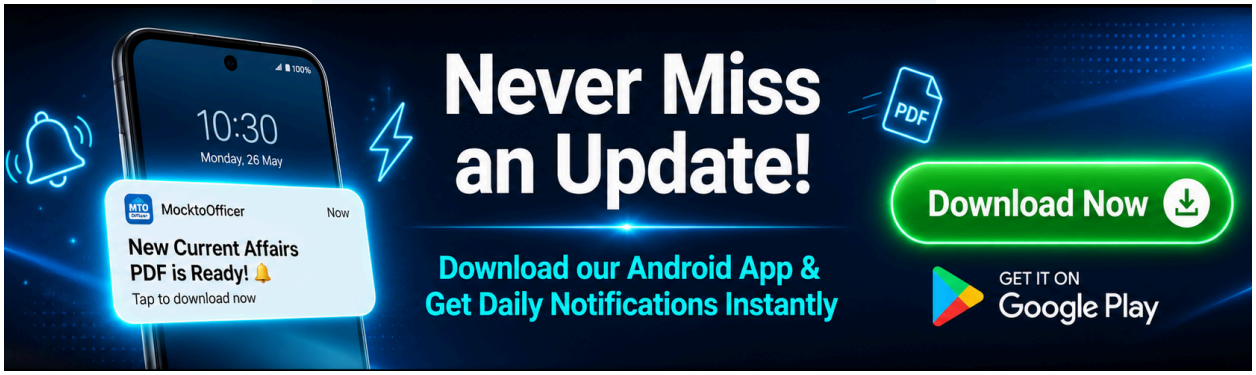
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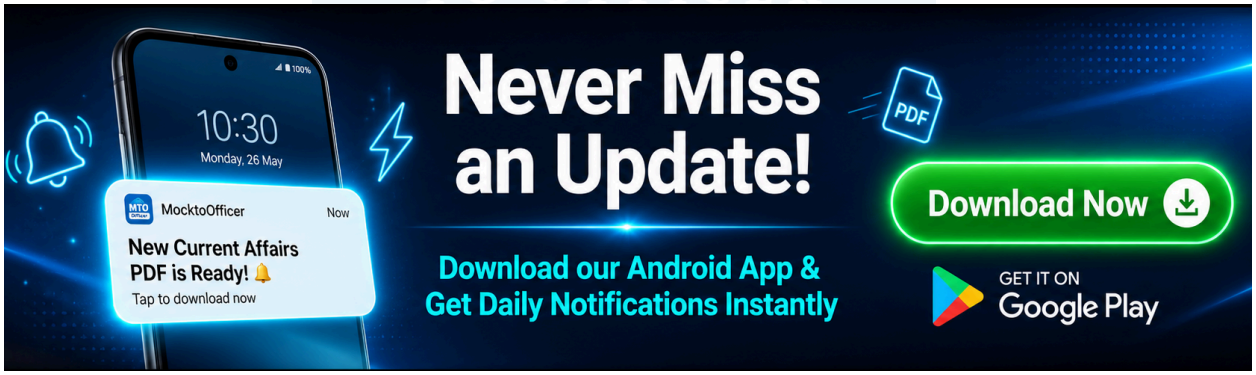
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PIB News

News Title: Cabinet Approves Hike in EPFO Wage Ceiling to ₹25,000 to Expand Statutory Social Security

Exam Radar: Critical for Civil Services GS-III (Labor Reforms, EPFO & Social Security), RBI Grade B, and Financial Awareness — focuses on the EPF Act framework, mandatory social security coverage, wage thresholds, and fiscal outlays.

News in One Liner

The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to raise the mandatory statutory wage ceiling under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 per month effective September 17, 2026.

Detailed News

- Union Minister of Labour & Employment Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya announced that the Cabinet approved enhancing the statutory EPF wage limit from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 per month, taking effect on Vishwakarma Jayanti (17 September 2026).
- The wage ceiling had remained unrevised since September 2014, despite continuous increases in minimum wage structures, base salaries, and overall living costs across industrial sectors.
- Employees earning between ₹15,000 and ₹25,000 per month will now automatically fall under mandatory coverage, receiving statutory benefits across EPF, Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), and Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI).
- The step is projected to significantly accelerate formalization in the labor market, strengthen financial security for entry-level and formal workers, and boost long-term retention for employers.
- The annual government outgo toward the mandatory pension contribution will increase to ~₹11,339 crore, totaling an estimated expenditure of ₹56,696 crore over the next five years.

Connect the Dots:

- Direct execution of broader labor market reforms under the consolidated **Social Security Code, 2020**.
- Widens the formal financial inclusion safety net by locking retirement savings into formal, long-term interest-bearing debt instruments.
- Expands liquidity and corpus size for the EPFO to invest in government securities and infrastructure debt assets.

Static Points Related to News

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● **EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation):** Statutory body under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, established under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.
● **EPS-95 Contribution:** Employers contribute 12% of basic wage, out of which 8.33% goes toward the Pension Scheme (EPS) and 3.67% toward Provident Fund (EPF). The Central Government subsidizes 1.16% of the wage towards EPS.
● **EDLI Scheme:** Provides life insurance coverage up to ₹7 lakh to the families of EPFO subscribers in the event of death during service.

Points to Remember
● New Wage Ceiling: ₹25,000 per month (Up from ₹15,000 per month).
● Effective Date: 17 September 2026.
● 5-Year Estimated Outlay: ₹56,696 Crore.

News Title: Government Exempts Export Consignments Up to ₹3 Lakh from RCMC Requirement

Exam Radar: Essential for Civil Services GS-III (External Trade & Foreign Trade Policy), RBI Grade B, and Commerce Exams — covers Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 amendments, de minimis exemptions, and MSME export facilitation.

News in One Liner
The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) amended the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023 to introduce a *de minimis* exemption from obtaining a Registration-cum-Membership Certificate (RCMC) for export consignments up to ₹3 lakh.

Detailed News
● The Ministry of Commerce and Industry eased regulatory hurdles for small-scale and first-time exporters by waiving the RCMC requirement for low-value foreign shipments.
● Paragraph 2.57 of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), 2023 was officially amended to state that export consignments with a Free-on-Board (FOB) value of up to ₹3 lakh will no longer require an RCMC or Certificate of Registration.
● The measure aims to lower compliance costs and eliminate administrative friction for MSMEs, individual artisans, and small sellers exporting via postal, courier, and e-commerce channels.
● Consignments exceeding the ₹3 lakh FOB threshold will continue to mandate a valid RCMC issued by the relevant Export Promotion Council (EPC) or Commodity Board.

Connect the Dots:

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● Supports the **E-Commerce Export Hubs (ECEH)** framework and cross-border postal trade facilitation.
● Removes upfront cost barriers for small-scale rural artisans onboarded onto platforms like PM Vishwakarma and ONDC.
● Contributes directly to the national objective of boosting MSME participation in overall merchandise exports to reach $2 Trillion in total trade by 2030.

