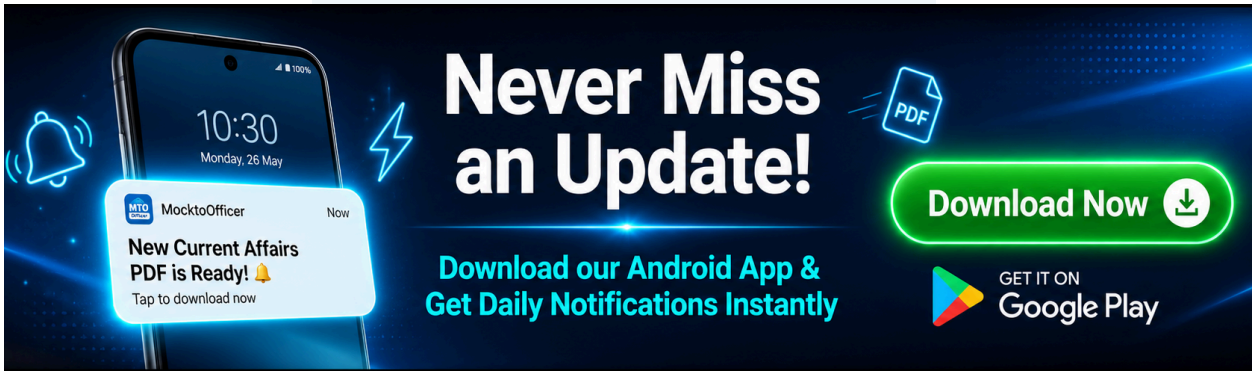
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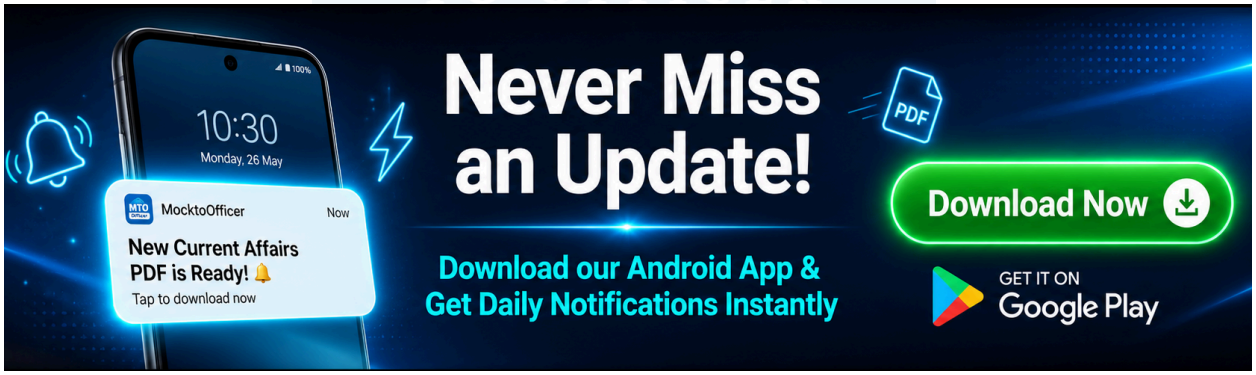
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PIB News

News Title Ministry of Defence Signs ₹811 Crore Contract with BDL for 160 Satellite Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Security & Defense), CDS, NDA, AFCAT, and SSC CGL — highly important for questions on defense procurement, indigenous weaponry, and *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* initiatives.

News in One Liner The Ministry of Defence signed an ₹810.79 crore contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the supply of 160 Satellite Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons (SAT-SAAW) to the Indian Air Force.

Detailed News

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract worth ₹810.79 crore with state-owned defense PSU Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) in New Delhi.
- The procurement covers 160 Satellite Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons (SAT-SAAW) along with associated equipment for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- SAT-SAAW is an indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured long-range precision-guided glide weapon built to disable enemy airbase infrastructure (such as runways, taxiways, and radar installations) from standoff ranges.
- Contracted under the "Buy (Indian-IDDM)" category in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, deliveries are scheduled for completion between 2028 and 2029.

Connect the Dots Indigenous precision weapon procurement reduces import dependency, lowers life-cycle support costs, and bolsters the Indian Air Force's long-range strike capabilities.

Static Points Related to News

- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) was established in 1970 and is headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW) was indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by the Union Defence Minister, serves as the highest decision-making body for defense capital procurements.

Points to Remember

- Contract Value: ₹810.79 crore with BDL.
- Quantity & Item: 160 Satellite Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons (SAT-SAAW).
- Target Beneficiary: Indian Air Force (IAF).

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News Title **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Inaugurates BRICS Heads of Tax Authorities Meeting in New Delhi**

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper II & III - International Relations & Economy), RBI Grade B, SEBI Grade A, and Bank PO — crucial for international economic groupings, BRICS summits, and multilateral tax cooperation frameworks.

News in One Liner Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the BRICS Heads of Tax Authorities Meeting in New Delhi as part of India's BRICS Chairship activities.

Detailed News

- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the BRICS Heads of Tax Authorities Meeting in New Delhi.
- The meeting focused on leveraging data and digital infrastructure to build resilient, transparent, and accessible tax administration systems across BRICS member nations.
- Discussions emphasized institutionalized tax cooperation mechanism models that extend beyond individual leadership tenures and deliver practical operational tools.
- The Finance Minister highlighted the significance of unified BRICS perspectives in ongoing multilateral tax dialogues, including UN Framework Convention negotiations on International Tax Cooperation.

Connect the Dots Aligning digital tax infrastructure across emerging economies minimizes cross-border tax evasion, streamlines transfer pricing disputes, and strengthens sovereign revenue administration.

Static Points Related to News

- BRICS originally comprised Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa; the bloc expanded to include new permanent members in 2024.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) function under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation aims to establish equitable global standards for cross-border taxation.

Points to Remember

- Event: BRICS Heads of Tax Authorities Meeting in New Delhi.
- Presiding Officer: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- Core Focus: Digital tax administration, sustainable multilateral cooperation, and international tax frameworks.

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News Title **Indian Railways Commissions KAVACH 4.0 for the First Time on South Central Railway**

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Infrastructure & Technology), RBI Grade B, State PSCs, RRB NTPC, and SSC CGL — high probability of questions on railway safety tech, automatic train protection, and KAVACH specifications.

News in One Liner Indian Railways commissioned KAVACH 4.0—its upgraded indigenous Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system—over 108 route kilometres on the Malkajgiri–Kamareddi section of South Central Railway.

