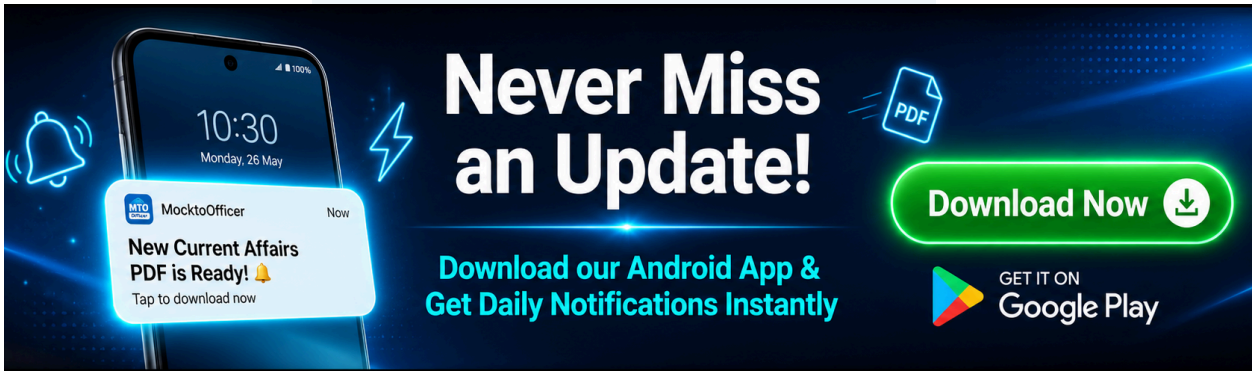
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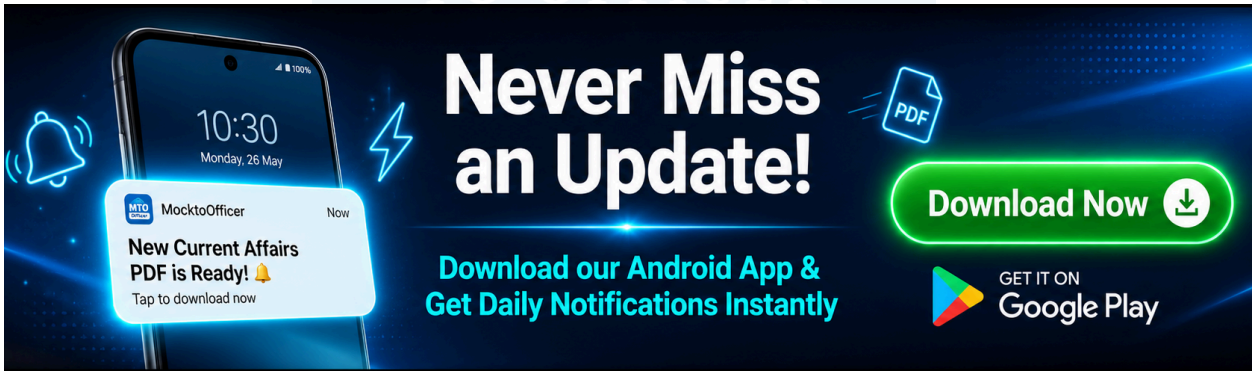
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PIB News

News Title: 43rd Indian Coast Guard Commanders' Conference Commences in New Delhi

Exam Radar: Relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission (SSC) CGL, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect direct factual questions on annual defense leadership conferences, maritime security themes, and ministry appointments.

News in One Liner: The 43rd edition of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Commanders' Conference is being held in New Delhi from September 17 to 19, 2026, to discuss strategic, operational, and administrative priorities.

Detailed News

- The apex annual professional forum of the Indian Coast Guard brought together senior commanders nationwide at the Coast Guard Headquarters in New Delhi.
- Union Minister of State for Defence Shri Sanjay Seth addressed the senior leadership on the opening day.
- Deliberations over the three-day event centered on four main pillars: current and emerging maritime security challenges, operational readiness and resource deployment, capability enhancement roadmaps, and alignment with national maritime strategy.
- The conference reviewed ongoing indigenisation initiatives under the 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' frameworks.

Connect the Dots: Maritime defense and indigenisation milestones are heavily tested alongside naval and paramilitary force exercises under the Union Ministry of Defence portfolio.

Static Points Related to News

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was established on August 18, 1978, under the Coast Guard Act, 1978, and functions under the Ministry of Defence.
- The motto of the Indian Coast Guard is *"Vayam Rakshamah"* (We Protect).
- The Director General of the Indian Coast Guard leads the service from its headquarters in New Delhi.

Points to Remember

- Edition of the conference: 43rd edition.
- Venue: Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi.
- Dates: September 17–19, 2026.

News Title: Prime Minister Inaugurates SEMICON India 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi

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Exam Radar: Highly relevant for Banking Mains, SSC CGL, and Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) exams — expect conceptual and state/country pavilion questions related to semiconductor policy and national tech initiatives.

News in One Liner: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the three-day SEMICON India 2026 conference themed 'Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem' at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.

Detailed News

- SEMICON India 2026 runs from September 17 to 19, 2026, at the Yashobhoomi convention center in New Delhi.
- The central theme for the 2026 edition is 'Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem'.
- The conference featured over 600 participating companies, 400 executives, 150 speakers, and drew 50,000 visitors from 52 countries.
- The event introduced the 'Sand to Silicon to Systems' Value Chain Experience showcasing semiconductor materials, equipment, chip design, fabrication, advanced packaging, and electronics systems.
- Six dedicated Country Pavilions were featured: Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Singapore, and Sweden.
- The exhibition also included 12 State booths, a Startup Pavilion, Innovation Showcase, Student Hackathon, and Workforce Development Pavilion.

Connect the Dots: This event directly links to the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and national manufacturing incentive schemes (PLI).

Static Points Related to News

- The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) was launched in 2021 under Digital India Corporation to build a sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem.
- Yashobhoomi (India International Convention and Expo Centre) is located in Dwarka, New Delhi.
- Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology oversees national semiconductor policy execution.

Points to Remember

- Theme: 'Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem'.
- Host Country Pavilions: Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, Singapore, Sweden (6 countries).
- Venue: Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.

