthcare and innovation.**



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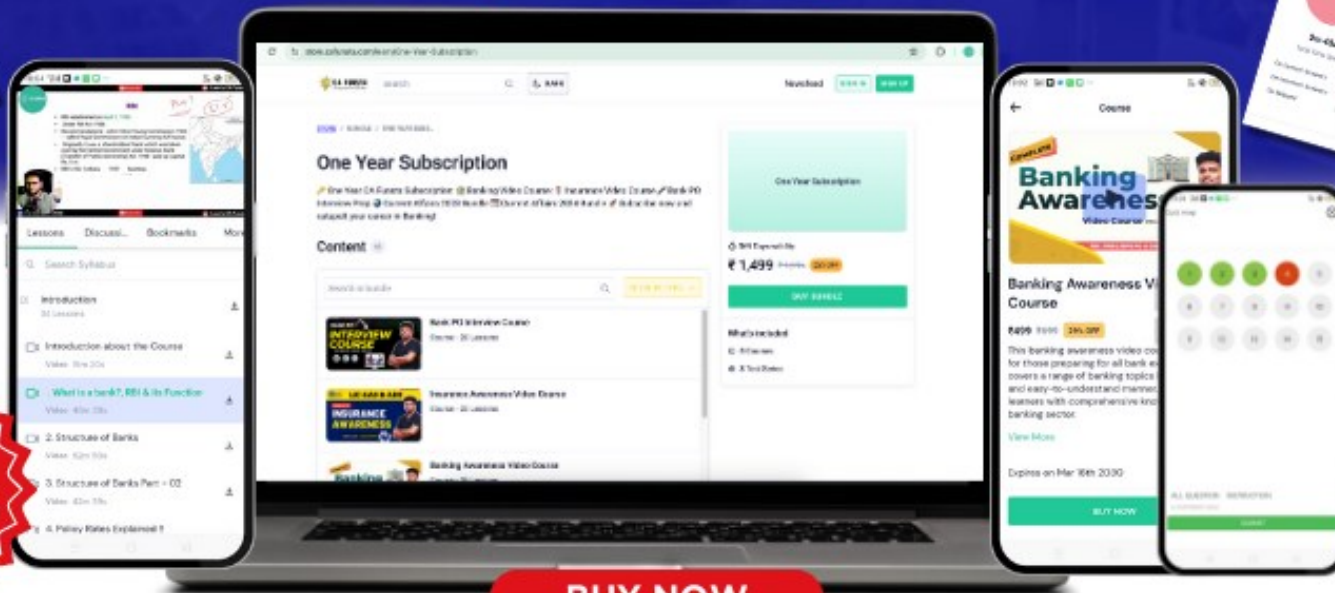
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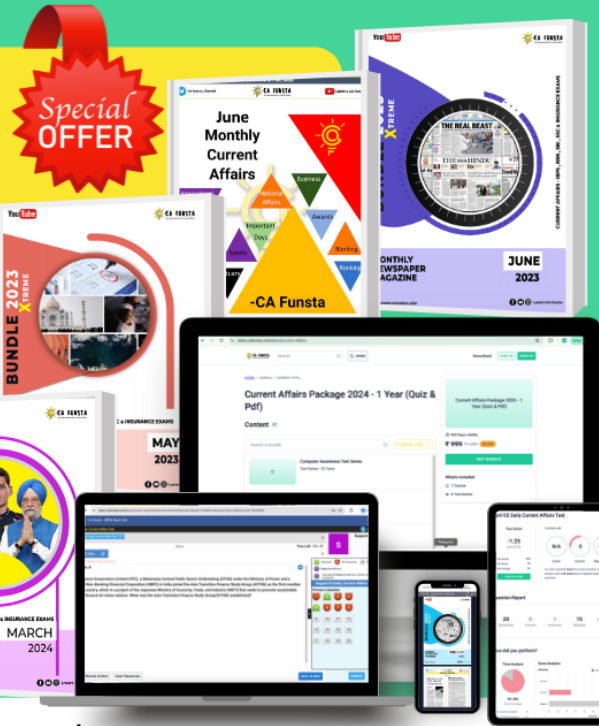
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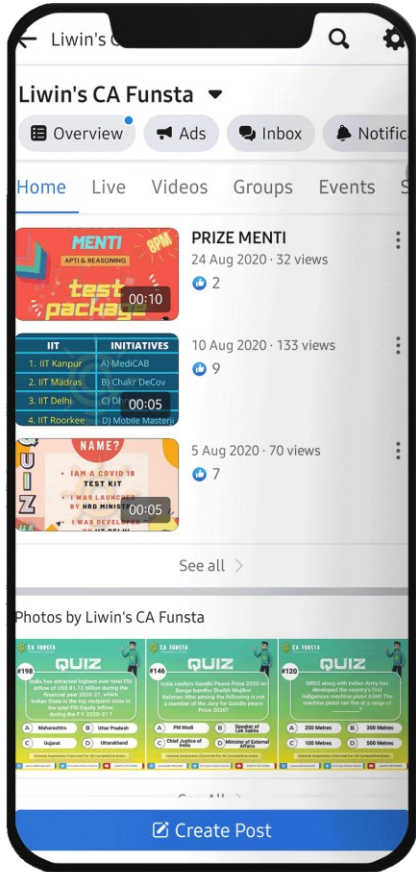
