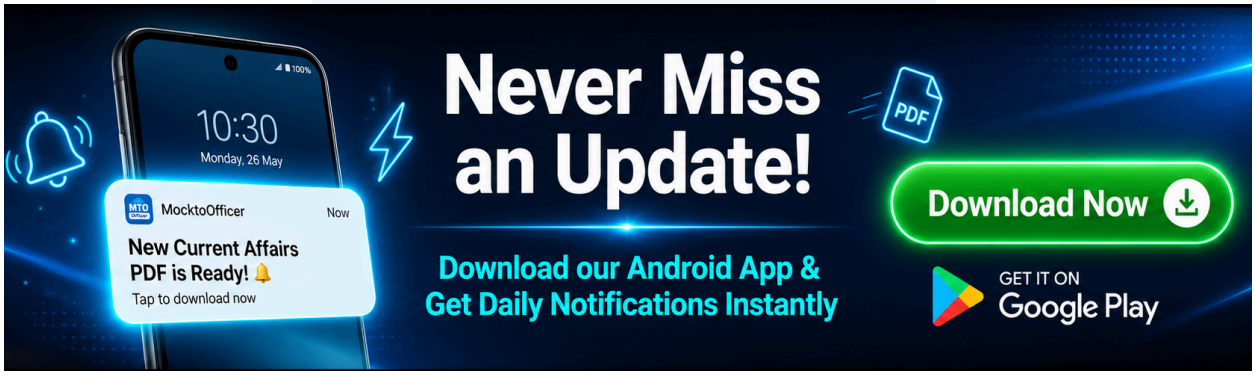
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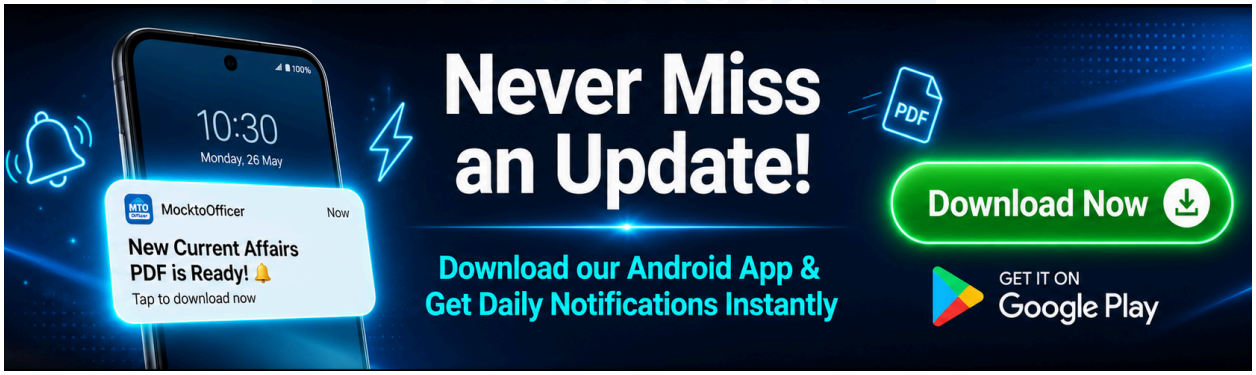
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PIB News

News Title National Steering Committee Approves ₹320 Crore Outlay Under PM-SETU for Kurukshetra ITI Cluster in Haryana

Exam Radar Exam Radar: RBI Grade B, SEBI Grade A, IBPS PO, SBI PO, and Civil Services (Economy & Governance) — extremely crucial for vocational skill development schemes, public-private partnerships, and industrial training frameworks.

News in One Liner Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship approved ₹320 crore under PM-SETU to upgrade the Kurukshetra ITI cluster in Haryana in partnership with Jindal Naveen Avsar Limited.

Detailed News

- The National Steering Committee (NSC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) approved an investment of ₹320 crore for the Kurukshetra ITI cluster under the PM-SETU scheme.
- The project adopts an industry-led Hub-and-Spoke model, designating Government ITI Kurukshetra as the Hub ITI and six surrounding ITIs (including Women ITIs in Kurukshetra, Kaithal, and Ambala City) as Spoke ITIs.
- Private sector partner Jindal Naveen Avsar Limited will collaborate to modernize infrastructure, upgrade laboratories, introduce industry-aligned curricula, and offer training in emerging technologies.
- PM-SETU is a national flagship scheme with a total outlay of ₹60,000 crore, aiming to upgrade 1,000 Government ITIs nationwide (200 Hub ITIs and 800 Spoke ITIs) alongside capacity enhancement across National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).

Connect the Dots Modernizing industrial training institutes through industry-partnered Hub-and-Spoke clusters directly reinforces the Skill India Mission, helping bridge employability gaps and supply industry-ready technical talent for domestic manufacturing hubs.

Static Points Related to News

- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) was created in 2014 to drive the skilling and vocational training agenda across India.
- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) operates under MSDE as a public-private partnership promoting skill development institutions.
- PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation for Upgradation) operates on an industry-led cluster model.

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Points to Remember

- Total approved allocation for the Kurukshetra ITI cluster is ₹320 crore.
- Private partner collaborating on the cluster is Jindal Naveen Avsar Limited.
- PM-SETU carries an overall national outlay of ₹60,000 crore to upgrade 1,000 ITIs.

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Industry News

News Title India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement Set to Enter into Force from October 20, 2026

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (Economy & IR), RBI Grade B, SBI PO, and SSC CGL — high probability of direct questions on international trade agreements, bilateral trade targets, and tariff concessions.