Detailed News

- Indian Railways successfully upgraded and commissioned KAVACH Version 4.0 over 108 route kilometres on the Malkajgiri–Kamareddi section of the Hyderabad Division (South Central Railway).
- KAVACH 4.0 introduces major technological enhancements over Version 3.2, including higher location accuracy, improved signal aspect visibility in larger station yards, and direct Electronic Interlocking interfaces.
- The system features a station-to-station KAVACH interface operating via Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) to enhance system reliability and communication speed.
- KAVACH automatically applies brakes if a Loco Pilot fails to control train speed, helping prevent Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD) and avoiding head-on/rear-end train collisions.

Connect the Dots Scaling KAVACH 4.0 across high-density corridors upgrades track safety standards, reduces human error risks during inclement weather, and supports high-speed train operations.

Static Points Related to News

- KAVACH is an indigenously designed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system developed by Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with Indian industry.
- South Central Railway (SCR) is headquartered at Secunderabad, Telangana.
- KAVACH operates on Safety Integrity Level 4 (SIL-4) standards—the highest international benchmark for railway safety certification.

Points to Remember

- Milestone: First operational rollout of KAVACH 4.0 on Indian Railways.
- Section Covered: 108 Route Kilometres on Malkajgiri–Kamareddi Section (SCR).
- Key Upgrades: OFC station-to-station interface, higher location precision, and direct Electronic Interlocking integration.

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News Title MoSPI Releases Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey (2025–2026): Pilgrimage & Religious Travels Lead Overnight Trips

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Economy & Development), RBI Grade B, SEBI Grade A, IBPS PO, and State PSCs — essential for statistical survey data, tourism economics, and household consumption trends.

News in One Liner The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released findings from the Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey (July 2025 – June 2026), revealing that pilgrimage and religious travel accounted for 48% of domestic overnight trips.

Detailed News

- The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under MoSPI released the key findings of the Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey conducted from July 2025 to June 2026.
- **Overnight Trips:** 'Pilgrimage & Religious' travel generated the largest share (48%) of long-term overnight tourist trips across both rural and urban sectors. 'Health & Medical' was second in rural areas (38.4%), while 'Holidaying, Leisure & Recreation' was second in urban areas (36.4%).
- **Top Destination States:** Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest share of total visitor-trips (15.7%), followed by Tamil Nadu (13.4%) and Rajasthan (8.0%).
- **Expenditure & Accommodation:** Health & medical trips incurred the highest overall expenditure per trip. Hotels and guesthouses accounted for 36% of stays for urban visitors, while 80% of all overnight visitors preferred trips lasting 5 days or fewer.
- **Short/Same-Day Trips:** Trips undertaken for 'social' purposes dominated same-day visits, while trips for 'shopping' generated the highest average spending per same-day trip.

Connect the Dots Survey data on domestic travel patterns helps guide targeted infrastructure investments under schemes like PRASHAD and SWADESH DARSHAN, boosting regional economic hubs.

Static Points Related to News

- National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) operates under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD schemes are national initiatives under the Ministry of Tourism to develop thematic circuits and pilgrimage sites.
- Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey uses a multi-stage stratified sampling methodology across all States and Union Territories.

Points to Remember

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- Conducting Agency: MoSPI (NSSO).
- Top Purpose for Overnight Trips: Pilgrimage & Religious travel (48% share).
- Top State by Visitor Share: Uttar Pradesh (15.7%), followed by Tamil Nadu (13.4%).
- Highest Spending Categories: Medical/Health (for overnight) and Shopping (for same-day).

News Title MY Bharat National Youth Platform Crosses Landmark Milestone of 3 Crore Registered Users

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper II - Governance & Social Justice), RBI Grade B, SEBI Grade A, and State PSCs — highly important for youth engagement frameworks, digital governance platforms, and social development schemes.

News in One Liner Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), the national digital platform under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, crossed the 3 crore registered youth milestone within three years of its launch.

Detailed News

- The Department of Youth Affairs announced that the MY Bharat portal (mybharat.gov.in) surpassed 3 crore (30 million) registered youth users nationwide.
- Launched on October 31, 2023, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, MY Bharat serves as a unified digital gateway for experiential learning, volunteering, leadership programs, and youth-led development.
- Major initiatives driven through the platform include the *Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) 2027* and the *Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat* campaign.
- The platform functions as a single window connecting young citizens with government ministries, corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, and community service programs.

Connect the Dots Digital youth engagement aligns demographic dividend potential with national development priorities under the *Viksit Bharat @2047* vision.

Static Points Related to News

- MY Bharat (Mera Yuva Bharat) was established as an autonomous body by the Government of India under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- National Youth Day is celebrated on January 12 to mark the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- Department of Youth Affairs coordinates major youth schemes including the National Service Scheme (NSS) and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS).

Points to Remember

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- Registered User Milestone: 3 Crore+ (30 Million+) youth.
- Launch Date: October 31, 2023 (National Unity Day).
- Nodal Agency: Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

News Title Ministry of Cooperation Launches Cooperative-Run 'Bharat Taxi' Service in Uttar Pradesh

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Economy & Agriculture), RBI Grade B, NABARD Grade A, State PSCs, and SSC CGL — relevant for cooperative sector developments, gig economy initiatives, and digital mobility platforms.

News in One Liner Union Ministry of Cooperation launched 'Bharat Taxi'—a cooperative-driven digital mobility service—in Uttar Pradesh to empower drivers through profit-sharing models.

Detailed News

- The Ministry of Cooperation officially launched the 'Bharat Taxi' cab-aggregation platform in Uttar Pradesh.
- Designed as a driver-owned cooperative alternative to private ride-hailing services, the initiative operates under a zero-commission model to maximize earnings for vehicle owners.
- The platform operates under a national cooperative federation structure, providing drivers with social security coverage, subsidized fuel/charging access, and healthcare benefits.
- The rollout expands cooperative business models into modern tech-enabled service sectors across Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities in North India.

Connect the Dots Cooperative mobility platforms reduce intermediary commissions, improve driver livelihoods, and demonstrate the operational scope of the *Sahakar Se Samriddhi* governance model.

Static Points Related to News

- Ministry of Cooperation was created in July 2021 to strengthen the cooperative movement in India (Motto: *Sahakar Se Samriddhi*).
- Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002 governs cooperative bodies with operations spanning across multiple states.
- Article 43B of the Indian Constitution (Directive Principles of State Policy) directs the State to promote voluntary formation and autonomous functioning of cooperative societies.

Points to Remember

- Service Name: Bharat Taxi.
- Implementing Sector: Cooperative Sector under the Ministry of Cooperation.

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● Core Model: Driver-owned cooperative mobility aggregator with zero-commission structure.