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News Title: Veteran Actor Anant Nag to receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant across all Banking, SSC, Railway, and State PSC exams — expect direct factual questions regarding prestigious national cultural and cinema award recipients.

News in One Liner: Veteran actor Shri Anant Nag will be conferred the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2024 at the 72nd National Film Awards ceremony.

Detailed News

- The Government of India announced that Shri Anant Nag will receive the Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024 on the recommendation of the Selection Committee.
- The award ceremony will take place during the 72nd National Film Awards at Kevadia, Gujarat, on September 22, 2026.
- Anant Nag's distinguished career spans over 5 decades in Indian cinema, during which he won five Filmfare Awards and five Karnataka State Best Actor Awards.
- He was previously honored with the Padma Bhushan in 2025.
- Beyond acting, he served as a Member of the Karnataka Legislative Council (1988–1994), Member of the Legislative Assembly (1994–1999), and Minister of State for Bangalore City Development.

Connect the Dots: Cultural honors under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting are standard static-GK overlap areas tested in National Film Award cycles.

Static Points Related to News

- Instituted in 1969, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in the field of cinema.
- Devika Rani was the first recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1969.
- The award carries a *Swarna Kamal* (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of ₹10 lakh.

Points to Remember

- Winner: Anant Nag (for the year 2024).
- Ceremony Venue: Kevadia, Gujarat (72nd National Film Awards).
- Previous Highest National Civilian Honor: Padma Bhushan (2025).

News Title: Ministry of Coal Launches 16th Round of Commercial Coal Mine Auctions

Exam Radar: Highly relevant for Economic Awareness, Banking Mains, and UPSC/State PSC exams — expect questions on natural resource allocation, energy policy, and commercial mining tranches.

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News in One Liner: The Ministry of Coal launched the 16th tranche of commercial coal mine auctions to enhance domestic energy production and industrial fuel security.

Detailed News

- The Ministry of Coal officially initiated the 16th round of commercial coal block auctions.
- The move aims to increase private sector participation in coal production, boost domestic availability, and lower dependence on imported coal.
- The auctioned mines include fully explored and partially explored blocks distributed across key coal-bearing states.
- Commercial mining rules allow 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) under the automatic route with no restrictions on end-use for extracted coal.

Connect the Dots: Connects to India's energy transition targets, domestic coal production milestones under Coal India Limited (CIL), and power sector reforms under the Ministry of Coal.

Static Points Related to News

- Commercial coal mining was opened to the private sector in June 2020 under the *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* package.
- India possesses the 5th largest coal reserves in the world, with major deposits located in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh.
- Union Minister of Coal heads the administrative oversight of coal block allocations and energy security initiatives.

Points to Remember

- Current Tranche: 16th Round of Commercial Coal Mine Auctions.
- Administering Body: Ministry of Coal, Government of India.
- Primary Goal: Boosting domestic production and reducing import dependency.

News Title: Ministry of Culture Organizes Hyderabad Liberation Day Celebrations at Secunderabad Parade Ground

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect direct factual questions regarding historical integration anniversaries, venue details, and organizing ministries.

News in One Liner: The Ministry of Culture organized the official Hyderabad Liberation Day commemoration ceremony at the Secunderabad Parade Ground to mark the historic integration of the erstwhile princely state into the Indian Union.

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Detailed News

●The Ministry of Culture hosted the annual Hyderabad Liberation Day event on September seventeen, two thousand twenty-six, at Secunderabad Parade Ground.
●Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan attended the grand national ceremony as the designated Chief Guest and inspected the ceremonial march-past.
●A total of ten contingents drawn from various Central Armed Police Forces participated in the official parade inspection.
●The ceremony commemorated Operation Polo, executed in September nineteen forty-eight under Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to integrate Hyderabad State into India.
●The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting set up a special historical exhibition highlighting the freedom struggle episodes associated with the liberation movement.
●Dignitaries felicitated the student winners of the national Hyderabad Liberation Day Quiz Competition organized at the Salar Jung Museum.

Connect the Dots: This national historical celebration links with political history and constitutional integration topics, which examiners routinely test alongside Ministry of Culture heritage initiatives and central security force parades.

Static Points Related to News

●Operation Polo was the military action initiated by the Government of India in September nineteen forty-eight to annex the princely state of Hyderabad.
●Salar Jung Museum is a national art museum located on the southern bank of the Musi River in Hyderabad, Telangana.
●Secunderabad is a twin city to Hyderabad established in eighteen hundred six as a British cantonment base.

Points to Remember

●The Chief Guest for the Hyderabad Liberation Day ceremony was Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan.
●The total number of Central Armed Police Force contingents participating in the march-past was ten contingents.
●The official venue hosting the national parade was the Secunderabad Parade Ground.

News Title: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Commemorates World Patient Safety Day Two Thousand Twenty Six

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Exam Radar: Highly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level, and Union Public Service Commission exams — expect direct questions on global health observances, official campaign themes, and national health metrics.

News in One Liner: Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda addressed the national observance of World Patient Safety Day at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi.

Detailed News

●The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare observed World Patient Safety Day on September seventeen, two thousand twenty-six, hosting a national convention at ABVIMS and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.
●Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda delivered the keynote address emphasizing clinical protocols and safe care management for non-communicable diseases.
●Government statistics presented during the convention revealed that out-of-pocket health expenditure in India declined from nearly sixty-two percent in twenty fourteen to forty-three percent.
●The Ministry reported the operational expansion of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana network past twenty thousand functional generic medicine outlets nationwide.
●Health officials reiterated strict implementation parameters under the National Quality Assurance Standards to reduce clinical errors across rural and urban primary health centers.
●The convention launched updated digital self-assessment tools under the SaQushal framework for public hospital certification.

Connect the Dots: This health policy event connects directly to public health economics, where examiners frequently test government insurance schemes like Ayushman Bharat alongside WHO health metrics and out-of-pocket expenditure reductions.

