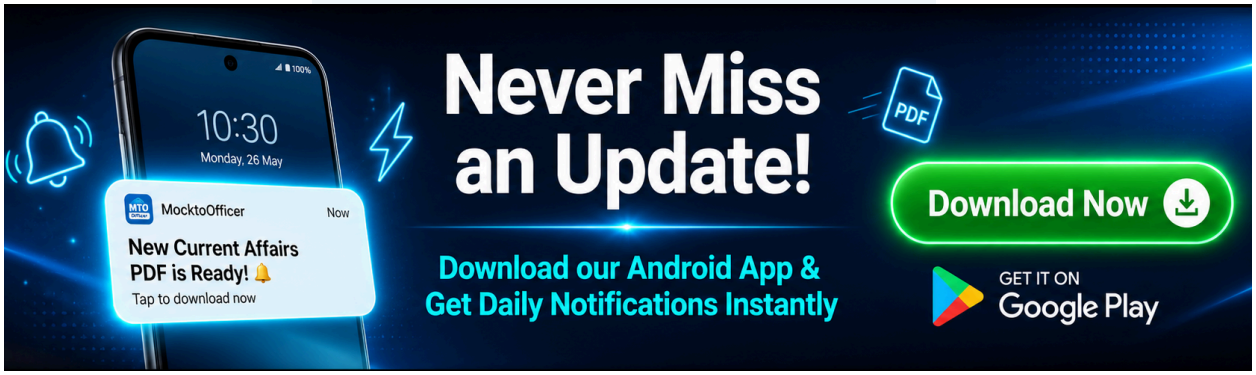
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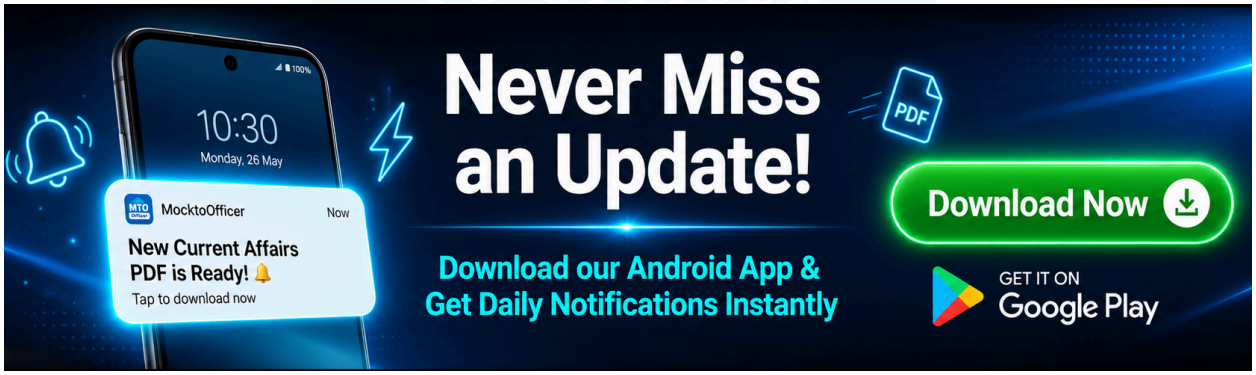
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PIB News

News Title: Ministry of Power Notifies New Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Norms to Enhance Vehicle Fuel Efficiency

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Civil Services Examination, Reserve Bank of India Grade B, and Staff Selection Commission General Studies — expect direct questions on EV policies, CAFE fuel efficiency targets, Ministry of Power mandates, and low-carbon transport transitions.

News in One Liner: The Ministry of Power notified new Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) norms aimed at driving a target of over 16% improvement in automobile fuel efficiency over the next five years.

Detailed News

- The Union Ministry of Power officially notified the updated Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for passenger vehicles in India.
- The updated regulatory framework aims to achieve more than a 16% overall improvement in automobile fuel efficiency across manufacturer fleets over a five-year implementation period.
- The norms actively encourage domestic automakers to step up production of electric vehicles (EVs), hybrid models, and alternative fuel systems.
- Under the rules, low-volume auto manufacturers producing under 1,000 units annually remain exempt from fleet-average energy targets to avoid regulatory burdens on niche producers.

Connect the Dots: CAFE norms complement India's broader climate commitments under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme targets to curb transportation-sector emissions.

Static Points Related to News

- Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE): Regulatory standards requiring automakers' overall annual sales-weighted average fleet fuel performance to stay within specified efficiency limits.
- Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE): Statutory body under the Ministry of Power established under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, responsible for formulating auto fuel consumption standards.
- Energy Conservation Act, 2001: Key legislation governing energy efficiency mandates, appliance labeling programs, and industrial energy consumption targets across India.