News Title TDB-DST Approves ₹285 Crore RDI Support to Ubifly Technologies for Indigenous Advanced Air Mobility Aircraft

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Science, Tech & DeepTech), RBI Grade B, SEBI Grade A, and Defense/Aviation Exams — high probability of questions on Research & Development Innovation (RDI) funding and deep-tech aerospace projects.

News in One Liner The Technology Development Board (TDB) approved ₹285 crore in funding to Chennai-based Ubifly Technologies (ePlane Company) to take its indigenous 3-seater electric air mobility aircraft (e200X) from TRL-6 to TRL-9.

Detailed News

● The Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), approved ₹285 crore in financial support to Ubifly Technologies Private Limited (operating as The ePlane Company), Chennai.
● Provided under the ₹1 Lakh Crore RDI Fund via Optionally Convertible Debentures (OCDs), the total project cost stands at ₹570 crore.
● The project aims to take the **e200X**—a 3-seater (1 pilot + 2 passengers) zero-emission electric Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) aircraft—from Technology Readiness Level 6 (TRL-6) to TRL-9 for commercial deployment.
● The aircraft features vertical rotors, forward propellers, a targeted range of 110 km, speeds of 160 km/h, and dual landing capability (conventional and vertical landing).

Connect the Dots Funding deep-tech aviation startups builds sovereign capability in urban air mobility (eVTOL) and promotes sustainable, low-emission transportation solutions.

Static Points Related to News

● Technology Development Board (TDB) is a statutory body established under the Technology Development Board Act, 1995, under the Department of Science and Technology.
● Technology Readiness Level (TRL) is a standard scale (1 to 9) used to assess the maturity level of a technology, where TRL-9 denotes full commercial deployment.
● Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) refers to transportation systems using electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft for regional and urban transport.

Points to Remember

● Financial Support: ₹285 crore from TDB-DST (Out of ₹570 crore project cost).
● Company & Product: Ubifly Technologies (The ePlane Company) — **e200X** air mobility platform.

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● Maturity Goal: Escalating technology from TRL-6 to TRL-9 for commercial rollout.

News Title PM Narendra Modi Congratulates Men's Skeet Team on Winning Bronze Medal at Asian Games

Exam Radar Exam Radar: SSC CGL, State PSCs, Bank PO, Defense Exams (CDS/NDA), and Sports GK — important for national sports awards, international shooting championship results, and Asian Games medal lists.

News in One Liner Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Bhavtegh Singh Gill, and Mairaj Ahmad Khan for winning the Bronze Medal in the Men's Skeet Team event at the Asian Games.

Detailed News

● Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued a national commendation congratulating shooters Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Bhavtegh Singh Gill, and Mairaj Ahmad Khan.
● The trio secured the **Bronze Medal** in the Men's Skeet Team shooting event at the Asian Games.
● The Prime Minister commended the team's discipline, composure, and shooting accuracy on the international stage.
● The medal adds to India's growing podium count in shotgun shooting events at the continental level.

Connect the Dots Sustained medal performances in Olympic shooting disciplines validate targeted athlete support through the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations and TOPS.

Static Points Related to News

● National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) was founded in 1951 to promote and govern shooting sports in India.
● Skeet Shooting is an Olympic clay target shooting discipline where participants shoot at clay targets thrown from two houses at fixed angles.
● Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) is a flagship Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports scheme to provide specialized assistance to India's top athletes.

Points to Remember

● Athletes: Anantjeet Singh Naruka, Bhavtegh Singh Gill, and Mairaj Ahmad Khan.
● Sport & Event: Shooting (Men's Skeet Team).
● Result: Bronze Medal at the Asian Games.

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Industry News

News Title Government Slashes Basic Customs Duty on Edible Oils to Control Festive Prices

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Economy & Agriculture), RBI Grade B, SEBI Grade A, IBPS PO, and State PSCs — highly relevant for questions on tariff rationalization, agricultural trade policies, inflation management, and commodity import dynamics.

News in One Liner Ahead of the upcoming festive season, the Union Finance Ministry slashed basic customs duty on crude and refined edible oils—including palm, soybean, and sunflower oil—to ease domestic retail prices.

Detailed News

- The Ministry of Finance issued a notification reducing basic customs duty (BCD) on imported edible oils to curb rising domestic cooking oil prices ahead of peak festival demand.
- **Refined Oils:** Import duty on refined palm oil and refined soybean oil was reduced from 32.5% to 27.5%, while duty on refined sunflower oil was lowered to 22.5%.
- **Crude Oils:** BCD on crude palm oil and crude soybean oil was cut in half from 10% to 5%, whereas BCD on crude sunflower oil was eliminated entirely (reduced from 10% to Nil).
- The tariff cuts aim to reduce landed import costs, encourage domestic refiners to scale up imports, and provide price relief to households and commercial food sectors.

Connect the Dots Lowering import duties balances inflation mitigation with domestic consumer welfare, cushioning households against global commodity price volatility and currency depreciation pressures.

Static Points Related to News

- India is the world's largest importer of edible oils, meeting roughly 60% of its total domestic demand through imports (primarily palm oil from Malaysia/Indonesia and soybean/sunflower oil from South America and Europe).
- National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) was launched in 2021 to boost domestic oilseed production and reduce import dependency.
- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, issues tariff rate notifications.

Points to Remember

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● Duty Cuts: Refined palm/soybean oil reduced to 27.5%; crude palm/soybean oil reduced to 5%.
● Crude Sunflower Oil BCD: Completely eliminated (reduced to Nil).
● Objective: Controlling cooking oil inflation during the high-demand festive period.

News Title OECD Upgrades India's FY27 GDP Growth Forecast by 80 bps to 7.1%

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Economy), RBI Grade B, SEBI Grade A, IBPS PO, and State PSCs — crucial for macroeconomic forecasts, global economic outlook reports, and international agency GDP projections.

News in One Liner The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) sharply raised its FY2026–27 GDP growth forecast for India by 80 basis points to 7.1%, citing strong domestic economic momentum.

Detailed News
● In its September Interim Economic Outlook, the OECD upgraded India's real GDP growth forecast for FY27 to 7.1%, up from its June projection of 6.3%.
● The revision follows strong Q1 GDP growth of 7.8%, placing India among the fastest-growing major economies globally.
● The agency noted that sustained public capital expenditure, expanding manufacturing output, and robust service exports continue to drive domestic growth.
● The OECD join global rating agencies—including Fitch (6.9%), S&P (7.0%), and Moody's (7.0%)—in upgrading India's growth trajectory.

Connect the Dots Strong macroeconomic upgrades by international multilateral bodies bolster investor confidence, attracting foreign direct investments (FDI) and portfolio flows into Indian equity and debt markets.