News in One Liner The Ministry of Commerce & Industry announced that the India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will officially enter into force on October 20, 2026.

Detailed News

- The comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and New Zealand has completed domestic ratification processes and will formally take effect on October 20, 2026.
- The agreement aims to significantly lower tariff barriers across merchandise goods, expand market access for agricultural and industrial products, and enhance service sector mobility.
- Dedicated chapters within the treaty cover mutual recognition of professional qualifications, intellectual property cooperation, investment protection, and streamlined customs clearance procedures.
- The treaty provides structured frameworks to safeguard sensitive domestic agricultural sectors while boosting exports of Indian textiles, pharmaceuticals, engineering items, and IT services.

Connect the Dots This bilateral agreement aligns with India's foreign trade strategy to strengthen economic integration across the Indo-Pacific region, complementing existing trade deals with Australia, UAE, and EFTA nations.

Static Points Related to News

- Wellington serves as the capital city of New Zealand, and the New Zealand Dollar (NZD) acts as its currency.

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● Department of Commerce under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry manages India's international trade negotiations.
● India and New Zealand are key trade partners within the broader Indo-Pacific regional economic framework.

Points to Remember
● The India–New Zealand FTA will enter into force on October 20, 2026.
● The treaty covers tariff concessions, service mobility, and trade facilitation mechanisms.
● Announcement issued by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

News Title NHAI Issues Standardized Guidelines for Design and Development of High-Speed Access-Controlled Corridors

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services, SSC CGL, State PSCs, and RRB NTPC — vital for questions on national highway infrastructure, road safety norms, and NHAI project frameworks.

News in One Liner National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) introduced comprehensive design guidelines to standardize Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and safety norms for high-speed access-controlled corridors.

Detailed News
● National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways issued standardized guidelines for all upcoming 4/6-lane Greenfield and Brownfield High-Speed Access-Controlled National Highways.
● Configuration standards are tied to traffic flow: corridors with up to 15,000 vehicles require 60-meter right-of-way (ROW), while corridors handling 15,000–40,000 vehicles require 70-meter ROW for 4/6-lane structures.
● Guidelines mandate the construction of a 1-meter-high continuous boundary wall along the outer edge of high-speed corridors to prevent unauthorized access, encroachments, and stray animal entry.
● The initiative seeks to bring technical uniformity, strengthen road safety, and improve operational efficiency across the national highway network towards the Vision Viksit Bharat 2047.

Connect the Dots Unified technical standards for access-controlled expressways accelerate seamless logistics, reduce transport freight times, and minimize high-speed traffic fatalities in line with national road safety targets.

Static Points Related to News

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● National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was constituted under the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988, and functions under MoRTH.
● NHAI Headquarters is located in New Delhi.
● Right of Way (ROW) refers to the total land area acquired and reserved along a highway alignment for construction and future expansion.

Points to Remember
● NHAI issued standardized guidelines for high-speed access-controlled 4/6-lane highways.
● Mandates a 1-meter-high boundary wall along corridor edges for safety and anti-encroachment.
● ROW specifications are set at 60 meters and 70 meters based on vehicle traffic volume thresholds.

News Title ONGC Strikes Natural Gas in Mahanadi Offshore Under Samudra Manthan Initiative

Exam Radar Exam Radar: CDS, NDA, SSC CGL, State PSCs, and Civil Services (Economy & Geography) — important for domestic energy exploration, deepwater drilling, and hydrocarbon basin geography.

News in One Liner Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) struck natural gas at deepwater well MN-DW18-1-H-D in the Mahanadi Offshore, marking the first discovery under the Samudra Manthan initiative.

Detailed News
● State-owned energy major ONGC successfully encountered natural gas reserves at a depth between 1,441 meters and 1,452 meters in deepwater well MN-DW18-1-H-D in the Mahanadi offshore basin.
● The discovery marks the first successful gas find under the government's ₹84,000 crore 'Samudra Manthan' national offshore exploration drive launched to accelerate deepwater drilling.
● Located approximately 43 km off the coast of Konark, Odisha, the proximity to shoreline infrastructure promises potential early monetization upon commercial viability evaluation.
● The discovery strengthens ONGC's offshore exploration portfolio and can leverage shared regional facilities under the Petroleum and Natural Gas (PNG) Rules, 2025.

Connect the Dots Expanding deepwater natural gas production directly supports India's policy goal of increasing the share of natural gas in its primary energy mix from ~6% to 15%, reducing energy import dependence.

Static Points Related to News

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● Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is a Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, headquartered in New Delhi.
● Mahanadi Offshore Basin is located along the Bay of Bengal coast off Odisha.
● Samudra Manthan Initiative is an national drive with an ₹84,000 crore outlay dedicated to offshore energy exploration.

Points to Remember
● ONGC struck gas in deepwater well MN-DW18-1-H-D in the Mahanadi Offshore basin.
● First discovery under the government's ₹84,000 crore Samudra Manthan initiative.
● Well is situated ~43 km off the coast of Konark, Odisha.

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Financial News

News Title Finance Ministry Urges Public Sector and Regional Rural Bank Employees to Refrain from Proposed Strike

Exam Radar Exam Radar: IBPS PO, SBI PO, RRB Officer Scale-I, RBI Grade B, and SSC CGL — highly relevant for banking sector labor issues, public sector bank governance, and operational policy mandates.

News in One Liner The Ministry of Finance issued an official appeal urging employees of Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks to call off their proposed three-day nationwide strike and resolve pending demands through dialogue.