Static Points Related to News
● **RCMC (Registration-cum-Membership Certificate):** A certificate issued by Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) or Commodity Boards verifying that an exporter is registered with the respective body.
● **DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade):** Attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry responsible for formulating and implementing India's Foreign Trade Policy.
● **Free-on-Board (FOB):** A trade term indicating that the price includes all costs up to loading goods onto the export vessel/aircraft.

Points to Remember
● Exemption Limit: Consignments up to ₹3 Lakh (FOB Value).
● Policy Target: Paragraph 2.57 of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), 2023.
● Key Beneficiaries: MSMEs, e-commerce, postal, and micro-exporters.

News Title: Ministry of Home Affairs Declares Shahzad Bhatti Network as a Terrorist Organization under UAPA

Exam Radar: High priority for Civil Services GS-III (Internal Security, Anti-Terrorism Laws & UAPA Framework), State PSCs, and Defence Exams — covers Schedule 1 of UAPA, cross-border crime syndicates, and counter-terrorism measures.

News in One Liner
The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) designated the "Shahzad Bhatti Network" as a banned terrorist organization under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for cross-border arms smuggling and radicalization activities.

Detailed News
● Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the banning of the Shahzad Bhatti Network under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), citing the government's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism.
● Official notifications confirm the group's involvement in organized cross-border smuggling of illegal firearms, ammunition, military-grade explosives, and narcotics into Indian territory.

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● The network was found actively targeting India's democratic setup and social harmony by weaponizing digital platforms to distribute radical propaganda and recruit vulnerable youths and petty criminals into terror operations.
● The ban empowers law enforcement, police, and counter-terror agencies (such as the NIA) to seize assets, freeze funding channels, and prosecute members associated with the syndicate.

Connect the Dots:
● Combats the growing threat of **Narco-Terrorism** and illegal arms networks operating across international borders (specifically northern and western transit corridors).
● Reflects the government's shift toward dismantling organized crime syndicates that function as proxies for state and non-state hostile actors.
● Demonstrates strict enforcement of digital content oversight under internal security and counter-radicalization mandates.

Static Points Related to News
● **UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act), 1967:** India's primary anti-terrorism legislation empowering the Central Government to declare associations as "Unlawful" or "Terrorist Organizations" (listed under the First Schedule).
● **2019 UAPA Amendment:** Empowered the Central Government to designate individual actors as "Terrorists" alongside organizations.
● **NIA (National Investigation Agency):** Central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency established under the NIA Act, 2008.

Points to Remember
● Organization Banned: Shahzad Bhatti Network.
● Governing Law: Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967.
● Core Charges: Arms & narcotics smuggling, radicalization of youth, and anti-national propaganda.

News Title: PM Vishwakarma Completes Three Years; Over 30 Lakh Artisans Registered Under Flagship Scheme

Exam Radar: Critical for Civil Services GS-II (Welfare Schemes & Inclusion), GS-III (MSME & Skilling Ecosystems), and State PSCs — covers scheme components, credit access, door-step toolkits, and MSME support infrastructure.

News in One Liner

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The Ministry of MSME celebrated the 3rd anniversary of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme on September 17, 2026, revealing that over 30 lakh traditional artisans have been registered, achieving its 5-year target two years ahead of schedule.

Detailed News

- The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises organized the 3rd-anniversary event of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme at Kolkata, West Bengal, marking three years since its launch on September 17, 2023.
- The scheme has crossed its core 5-year benchmark by registering over 30 lakh traditional craftspeople and artisans across 18 identified traditional trades (including carpenters, potters, cobblers, and blacksmiths).
- Under the credit support component, over 6.18 lakh Vishwakarmas have received collateral-free loans up to ₹1 lakh (1st tranche) at a concessional interest rate of 5% per annum, totaling ₹5,297 crore in disbursements.
- Over 18.15 lakh modern toolkit e-vouchers/incentives have been delivered directly through India Post to upgrade traditional manual tools to modern equipment.
- West Bengal officially joined the scheme implementation framework in May 2026, further expanding its national reach.

Connect the Dots:

- Formalizes the informal traditional artisan economy, integrating caste-linked hereditary trades into mainstream banking and credit channels.
- Integrates traditional craftsmanship with modern market channels via e-commerce onboarding and National NCVT skill certifications.
- Implemented via multi-ministerial convergence involving MoMSME (Nodal), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and the Department of Financial Services (DFS).

Static Points Related to News

- **Launch Date:** September 17, 2023 (Vishwakarma Jayanti).
- **Financial Outlay:** ₹13,000 crore fully funded by the Central Government for FY 2023-24 to FY 2027-28.
- **Trades Covered:** 18 traditional trades working with hands and tools.
- **Credit Structure:** Collateral-free loans — ₹1 Lakh (1st Tranche) and ₹2 Lakh (2nd Tranche) at 5% interest rate (with interest subvention of 8% paid by GoI).

Points to Remember

- Scheme Benchmark: 30 Lakh artisans registered (5-year target met in 3 years).
- Credit Sanctioned: ₹5,297 Crore distributed to 6.18 Lakh beneficiaries.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME).

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News Title: India Reaffirms Commitment to Ozone Layer Protection and Climate Action at 32nd World Ozone Day in Mumbai

Exam Radar: Relevant for Civil Services GS-III (Environment, Ecology & Climate Change), State PSCs, and SSC CGL — focuses on the Montreal Protocol, Kigali Amendment, ozone-depleting substances (ODS) phase-out, and the Net Zero portal.

News in One Liner

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) organized the 32nd World Ozone Day national event in Mumbai under the theme *"Global Action for a Cooler Planet"*, launching a voluntary Net Zero portal and an RAC skill development initiative.

Detailed News

- Union Minister of State for Environment Kirti Vardhan Singh presided over the national celebration of World Ozone Day in Mumbai alongside Maharashtra State Environment Minister Pankaja Munde.
- The Ministry announced the launch of the **Net Zero Portal**, a central repository to coordinate, track, and showcase voluntary corporate and organizational progress toward net-zero emissions.
- Under a new institutional framework, 12 Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning (RAC) manufacturers signed a 4-party Memorandum of Agreement to adopt 248 Industrial Training Institutions (ITIs) to upgrade skill standards for cooling technicians.
- Citizens were urged to adopt three sustainable cooling habits: regular servicing by certified technicians, maintaining AC settings at 24°C to save power, and buying energy-efficient high-star-rated appliances.
- India reaffirmed its historical compliance with the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol, having consistently met phase-out targets for Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) ahead of international schedules.