Static Points Related to News
● Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was established in 1961, headquartered in Paris, France (currently has 38 member countries; India is a non-member partner economy).
● Interim Economic Outlook is published twice a year by the OECD to assess global growth and inflation trends.
● Real GDP accounts for price inflation using constant base year prices, whereas Nominal GDP measures current market values.

Points to Remember
● Upgraded Forecast: 7.1% for FY27 (80 basis points higher than the earlier 6.3% estimate).

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● Publishing Body: OECD (Paris).
● Supporting Driver: Strong quarterly GDP prints and domestic industrial resilience.

News Title Government Sets 71.95 Million Tonne Paddy Procurement Target for Kharif Marketing Season 2026–27

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Agriculture & Food Security), NABARD Grade A, State PSCs, and SSC CGL — vital for food grain procurement targets, buffer stock norms, and Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy.

News in One Liner The Central Government set the paddy procurement target for the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2026–27 at 71.95 million tonnes, maintaining steady purchase goals despite reduced crop sowing acreage.

Detailed News
● The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution finalized a paddy procurement target of 71.95 million tonnes for KMS 2026–27 following state consultations.
● The target remains virtually unchanged from the previous season's level, reflecting confidence in national grain reserves despite a minor dip in paddy acreage.
● Punjab, Haryana, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh remain the leading contributors to the central pool procurement drive.
● Central rice stocks stand comfortably above prescribed strategic buffer norms, ensuring uninterrupted food grain distribution under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

Connect the Dots Maintaining steady procurement targets safeguards rural farm incomes under Minimum Support Price (MSP) guarantees while ensuring national food buffer security against climate disruptions.

Static Points Related to News
● Food Corporation of India (FCI) was established under the Food Corporation Act, 1964, to execute national procurement, storage, and distribution of food grains.
● Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) officially runs from October 1 to September 30 of the following year.
● Minimum Support Price (MSP) is fixed by the Government based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

Points to Remember
● Target: 71.95 million tonnes of paddy procurement for KMS 2026–27.
● Nodal Agencies: Food Corporation of India (FCI) alongside State Procurement Agencies.

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● Policy Objective: Public Distribution System (PDS) supply stability and farmer income protection.

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Financial News

News Title Government Attaches Capital Capitalization Riders to Stressed Public Sector General Insurers

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Financial Reforms), RBI Grade B, SEBI Grade A, IRDAI Assistant Manager, and Banking Awareness — highly important for insurance sector recapitalization, public sector enterprise management, and underwriting reforms.

News in One Liner The Ministry of Finance attached strict performance conditionalities to additional capital infusions for three stressed public sector general insurance companies.

Detailed News
● The Union Finance Ministry set strict operational riders for releasing capital support to three public sector general insurers: National Insurance Company, Oriental Insurance Company, and United India Insurance Company.
● Under the reform mandate, the state-owned insurers must completely overhaul their risk underwriting processes, eliminate unprofitable portfolios, and enforce performance-linked talent management structures.
● The conditions aim to reduce underwriting losses, improve solvency ratios, and ensure long-term financial viability without perpetual reliance on government bailouts.
● The framework enforces strict accountability metrics monitored jointly by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) and regulatory bodies.

Connect the Dots Strict capital conditions align public sector insurance governance with market discipline, protecting policyholder interests and preserving fiscal resources.

Static Points Related to News
● The four public sector general insurance companies in India are National Insurance, Oriental Insurance, United India Insurance, and New India Assurance (the latter being publicly listed).
● Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) mandates a minimum Solvency Ratio of 1.5 (150%) for insurance companies operating in India.

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● Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the Ministry of Finance oversees the functioning of public sector banks, financial institutions, and insurance firms.

Points to Remember
● Entities Covered: National Insurance, Oriental Insurance, and United India Insurance.
● Core Mandate: Overhauling risk underwriting, cost rationalization, and performance-linked management.
● Objective: Solvency improvement and fiscal discipline in state-owned general insurers.

News Title IRDAI Proposes Tighter Expense Limits, Lower Fees, and Commission Restructuring for Insurers

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Indian Economy & Financial Regulations), RBI Grade B, SEBI Grade A, IRDAI Assistant Manager, and Banking Awareness — crucial for insurance sector reforms, regulatory frameworks, and financial market consumer protection.

News in One Liner The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) proposed a phased reduction in Expenses of Management (EoM) limits, lower regulatory fees, and new commission caps for insurance products to enhance policyholder returns and curb mis-selling.

Detailed News
● The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) issued a consultation paper proposing a phased cut in Expenses of Management (EoM) caps, requiring life insurers to bring company-level EoM down to 15% of gross direct premium income (GDPI) within two years and 12.5% within five years (with a long-term sector goal of 10%).
● For general insurers, the EoM benchmark will shift from Gross Written Premium (GWP) to domestic GDPI, reducing the overall expense limit from 30% to 20% over a five-year period.
● **Commission Restructuring:** Proposed caps set first-year commissions for individual pure-term life plans at 25% for intermediaries and 30% for agents. Motor third-party (TP) insurance will feature zero commission for distributors (2.5% for agents/associates), while individual health plans will feature first-time sale caps of 15% for distribution entities and 20% for agents.
● **Consumer & Regulatory Safeguards:** IRDAI proposed reducing the insurer regulatory fee from 0.05% to 0.04% of premium (capped at ₹20 crore), mandatory cost audits for high-revenue entities, clawback of commissions on mis-selling, and a strict ban on the compulsory bundling of insurance with credit or loans.

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Connect the Dots Lowering administrative and distribution expenses directly reduces insurance premium costs, improves surrender value yields, and builds trust to expand insurance penetration across underserved markets.

Static Points Related to News

- IRDAI was established as a statutory body under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 (Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana).
- Gross Direct Premium Income (GDPI) represents the total premium collected directly from policyholders before accounting for reinsurance cessions.
- Expenses of Management (EoM) cover all operational costs, administrative expenses, and distributor commissions incurred by an insurance entity.

Points to Remember

- Regulatory Body: IRDAI.
- Core EoM Targets: Life Insurance EoM to 12.5% (5 years); General Insurance EoM to 20% GDPI (5 years).
- Consumer Protection: Mandatory cost audits, prohibition of loan-insurance bundling, and lower regulatory fee (0.04%).

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National & State News

News Title Ayushman Bharat AB PM-JAY Completes Eight Years, Surpassing 60 Crore Beneficiaries Covered

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper II - Public Health & Social Justice), RBI Grade B, SEBI Grade A, IBPS PO, and State PSCs — vital for government health programs, social security metrics, and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) goals.