Detailed News
● The Ministry of Finance issued a formal appeal to employees of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) urging them to refrain from the three-day nationwide strike scheduled from September 28 to 30, 2026.
● The government highlighted that the primary concern regarding Performance Linked Incentives (PLI) was kept in abeyance, while the remaining key demand for a 5-day banking week remains under active examination.
● Finance Ministry officials noted that the proposed strike, combining with the preceding weekend and coinciding with the critical half-yearly closing on September 30, risks creating an effective 5-day disruption to national financial operations.
● PSBs have issued customer advisories directing account holders to utilize digital channels (UPI, internet banking, ATMs, and Business Correspondents) to minimize customer inconvenience.

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Connect the Dots Maintaining uninterrupted banking operations during crucial financial periods ensures smooth public fund transfers, prevents market liquidity disruptions, and supports continuous clearing operations across the Indian economy.

Static Points Related to News

- Department of Financial Services (DFS) functions under the Ministry of Finance to oversee PSBs, RRBs, insurance, and financial institutions.
- Indian Banks' Association (IBA) represents the management of Indian banks in wage negotiations and operational policy frameworks.
- United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) acts as the umbrella organization representing major officer and employee unions across commercial banks.

Points to Remember

- The proposed nationwide bank strike is scheduled from September 28 to 30, 2026.
- The primary unresolved demand centers on implementing a 5-day work week for bank staff.
- September 30 marks the critical half-yearly closing date for financial institutions.

News Title Ministry of Finance Directs Public Sector Banks to Ensure Cash Availability Ahead of Proposed Strike

Exam Radar Exam Radar: IBPS PO, SBI PO, RRB Officer Scale-I, RBI Grade B, and Civil Services (Economy) — vital for questions on banking operational continuity, customer protection norms, and ATM cash logistics.

News in One Liner Department of Financial Services instructed PSBs to stock ATMs and Business Correspondent outlets to maintain uninterrupted cash availability during the upcoming bank strike.

Detailed News

- Department of Financial Services (DFS) conducted a high-level review meeting with PSB chiefs, RRBs, Indian Banks' Association (IBA), and NABARD to enforce Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Public sector banks were directed to ensure full cash replenishments across ATMs and Automated Deposit-cum-Withdrawal Machines (ADWMs).
- Banks were asked to empower Business Correspondents (BCs) and Customer Service Points (CSPs) with adequate cash liquidity to serve rural and semi-urban customers.
- All 12 Public Sector Banks issued advisories urging customers to complete essential branch-related physical transactions before September 28.

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Connect the Dots Proactive cash stocking and contingency management preserve public confidence in banking infrastructure and ensure last-mile financial access remains active through digital and agent-based networks.

Static Points Related to News

- Business Correspondents (BCs) are retail agents engaged by banks to provide banking services at locations other than traditional branch outlets.
- Automated Deposit-cum-Withdrawal Machines (ADWMs) support real-time cash deposit and withdrawal services without manual branch intervention.
- NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) oversees credit and operational stability across Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

Points to Remember

- DFS reviewed strike contingency plans with PSBs, RRBs, IBA, and NABARD.
- All 12 Public Sector Banks released proactive customer advisories.
- Focus is placed on stocking ATMs, ADWMs, and Business Correspondent (BC) networks.

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National & State News

News Title Over 8.53 Lakh Senior Citizens Benefited Under Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana Across India

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services, State PSCs, SSC CGL, and RBI Grade B — extremely relevant for social welfare schemes, elderly care initiatives, and Ministry of Social Justice directives.

News in One Liner More than 8.53 lakh senior citizens received over 46 lakh assistive devices from FY 2017–18 to FY 2025–26 under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana.

Detailed News

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment reported that 8.53 lakh senior citizens received over 46 lakh free assistive living devices under Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) between FY 2017–18 and FY 2025–26.
- Implemented through the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), RVY provides free devices (wheelchairs, hearing aids, walking sticks, spectacles) to BPL and low-income seniors with age-related disabilities.

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● The initiative forms a key component of the umbrella scheme *Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVYAY)* alongside Elderline and Geriatric Caregiver Training.
● National Helpline for Senior Citizens (Elderline) processed over 29 lakh calls with ₹162 crore released between FY 2021–22 and FY 2025–26, while over 35,000 candidates were trained under Geriatric Caregiver courses.

Connect the Dots Comprehensive elderly welfare programs strengthen social security frameworks, promote independent mobility, and cater to India's aging demographic profile under Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being).

Static Points Related to News
● Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) was launched in 2017 as a Central Sector Scheme.
● Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) is a Miniratna PSU under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
● Elderline operates as a toll-free national helpline (14567) providing information, guidance, and emotional support to senior citizens.

Points to Remember
● Over 8.53 lakh senior citizens received 46+ lakh assistive devices under RVY.
● RVY is implemented by ALIMCO under the Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVYAY).
● Elderline helpline handled over 29 lakh calls during FY 2021–22 to FY 2025–26.

News Title Government Doubles Environmental Clearance Validity for Port and Harbour Projects to 20 Years

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (Prelims & Mains GS-III), State PSCs, and SSC CGL — crucial for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) rules, infrastructure regulation, and port development policies.

News in One Liner Environment Ministry amended the EIA Notification 2006, doubling the initial validity of Environmental Clearances for ports and harbour projects to 20 years.

Detailed News
● Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notified major amendments to the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006.
● The initial validity period for Environmental Clearances (EC) granted to port and harbour projects has been increased from 10 years to a minimum of 20 years.

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● The amendment permits two subsequent 5-year extensions in deserving cases upon review by Expert Appraisal Committees, accommodating long gestation periods and phased infrastructure additions.
● The regulatory relaxation follows requests from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to align clearance timelines with modern maritime project development cycles.