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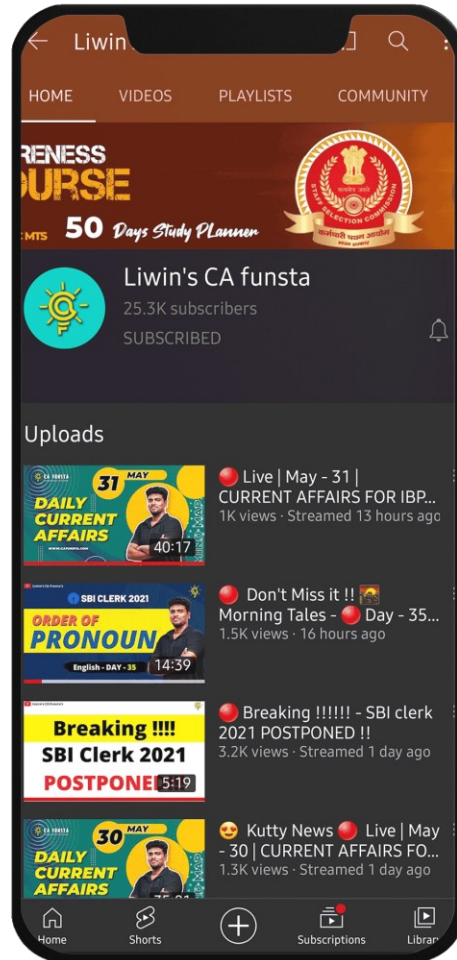


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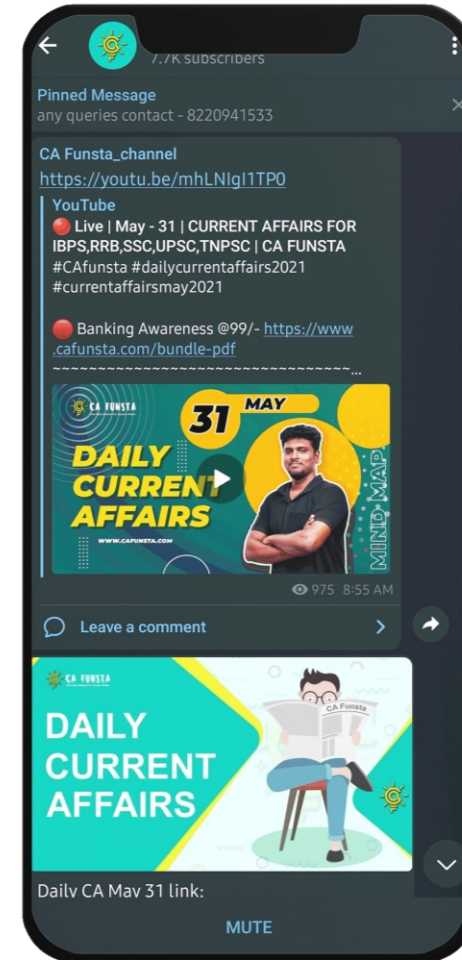
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