News in One Liner The flagship public health assurance scheme, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), completed eight years of service, covering over 60 crore eligible beneficiaries nationwide.

Detailed News

- Launched on September 23, 2018, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, AB PM-JAY marked its eighth anniversary as the world's largest government-funded health assurance initiative.

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● **Key Scale & Reach Metrics:**
● **Coverage:** Provides ₹5 lakh annual health cover per family for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
● **Beneficiary Base:** Over 60 crore people are covered, with more than 48.5 crore individual Ayushman cards generated to date.
● **Financial Delivery:** Facilitated hospital treatments valued at over ₹2 lakh crore across public and private empanelled healthcare facilities.
● **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs:** Primary care centers under the broader Ayushman Bharat umbrella have recorded over 500 crore total patient footfalls, strengthening preventive and primary healthcare close to households.

Connect the Dots Cashless secondary and tertiary healthcare shields economically vulnerable households from catastrophic out-of-pocket medical expenditure, helping break the cycle of healthcare-induced poverty.

Static Points Related to News
● National Health Authority (NHA) is the apex statutory body responsible for implementing AB PM-JAY across India.
● AB PM-JAY operates on a cost-sharing ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and States (90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States).
● Ayushman Vay Vandana expansion extends health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above regardless of income level.

Points to Remember
● Milestone Achieved: 8 Years completed (Launched Sept 23, 2018).
● Financial Benefit: ₹5 Lakh annual cover per family.
● Total Impact: 60+ Crore beneficiaries covered; ₹2 Lakh Crore+ spent on treatment.

News Title FSSAI Proposes Single-Phase Rollout of Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling (FoPL)

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Food Safety Standards & Public Health), RBI Grade B, FSSAI Central Food Safety Officer (CFSO), State PSCs, and SSC CGL — high probability of questions on food regulatory norms, consumer rights, and public health labeling.

News in One Liner The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) submitted a compliance affidavit to the Supreme Court proposing a single-phase rollout of Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling (FoPL) with a 365-day transition window for food businesses.

Detailed News

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● In a compliance affidavit filed before the Supreme Court, FSSAI moved away from its earlier two-phase approach in favor of a single-phase implementation framework for Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling (FoPL).
● **Warning Trigger & Design:** Packaged foods crossing prescribed thresholds for even *one* nutrient of concern (added sugar, added fat, or salt) will carry a red hexagon on a white square background prominently displayed on the top-left front of the pack.
● **Design & Standards:** The proposed visual format draws broadly from the Canadian FoPL model, with nutrient thresholds based on the ICMR-NIN *Dietary Guidelines for Indians (2024)*. The font size inside the symbol will be at least one point larger than the back-of-pack nutrition table.
● **Implementation Roadmap:** FSSAI requested 4 months to finalize draft rules, followed by a mandatory 60-day public/WTO consultation, and a 365-day voluntary transition window for food businesses to clear pre-printed packaging stock.

Connect the Dots Prominent front-of-pack red warning labels provide clear visual warnings that assist consumers in making healthier choices, curbing the rise of lifestyle diseases like diabetes and cardiovascular illness.

Static Points Related to News
● Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is an autonomous statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare).
● ICMR-NIN (National Institute of Nutrition), based in Hyderabad, sets recommended dietary allowances and nutritional guidelines for India.
● Unlike total sugar/fat, the new FoPL proposal specifically targets *added sugar* and *added fat* to differentiate processed additives from naturally occurring nutrients in fruits/milk.

Points to Remember
● Implementing Authority: FSSAI.
● Key Feature: Red hexagon warning label triggered if a product exceeds limits for even 1 nutrient of concern (added sugar, added fat, or salt).
● Transition Period: 365 days offered to food business operators.

News Title Delhi Cabinet Approves 'Durga Scheme' to Issue 1,300 Pink E-Autos to Women and Transgender Drivers

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper II - Social Justice, Urban Governance & Gender Inclusion), State PSCs, RRB NTPC, and SSC CGL — relevant for urban transport policies, social empowerment schemes, and EV adoption initiatives.

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News in One Liner The Delhi Cabinet approved the 'Durga Scheme' to reserve and distribute 1,300 Pink electric auto-rickshaws (E-Autos) with financial support exclusively to women and transgender drivers.

Detailed News

- The Delhi Government Cabinet approved the implementation of the 'Durga Scheme' to foster inclusive green urban mobility.
- The scheme reserves a special quota of 1,300 Pink E-Auto permits specifically for female and transgender applicants.
- Selected beneficiaries will receive direct government purchase subsidies alongside low-interest credit facilities organized through state financial bodies to minimize upfront costs.
- Beyond financial independence for marginalized groups, the scheme enhances last-mile transit safety for women commuters across the National Capital Region (NCR).

Connect the Dots Combining electric vehicle adoption with gender and marginalized-group quotas promotes urban transit decarbonization while expanding economic livelihood opportunities.

Static Points Related to News

- Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and Department of Transport (GNCTD) oversee permit distributions and transit electrification in Delhi.
- PM E-BUS Sevak and FAME-II schemes serve as national benchmarks for promoting electric public transportation across Indian cities.
- Delhi EV Policy targets a 25% share for electric vehicles among all new vehicle registrations in the capital.

Points to Remember

- Approved Scheme: Durga Scheme (Delhi Cabinet).
- Target Allocation: 1,300 Pink E-Auto permits.
- Beneficiaries: Women and Transgender individuals.

News Title Odisha High-Level Clearance Authority Approves Record ₹2.47 Trillion Investments Across 15 Districts

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Indian Economy & Infrastructure), RBI Grade B, SEBI Grade A, and Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) — highly crucial for state industrialization models, AI/Data Center infrastructure, renewable energy, and employment generation data.

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News in One Liner The Odisha High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA), chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, approved 27 major industrial projects worth ₹2.47 lakh crore across 15 districts, expected to generate over 50,000 jobs.

Detailed News

- The Odisha state government's High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) approved 27 mega industrial proposals totaling ₹2,47,115.70 crore in a single clearance drive spanning 15 districts.
- **Sector Breakdown:**
- **IT & Data Centres:** Emerged as the largest segment with 4 proposals worth ₹1.43 lakh crore, led by High Density Data Centre Ltd's ₹1.05 lakh crore integrated data centre park in Khordha.
- **Power & Renewable Energy:** Accounted for ₹54,288 crore, including NLC India's 3,200 MW thermal power plant in Deogarh (₹34,764 crore) and two pumped storage hydro projects in Rayagada and Koraput.
- **Steel & Minerals:** Rungta Mines (₹9,000 crore expansion) and Shakambhari Ispat (₹5,000 crore complex) led industrial metal expansions.
- **Emerging Technologies:** Approvals included 5 lab-grown diamond manufacturing projects (₹10,680 crore), SiCSem's silicon carbide semiconductor wafer plant (₹2,078 crore), and green hydrogen/e-SAF manufacturing facilities.