Connect the Dots Streamlining environmental clearance validity supports the Sagarmala Programme and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, reducing administrative hurdles for mega-port developments and LNG handling terminals.

Static Points Related to News
● Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006 is issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
● Expert Appraisal Committees (EAC) at national and state levels evaluate technical EIA reports prior to issuing clearances.
● Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways oversees maritime infrastructure policy across major Indian ports.

Points to Remember
● Environmental clearance validity for ports and harbours extended to a minimum of 20 years.
● Provision allows for up to two 5-year extensions subject to EAC environmental safeguard appraisals.
● Notification amends the foundational EIA Notification 2006.

News Title Election Commission Announces Elections to 11 Rajya Sabha Seats Across UP and Uttarakhand on October 16

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper II - Polity), State PSCs, SSC CGL, and Bank PO — high probability of questions on Rajya Sabha elections, Article 80, tenure of Upper House members, and Election Commission notifications.

News in One Liner The Election Commission of India announced elections for 10 Rajya Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh, 1 seat in Uttarakhand, and a by-election in West Bengal on October 16.

Detailed News
● The Election Commission of India (ECI) scheduled voting and counting on October 16 for 11 Rajya Sabha seats—10 from Uttar Pradesh and 1 from Uttarakhand—alongside a by-election for 1 seat in West Bengal.

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● Nine UP seats and the Uttarakhand seat are set to be vacated as terms end on November 25, while one UP seat fell vacant following Dinesh Sharma's appointment as Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
● Out of the 10 UP seats, 8 are held by the Bharatiya Janata Party (including Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri), with 1 seat held by the Samajwadi Party and 1 by the Bahujan Samaj Party.
● The West Bengal Rajya Sabha seat became vacant following the resignation of MP Rukmini Malik.

Connect the Dots Rajya Sabha elections reflect state assembly political compositions, directly impacting the legislative dynamics and voting strength of the ruling coalition and opposition in the Upper House of Parliament.

Static Points Related to News
● Article 80 of the Indian Constitution outlines the composition of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), capping maximum strength at 250 members.
● Rajya Sabha members are elected by elected members of State Legislative Assemblies through Single Transferable Vote under Proportional Representation.
● Rajya Sabha is a permanent body not subject to dissolution, with one-third of its members retiring every two years after serving a six-year term.

Points to Remember
● Polling and counting date for 11 Rajya Sabha seats: October 16.
● Breakdown of seats going to polls: 10 in Uttar Pradesh, 1 in Uttarakhand, plus 1 West Bengal by-poll.
● Prominent retiring member includes Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

News Title Failure to Provide Written Grounds of Arrest Violates Article 22(1), Rules Supreme Court

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper II - Fundamental Rights & Judiciary), Law Entrance Exams (CLAT), State PSCs, and Judicial Services — vital for questions on Fundamental Rights, police procedures, and constitutional remedies.

News in One Liner The Supreme Court held that failing to supply written grounds of arrest to an accused violates Article 22(1) and ordered departmental inquiries against offending officers.

Detailed News

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● A Supreme Court Bench comprising Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Atul S. Chandurkar ruled that communicating the grounds of arrest in writing, in a language understood by the accused, is a constitutional safeguard under Article 22(1) rather than a mere procedural formality.
● The Court mandated departmental proceedings against police officers who fail to furnish written grounds at the earliest opportunity, directing that adverse findings be recorded in their service files.
● The judgment established strict re-arrest protocols: if an accused is released due to an unconstitutional arrest, the police cannot re-arrest without approaching a jurisdictional magistrate with written justification approved by a senior officer.
● The Bench clarified that filing a subsequent charge sheet or taking cognizance does not cure an initial illegal arrest, reaffirming principles established in *Mihir Rajesh Shah v. State of Maharashtra*.

Connect the Dots Reaffirming Article 22(1) safeguards reinforces personal liberty under Article 21, establishing strict judicial oversight against arbitrary arrests and police overreach in criminal proceedings.

Static Points Related to News
● Article 22(1) guarantees that no person arrested shall be detained in custody without being informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds for such arrest.
● Article 22(2) mandates that every arrested person must be produced before the nearest magistrate within 24 hours of arrest.
● Departmental inquiry records and service rules govern public servant conduct under state police acts and service cadre regulations.

Points to Remember
● Written grounds of arrest must be provided in a language understood by the accused.
● Failure to supply written grounds constitutes an unconstitutional violation of Article 22(1).
● Re-arrest after violation requires jurisdictional magistrate approval endorsed by a superior police officer.

News Title Central Government Employee Associations Escalate Pension Guarantees Ahead of 8th Pay Commission

Exam Radar Exam Radar: RBI Grade B, SEBI Grade A, IBPS PO, and UPSC Civil Services (Economy & Public Administration) — highly relevant for questions on fiscal policy, public finance, pension reforms, and pay commissions.

News in One Liner Employee unions intensified demand for guaranteed pension terms under the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) or enhanced features under the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) ahead of the 8th Pay Commission.

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Detailed News

● Central government employee federations stepped up advocacy regarding pension security, bringing the OPS vs. NPS/UPS debate back into national focus prior to the formal rollout of the 8th Central Pay Commission framework.
● Key employee demands center on securing a defined-benefit structure that guarantees 50% of the last drawn basic pay as a minimum pension, indexed to Dearness Relief (DR) updates.
● While the government introduced the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) to offer guaranteed pensions with market-linked efficiency, union representatives seek additional safeguards regarding indexation and family pension benefits.
● Financial analysts note that balancing guaranteed employee social security with long-term fiscal discipline remains a primary consideration for state and central government budgets.