Connect the Dots:

- Direct execution of India's commitments under the **Kigali Amendment** to the Montreal Protocol, aiming for a phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).
- Synergizes climate goals with the **India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)** to reduce cooling demand by 20–25% across sectors by 2037–38.
- Aligns technical skilling initiatives with the **Skill India Mission** by bridging classroom curriculum in ITIs with green industry standards.

Static Points Related to News

- **World Ozone Day:** Observed annually on September 16 to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol in 1987.

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● **Montreal Protocol (1987):** A landmark global treaty designed to phase out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances; India became a Party in 1992.
● **Ozone Cell:** The dedicated nodal unit established within MoEF&CC to oversee the implementation of the Montreal Protocol in India.

Points to Remember
● Event Theme: *"Global Action for a Cooler Planet"*.
● Key Launch: Central **Net Zero Portal** for voluntary corporate tracking.
● Skilling Partnership: 12 RAC manufacturers adopting 248 ITIs.

News Title: NITI Aayog Launches 9th Edition of "Trade Watch Quarterly" Focusing on Metals and Ores

Exam Radar: Critical for Civil Services GS-III (Indian Economy, Foreign Trade & Strategic Minerals), RBI Grade B, and Financial Awareness — covers critical minerals, non-ferrous metals, Digitally Delivered Services (DDS), and trade competitiveness.

News in One Liner
NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri released the 9th edition of *Trade Watch Quarterly* (Q1 FY27), highlighting India's rising rank in Digitally Delivered Services (DDS) and focusing thematic analysis on the strategic metals and ores trade.

Detailed News
● NITI Aayog published the 9th edition of its *Trade Watch Quarterly* report for Q1 FY27 (Apr–Jun 2026) to assess macroeconomic trade trends amidst ongoing global trade policy uncertainties.
● **Thematic Focus:** Analyzed India's *Metals and Ores Trade*, noting that metals exports reached $34.8 billion in 2025 (dominated by iron, steel, and aluminum, which account for ~78% of metal exports).
● **Strategic Imports:** Metals and ores imports grew from $32.2 billion in 2015 to $60.5 billion in 2025, driven by surging domestic demand for strategic energy-transition minerals such as copper, lithium, cobalt, and nickel.
● **Services Benchmark:** India emerged as the **4th-largest exporter of Digitally Delivered Services (DDS)** globally (behind US, UK, and Ireland), with DDS exports jumping from $277 billion in 2024 to $317 billion in 2025.
● The report urges deeper integration with regional value chains and market diversification to cushion against supply chain shocks.

Connect the Dots:

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● Feeds directly into the objectives of the **National Critical Minerals Mission** to reduce import dependencies for electric mobility and clean energy manufacturing.
● Highlights structural shifts in India's export mix from physical commodities to high-value digital and technology-enabled service deliveries.
● Supports policy planning under the National Steel Policy 2017 and industrial value-addition programs.

Static Points Related to News
● **NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India):** Premier public policy think tank of the Government of India, established on January 1, 2015, replacing the Planning Commission.
● **Digitally Delivered Services (DDS):** Services delivered remotely over computer networks, including software, financial services, consulting, and professional business services.
● **Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog:** Appointed by the Prime Minister; holds the cabinet rank.

Points to Remember
● Global DDS Rank: India is now the **4th-largest DDS exporter** ($317 billion in 2025).
● Thematic Focus: Metals and Ores Trade (Import rise to $60.5 billion driven by critical minerals).
● Publishing Body: NITI Aayog.

News Title: NITI Aayog Releases 2nd Edition of India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI); EV Policies Notified Across 29 States

Exam Radar: High priority for Civil Services GS-III (Infrastructure, E-Mobility & State Level Reforms), State PSCs, and SSC CGL — covers IEMI scoring, state EV policy benchmarks, and PM E-DRIVE financial allocations.

News in One Liner
Former Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba launched the second edition of the *India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI)* during a NITI Aayog workshop, calling electric mobility a strategic imperative for *Viksit Bharat*.

Detailed News
● NITI Aayog organized a national workshop on State EV Policies and launched the 2nd edition of the **India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI)** report.
● **State Progress:** 29 out of 36 States and Union Territories have formally notified dedicated EV policies; IEMI evaluation scores showed broad improvement, with the highest state score rising from 77 to 84 and the median state score rising from 36 to 40.

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● **Central Allocation:** Highlighted cumulative central government budgetary support exceeding **₹92,000 crore** across key transport initiatives, including FAME, PM E-DRIVE, PM-eBus Sewa, and two Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes (Automobiles & ACC Batteries).
● **Economic Anchor:** Emphasized that the broader automotive sector currently contributes ~7.1% to India's GDP and supports nearly 1.9 crore direct and indirect jobs.
● States were advised to prioritize public transport electrification in key urban centers, improve spatially distributed charging networks, and leverage differing state industrial bases to foster cross-learning.

Connect the Dots:
● Direct link to decarbonizing the transport sector to fulfill India's COP26 *Panchamrit* commitment of reducing economy-wide carbon intensity by 45% by 2030.
● Accelerates urban air quality management efforts under the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** by curbing tailpipe emissions.
● Mitigates macro-fiscal risks associated with crude oil import volatility triggered by geopolitical crises in West Asia.

Static Points Related to News
● **IEMI (India Electric Mobility Index):** Developed by NITI Aayog to rank and evaluate States/UTs on EV adoption, charging infrastructure readiness, and policy incentives.
● **PM E-DRIVE Scheme:** Flagship mobility scheme replacing FAME-II to incentivize electric 2W, 3W, e-buses, and charging stations.
● **ACC PLI Scheme:** Targetting 50 GWh manufacturing capacity of Advanced Chemistry Cell batteries to reduce reliance on imported battery packs.

Points to Remember
● State Policy Adoption: 29 out of 36 States/UTs have notified EV policies.
● Total Central Support Pool: Over ₹92,000 Crore across EV/PLI/Bus schemes.
● Automotive Sector GDP Contribution: ~7.1% of national GDP (1.9 crore jobs).

News Title: CBIC Commemorates 10 Years of India's Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Programme

Exam Radar: Essential for Civil Services GS-III (External Trade, Customs Administration & Trade Facilitation), RBI Grade B, and Commerce Exams — covers WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), AEO tiering (T1, T2, T3), and Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs).

News in One Liner

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The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) commemorated ten years of India's modernized Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme, outlining initiatives to expand global supply chain security.

Detailed News

- CBIC celebrated a decade of the revamped Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) framework introduced under the World Customs Organization (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards.
- The AEO program grants compliant economic entities (importers, exporters, logistics providers, and customs brokers) operational benefits, including deferred duty payment, direct port delivery (DPD), and faster customs clearance.
- Over the past decade, India's AEO footprint expanded into a three-tier system (AEO-T1, AEO-T2, AEO-T3 for traders, alongside AEO-LO for logistics operators).
- CBIC emphasized scaling bilateral **Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)** with partner nations to ensure Indian AEO-certified exporters enjoy reciprocal fast-track clearances at foreign customs borders.
- Digitization reforms on the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE) have automated AEO application processing, drastically reducing approval timelines.