Points to Remember

- 16% improvement targeted in vehicle fuel efficiency over 5 years.
- The Ministry of Power serves as the notifying authority for CAFE norms.
- Low-volume producers under 1,000 units annually are exempted from fleet requirements.

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News Title: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Releases Results of Annual Survey of Industries 2024–25

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Reserve Bank of India Grade B, Civil Services Examination (GS Paper III - Economy), and Banking Mains — expect direct questions on industrial sector growth rates, GVA figures, and manufacturing employment metrics.

News in One Liner: The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation released the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2024–25 results, reflecting robust broad-based growth across registered manufacturing establishments.

Detailed News

- The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) published the findings of the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for the reference period 2024–25.
- The survey highlights strong industrial momentum with Gross Value Added (GVA) expanding by 9.59% and total industrial output rising by 7.81%.
- Fixed capital invested in the organized industrial sector grew by 10.54%, driven by expanded industrial capacity and infrastructure additions.
- Employment in registered units added more than 14 lakh workers, pushing total organized manufacturing employment beyond the 2 crore benchmark.

Connect the Dots: ASI data feeds directly into India's official Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimation models and National Accounts Statistics maintained by the National Statistical Office.

Static Points Related to News

- Annual Survey of Industries (ASI): Principal source of official industrial statistics covering registered factories, manufacturing units, and utilities under the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008.
- National Statistical Office (NSO): Statistical wing of MoSPI responsible for conducting large-scale sample surveys and releasing national accounts data.
- Gross Value Added (GVA): Metric measuring total value generated by a sector or industry after deducting intermediate consumption costs.

Points to Remember

- 9.59% growth in Gross Value Added reported in ASI 2024–25.
- Total organized industrial employment exceeded 2 crore employees.
- Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 serves as the statutory base for the survey.

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News Title: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Releases Draft Petroleum Amendment Bill 2026 for Public Comments

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Civil Services Examination, Staff Selection Commission, and Regulatory Body Exams — expect direct questions on energy sector decriminalization reforms, statutory consultation periods, and petroleum safety laws.

News in One Liner: The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas released the draft Petroleum (Amendment) Bill, 2026 for public and stakeholder consultation through October 30, 2026.

Detailed News

- The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas published the draft Petroleum (Amendment) Bill, 2026 to solicit feedback from industries, domain experts, and the general public.
- The amendment bill focuses on decriminalizing minor procedural and regulatory infractions to ease compliance for legitimate business operations.
- It restructures penalty provisions into a rationalized civil penalty structure to improve regulatory clarity and operational transparency in energy handling.
- Public comments and stakeholder recommendations are invited until October 30, 2026, before finalizing the draft for Parliamentary submission.

Connect the Dots: The bill aligns with the Government of India's broader legislative drive to improve Ease of Doing Business by decriminalizing minor civil offenses under statutory acts.

Static Points Related to News

- Petroleum Act, 1934: Principal central legislation governing the import, transport, storage, and handling of petroleum and flammable hydrocarbon products in India.
- PESO (Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization): Nodal statutory agency under DPIIT responsible for safety enforcement across petroleum, gas, and explosives facilities.
- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas: Executive ministry supervising exploration, refining, distribution, and legislative policy for oil and natural gas in India.

Points to Remember

- October 30, 2026 set as the stakeholder consultation deadline.
- Decriminalization of technical and procedural infractions forms the core policy objective.
- Petroleum (Amendment) Bill, 2026 updates old regulatory enforcement frameworks.

News Title: Environment Ministry Releases Guidelines for National Coastal Mission 2.0 to Promote Blue Economy and Shoreline Protection

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Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Civil Services Examination (GS Paper III - Environment), State Public Service Commission, and RBI Grade B Exams — expect questions on Central Sector Scheme outlays, coastal management targets, and Blue Economy initiatives.

News in One Liner: Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launched official guidelines for National Coastal Mission 2.0, a ₹767 crore Central Sector Scheme running until 2030–31.

Detailed News

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav launched the implementation guidelines for National Coastal Mission 2.0 (NCM 2.0).
- The initiative is framed as a ₹767 crore Central Sector Scheme designed for execution across 9 coastal States and 4 coastal Union Territories through 2030–31.
- Key operational verticals focus on strengthening coastal ecosystem resilience, combating coastal erosion, and expanding sustainable coastal livelihoods under India's Blue Economy vision.
- The mission establishes standardized framework targets for coastal zone management planning, mangrove restoration, and marine biodiversity conservation.

Connect the Dots: NCM 2.0 supports India's commitments under United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water) and integrated coastal zone management plans across maritime states.

Static Points Related to News

- Central Sector Scheme: Government scheme fully funded (100%) by the Union Government and implemented directly by central agencies or state departments.
- Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification: Regulatory framework issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to protect coastal land and marine habitats.
- Blue Economy: Sustainable utilization of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and marine ecosystem health.