Static Points Related to News

●World Patient Safety Day was established by the World Health Assembly in twenty nineteen through resolution WHA72.6 to enhance global healthcare safety awareness.
●The Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India implements the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
●Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital was established by the British Raj in nineteen thirty-two as Willingdon Hospital in New Delhi.

Points to Remember

●World Patient Safety Day is observed globally every year on September seventeen.
●The share of out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure in India dropped to forty-three percent.

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●The functional network milestone reached by Jan Aushadhi Kendras crossed twenty thousand outlets.

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Industry News

News Title: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Unveils GOBARdhan Operational Guidelines and Revised Compressed Biogas Pricing

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness and Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level Economics — expect a conceptual or numerical question on biofuel blending targets, administered energy pricing, and waste-to-energy schemes.

News in One Liner: The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas issued detailed operational guidelines for the GOBARdhan scheme, establishing an administered compressed biogas price of two thousand one hundred ten rupees per MMBTU.

Detailed News

●The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas released operational guidelines under the Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) initiative supported by an outlay of twenty-three thousand seven hundred thirty-one crore rupees.
●The government fixed the procurement price paid to Compressed Biogas (CBG) producers at two thousand one hundred ten rupees per Million British Thermal Units (MMBTU), representing a forty-three percent increase over previous rates.
●To protect retail consumers from price hikes, the Central Government will provide a direct affordability support grant of ten rupees per kilogram of CBG, equivalent to two hundred fifteen rupees per MMBTU.
●The framework guarantees up to one hundred percent offtake of produced compressed biogas by public sector oil and gas marketing companies.
●Mandatory CBG blending obligations for City Gas Distribution entities were fixed at three percent for fiscal year twenty twenty-seven, rising to five percent by fiscal year twenty twenty-nine.
●The revised price mechanism guarantees a minimum ten-year contract period to encourage private sector capital investments in commercial bio-methanation plants.

Connect the Dots: This renewable energy policy aligns with India's net-zero carbon commitment for twenty seventy, which competitive exams routinely cover under National Biofuel Policy targets and SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) initiatives.

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Static Points Related to News

●The GOBARdhan scheme was originally launched in twenty eighteen under the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
●Compressed Biogas is produced through anaerobic digestion of organic waste materials and contains over ninety-five percent pure methane content.
●British Thermal Unit (BTU) is a traditional unit of heat defined as the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit.

Points to Remember

●The revised procurement price established for Compressed Biogas under the scheme is two thousand one hundred ten rupees per MMBTU.
●The direct government affordability support subsidy provided is ten rupees per kilogram of CBG.
●The mandatory blending target set for City Gas Distribution companies for fiscal year twenty twenty-seven is three percent.

News Title: Financial Services Firm Nomura Projects Sixty-Five Point Five Billion Dollar Balance of Payments Surplus as August Trade Deficit Narrows

Exam Radar: Highly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level Economics, and Reserve Bank of India Grade B exams — expect direct questions on trade statistics, current account deficits, and foreign capital inflows.

News in One Liner: Financial services major Nomura projected India's balance of payments surplus to reach sixty-five point five billion dollars for fiscal year twenty twenty-seven as the monthly trade deficit narrowed to twenty-six point nine billion dollars.

Detailed News

●International brokerage Nomura published an economic assessment showing India's merchandise trade deficit narrowing sharply to twenty-six point nine billion dollars in August from thirty-two billion dollars in July.
●Merchandise exports registered a robust twenty-six point one percent year-on-year expansion during August, driven by a ninety percent surge in outbound shipments of electronic goods.
●Engineering goods exports expanded by twenty-five percent year-on-year, while marine product exports grew by twenty-eight percent during the same monthly period.
●Merchandise import growth moderated to fourteen point one percent year-on-year in August, supported by a thirty-five percent drop in gold, gem, and jewelry imports.
●The net services trade surplus maintained stable support at seventeen point four billion dollars in August compared to seventeen point six billion dollars in July.

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●Nomura projected India's overall Balance of Payments (BoP) surplus to reach sixty-five point five billion dollars in fiscal year twenty twenty-seven, supported by massive Non-Resident Indian deposit inflows under Foreign Currency Non-Resident Bank accounts.

Connect the Dots: This foreign trade data connects directly with Reserve Bank of India foreign exchange reserves management, which examiners test alongside capital account convertibility rules and external debt metrics.

Static Points Related to News

●Nomura Holdings is a prominent Japanese financial holding company and global investment bank headquartered in Tokyo, Japan.
●Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits are foreign currency-denominated fixed deposits maintained by Non-Resident Indians with authorized banks in India.
●The balance of payments capital account records all net capital transfers and transactions in foreign financial assets and liabilities over a financial period.

Points to Remember

●The total merchandise trade deficit recorded by India in August stood at twenty-six point nine billion dollars.
●The year-on-year export growth rate achieved by Indian electronic goods during August was ninety percent.
●Nomura's projected Balance of Payments surplus for India in fiscal year twenty twenty-seven is sixty-five point five billion dollars.

News Title: Semiconductor Equipment Giant Applied Materials Announces Five Billion Dollar Investment Plan in India

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level Economics, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect direct factual questions on foreign direct investment commitments, semiconductor research facilities, and domestic supply chain projects.

News in One Liner: United States-based semiconductor equipment manufacturer Applied Materials committed a five billion dollar ten-year investment in India to build a research laboratory and develop an ecosystem supply chain.

Detailed News

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●United States semiconductor equipment company Applied Materials announced a five billion dollar ten-year investment commitment to establish a product development clean-room laboratory and engineering supply chain in India.
●Company leadership announced the capital deployment plan during the SEMICON India conference held at the Yashobhoomi convention center in New Delhi.
●The capital investment focus centers on building a physical research laboratory and expanding local component supplier networks to accelerate equipment engineering timelines.
●Local supplier integration aims to eliminate international shipping delays for development components and reduce iterative testing timelines during equipment design phases.
●The initiative builds upon the company's previously announced four hundred million dollar engineering hub project established in Bengaluru.
●Applied Materials reported twelve percent growth in domestic revenues reaching two thousand seven hundred eight crore rupees for the previous fiscal period.