Connect the Dots Pay Commissions, constituted roughly every decade, review central employee pay structures and retirement benefits, heavily influencing state government budgets and national fiscal allocations.

Static Points Related to News

● The 1st Pay Commission was established in May 1946; Pay Commissions are usually constituted every 10 years to revise compensation frameworks.
● Old Pension Scheme (OPS) provided defined pension benefits without employee contribution, whereas the National Pension System (NPS) operates on defined market contributions.
● Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) regulates the pension sector and NPS assets in India.

Points to Remember

● Focus is on guaranteed pension options (50% of last drawn basic pay) ahead of 8th Pay Commission terms.
● Debates compare features of OPS, NPS, and the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).
● Indexed Dearness Relief (DR) remains a key demand for retired government personnel.

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World News

News Title India and Canada Fast-Track CEPA Negotiations; Next Round of Talks Set for October 5

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Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper II - International Relations & GS Paper III - Trade), RBI Grade B, SBI PO, and SSC CGL — crucial for bilateral trade agreements, tariff negotiations, and foreign policy updates.

News in One Liner India and Canada agreed to fast-track negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), scheduling the next formal round for October 5.

Detailed News

- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced that India and Canada agreed to accelerate negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- Following the fourth round of high-level ministerial trade discussions held in Mumbai, both nations agreed that the next 90 days would represent a critical window for finalizing trade terms.
- The upcoming fifth round of negotiations will commence on October 5, focusing on market access for agricultural products, services mobility, industrial goods, and investment facilitation.
- Minister Goyal also noted that India is evaluating emerging global legislative frameworks, including international sanction acts, to protect domestic commercial interests.

Connect the Dots Fast-tracking CEPA negotiations aims to revive bilateral trade momentum, open market opportunities for Indian IT, engineering, and agricultural exports, and attract Canadian institutional investment into Indian infrastructure.

Static Points Related to News

- Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is a broad free-trade treaty covering trade in goods, services, investment, and economic cooperation.
- Department of Commerce under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry leads India's bilateral trade deal negotiations.
- Capital of Canada is Ottawa, and its official currency is the Canadian Dollar (CAD).

Points to Remember

- Next round of India-Canada CEPA negotiations begins on October 5.
- Negotiations accelerated following the fourth round held in Mumbai.
- Objective is to finalize market access, service mobility, and investment protection terms within 90 days.

News Title Visegrád Group (V4) Nations Endorse India's Permanent Seat on Expanded UN Security Council

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Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper II - IR), State PSCs, SSC CGL, and RBI Grade B — crucial for questions on UN Security Council reforms, multilateral groupings, and India's diplomatic partnerships in Central Europe.

News in One Liner Four Central European nations comprising the Visegrád Group—Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic—voiced joint support for India securing a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council.

Detailed News

- During the inaugural V4–India Foreign Ministers' Meeting held on the sidelines of the 81st UN General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York, all four Visegrád Group members backed India's permanent UNSC bid.
- Participating foreign ministers described India as a major voice of the Global South and an indispensable power in the Indo-Pacific that must be included at the highest decision-making table.
- The discussions focused on deepening economic cooperation, supply chain resilience, defense partnerships, and accelerating negotiations on the India–EU Free Trade Agreement.
- The joint endorsement enhances India's diplomatic momentum within Europe alongside existing permanent seat endorsements from nations like France and the UK.

Connect the Dots Building consensus among regional sub-groupings within the European Union strengthens India's overall strategic leverage in international forums and aids ongoing UN Security Council reform negotiations.

Static Points Related to News

- The Visegrád Group (V4) is a cultural and political alliance of four Central European states: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia.
- The G4 nations (India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan) collectively support each other's bids for permanent seats on the UN Security Council.
- United Nations Headquarters is located in New York City, USA.

Points to Remember

- Member nations of the Visegrád Group (V4): Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic.
- Meeting held on the sidelines of the 81st UN General Assembly session.
- Focus was on UNSC expansion, India–EU FTA, and multilateral cooperation.

News Title AI Industry Leaders Brief UN Security Council on Global Governance and Frontier Risks

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Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Science & Technology), RBI Grade B, SEBI Grade A, and State PSCs — vital for topics involving artificial intelligence governance, technology ethics, and global security risks.

News in One Liner UN Security Council convened a high-level session featuring AI leaders including Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman to discuss global AI safety guardrails and strategic risks.

Detailed News

- Organized under France's presidency of the UN Security Council, top technology executives and AI researchers delivered briefings on frontier AI risks and global governance.
- Briefers including OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei, Hugging Face CEO Clément Delangue, and AI pioneer Yoshua Bengio addressed the 15-member council.
- Discussions centered on biosecurity, autonomous weapon systems, cybersecurity threats, and the potential loss of control over rapidly advancing frontier AI models.
- Speakers emphasized the need for international coordination, standardized evaluation protocols, and neutral oversight mechanisms to prevent misuse while facilitating equitable access.

Connect the Dots High-level international deliberations on AI regulation aim to establish consensus-driven global frameworks to mitigate systemic technical risks without hindering technological development.

Static Points Related to News

- UN Security Council consists of 5 Permanent members (P5) and 10 Non-Permanent members elected for two-year terms.
- France holds a permanent seat on the UN Security Council alongside the US, UK, China, and Russia.
- Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) is an international initiative promoting responsible AI adoption, with India as a founding member.

Points to Remember

- Session organized under France's presidency of the UN Security Council.
- Key speakers included Sam Altman (OpenAI), Dario Amodei (Anthropic), Clément Delangue (Hugging Face), and Yoshua Bengio.
- Focused on frontier model safety, biosecurity, cybersecurity, and global AI governance frameworks.