Connect the Dots:

- Fulfills India's statutory commitments under the World Trade Organization (WTO) **Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)**.
- Enhances the country's ranking on international trade benchmarks, such as the World Bank's *Logistics Performance Index (LPI)*.
- Complements domestic ease-of-doing-business measures like *Turant Customs* and contactless assessment modules.

Static Points Related to News

- **CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs):** Statutory body under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, responsible for formulating customs, GST, and central excise policies.
- **AEO Tiering:** AEO-T1 (Documentary verification), AEO-T2 (Physical verification of premises), AEO-T3 (Highest tier held for continuous compliance over 2–5 years).
- **SAFE Framework:** Global guidelines established by the World Customs Organization (WCO) in 2005 to secure and facilitate global trade.

Points to Remember

- Administering Body: Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- Decadal Milestone: 10 years of India's modernized AEO program.
- Core Benefit: Fast-track customs clearances, deferred duty payments, and global MRA benefits.

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News Title: India Outlines Clean Energy Progress and Baseload Priorities at G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial

Exam Radar: Relevant for Civil Services GS-III (Energy Sector, Climate Change & Global Forums), State PSCs, and SSC CGL — focuses on G20 energy frameworks, India's non-fossil capacity benchmarks, nuclear baseload, and global clean energy access.

News in One Liner

Union Minister for Power Shri Manohar Lal participated in the G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial, highlighting India's achievement of crossing 552 GW total installed capacity and maintaining over 50% non-fossil power share.

Detailed News

- Minister for Power Shri Manohar Lal represented India at the G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial, reiterating India's strategic push toward secure, resilient, and sustainable power ecosystems.
- India showcased key operational milestones: reaching **552 GW of total installed capacity**, with non-fossil fuel capacity exceeding 50% well ahead of its original 2030 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) timelines.
- The address emphasized expanding clean baseload power—particularly nuclear energy, pumped storage hydro projects, and grid-scale battery storage—to support high variable solar/wind penetration.
- Reaffirmed India’s international commitments under Mission Innovation and Global Biofuels Alliance to scale up emerging technologies, green hydrogen, and universal clean cooking access across the Global South.

Connect the Dots:

- Direct fulfillment of India's updated Panchamrit climate goals presented at COP26 and Paris Agreement targets.
- Links domestic energy transitions (e.g., PM-KUSUM, PM Surya Ghar) to multilateral G20 climate and energy governance platforms.
- Balances the transition toward intermittent renewables with baseline power stability from nuclear and storage projects.

Static Points Related to News

- **G20 Energy Transitions Working Group (ETWG):** Focuses on global energy security, universal access, financing green transitions, and technology transfers.
- **NDC Target:** India committed to achieving 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

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● **Ministry of Power:** Nodal Union Ministry overseeing power generation, transmission, and grid infrastructure in India.

Points to Remember
● Forum: G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial.
● National Installed Capacity Milestone: 552 GW (Over 50% non-fossil share).
● Strategic Priorities: Baseload expansion (nuclear, pumped hydro, storage) and green hydrogen.

News Title: Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth Embarks on Official Visit to Russia

Exam Radar: Critical for Civil Services GS-II (Bilateral Relations, India-Russia Defence Strategic Ties) and Defence Exams — covers military diplomacy, joint defense equipment servicing, and Army-to-Army institutional exchanges.

News in One Liner
Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Dhiraj Seth began an official visit to Russia to strengthen military-to-military engagement, defence industrial ties, and military diplomacy.

Detailed News
● Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth embarked on an official visit to the Russian Federation to review and advance India–Russia military-to-military engagement.
● The itinerary includes high-level discussions with senior leadership of the Russian Armed Forces to deepen bilateral defense cooperation and strategic partnership frameworks.
● As part of the itinerary, General Seth will visit the prestigious Mikhailovskaya Military Artillery Academy in Saint Petersburg to interact with faculty, leadership, and military strategists.
● The visit reinforces the enduring bilateral defense relationship, emphasizing sustained technical cooperation, military diplomacy, and maintenance/supply chain integration for defense hardware.

Connect the Dots:
● Complements high-level bilateral summits between Indian and Russian leadership regarding defense supply chain resilience.
● Essential for maintaining operational readiness of legacy and modernized military hardware (such as T-90 tanks, S-400 systems, and AK-203 rifles).
● Demonstrates strategic balance in India's global military diplomacy alongside defense engagements with Western and Indo-Pacific partners.

Static Points Related to News
● **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS):** Operational head of the Indian Army; holds the rank of General.

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● **India-Russia Military Co-Operation:** Governed under the Agreement on Military-Technical Cooperation framework.
● **Joint Defence Ventures:** Includes BrahMos Aerospace and Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) at Amethi for AK-203 manufacturing.

Points to Remember
● Dignitary: COAS General Dhiraj Seth.
● Key Destination: Moscow and Saint Petersburg (Mikhailovskaya Military Artillery Academy).
● Strategic Mandate: Army-to-Army engagement and strengthening India-Russia defense ties.

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Industry News

News Title: Reserve Bank of India Reports Current Account Deficit Widening to Seven Billion Dollars in July Two Thousand Twenty Six

Exam Radar: Likely to be tested in Banking Mains General Awareness and Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level Economics — expect a direct conceptual or numerical question on India's current account balance and merchandise trade gap.

News in One Liner: India recorded a current account deficit of seven billion dollars in July two thousand twenty six as merchandise imports outpaced exports despite growth in net services receipts and overseas remittances.

Detailed News
●The Reserve Bank of India released preliminary balance of payments data showing that India's current account deficit expanded to seven billion dollars in July two thousand twenty six compared to three point two billion dollars in July two thousand twenty five.
●An expanding merchandise trade deficit served as the primary driver behind the widening gap, with goods imports rising to seventy-six point eight billion dollars against goods exports of forty-five point one billion dollars.
●Cumulative figures for the April to July two thousand twenty six period show a current account deficit of eleven point two billion dollars, up from six point six billion dollars recorded during the same four-month period in the previous year.
●Net receipts from services exports provided partial support to the external balance, rising to seventeen point six billion dollars in July from sixteen point four billion dollars a year earlier.

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●Private transfer receipts representing overseas remittances increased to thirteen point two billion dollars in July two thousand twenty six compared to twelve point six billion dollars in July two thousand twenty five.
●Net investment income outflows widened to six point one billion dollars during the month from four billion dollars in the corresponding month of the prior year.
●Net capital account balance witnessed a substantial increase to twenty-seven point seven billion dollars in July two thousand twenty six from three point five billion dollars a year ago, driven by non-resident Indian deposits and foreign direct investment.
●Overall balance of payments registered a surplus of twenty point eight billion dollars for July two thousand twenty six, expanding significantly from zero point three billion dollars recorded in July two thousand twenty five.