Connect the Dots: This semiconductor equipment investment aligns directly with the India Semiconductor Mission under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, which competitive examinations routinely test under Production Linked Incentive schemes and domestic high-tech manufacturing goals.

Static Points Related to News
●Applied Materials is a major global supplier of manufacturing equipment, software, and services used in the fabrication of semiconductor chips and display technologies.
●The India Semiconductor Mission operates as a specialized division within the Digital India Corporation to build a sustainable semiconductor ecosystem.
●Semiconductors are essential solid-state electronic materials that control electrical current in digital processing devices, computer memory chips, and integrated circuits.

Points to Remember
●The total financial commitment pledged by Applied Materials in India is five billion dollars over a ten-year duration.
●The official venue hosting the announcement was the Yashobhoomi convention center in New Delhi.
●The location of the company's four hundred million dollar engineering hub previously launched in India is Bengaluru.

News Title: Ministry of Labour and Employment Proposes Raising Medical Reimbursement Caps and Adding Digital Health Records

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Exam Radar: Highly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect questions on social security welfare schemes, informal worker coverage, and medical reimbursement caps.

News in One Liner: The Ministry of Labour and Employment planned enhancements to the Labour Welfare Scheme to raise treatment reimbursement limits, add dialysis coverage, and integrate digital health records.

Detailed News

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment initiated policy revisions under the Labour Welfare Scheme to raise existing ceiling limits on medical treatment expense reimbursements.
- The proposed policy expansion incorporates dedicated financial assistance for specialized medical procedures, including free dialysis treatment coverage for eligible workers.
- A core technological component of the proposal involves integrating beneficiary medical records with centralized digital health platforms to ensure paperless claims processing.
- The revised framework targets workers registered across organized and unorganized sector welfare funds, including mica, iron ore, manganese ore, and chrome ore mine workers.
- The initiative aims to standardize health assistance across state administrative bodies while easing bureaucratic verification procedures for emergency hospitalizations.

Connect the Dots: This social security initiative pairs with broader labor law frameworks and the e-Shram portal, which examiners frequently highlight to test candidate knowledge on unorganized worker protections and statutory welfare funds.

Static Points Related to News

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment is the apex central executive body tasked with safeguarding worker welfare, administering social security laws, and facilitating labor reform.
- Social security schemes provide statutory state benefits, healthcare access, and insurance protections against occupational hazards, illness, and old age.
- Digital health records store individual medical records electronically to enable seamless healthcare access across network hospitals.

Points to Remember

- The key medical procedure specifically proposed for inclusion under the expanded scheme is dialysis treatment.
- The administrative body reviewing medical reimbursement caps is the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- The technological integration platform involves linking welfare claims with centralized digital health records.

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Financial News

News Title: Goods and Services Tax Council Schedules Process and Administrative Reforms Discussion for October Seven Meeting

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level Economics, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect questions on indirect tax governance, Input Tax Credit rules, and electronic invoicing mandates.

News in One Liner: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the Goods and Services Tax Council will evaluate administrative process reforms, input tax credit mechanisms, and e-invoicing during its October seven meeting.

Detailed News

- Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman confirmed that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council will meet on October seven to take up comprehensive process reforms.
- The upcoming council meeting agenda prioritizes streamlining electronic invoicing requirements and simplifying Input Tax Credit (ITC) reconciliation protocols for commercial enterprises.
- Discussions will focus on reducing procedural compliance burdens, easing tax dispute litigation, and refining automated return verification systems.
- The council plans to assess administrative measures to curb fraudulent invoice generation while preventing genuine businesses from facing credit blockage.
- State finance ministers and central tax officials will review regional feedback on tax administration before finalizing procedural guidelines.

Connect the Dots: These administrative GST updates link directly with indirect taxation structure topics, which competitive exams regularly test under Article 279A constitutional provisions and federal tax revenue distribution mechanisms.

Static Points Related to News

- The Goods and Services Tax Council is a joint constitutional forum established under Article 279A of the Constitution of India to make recommendations on indirect tax rates and rules.
- The Union Finance Minister serves as the ex-officio Chairperson of the Goods and Services Tax Council.

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●Input Tax Credit allows registered taxpayers to deduct the tax paid on business inputs from their final tax liability on output sales.

Points to Remember

●The official date scheduled for the GST Council process reforms meeting is October seven.
●The ex-officio Chairperson presiding over the Goods and Services Tax Council is Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
●The key tax operational areas slated for review include electronic invoicing and Input Tax Credit reconciliation.

News Title: Securities and Exchange Board of India Restrains Market Entities for Cross Segment Derivative Price Manipulation

Exam Radar: Highly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level Economics, and Reserve Bank of India Grade B exams — expect direct questions on market regulator enforcement, derivative market abuses, and disgorgement orders.

News in One Liner: Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India barred six entities from securities markets and ordered twenty-eight point one two crore rupees in disgorgement for cross-segment price manipulation.

Detailed News

●The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued an interim order barring a stockbroker and five related entities from accessing securities markets due to cross-segment price manipulation.
●The regulator ordered the impounding and disgorgement of twenty-eight point one two crore rupees representing illegal profits generated through coordinated trading activities.
●Investigation revealed that the entities manipulated cash market prices of underlying stocks by placing large buy orders to artificially benefit their non-genuine positions held in single-stock futures and options contracts.
●The manipulative trading pattern involved placing aggressive bids in the equity segment during market hours, driving up derivative settlement valuations prior to contract expiry.
●SEBI directed banking institutions to freeze accounts holding the impounded funds to safeguard financial recovery until final adjudication.

Connect the Dots: This regulatory enforcement action connects to capital market oversight concepts, where examiners routinely test SEBI's statutory powers under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, nineteen ninety-two, regarding market integrity and investor protection.

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Static Points Related to News

●The Securities and Exchange Board of India is the statutory regulator for the commodities and securities market in India, established in nineteen ninety-two with headquarters in Mumbai.
●Cross-segment market manipulation involves placing manipulative trades in one market segment, such as the cash market, to artificially alter prices and gain unfair profits in another segment, such as derivatives.
●Disgorgement is a legal remedy ordering a party that has violated securities regulations to surrender all illegally obtained profits.