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Defence News

News Title 18th Edition of India–Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT Begins in Pithoragarh

Exam Radar Exam Radar: CDS, NDA, SSC CGL, State PSCs, and Civil Services (Prelims) — frequently tested topic covering bilateral military exercises, location, and defense cooperation.

News in One Liner The 18th edition of the annual India–Mongolia joint military exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT commenced at the Foreign Training Node in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

Detailed News

- The 18th edition of Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT commenced on September 21, 2026, at the Foreign Training Node in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, running through October 3, 2026.
- Conducted alternately between India and Mongolia, the platoon-level exercise involves 45 military personnel each from the Indian Army and the Mongolian Armed Forces.
- The primary focus is building joint operational capabilities for counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under a UN Mandate.
- The training modules cover cordon-and-search operations, room intervention drills, heliborne operations, counter-drone tactics, and cyber security training.

Connect the Dots Regular bilateral defense maneuvers reinforce diplomatic relations with Mongolia under India's 'Act East' policy and 'Neighbourhood First' strategic outlook in Central/East Asia.

Static Points Related to News

- Capital of Mongolia is Ulaanbaatar, and its official currency is the Mongolian Tögrög.
- Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT is an annual bilateral exercise conducted alternately in India and Mongolia.
- Pithoragarh is located in the state of Uttarakhand, bordering Nepal and Tibet (China).

Points to Remember

- 18th edition of Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT is hosted in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
- Exercise duration: September 21 to October 3, 2026.
- Contingent size: 45 personnel from each military force.

News Title Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri and Kulish Arrive at Subic Bay, Philippines for ADMM-Plus JCA

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Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services, NDA, CDS, SSC CGL, and Bank PO — high probability of questions on naval deployments, ASEAN-Plus frameworks, and MAHASAGAR maritime initiatives.

News in One Liner Indian Naval Ships INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish arrived at Subic Bay, Philippines, to participate in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus Joint Cooperation Activity.

Detailed News

- Guided-missile frigate INS Sahyadri and missile corvette INS Kulish docked at Subic Bay, Philippines, on September 20, 2026, as part of operational deployment in the South China Sea / Indo-Pacific region.
- The deployment supports participation in the ADMM-Plus Joint Cooperation Activity (JCA) alongside ASEAN member states and eight Plus dialogue partner navies.
- The activity aims to enhance tactical interoperability, shared maritime domain awareness, and collaborative responses to regional security challenges.
- The operational visit aligns with India's Act East Policy and the vision of MAHASAGAR (*Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions*).

Connect the Dots Naval forward deployments and multilateral exercises in the South China Sea demonstrate India's commitment to a rules-based maritime order, freedom of navigation, and ASEAN centrality in the Indo-Pacific.

Static Points Related to News

- ADMM-Plus includes 10 ASEAN member states and 8 Plus partner countries (India, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, ROK, Russia, and the US).
- Capital of the Philippines is Manila, and its currency is the Philippine Peso.
- Vision MAHASAGAR refers to India's holistic policy framework for maritime security and economic development across regions.

Points to Remember

- Participating Indian Naval Ships: INS Sahyadri (Frigate) and INS Kulish (Corvette).
- Location: Subic Bay, Philippines.
- Framework: ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus Joint Cooperation Activity.

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Science & Technology

News Title Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy Stresses Critical Mineral Recovery and Circular Economy at Recycling Conclave

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Environment & Economy), State PSCs, SSC CGL, and RBI Grade B — vital for questions on clean energy transition, critical mineral security, and e-waste management frameworks.

News in One Liner Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy called for strengthening recycling infrastructure and recovering critical minerals from e-waste to boost India's clean energy transition and resource self-reliance.

Detailed News

- Addressing a national conclave, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy emphasized the strategic importance of recovering critical minerals from secondary sources like e-waste, industrial end-of-life (EOL) materials, and spent lithium-ion batteries.
- Minister of State Satish Chandra Dubey and Ministry officials highlighted the need for technology innovation, black mass processing, and research & development to build a circular ecosystem.
- The discussions underscored *Jan Bhagidari* (public participation) to encourage citizens and enterprises to view e-waste not as garbage, but as a crucial strategic mineral reserve.
- The initiative aligns with the National Critical Minerals Mission to reduce import dependence on foreign primary mining sources and secure supply chains for defense, EV manufacturing, and green energy.

Connect the Dots Establishing robust domestic recycling and urban mining infrastructure reinforces India's green transition goals while shielding key manufacturing sectors from international supply chain disruptions.

Static Points Related to News

- Ministry of Mines is the apex government body formulating policies for survey, exploration, and regulation of non-ferrous mines and minerals in India.
- Critical Minerals are metallic or non-metallic elements essential for high-tech industries and clean energy technologies that face high supply disruption risks.
- National Green Tribunal (NGT) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) enforce regulations governing E-Waste (Management) Rules in India.

Points to Remember

- Union Minister of Coal and Mines: Shri G. Kishan Reddy.

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● Key focus: Secondary recovery of critical minerals via e-waste, EOL products, and black mass processing.
● Goal: Domestic resource efficiency and building a circular self-reliant ecosystem.

News Title ISRO and European Space Agency Renew Cooperative Agreement Until 2032

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Science & Tech), CDS, NDA, SSC CGL, and Bank PO — high probability of questions on international space treaties, bilateral space missions, and ISRO partnerships.

News in One Liner The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the European Space Agency (ESA) formally extended their long-standing space cooperation agreement for five years through January 2032.