Connect the Dots: This current account performance is worth reviewing alongside the Reserve Bank of India's quarterly balance of payments releases, as examiners frequently test the distinction between current account movements and overall balance of payments surpluses.

Static Points Related to News
●The Reserve Bank of India is India's central banking institution, established on April one, nineteen thirty-five, under the Reserve Bank of India Act, nineteen thirty-four, and headquartered in Mumbai.
●The current account measures a nation's net trade in goods and services along with net earnings on cross-border investments and net transfer payments.
●Foreign direct investment represents long-term capital inflow where an entity based in one country acquires a lasting interest or control in an enterprise based in another country.
●Balance of payments is a systematic statistical statement summarizing economic transactions between residents of a country and the rest of the world over a specified period.

Points to Remember
●The total current account deficit recorded by India in July two thousand twenty six stood at seven billion dollars.
●The monthly merchandise trade deficit expanded to thirty-one point seven billion dollars in July two thousand twenty six.
●Net capital account balance for the month of July two thousand twenty six reached twenty-seven point seven billion dollars.
●The overall balance of payments surplus for July two thousand twenty six reached twenty point eight billion dollars.

News Title: Directorate General of Foreign Trade Approves Six Hundred Forty Two United Kingdom Car Imports Under Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

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Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level Foreign Trade Policy, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect a direct conceptual or operational question on tariff rate quotas and bilateral trade agreements.

News in One Liner: The Directorate General of Foreign Trade approved the import of six hundred forty two cars from the United Kingdom under concessional duty tariff rate quotas provided in the India United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.

Detailed News

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade cleared applications from seven companies to allocate import quotas for six hundred forty two vehicles from the United Kingdom under the tariff rate quota mechanism.
- This allocation marks the initial phase of vehicle quota distribution under the India United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, which entered into force on July fifteen, two thousand twenty six.
- Under the agreement framework, India permits the import of up to three hundred seventy-eight thousand conventional-engine passenger vehicles from the United Kingdom at concessional customs duties over a fifteen-year period.
- For the first year, the agreement establishes a quota of twenty thousand internal-combustion-engine passenger cars divided across distinct engine-displacement brackets.
- Applicable customs duties for high-displacement petrol and diesel models within the quota drop from a peak of one hundred ten percent down to thirty percent.
- Eligibility to apply for preferential tariff quotas was restricted exclusively to original equipment manufacturers or their authorized dealers holding valid certificates of origin.

Connect the Dots: This tariff-rate allocation pairs with India's ongoing bilateral free trade agreement implementations, such as the recently ratified India New Zealand trade pact, which examiners frequently highlight when testing tariff concession structures versus domestic industrial protections.

Static Points Related to News

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry responsible for formulating and implementing India's foreign trade policy.
- A Tariff Rate Quota allows a specified quantity of a product to be imported at a lower or zero customs duty rate while charging a higher tariff on imports outside the quota.
- The United Kingdom is a sovereign nation in northwestern Europe comprising England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, with its capital located at London.

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Points to Remember

●The total number of United Kingdom cars approved for import under the quota stands at six hundred forty two units.
●The reduced customs duty rate for high-capacity engine vehicles within the first-year quota is thirty percent.
●The effective date of implementation for the India United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement was July fifteen, two thousand twenty six.

News Title: Ministry of Commerce and Industry Reports India Exports to United States Reaching Fastest Growth in Nine Months

Exam Radar: Highly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness and Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level Economics — expect questions on export growth trends, trade balance dynamics, and bilateral trade statistics between India and the United States.

News in One Liner: India recorded its fastest export growth to the United States in nine months as outbound shipments increased significantly despite changing international tariff structures.

Detailed News

●Data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed that India's merchandise exports to the United States registered their strongest monthly growth rate in nine months.
●Outbound shipments to the United States increased to nearly seven billion dollars during the recorded month, reflecting a sharp month-on-month recovery led by engineering goods and electronics.
●Exporters adapted to global tariff adjustments and supply chain realignments, maintaining steady growth across critical manufacturing sectors.
●Strong performance in key export categories including pharmaceutical products, chemical goods, and textile shipments contributed to the overall trade rebound.
●India's trade deficit with major international trade partners narrowed during the period, supported by reduced gold imports and lower global petroleum prices.

Connect the Dots: This export surge connects to India's broader trade policy strategies, where competitive market diversification and bilateral trade negotiations help offset international tariff pressures and stabilize current account receipts.

Static Points Related to News

●The United States of America is a federal republic located in North America, with its capital situated at Washington, D.C.

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●Merchandise exports refer to physical manufactured goods, agricultural products, and raw materials shipped out of a country to foreign destinations.
●The Ministry of Commerce and Industry serves as the apex executive government body overseeing domestic commerce, industrial development, and foreign trade policy in India.

Points to Remember
●The total value of Indian merchandise exports to the United States during the month reached nearly seven billion dollars.
●The engineering goods and electronics sectors emerged as primary drivers behind the rapid growth in exports.
●A reduction in gold imports and softening global oil prices helped narrow the broader trade gap.

News Title: Parliament of New Zealand Passes Legislation to Implement Landmark Free Trade Agreement with India

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level Foreign Trade Policy, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect a direct operational or conceptual question on bilateral free trade agreements and duty-free tariff coverage.

News in One Liner: New Zealand's Parliament passed enabling legislation by a vote of ninety-three to twenty-nine to implement its landmark Free Trade Agreement with India.

Detailed News
●The Parliament of New Zealand officially passed legislation to implement the bilateral Free Trade Agreement signed with India, securing a final parliamentary vote of ninety-three in favor and twenty-nine against.
●Under the terms of the trade pact, New Zealand guarantees immediate duty-free market access covering one hundred percent of Indian tariff lines upon operationalization.
●India offers tariff liberalization across seventy percent of its tariff lines, providing total tariff elimination or substantial tariff reductions on ninety-five percent of New Zealand's export value.
●Immediate duty-free status applies to fifty-seven percent of New Zealand exports starting from day one of implementation, while sensitive domestic Indian sectors like dairy remain fully excluded from concessions.
●New Zealand commits to facilitating twenty billion United States dollars in foreign direct investment into India over a fifteen-year period focusing on infrastructure and manufacturing.
●A dedicated visa pathway permits an annual quota of five thousand skilled Indian professionals, including information technology workers, healthcare experts, and instructors, to reside and work in New Zealand for up to three years.

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●Bilateral two-way trade between the two nations reached two point two nine billion United States dollars in the year ending June two thousand twenty six, with both governments aiming to double total trade by two thousand thirty.

Connect the Dots: This trade deal pairs with India's expanding network of bilateral economic partnerships, such as the India United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, which examiners frequently highlight to test candidate knowledge on bilateral tariff quota structures versus excluded sensitive domestic industries.