Points to Remember

●The total amount ordered for impounding and disgorgement by SEBI is twenty-eight point one two crore rupees.
●The total number of entities barred from securities markets under the interim order is six entities.
●The derivative instruments manipulated during the cross-segment trading activity were single-stock futures and options.

News Title: Public Interest Litigation Filed in Supreme Court Challenging Point Four Percent Merchant Discount Rate on High Value Unified Payments Interface Transactions

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect conceptual questions on the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, digital payment fees, and constitutional challenges.

News in One Liner: A Public Interest Litigation was filed in the Supreme Court challenging the government notification permitting a point four percent Merchant Discount Rate on Unified Payments Interface commercial payments exceeding two thousand rupees.

Detailed News

●A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was submitted before the Supreme Court of India challenging the executive decision allowing a point four percent Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on merchant Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments exceeding two thousand rupees.
●The legal challenge questions the September fourteen notification issued under Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, two thousand seven.
●The petition argues that withdrawing zero-MDR protections for transactions above two thousand rupees undermines digital inclusion policies established since January twenty twenty.
●The petition alleges a lack of statutory safeguards and administrative transparency in establishing fee ceilings, which cap charges at three hundred rupees for high-value transactions.

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●The legal challenge highlights potential financial burdens placed on medium-scale commercial businesses despite Reserve Bank of India statements backing the fee structure for ecosystem sustainability.

Connect the Dots: This judicial petition links directly with payment system statutory regulations, where examiners test the statutory role of the Reserve Bank of India and National Payments Corporation of India under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, two thousand seven.

Static Points Related to News

●A Public Interest Litigation is a legal action initiated in a court of law for the enforcement of public interest or general social welfare under Article 32 or Article 226 of the Constitution.
●Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, two thousand seven, previously prohibited payment system providers from charging fees on specified electronic payment modes.
●The Supreme Court of India is the highest judicial authority and constitutional court established under Article 124 of the Constitution of India.

Points to Remember

●The specific statutory section challenged under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act is Section 10A.
●The upper fee cap established under the challenged merchant payment rule is three hundred rupees.
●The transaction threshold triggering the disputed point four percent fee is two thousand rupees.

News Title: Union Finance Ministry Reaffirms Zero Charges on Person to Person Unified Payments Interface Transfers

Exam Radar: Highly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level Economics, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect direct factual questions on retail payment guidelines, peer-to-peer transfer rules, and merchant fee exclusions.

News in One Liner: The Ministry of Finance issued an official clarification confirming that all Person-to-Person Unified Payments Interface transfers remain completely free of charges regardless of the transaction amount.

Detailed News

●The Union Ministry of Finance published an official clarification reiterating that individual consumers face zero charges for Person-to-Person (P2P) Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transfers.

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●Government officials emphasized that sending or receiving money between individuals involves no transaction fees regardless of whether the transfer amount exceeds two thousand rupees.
●Clarifications confirmed that approximately ninety-six percent of Person-to-Merchant transactions fall below two thousand rupees and remain entirely exempt from Merchant Discount Rate charges.
●The Finance Ministry noted that the point four percent Merchant Discount Rate represents a merchant-side processing fee and is not a consumer tax or government revenue charge.
●Revenue generated from eligible commercial transactions will be distributed among payment service banks, technology providers, and ecosystem participants to fund infrastructure and cybersecurity.

Connect the Dots: This policy clarification connects with retail payment system dynamics, which examiners routinely test alongside National Payments Corporation of India operations, interbank clearing networks, and digital financial inclusion goals.

Static Points Related to News
●Person-to-Person transfers refer to direct electronic funds transfers executed between two private individual bank accounts without a commercial intermediary.
●The Ministry of Finance is the apex ministry of the Government of India responsible for managing public finances, national economic policies, and direct and indirect taxes.
●The National Payments Corporation of India manages the operational settlement and software architecture underlying the Unified Payments Interface network.

Points to Remember
●The percentage of Person-to-Merchant UPI transactions remaining completely free of Merchant Discount Rate charges is ninety-six percent.
●The transaction charge applicable to Person-to-Person UPI money transfers remains zero rupees.
●The official enforcement date for the updated merchant payment framework is October fifteen, two thousand twenty-six.

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National & State News

News Title: Ministry of Education Launches Six-Month Certificate Bridge Course for Primary School Teachers

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect direct factual

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questions on teacher qualification frameworks, National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) implementations, and Supreme Court directives regarding B.Ed. degrees.

News in One Liner: Union Minister for Education Pralhad Joshi launched a six-month Certificate Bridge Course in Primary Teacher Education (PTE) for in-service primary school teachers holding B.Ed. degrees.

Detailed News

- Union Minister for Education Pralhad Joshi officially launched the six-month Certificate (Bridge) Course in Primary Teacher Education (PTE) in New Delhi.
- The course specifically targets in-service primary school teachers (Classes I–V) holding B.Ed. degrees who were appointed between June 28, 2018, and August 11, 2023.
- The move follows a Supreme Court judgment (*Devesh Sharma vs. Union of India*, April 8, 2024) empowering the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) to frame a bridge course for appointees lacking a Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed.).
- Implemented through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) via Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode, the course consists of six theory subjects and a school-based practicum.
- The training structure includes at least 10 days of online contact classes and 20 days of practical school-based teaching experience.
- Candidates can attempt the public theory examination in any of the 22 scheduled languages recognized under the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Connect the Dots: This initiative links directly to national education policy implementation under the Ministry of Education, focusing on foundational literacy, primary teaching competencies, and judicial compliance under Article 21A (Right to Education).

Static Points Related to News

- The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Education, established in 1989 to offer open distance learning.
- The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) is a statutory body established under the NCTE Act, 1993, to oversee standards in teacher education.
- The Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India recognizes 22 official languages.

Points to Remember

- The Union Minister for Education who launched the program is Pralhad Joshi.
- The primary implementing agency for the Bridge Course is the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).
- The duration of the specialized teacher training bridge course is six months.