Connect the Dots Diversifying industrial investments beyond traditional mining into AI data centres, semiconductors, and green hydrogen builds a resilient regional ecosystem and accelerates balanced geographical development.

Static Points Related to News

- High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) is the highest state-level decision-making body in Odisha for approving major industrial capital investments.
- Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar serves as the executive secretariat of the Odisha state government.
- Silicon Valley Hub at Naraj (near Cuttack) is being developed as Odisha's dedicated hub for electronics, AI, and IT manufacturing.

Points to Remember

- Total Capital Approved: ₹2.47 Lakh Crore (₹2,47,115.70 Crore) across 27 projects.
- Employment Potential: Estimated 50,162 new jobs.
- Key Growth Segment: IT, AI & Data Centres (accounting for over ₹1.42 lakh crore).

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Appointments and Resignation

News Title Supreme Court Collegium Recommends 12 Additional Judges for Permanent Appointments Across Four High Courts

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper II - Indian Judiciary & Constitutional Provisions), State Judicial Services, State PSCs, and Law Entrance Exams — highly relevant for Judicial Appointments, Constitutional Articles (Art. 217/224), and Collegium System dynamics.

News in One Liner The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant, approved recommendations to elevate 12 Additional Judges as Permanent Judges in the Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand, and Gauhati High Courts.

Detailed News

- The Supreme Court Collegium, comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Vikram Nath and B.V. Nagarathna, cleared proposals to appoint 12 Additional Judges as Permanent Judges across four High Courts.
- **Breakdown by High Court:**
- **Andhra Pradesh High Court (5 Judges):** Justice Maheswara Rao Kuncheam, Justice Thoota Chandra Dhana Sekar, Justice Challa Gunaranjan, Justice Avadhanam Hari Haranadha Sarma, and Dr. Justice Yadavalli Lakshmana Rao.
- **Kerala High Court (5 Judges):** Justice P. Krishna Kumar, Justice K.V. Jayakumar, Justice Muralee Krishna S., Justice Jobin Sebastian, and Justice P.V. Balakrishnan.
- **Uttarakhand High Court (1 Judge):** Justice Subhash Upadhyay.
- **Gauhati High Court (1 Judge):** Justice Kaushik Goswami.
- High Court Additional Judges are typically appointed for up to two years under Article 224 before being evaluated for permanent status under Article 217 based on performance and vacancy availability.

Connect the Dots Regularizing additional judges into permanent bench positions ensures stable tenure, improves judicial efficiency, and helps reduce the backlog of pending court cases across state judiciaries.

Static Points Related to News

- Permanent appointment of High Court Judges is governed by **Article 217** of the Constitution, while Additional/Acting Judges are appointed under **Article 224**.
- The High Court Collegium system consists of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and the two senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.
- High Court judges retire at the age of 62 years (compared to 65 years for Supreme Court judges).

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Points to Remember

- Recommending Body: Supreme Court Collegium (headed by CJI Surya Kant).
- Total Judges Approved: 12 Additional Judges elevated to Permanent status.
- High Courts Covered: Andhra Pradesh (5), Kerala (5), Uttarakhand (1), and Gauhati (1).

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Science & Technology

News Title IIT Delhi Develops India's First Indigenous Micro-GPU Architecture

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Science & Technology, IT, and Indigenization of Technology), RBI Grade B, SEBI Grade A, and State PSCs — highly relevant for semiconductor design, embedded hardware, and national self-reliance initiatives (Atmanirbhar Bharat).

News in One Liner Researchers at IIT Delhi designed and successfully demonstrated India's first indigenous micro-Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) architecture to reduce reliance on imported chips for embedded applications.

Detailed News

- Researchers at the Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Delhi, created a working, demonstrable micro-GPU architecture implemented entirely in Register Transfer Language (RTL).
- **Technical Platform:** The micro-GPU demonstrated programmable graphics rendering using a custom floating-point GPU engine mapped to a Xilinx Spartan-7 Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) platform.
- **Target Applications:** Designed for low-cost embedded systems, including industrial control displays, e-rickshaw dashboard navigators, fishing boat inland navigation terminals, educational e-readers, and human-machine interfaces.
- **Future Roadmap:** The team plans to scale the IP into an 8-to-16 core vector-style graphics processor, develop a custom software compiler toolchain, and eventually produce a silicon proof-of-concept on a 65nm Application-Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC) process node.

Connect the Dots Developing domestic GPU Intellectual Property (IP) establishes foundational semiconductor design capabilities, protecting critical infrastructure against global supply chain disruptions while lowering hardware costs for digital-access platforms.

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Static Points Related to News

- **FPGA vs. ASIC:** An FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array) is reconfigurable hardware used for rapid prototyping, whereas an ASIC (Application-Specific Integrated Circuit) is a permanent, mass-manufactured silicon chip.
- **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):** Launched under Digital India Corporation to build a sustainable semiconductor and display design/manufacturing ecosystem nationwide.
- **Register Transfer Language (RTL):** A high-level hardware description language representation used in digital circuit design to define hardware operations before physical chip fabrication.

Points to Remember

- Developing Institute: IIT Delhi (Department of Electrical Engineering).
- Key Platform: Spartan-7 FPGA platform mapped via Register Transfer Language (RTL).
- Future Target: 8-16 core vector processor planned on a 65nm ASIC process node.

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Sports News

News Title Indian Men's Badminton Team Secures Bronze Medal at 20th Asian Games

Exam Radar Exam Radar: SSC CGL, RRB NTPC, IBPS PO, State PSCs, and Sports Current Affairs — important for Asian Games results, national badminton records, and major international sports achievements.

News in One Liner The Indian men's badminton team won a bronze medal at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya after losing 3-1 to China in the semifinals.

Detailed News

- The Indian men's badminton team settled for a bronze medal at the 20th Asian Games held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, after going down 3-1 to top-seeded China in the semifinal clash.
- **Match Summary:**
- **First Singles:** Lakshya Sen lost 21-16, 21-18 to China's Shi Yuqi.
- **First Doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty leveled the tie at 1-1 by defeating reigning world champions Liang Weikeng and Wang Chang (21-11, 22-20).
- **Second Singles:** Ayush Shetty fell 21-19, 21-13 to Li Shifeng.
- **Second Doubles:** Hariharan Amsakarunan and M.R. Arjun lost 21-16, 17-21, 21-9 to He Jiting and Liu Yi, sealing the tie for China.