Static Points Related to News

●New Zealand is an island country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean with its official national capital situated at Wellington.
●A Free Trade Agreement is a treaty between two or more countries designed to reduce or eliminate barriers, tariffs, and import quotas on international trade in goods and services.
●The Ministry of Commerce and Industry serves as the apex executive ministry of the Government of India responsible for formulating and administering foreign trade policies and bilateral trade agreements.

Points to Remember

●The investment commitment pledged by New Zealand to India over fifteen years stands at twenty billion United States dollars.
●The percentage of tariff lines granted complete duty-free access by New Zealand for Indian goods is one hundred percent.
●The annual quota established for skilled Indian professionals under the temporary employment visa pathway is five thousand visas.

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Financial News

News Title: Reserve Bank of India Absorbs Three Point Nine Three Trillion Rupees Through Variable Rate Reverse Repo Auction

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness and Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level Economics — expect a direct operational or conceptual question on liquidity adjustment facility tools and reverse repo mechanisms.

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News in One Liner: The Reserve Bank of India absorbed three point nine three trillion rupees from the banking system via a variable rate reverse repo auction to manage surplus liquidity.

Detailed News

●The Reserve Bank of India absorbed three lakh ninety-three thousand three hundred fifty-two crore rupees from the banking system through a variable rate reverse repo auction against a notified amount of five lakh crore rupees.
●Bids submitted by commercial banks matched the total absorbed amount of three lakh ninety-three thousand three hundred fifty-two crore rupees, which the central bank accepted at a cut-off and weighted average rate of five point two four percent.
●Surplus liquidity in the domestic banking system reached an estimated ten lakh seventy-three thousand crore rupees prior to the central bank intervention.
●The Reserve Bank of India conducted multiple variable rate reverse repo auctions over the month to align overnight money market rates closer to the policy repo rate.
●Complementing liquidity absorption operations, the central bank announced open market operation sales of government securities totaling one lakh crore rupees across three distinct tranches.

Connect the Dots: This liquidity management operation aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's ongoing monetary policy stance, where liquidity adjustment facility tools are routinely adjusted to prevent overnight interbank call money rates from drifting away from the benchmark repo rate.

Static Points Related to News

●The Reserve Bank of India is the central banking authority of India, established on April one, nineteen thirty-five, under the Reserve Bank of India Act, nineteen thirty-four, and headquartered in Mumbai.
●Variable Rate Reverse Repo is a monetary policy instrument used by the Reserve Bank of India to drain excess short-term liquidity from the banking system at market-determined interest rates.
●Open Market Operations refer to the sale or purchase of government securities in the open market by the central bank to regulate money supply.

Points to Remember

●The total amount absorbed by the Reserve Bank of India through the variable rate reverse repo auction was three lakh ninety-three thousand three hundred fifty-two crore rupees.
●The weighted average rate and cut-off yield established at the reverse repo auction stood at five point two four percent.
●The total notified amount set by the central bank for the variable rate reverse repo auction was five lakh crore rupees.

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News Title: National Payments Corporation of India Imposes Point Four Percent Fee on High Value Unified Payments Interface Merchant Transactions

Exam Radar: Highly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level Economics, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect a direct conceptual question on merchant discount rate structures and digital payment frameworks.

News in One Liner: The National Payments Corporation of India introduced a point four percent merchant discount rate on Unified Payments Interface commercial payments exceeding two thousand rupees effective October fifteen.

Detailed News

●The National Payments Corporation of India announced a revised Merchant Discount Rate framework introducing a point four percent charge on Person-to-Merchant Unified Payments Interface transactions exceeding two thousand rupees, effective October fifteen, two thousand twenty-six.
●The framework maintains zero charges for all Person-to-Person money transfers and keeps low-value merchant payments up to two thousand rupees completely exempt from any fees.
●A maximum cap of three hundred rupees per transaction has been established for the point four percent fee applicable on qualifying merchant payments.
●Approximately ninety-five percent of overall Unified Payments Interface transactions fall below the two thousand rupee threshold and remain entirely free for consumers and small merchants.
●Collected revenues from the transaction fee will be distributed among payment system participants to fund technology infrastructure, cybersecurity enhancements, and network expansion.
●The Reserve Bank of India endorsed the revised fee structure as an essential policy measure to support long-term operational resilience and investment in digital payments infrastructure.

Connect the Dots: This regulatory update on payment transaction fees complements earlier financial sector guidelines on digital banking services, which examiners routinely test to evaluate candidate understanding of retail payment clearing houses and merchant acquisition models.

Static Points Related to News

●The National Payments Corporation of India is an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, founded in two thousand eight under the guidance of the Reserve Bank of India and Indian Banks' Association.
●Unified Payments Interface is an instant real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India to facilitate inter-bank peer-to-peer and person-to-merchant transactions.

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●Merchant Discount Rate is the processing fee charged to merchants by acquiring banks and payment service providers for accepting payments through digital channels.

Points to Remember

●The newly set Merchant Discount Rate for Unified Payments Interface merchant transactions above two thousand rupees is point four percent.
●The upper ceiling cap placed on individual transaction charges under the revised rule is three hundred rupees.
●The official enforcement date for the new Unified Payments Interface fee framework is October fifteen, two thousand twenty-six.

News Title: Enforcement Directorate Identifies Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Frauds and Haircuts as Key Investigation Areas

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level, and Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission exams — expect a direct conceptual question on the legal clash between financial recovery laws and anti-money laundering enforcement powers.

News in One Liner: The Enforcement Directorate declared insolvency resolution frauds, promoter asset buybacks, and excessive creditor haircuts as top operational priority focus areas.

Detailed News

●The Enforcement Directorate identified malpractices within the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code framework, including disproportionate creditor haircuts and collusive promoter asset re-acquisitions, as core thrust areas during its quarterly conference.
●Official reviews revealed recurring fraudulent activities, including circumvention of Section 29A disqualifications, artificial inflation of related-party claims, and manipulation of the Committee of Creditors.
●Data presented indicated that average creditor recovery under insolvency resolutions declined to twenty percent during the current fiscal year, representing the lowest annual recovery rate over a five-year period.
●The agency analyzed jurisdictional conflicts between corporate moratorium protections under Section 14 and Section 32A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code versus asset attachment powers under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
●Zonal offices received directives to acquire filings on fraudulent transactions from resolution professionals, file intervention applications before the National Company Law Tribunal, and initiate independent financial crime probes.

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●The Union Cabinet approved a organizational restructuring expanding the sanctioned staff strength of the agency from two thousand twenty-nine to three thousand two hundred fifty-six posts to accelerate investigation timelines.

Connect the Dots: This enforcement initiative links directly with banking non-performing asset resolution mechanisms, which examiners frequently test alongside debt recovery tribunals and National Company Law Tribunal jurisprudence regarding corporate debt restructuring.