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News Title: Health Ministry Issues Advisory Restricting Unproven Stem Cell Therapy to Approved Clinical Conditions

Exam Radar: Highly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect conceptual and factual questions on medical regulation, National Medical Commission guidelines, and restrictions on stem cell therapy for Autism Spectrum Disorder.

News in One Liner: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued a strict advisory directing states to restrict stem cell therapy to ministry-approved indications and prohibiting routine commercial use for Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Detailed News

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued an official advisory directing state and district authorities to enforce strict compliance with stem cell therapy regulations.
- Stem cell therapy in routine clinical care is strictly limited to 18 disease conditions in adults and 14 in children on the ministry-approved list (e.g., specific blood cancers and autoimmune disorders).
- The government explicitly restricted the therapeutic application of stem cells for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) solely to approved clinical trials, banning routine commercial services.
- The advisory stems from a Supreme Court judgment (*Yash Charitable Trust & Ors. v. Union of India*, January 30, 2026) reinforcing statutory compliance.
- The National Medical Commission (NMC) warned that unauthorized promotion, prescription, or administration of unproven stem cell therapies constitutes professional misconduct.
- Violations carry strict statutory penalties, including registration cancellation under the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010.

Connect the Dots: This regulatory action highlights public health governance, medical ethics, and enforcement parameters under the Clinical Establishments Act and NMC codes of conduct.

Static Points Related to News

- The National Medical Commission (NMC) replaced the Medical Council of India as the statutory body regulating medical education and professionals under the NMC Act, 2019.
- Stem cells are undifferentiated biological cells capable of differentiating into specialized cell types and dividing to produce more stem cells.
- The Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act was enacted in 2010 to provide for the registration and regulation of clinical establishments in India.

Points to Remember

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● The medical condition explicitly restricted to approved clinical trials for stem cell treatment is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
● The primary statutory legislation cited for cancelling registration of non-compliant clinical facilities is the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010.
● Unauthorized stem cell therapy administration is categorized legally as professional misconduct by the NMC.

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World News

News Title: IMF Reaffirms India's Capacity to Drive the Next Wave of Global Growth

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level Economics, and Reserve Bank of India Grade B exams — expect direct factual questions on multilateral macroeconomic assessments, IMF delegation visits, and global growth drivers.

News in One Liner: International Monetary Fund (IMF) Deputy Managing Director Nigel Clarke highlighted India as the world's fastest-growing major economy with the potential to power the next wave of global economic expansion.

Detailed News
● International Monetary Fund (IMF) Deputy Managing Director Nigel Clarke stated that India possesses the economic capacity to power global growth, supported by strong fundamentals, private-sector dynamism, and technological adoption.
● The official assessment was issued following a five-day official delegation visit across major Indian financial centers, including New Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai.
● IMF leadership cited innovation, digital transformation, advanced manufacturing, and technological capabilities as key drivers of national productivity and competitiveness.
● High-level bilateral discussions were held with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra, and NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri.
● Discussions covered India's economic outlook, global economic shifts, and policy measures needed to support sustainable and inclusive medium-term growth.

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Connect the Dots: This macroeconomic endorsement connects directly to topics on international financial institutions, India's GDP growth drivers, balance of payments resilience, and global economic outlook reports.

Static Points Related to News

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a major UN financial agency headquartered in Washington, D.C., established at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944.
- Kristalina Georgieva serves as the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.
- NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) replaced the Planning Commission on January 1, 2015, as the apex public policy think tank.

Points to Remember

- The IMF Deputy Managing Director who conducted the official multi-city visit to India is Nigel Clarke.
- The current Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog referenced in official discussions is Ashok Kumar Lahiri.
- The three Indian cities visited during the IMF delegation assessment were New Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai.

News Title: India Summons Pakistani Diplomat and Lodges Protest Following Naval Incident in Arabian Sea

Exam Radar: Highly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level, and Defense Service exams — expect questions on maritime security, bilateral military exercise agreements, and diplomatic protest procedures.

News in One Liner: New Delhi summoned the Pakistani Charge d'Affaires to lodge a strong protest over unacceptable maneuvers by Pakistani naval units that caused a collision with an Indian Navy vessel in international waters.

Detailed News

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) summoned the Charge d'Affaires of the High Commission of Pakistan in New Delhi to register a formal diplomatic protest.
- The protest pertained to an incident at sea involving unacceptable maneuvers by Pakistani naval units, resulting in a collision with an Indian Navy warship.
- Official statements confirmed the collision took place in international waters and caused no major structural damage.
- India highlighted that the maneuver violated the 1991 Agreement between India and Pakistan on Advance Notice on Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troops Movements.

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● India's Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad was instructed to lodge a parallel formal protest with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan.

Connect the Dots: This bilateral maritime incident touches upon international maritime laws, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance protocols, and bilateral confidence-building measures (CBMs) in South Asia.

Static Points Related to News

● The Agreement on Advance Notice on Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troops Movements between India and Pakistan was signed in April 1991.
● The North Arabian Sea forms a strategically critical body of water linking the Gulf of Oman, Persian Gulf routes, and the western Indian peninsula.
● A Charge d'Affaires serves as a diplomatic official who heads an embassy or high commission in the absence of an Ambassador or High Commissioner.

Points to Remember

● The specific bilateral accord violated during the naval maneuver was the April 1991 Agreement on Advance Notice on Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troops Movements.
● The location where the naval unit collision occurred was international waters.
● The diplomatic measure undertaken by New Delhi involved summoning the Charge d'Affaires of Pakistan.

News Title: US House Passes Russia Sanctions Bill; India Reaffirms Energy Security Priority

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level Economics, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect questions on international trade policy, secondary sanctions, and Indian energy procurement strategies.

News in One Liner: The US House of Representatives passed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 authorizing 100% tariffs on Russian energy buyers, while India affirmed its commitment to 1.4 billion citizens' energy security.

Detailed News

● The United States House of Representatives passed the "Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026" by a 262–159 vote margin, clearing it for President Donald Trump's signature.
● The legislation grants executive authority to impose tariffs up to 100 percent on energy trading partners purchasing oil and gas from Moscow, targeting major buyers like India and China.