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● **Historical Context:** This marks back-to-back Asian Games podium finishes for the Indian men's badminton team, following their silver medal at the 2023 Hangzhou Games.

Connect the Dots Consistent podium finishes in major continental events showcase the long-term impact of structured sports development, talent scouting, and high-performance training systems across India.

Static Points Related to News
● **20th Asian Games (2026):** Co-hosted by Aichi Prefecture and the city of Nagoya, Japan.
● **Badminton Association of India (BAI):** The governing body for badminton in India, affiliated with the Badminton World Federation (BWF) and Badminton Asia.
● **Thomas Cup:** The premier international men's team badminton tournament, which India historically won for the first time in 2022.

Points to Remember
● Medal Secured: Bronze Medal (Men's Team Badminton).
● Opponent: China (Lost 3-1 in semifinals).
● Key Victory: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty won the sole point for India.

News Title Naorem Roshibina Devi Wins Silver Medal in Wushu at 20th Asian Games

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services, State PSCs, SSC CGL, RRB, and Sports Current Affairs — crucial for Asian Games individual achievements, indigenous combat sports, and female athlete profiles.

News in One Liner Indian Wushu star Naorem Roshibina Devi won the silver medal in the women's Sanda 60kg event at the 2026 Asian Games, securing her third consecutive Asian Games medal.

Detailed News
● Manipur's Naorem Roshibina Devi bagged the silver medal in the Women's 60kg Sanda category at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games after a 0-2 loss to China's Zhang Xiaoyu in the final.
● **Hat-trick Achievement:** This marks Roshibina's third consecutive medal at the Asian Games, having previously won a Bronze at Jakarta 2018 and a Silver at Hangzhou 2023.
● **Selection Journey:** Roshibina was named as a late inclusion in the national squad on September 10 following an ACL injury to initial trial winner Divyanshi Choudhary.
● **Performance Highlight:** Despite minimal training preparation immediately prior to the games, Roshibina navigated the draw to reach the final, ensuring India's presence on the Wushu podium.

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Connect the Dots The sustained international success of martial artists from India's North-Eastern states underscores the value of targeting regional sports hubs for specialized talent development under national schemes like Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

Static Points Related to News

- **Wushu Disciplines:** Wushu is categorized into two main branches—**Sanda** (full-contact sparring) and **Taolu** (barehand and weapons routines).
- **Wushu Association of India (WAI):** The official governing body recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the International Wushu Federation (IWUF).
- **Arjuna Award:** Roshibina Devi was conferred with the prestigious Arjuna Award in 2023 for her outstanding achievements in Wushu.

Points to Remember

- Event: Women's Sanda 60kg Wushu.
- Medal: Silver Medal (Lost to China's Zhang Xiaoyu).
- Milestone: Third consecutive Asian Games medal (2018 Bronze, 2023 Silver, 2026 Silver).

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Important Days

News Title World Maritime Day 2026: IMO Highlights "From Policy to Practice" for Global Shipping Standards

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper II - International Relations & UN Bodies; GS Paper III - Infrastructure & Maritime Transport), State PSCs, RBI Grade B, and SSC CGL — crucial for international observances, UN specialized agencies, maritime security, and environmental conventions.

News in One Liner The United Nations and International Maritime Organization (IMO) observed World Maritime Day on September 24, 2026, under the theme *"From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence"* to bridge the gap between global rules and national implementation.

Detailed News

- World Maritime Day 2026 was celebrated globally on September 24 (the last Thursday of September) to focus attention on the safety, security, and environmental sustainability of international shipping.

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● **Theme for 2026–2027:** The IMO selected the theme *"From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence"*, marking the first time in history a single theme will be maintained for two consecutive years (2026 and 2027).
● **Core Focus Areas:** The theme emphasizes converting international IMO instruments (such as SOLAS, MARPOL, and STCW) into effective national legislation, strengthening port state enforcement, protecting seafarers in geopolitical conflict zones, and advancing decarbonization.
● **Audit Insights:** The IMO completed its first full audit cycle under the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS), revealing that many member countries face legislative capacity gaps and technical expertise shortages in enforcing maritime standards.

Connect the Dots Upholding international maritime governance safeguards global trade corridors, protects vulnerable marine ecosystems, and reinforces supply chain resilience against geopolitical shocks.

Static Points Related to News
● **International Maritime Organization (IMO):** A specialized UN agency established under the 1948 IMO Convention (Headquarters: London, United Kingdom).
● **Global Trade Role:** Over 80% of global merchandise trade by volume is transported across ocean and sea routes.
● **Key Conventions:** Includes SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea), MARPOL (Prevention of Pollution from Ships), and STCW (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping).

Points to Remember
● Observance Date: September 24, 2026 (Last Thursday of September).
● Theme (2026–2027): "From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence".
● Lead Agency: International Maritime Organization (IMO, London).

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Miscellaneous

Ranking and Reports

News Title India's Electrification Rate Could Surge to 32% by 2035: IEA Report

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Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper III - Energy Sector, Infrastructure, & Environment), RBI Grade B, SEBI Grade A, and State PSCs — highly important for global energy outlook reports, transport sector electrification, and energy import dependency metrics.

News in One Liner According to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) latest report, India's electrification rate could rise from 19% today to 32% by 2035, driven primarily by the rapid adoption of electric mobility.

Detailed News

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) released its latest *Electrification Report*, highlighting India as a major engine of global power demand growth and clean technology adoption.
- **Projection Highlights:** India's overall electrification rate is projected to expand from 19% to 32% by 2035, with transport electrification serving as the chief catalyst.
- **Import Savings:** Accelerating domestic electrification could cushion India from global oil price volatility, potentially reducing its fossil fuel import bill by an amount equal to nearly 30% of its 2025 import bill.
- **Grid Interventions:** The report recommends smart charging infrastructure, time-of-use tariffs, and Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) integration to balance peak demand as solar generation expands across the national grid.

Connect the Dots Replacing imported fossil fuels with domestic clean electricity improves balance-of-payments stability, strengthens energy security, and accelerates net-zero emission commitments.

Static Points Related to News

- **International Energy Agency (IEA):** An autonomous intergovernmental organization established in 1974 within the OECD framework (Headquarters: Paris, France; India is an Associate Member).
- **Major Reports by IEA:** World Energy Outlook (WEO), Global EV Outlook, and Net Zero by 2050 Roadmap.
- **India's Renewable Energy Target:** Aiming for 500 GW of non-fossil fuel power generation capacity by 2030.