Static Points Related to News

●The Enforcement Directorate is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, responsible for enforcing the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and Foreign Exchange Management Act.
●The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code was enacted in two thousand sixteen as a consolidated legal framework for time-bound insolvency resolution of corporate entities and individuals.
●The National Company Law Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body established under the Companies Act, two thousand thirteen, serving as the adjudicating authority for corporate insolvency proceedings.

Points to Remember

●The creditor recovery rate recorded under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code for the current fiscal year dropped to twenty percent.
●The newly expanded staff post strength approved for the Enforcement Directorate reached three thousand two hundred fifty-six posts.
●Section 29A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code governs the disqualification criteria preventing defaulting promoters from submitting resolution plans.

News Title: Central Board of Direct Taxes Signals Simplified Tax Compliance Framework for Mutual Fund Investors

Exam Radar: Highly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level Economics, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect questions on direct tax administrative updates, income tax return reporting modifications, and capital gains rules.

News in One Liner: The Central Board of Direct Taxes announced plans to simplify income tax compliance for mutual fund investors by reducing technical complexity in tax return forms.

Detailed News

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●The Central Board of Direct Taxes signaled structural changes to streamline the tax filing experience for retail investors, shifting regulatory focus from tracking minor transactions toward easing overall compliance.
●Redesigned Income Tax Return forms will feature simplified language, step-by-step guidance, and prominent default placement for the new direct tax regime.
●The threshold limit requiring individual taxpayers to submit detailed asset and liability disclosures was raised from fifty lakh rupees to one crore rupees.
●Capital gains reporting protocols will require distinct two-part disclosures for financial asset transactions executed before and after July twenty-three, two thousand twenty-four.
●Broader eligibility criteria will allow more taxpayers with non-complex capital gains income to utilize simplified return forms like ITR-1 and ITR-4.
●Enhanced automated matching systems will link return disclosures directly with Annual Information Statements and Goods and Services Tax databases to minimize tax notices.

Connect the Dots: This administrative tax simplification complements the overhaul under the new Income Tax Act framework, which competitive exams routinely cover under direct tax reforms, capital gains taxation brackets, and individual compliance relief measures.

Static Points Related to News
●The Central Board of Direct Taxes is a statutory body operating under the Central Board of Revenue Act, nineteen sixty-three, serving as part of the Department of Revenue within the Ministry of Finance.
●A Mutual Fund is a professionally managed investment pool that collects funds from multiple investors to purchase securities like stocks, bonds, and short-term debt instrument assets.
●Annual Information Statement is a comprehensive financial record provided to taxpayers by the Income Tax Department detailing financial transactions including dividends, interest, and stock sales.

Points to Remember
●The asset and liability disclosure net worth threshold for individual taxpayers was increased to one crore rupees.
●Capital gains transaction reporting requires separate disclosure splitting around the cutoff date of July twenty-three, two thousand twenty-four.
●The primary authority administering direct tax policy and return forms in India is the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

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National & State News

News Title: National Statistics Office Releases August Inflation Data Showing Telangana Leading Inflation Rankings for Eighth Consecutive Month

Exam Radar: Highly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level Economics, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect questions on retail price index rankings, state-wise economic trends, and National Statistics Office statistical releases.

News in One Liner: Telangana recorded the highest retail inflation rate among Indian states at six point two seven percent in August, topping national inflation tables for an eighth consecutive month.

Detailed News

●Data released by the National Statistics Office showed that Telangana recorded a combined Consumer Price Index inflation rate of six point two seven percent in August two thousand twenty-six.
●Telangana maintained its position at the top of the state-level retail inflation leaderboard for an eighth straight month, remaining in the leading position since January two thousand twenty-six.
●Rural areas in Telangana recorded the highest regional inflation reading in the country at six point seven percent, while urban inflation in the state measured five point eight eight percent.
●Tamil Nadu followed in the regional inflation rankings at five point nine two percent, with Madhya Pradesh recording five point five five percent and Andhra Pradesh registering five point five three percent.
●Surging food prices across essential commodities, including onions and ginger, served as the principal driver elevating overall headline retail inflation numbers.

Connect the Dots: This regional inflation measurement aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy framework, where persistent food price pressures directly influence national monetary policy decisions and interest rate guidance.

Static Points Related to News

●The National Statistics Office operates under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation as the primary official statistical agency in India.
●Consumer Price Index measures changes in the price level of a weighted basket of consumer goods and services purchased by households.
●Telangana is a state located in south-central India that officially attained statehood on June two, two thousand fourteen, with its capital at Hyderabad.

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Points to Remember

●The combined retail inflation rate recorded by Telangana in August stood at six point two seven percent.

●The continuous duration for which Telangana has topped the national state-level inflation chart is eight months.

●The primary official agency issuing monthly retail price index metrics in India is the National Statistics Office.

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Appointments and Resignation

News Title: Indian Police Service Officer Sanjukta Parashar Becomes First Woman to Head Central Reserve Police Force Commando Battalion for Resolute Action Unit

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level, Banking General Awareness, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect a direct factual question on military/paramilitary appointments, first-in-appointment records, and Central Reserve Police Force specialized units.

News in One Liner: Indian Police Service officer Sanjukta Parashar took charge as Inspector General of the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action unit, becoming the first woman to head the specialized jungle warfare force.

Detailed News

●Sanjukta Parashar, a two thousand six batch Indian Police Service officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, assumed operational command as Inspector General of the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action unit within the Central Reserve Police Force.

●The Ministry of Home Affairs issued the central deputation orders appointing Parashar to lead the ten-battalion elite operational force, succeeding Danesh Rana.

●Parashar achieved prominent field recognition for leading counter-insurgency operations against militant groups in the dense forest regions of Assam.

●Prior to this appointment, Parashar served as Deputy Inspector General in the National Investigation Agency, handling federal counter-terrorism and national security probes.

●The Commando Battalion for Resolute Action functions as a specialized counter-guerrilla and anti-Naxalite unit deployed extensively across Left Wing Extremism affected states including Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

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Connect the Dots: This historical appointment pairs with the broader institutional effort by Central Armed Police Forces to assign senior female officers to operational combat leadership roles, which competitive exams routinely test under national security and defense current affairs.

Static Points Related to News

●The Central Reserve Police Force is the largest Central Armed Police Force in India, established in nineteen thirty-nine under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
●Commando Battalion for Resolute Action was established in two thousand eight as a specialized combat force trained specifically for jungle warfare and counter-insurgency operations.
●The National Investigation Agency serves as the central counter-terrorism law enforcement agency of India under the National Investigation Agency Act, two thousand eight.

Points to Remember

●The newly appointed Inspector General leading the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action unit is Sanjukta Parashar.
●The total number of operational battalions comprising the specialized jungle warfare unit is ten battalions.
●The parent paramilitary force operating the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action unit is the Central Reserve Police Force.