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● Responding to the bill, India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that India remains firmly committed to ensuring energy security for its 1.4 billion people through diversified sourcing.
● New Delhi emphasized that it dictates crude oil sourcing based on evolving market dynamics and has communicated potential implications to US interlocutors.
● India imports over 88 percent of its crude oil requirements, with Russian imports accounting for more than half of its total crude oil purchases.

Connect the Dots: Foreign trade policy dynamics, crude oil import basket diversification, and secondary sanction frameworks are crucial topics for competitive banking and civil services examinations.

Static Points Related to News
● The US House of Representatives forms the lower chamber of the United States Congress, operating alongside the Senate.
● Secondary sanctions refer to economic penalties imposed by one country against third-party foreign entities conducting business with a primary sanctioned state.
● Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs) are emergency crude oil stockpiles maintained by nations to mitigate foreign supply shocks.

Points to Remember
● The legislative act passed by the US Congress is the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026.
● The maximum discretionary tariff rate permitted under the bill on Russian crude importers is 100 percent.
● India relies on imports for over 88 percent of its crude oil requirements.

News Title: India Outright Rejects Pakistan-China Boundary Joint Commission Stating No Legal Basis Exists

Exam Radar: Highly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level, and State Public Service Commission exams — expect questions on Indian territorial sovereignty, Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, and historical border agreements.

News in One Liner: India rejected the "so-called" Pakistan-China Boundary Joint Commission, affirming that Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh are integral parts of India and no common boundary exists between Pakistan and China.

Detailed News

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● The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) officially rejected the establishment of the Pakistan-China Boundary Joint Commission, declaring it completely without legal basis.
● MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasized that the entire Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh "have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India".
● New Delhi clarified that Pakistan has no legal locus standi to execute boundary agreements or arrangements concerning Indian territory under its illegal occupation.
● India reaffirmed its long-standing rejection of the 1963 "China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement," under which Pakistan illegally ceded Indian territory in Shaksgam Valley to China.
● New Delhi called on Pakistan to immediately vacate all Indian areas under its illegal and forcible occupation.

Connect the Dots: Territorial integrity, PoK border dynamics, Trans-Karakoram Tract issues, and unilateral status alterations along the Line of Control (LoC) and Line of Actual Control (LAC) remain central to foreign affairs syllabi.

Static Points Related to News
● Under the 1963 Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement, Pakistan illegally ceded over 5,180 square kilometers of Shaksgam Valley (Trans-Karakoram Tract) in PoK to China.
● Article 1 of the Indian Constitution defines India as a Union of States and specifies its national territory.
● The Line of Actual Control (LAC) serves as the demarcation line separating Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.

Points to Remember
● Official Indian diplomatic position states that there is no boundary between Pakistan and China.
● The disputed historical accord executed between Beijing and Islamabad rejected by India is the 1963 China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement.
● The Official MEA spokesperson representing India's stance is Randhir Jaiswal.

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Defence News

News Title: Odisha Defence Startup IG Defence Successfully Demonstrates Indigenous Counter-Drone System T-SHUL BEAM at Pokhran

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Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level, and Defense Service exams — expect direct factual questions on indigenous anti-drone platforms, soft-kill counter-UAS technology, and tactical electronic warfare systems.

News in One Liner: Indian defense technology company IG Defence successfully demonstrated its indigenous man-portable anti-drone system, T-SHUL BEAM, during the Indian Air Force's Dronathan 2026 exercise at Pokhran, Rajasthan.

Detailed News

- Defence startup IG Defence conducted successful trials of its indigenous counter-unmanned aerial system (C-UAS), T-SHUL BEAM, at the IAF Dronathan 2026 event held at Pokhran, Rajasthan.
- T-SHUL BEAM functions as a man-portable, directional soft-kill electronic countermeasure platform specifically built to neutralize incoming small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and First-Person-View (FPV) drones.
- Rather than employing hard-kill explosive interceptors, the device utilizes a multi-band radio-frequency (RF) architecture to disrupt critical operational links, including command-and-control, video streaming, telemetry, and GNSS satellite navigation.
- The system is designed for direct integration with GRID, an AI-powered Battle Management System designed for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Targeting (C5ISRT).
- The deployment provides tactical, rapidly deployable perimeter defense for forward operational bases, critical infrastructure, and field deployments against low-cost aerial threats.

Connect the Dots: This defense development connects with the Make in India initiative, Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) provisions for counter-drone technologies, and the Ministry of Defence's priority to secure borders against illicit UAV incursions.

Static Points Related to News

- Soft-kill systems disrupt electronic communications or navigation channels to neutralize targets, whereas hard-kill systems use physical force, missiles, or kinetic impactors.
- The Pokhran Field Firing Range in Rajasthan serves as a primary military testing ground for artillery, guided missiles, and aerial weaponry systems.
- Radio Frequency (RF) jamming operates by intentionally emitting radio signals that overwhelm target communication channels and telemetry links.

Points to Remember

- The developer and manufacturer of the T-SHUL BEAM counter-drone system is IG Defence.

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- The specific military facility hosting the Dronathan 2026 demonstration was Pokhran, Rajasthan.
- The AI-powered Battle Management System integrated with the platform is named GRID.

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Miscellaneous

Ranking and Reports

News Title: QS Global MBA Rankings 2027: Top Three Indian Institutes of Management Retain Top 100 Status Despite Rank Slippages

Exam Radar: Highly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level, and Civil Services General Studies exams — expect factual and analytical questions on global higher education rankings, top Indian management institutes, and performance metrics like Return on Investment (RoI) and Employability.

News in One Liner: The QS Global Full-Time MBA Rankings 2027 featured 19 Indian business schools, with IIM Bangalore (64th), IIM Ahmedabad (70th), and IIM Calcutta (95th) preserving their positions among the global top 100.