Points to Remember

- Publishing Agency: International Energy Agency (IEA).
- Electrification Projection: Increase from 19% to 32% by 2035.
- Primary Growth Driver: Transport sector electrification (EVs).

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News Title **Five Crore Indian Children Lack Access to School Sanitation Services: UN WASH Report**

Exam Radar Exam Radar: UPSC Civil Services (GS Paper II - Social Justice, Public Health, & Education), NABARD Grade A, State PSCs, and SSC CGL — vital for human development metrics, WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) indicators, and SDG 6 targets.

News in One Liner A joint UN report revealed that India had 50 million (5 crore) school children lacking access to basic sanitation services as of 2025, accounting for the highest national share globally.

Detailed News

- The United Nations (UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Programme) released its latest report titled *"Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Schools"*.
- **Key Findings on India:**
- **Sanitation Deficit:** India recorded 50 million (5 crore) students without access to basic school sanitation services, making up a significant portion of the 244 million global total.
- **Drinking Water Gap:** Approximately 1.2 crore (12 million) children in India still lacked access to basic drinking water facilities inside school premises.
- **Positive Trajectory:** The report noted that India remains on track to achieve 100% universal drinking water coverage in schools well before the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal deadline.

Connect the Dots Inadequate school sanitation disproportionately affects female student retention rates and health outcomes, making gender-segregated WASH infrastructure central to educational equity.

Static Points Related to News

- **SDG Goal 6:** Clean Water and Sanitation for all by 2030.
- **Swachh Vidyalaya Campaign:** Launched by the Ministry of Education to ensure functional, gender-segregated toilets in every government school across India.
- **WHO/UNICEF JMP:** Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, serving as the official custodian of global WASH progress under the SDGs.

Points to Remember

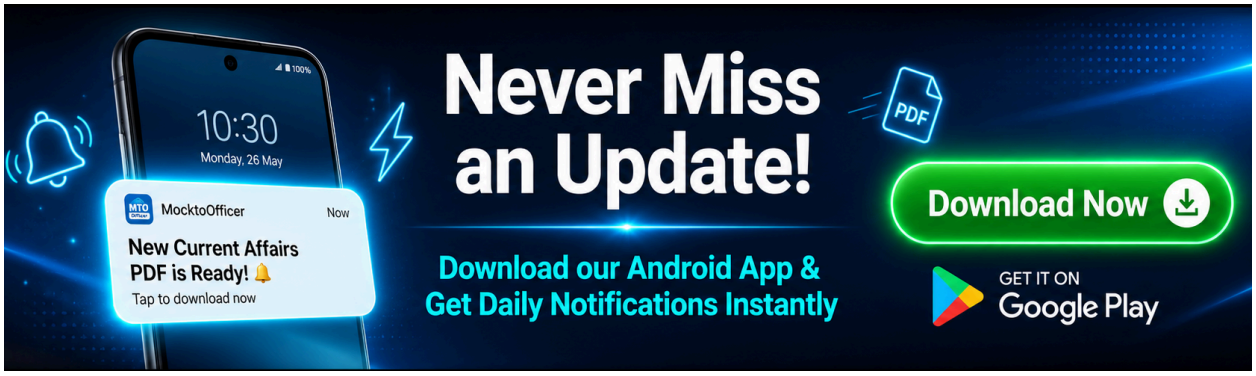
- Report Title: *Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools* (UN/UNICEF/WHO).
- India Key Data: 5 Crore children lacking school sanitation; 1.2 Crore lacking drinking water facilities.
- Target Goal: SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

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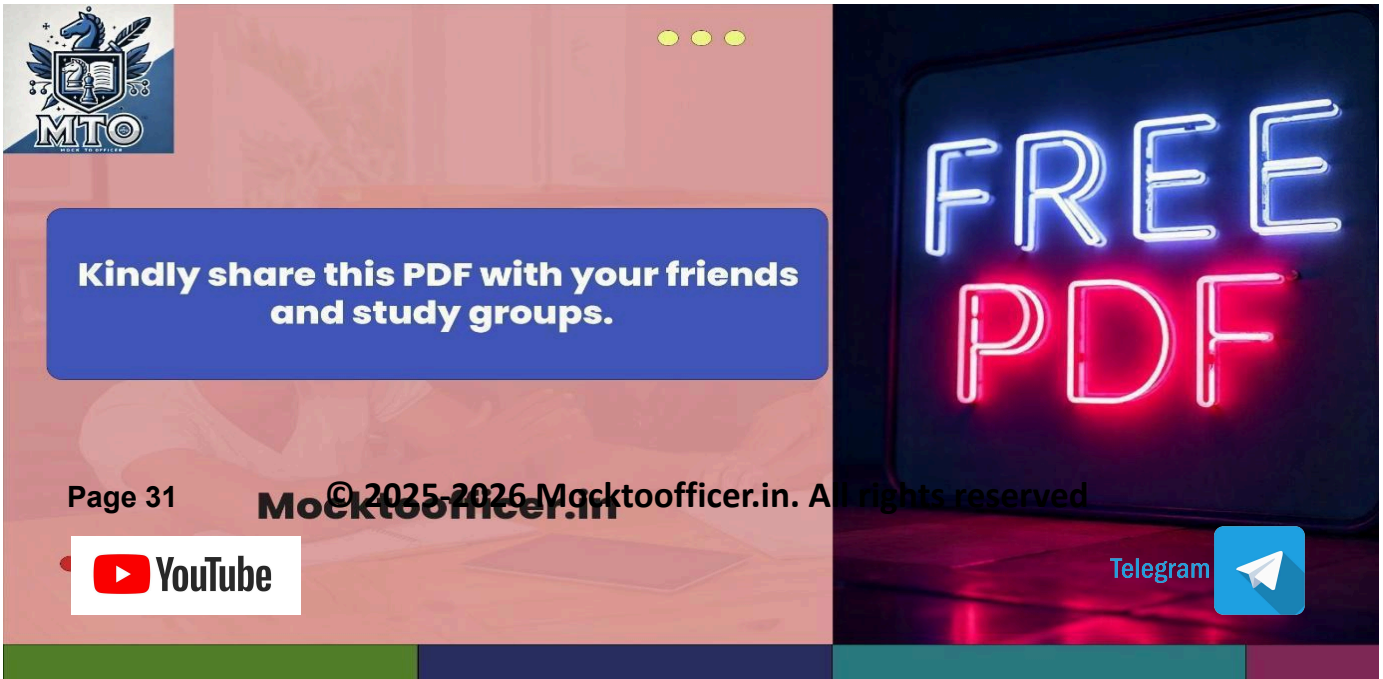
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