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Sports News

News Title: Indian Men Cricket Team Defeats Afghanistan by Seven Wickets to Win Bilateral Twenty20 International Series

Exam Radar: Relevant for Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level General Knowledge, Banking Assistant Exams, and Regional State Exams — expect a direct factual question on recent sports series winners, player statistics, and venue details.

News in One Liner: India secured a seven-wicket win against Afghanistan at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi to take an unassailable two-zero lead in the three-match Twenty20 International series.

Detailed News

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●The Indian men's cricket team defeated Afghanistan by seven wickets in the second Twenty20 International played at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.
●Indian captain Shreyas Iyer won the toss and elected to field, restricting Afghanistan to a total of one hundred fifty-nine runs for eight wickets in twenty overs.
●Indian bowler Nitish Kumar Reddy posted the standout bowling performance of the match, taking three wickets for twenty-four runs in his spell.
●Opening batsman Sanju Samson scored fifty-seven runs off twenty-two balls, partnering with Abhishek Sharma to accumulate eighty-two runs during the six-over powerplay period.
●India reached the required target of one hundred sixty-three runs in fourteen point five overs to clinch an unassailable two-zero series lead in the three-match bilateral series.

Connect the Dots: This bilateral series outcome connects with major international sports news, where competitive exams test national squad performances, tournament hosting venues, and notable individual player records.

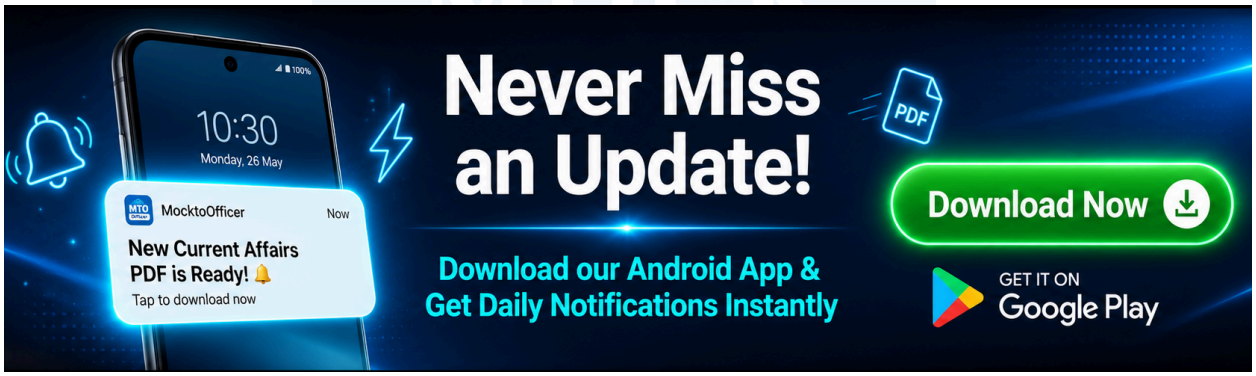
Static Points Related to News
●The Board of Control for Cricket in India is the national governing body for cricket in India, established in nineteen twenty-eight and headquartered in Mumbai.
●The Twenty20 International format is a short form of cricket played between two international teams, where each team faces a maximum of twenty overs.
●The Arun Jaitley Stadium is an international cricket venue located in New Delhi, established in eighteen eighty-three.

Points to Remember
●The host venue for the second Twenty20 International match between India and Afghanistan was the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.
●The leading wicket-taker for India in the second match was Nitish Kumar Reddy with three wickets for twenty-four runs.
●The number of overs taken by the Indian team to chase down the target of one hundred sixty runs was fourteen point five overs.

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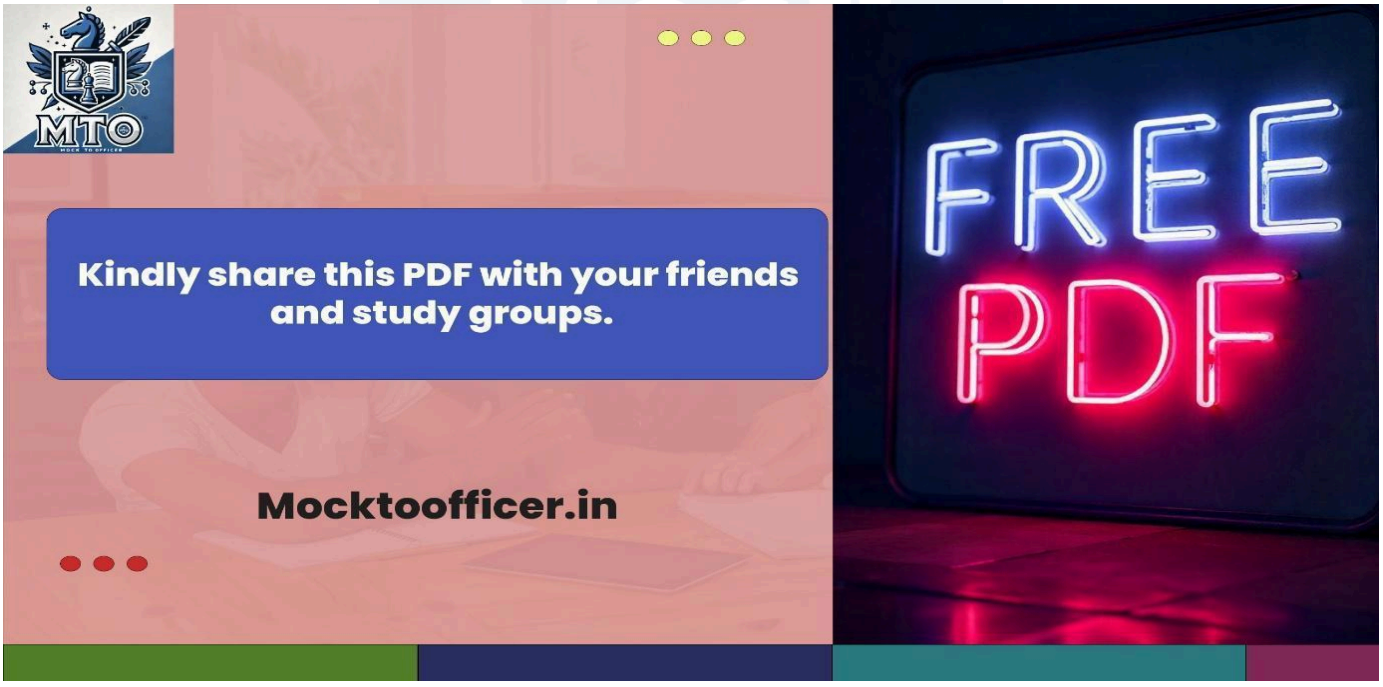
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