Detailed News

- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) released the Global Full-Time MBA Rankings 2027, featuring 19 Indian institutions compared to seven in 2022 and five in 2020.
- Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore maintained its position as the top-ranked business school in India for the fourth consecutive year, placing 64th globally (down from 52nd in 2026).
- IIM Ahmedabad slipped to 70th (from 58th) while IIM Calcutta moved to 95th (from 64th), primarily due to international peer gains in Return on Investment (RoI) and entrepreneurship metrics.
- OP Jindal Global University emerged as the highest-ranked new Indian entrant, debuting in the 171–180 rank band.
- MIT Sloan School of Management in the United States secured the top rank globally for the first time, followed by Harvard Business School and Stanford Graduate School of Business.
- Across all MBA and Specialized Business Master's categories combined, 28 Indian institutions featured, placing India behind only the US, UK, and France in global representation.

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Connect the Dots: Global university rankings tie into National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 objectives aiming to elevate domestic higher education institutions into top global tiers and improve institutional internationalization.

Static Points Related to News

- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) is a global higher education analytics firm headquartered in London, United Kingdom.
- The QS MBA Ranking evaluation parameters comprise Employability (40%), Return on Investment (20%), Thought Leadership (15%), Alumni Outcomes (15%), and Diversity (10%).
- The Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are statutory public business schools declared Institutions of National Importance under the IIM Act, 2017.

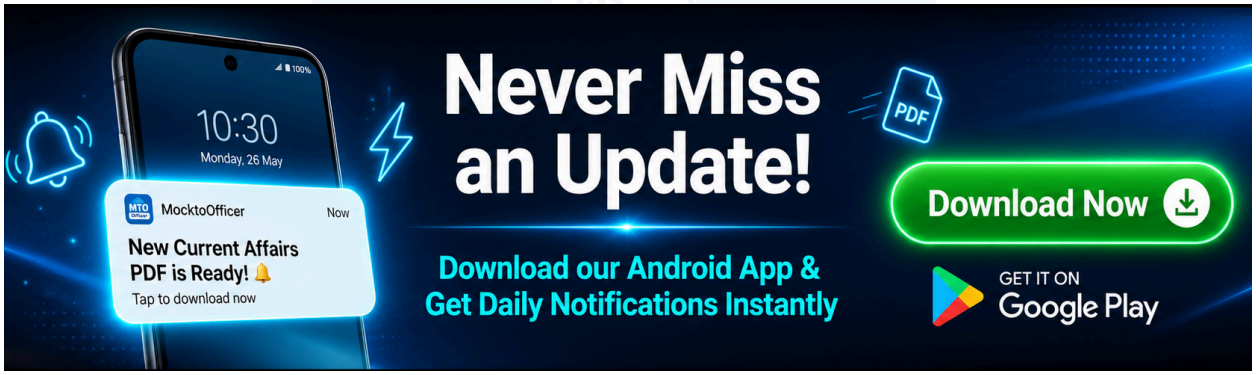
Points to Remember

- The highest-ranked Indian business school in the QS Global MBA Rankings 2027 is IIM Bangalore (Rank 64).
- The business school that secured the global rank 1 position is the MIT Sloan School of Management (USA).
- The highest-ranked new entrant from India in the 2027 edition is OP Jindal Global University (171–180 band).

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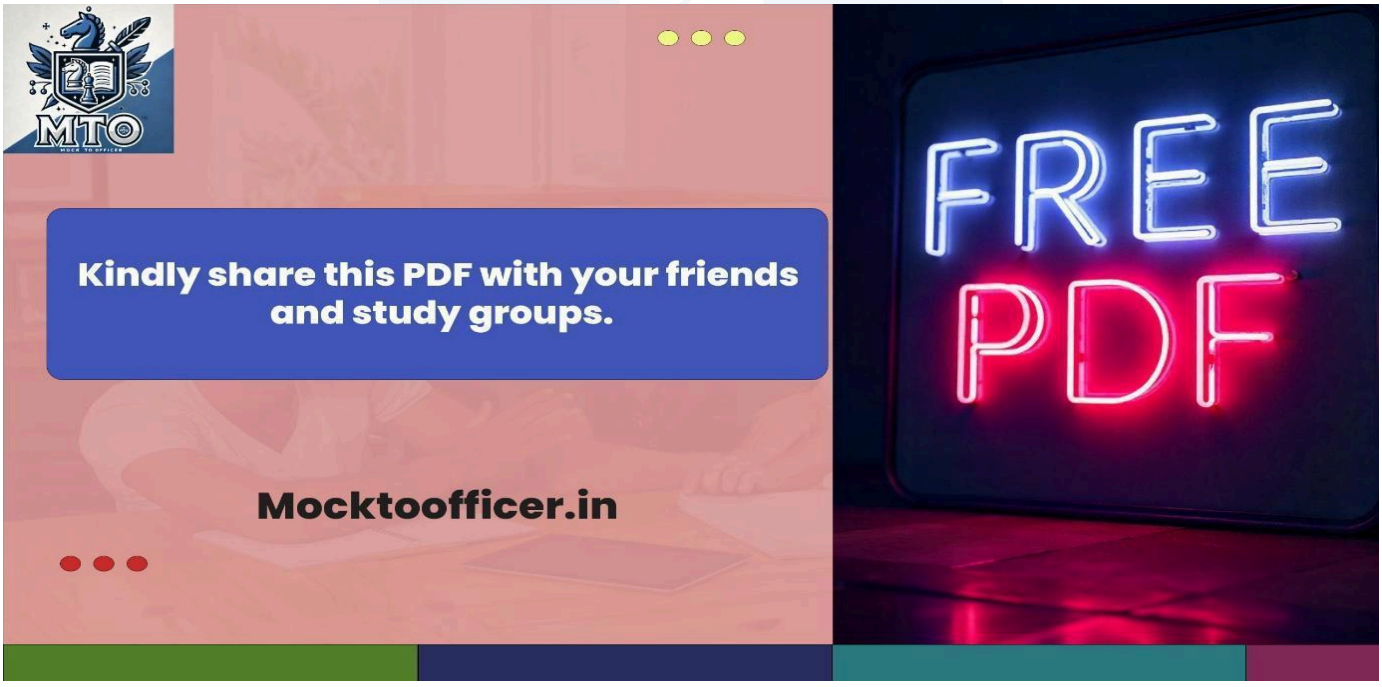




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