Detailed News
● ISRO and ESA finalized an extension of their overarching Cooperative Agreement through an exchange of letters on the sidelines of the International Space Summit.
● Originally signed in January 2002, the renewal extends the bilateral framework through January 8, 2032, making it a 30-year partnership.
● The pact covers mutual ground-station tracking support, planetary exploration collaborations, space situational awareness (SSA), and satellite technology exchanges.
● Under the agreement, ESA will continue providing telemetry, tracking, and command (TT&C) support for major Indian deep-space and human spaceflight missions, including Gaganyaan.

Connect the Dots Extending space cooperation with European counterparts enhances India's deep-space communications network, optimizes mission redundancy, and strengthens shared space situational awareness protocols.

Static Points Related to News
● ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) was established on August 15, 1969, headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
● ESA (European Space Agency) is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to space exploration, established in 1975 and headquartered in Paris, France.
● Gaganyaan is India's flagship human spaceflight mission aiming to send a crewed module to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

Points to Remember
● Cooperation agreement extended until January 8, 2032.
● Foundational agreement initially came into force in January 2002.

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● Enables shared ground-station tracking, deep-space support, and mission monitoring.

News Title India's Semiconductor Market Projected to Touch $200 Billion by 2035: EY-IESA Report

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Economy & Tech), RBI Grade B, SEBI Grade A, and IBPS PO — critical for questions on India Semiconductor Mission, market forecasts, and electronics manufacturing.

News in One Liner According to a joint EY and IESA report, India's semiconductor market is projected to expand more than threefold from $64 billion in 2026 to $200 billion by 2035.

Detailed News

● A joint report titled *Semicon India 2.0* by Ernst & Young (EY) and the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) projects India's semiconductor market to hit $200 billion by 2035.
● The market grew from ~$27 billion in 2021 to ~$64 billion in 2026, driven by soaring domestic electronics consumption, AI infrastructure, EV mobility, and telecommunications.
● Under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM 1.0) with a ₹76,000 crore outlay, 12 semiconductor projects involving cumulative investments of ~₹1.64 lakh crore have been approved.
● The report highlights that India currently accounts for nearly 20% of the global chip design engineer talent pool, positioning the nation as a key hub for future fabrication and packaging units.

Connect the Dots Transitioning from pure chip design to integrated fabrication (Fabs) and Assembly-Testing-Packaging (ATMP) units helps offset rising semiconductor import bills and drives domestic industrial growth.

Static Points Related to News

● India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) was launched in 2021 under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
● India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) is the premier industry body representing ESDM (Electronics System Design and Manufacturing) in India.
● Silicon Fabs manufacture semiconductor wafers, whereas ATMP/OSAT facilities handle chip packaging and testing.

Points to Remember

● Market forecast: $200 billion by 2035 (up from $64 billion in 2026).
● ISM 1.0 outlay: ₹76,000 crore leading to 12 approved manufacturing projects.
● India contributes ~20% of the world's talent pool in chip design engineering.

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News Title **Delhi Airport Climbs 11 Spots to Rank 28th Globally in OAG Megahubs Index 2026**

Exam Radar Exam Radar: SSC CGL, State PSCs, Bank PO, and Civil Services (Economy) — relevant for national infrastructure rankings, civil aviation connectivity metrics, and transport logistics.

News in One Liner Indira Gandhi International Airport (Delhi) jumped 11 places to rank 28th globally in OAG's 2026 Megahubs Index, leading Indian airports in international connectivity.

Detailed News

- According to the Official Airline Guide (OAG) 2026 Megahubs rankings, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport advanced from 39th to 28th rank worldwide.
- Delhi Airport ranked 9th in the Asia-Pacific region and broke into the top 10 low-cost megahubs globally (ranking 9th overall).
- IndiGo emerged as the most dominant carrier at Delhi, accounting for 40% of all international flights and driving connectivity expansion.
- Mumbai Airport ranked 11th globally in the low-cost megahub category, with Istanbul Airport securing the top overall spot as the world's most connected international megahub.

Connect the Dots Expanding international transfer passenger capacity at major hubs positions India as a primary transit crossroads for international aviation traffic across Eurasia and the Middle East.

Static Points Related to News

- Official Airline Guide (OAG) is a global travel data provider headquartered in the United Kingdom that produces annual air connectivity rankings.
- Airports Authority of India (AAI) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation manages civil aviation infrastructure in India.
- Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL) is operated by Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), a GMR Airports-led consortium.

Points to Remember

- Delhi Airport rank: 28th globally (up from 39th).
- Delhi ranked 9th among world's Low-Cost Megahubs.
- World's #1 connected Megahub: Istanbul Airport.

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News Title Commitments Under Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) Rise 24% to ₹17.53 Trillion: SEBI Data

Exam Radar Exam Radar: SEBI Grade A, RBI Grade B, IBPS PO, SBI PO, and Civil Services (Economy) — highly crucial for capital market trends, non-bank investments, and financial sector regulators.

News in One Liner Data released by SEBI showed cumulative commitments raised by Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) surged 24% year-on-year to ₹17.53 trillion as of June 2026.

Detailed News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) data revealed that total investment commitments raised by AIFs rose by 24% year-on-year to reach ₹17.53 trillion by June 2026.
- Category II AIFs (including real estate funds, private equity funds, and debt funds) accounted for the lion's share of total commitments and deployed capital.
- Total funds actually raised by AIFs surged past ₹5.2 trillion, with total investments deployed into portfolio companies reaching ₹4.8 trillion.
- The sustained growth reflects robust institutional and high-net-worth individual (HNI) capital flows into Indian private markets, startups, infrastructure, and structured credit instruments.

Connect the Dots Expansion in private equity and venture capital through AIFs diversifies business funding sources beyond traditional commercial bank loans, fostering risk-capital deployment across emerging high-growth industries.

Static Points Related to News

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) was established as a statutory body under the SEBI Act, 1992, headquartered in Mumbai.
- SEBI classifies AIFs into three categories:
  - **Category I:** Venture capital, SME funds, social funds, infrastructure funds.
  - **Category II:** Private equity funds, debt funds, real estate funds (no specific incentives/concessions).
  - **Category III:** Hedge funds, complex trading funds aiming for short-term returns.
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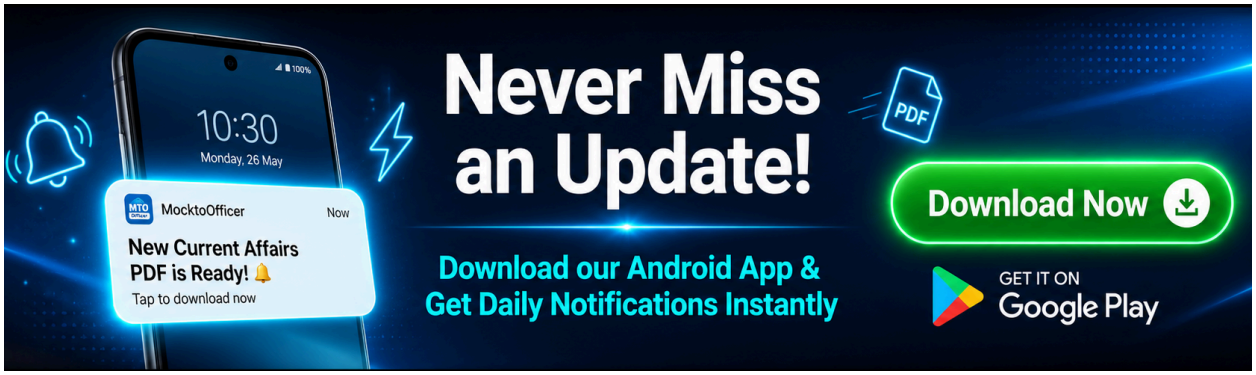
Points to Remember

- Total AIF investment commitments: ₹17.53 trillion as of June 2026 (24% YoY growth).
- Dominant class: Category II AIFs (PE & Debt funds).
- Regulator overseeing AIF frameworks: SEBI.

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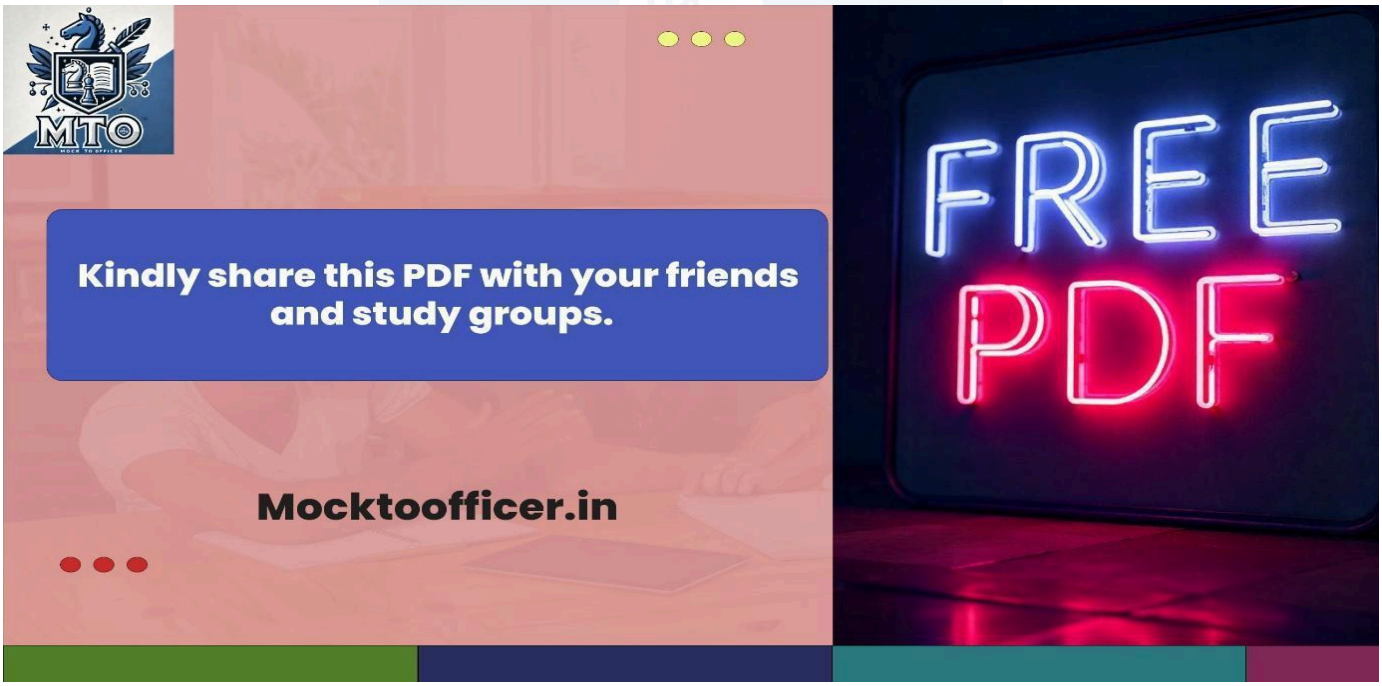




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