Points to Remember

- ₹767 crore allocated for National Coastal Mission 2.0.
- Scheme duration runs through the financial year 2030–31.
- Implementation covers 9 coastal States and 4 coastal Union Territories.

News Title: Department of Pharmaceuticals Approves Sixteen Hundred Crore Rupees Financial Assistance for Forty-One Pharma and MedTech Innovation Projects

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Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Civil Services Examination, Reserve Bank of India Grade B, and Staff Selection Commission General Studies — expect direct questions on the PRIP scheme, biopharmaceutical R&D funding, novel drug discovery, and medical technology initiatives.

News in One Liner: The Department of Pharmaceuticals approved ₹1,600 crore in financial assistance under the Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector (PRIP) scheme to support 41 high-impact R&D projects.

Detailed News

- Under the first call of the PRIP scheme, the Department of Pharmaceuticals sanctioned ₹1,600 crore, leveraging an estimated private investment of ₹3,020 crore for a total R&D commitment of ₹4,620 crore.
- Out of the 41 approved projects, 19 are led by startups and MSMEs, while 22 are being executed by large industry leaders.
- The project portfolio encompasses key areas, including 27 projects in New Medicines, 5 in Complex Generics and Biosimilars, and 9 in Novel Medical Devices.
- Focused strategic priority areas under the scheme address major public health challenges, including anti-microbial resistance (AMR), neglected tropical diseases, rare diseases, and next-generation vaccines for tuberculosis and dengue.

Connect the Dots: This funding initiative aligns with India's policy shift toward transitioning from a volume-led generic pharmaceutical exporter to a high-value, innovation-driven biopharmaceutical and MedTech hub.

Static Points Related to News

- PRIP Scheme: Central initiative launched to advance research, infrastructure development, and innovation across priority therapeutic and medical device verticals in India.
- Department of Pharmaceuticals: Central government department established in 2008 under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers to oversee drug and MedTech sector growth.
- National Medical Devices Policy: Comprehensive policy framework notified to expand domestic MedTech manufacturing, cut import dependencies, and accelerate R&D investments.

Points to Remember

- ₹1,600 crore approved in government assistance under the first PRIP round.
- 41 total projects selected, with 19 led by startups and MSMEs.
- Strategic areas include novel drugs, complex generics, biosimilars, and medical devices.

News Title: Ayush Sector Reaches Thirty-Six Point Ninety-Two Billion Dollars as Services Record High Compound Annual Growth Rate

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Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Reserve Bank of India Grade B, Civil Services Examination (GS Paper III - Economy), and Banking Mains — expect direct questions on Ayush economy market valuation, service sector CAGR, and Medical Value Travel figures.

News in One Liner: A Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) report estimated the total Ayush economy at $36.92 billion, driven by a 16.91% CAGR in Ayush services.

Detailed News

- The Ministry of Ayush released an RIS study evaluating the economic footprint and service landscape of traditional medicine across India.
- The Ayush service sector achieved a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 16.91%, emerging as one of India's fastest-growing service sectors.
- The Ayush services economy supports roughly 1.76 million livelihoods across wellness centers, hospitals, research institutions, and manufacturing supply chains.
- Medical Value Travel (MVT) generated $1.77 billion in revenue as international patients increasingly seek traditional and integrative healthcare options in India.

Connect the Dots: The expansion of the Ayush services sector complements national initiatives under National Ayush Mission (NAM) and Heal in India to position the country as a global hub for holistic wellness and medical tourism.

Static Points Related to News

- Ministry of Ayush: Central ministry formed in 2014 to oversee the development and regulation of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homoeopathy systems.
- Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS): Autonomous policy research institute under the Ministry of External Affairs specializing in trade, economic, and development issues.
- Medical Value Travel (MVT): Health tourism segment where patients travel across borders to access specialized clinical treatments, wellness therapies, or traditional health systems.

Points to Remember

- $36.92 billion estimated total size of the Ayush economy.
- 16.91% CAGR recorded by Ayush service sector.
- 1.76 million livelihoods are supported across the domestic Ayush ecosystem.

News Title: Ministry of Agriculture Approves Five Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Seven Crore Rupees MSP Procurement for Kharif Crops

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Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Civil Services Examination, Banking Mains, and Staff Selection Commission General Studies — expect direct questions on Price Support Scheme (PSS) outlays, Minimum Support Price allocations, and pulses/oilseeds procurement.

News in One Liner: Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan approved ₹5,547.99 crore for MSP procurement of pulses and oilseeds under the Price Support Scheme for the Kharif season.

Detailed News

- The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare approved ₹5,547.99 crore toward price support operations for Kharif season pulses and oilseeds.
- The financial commitment specifically covers state-level procurement drives across Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana.
- Procurement operations under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) aim to insulate farmers against market price drops below designated Minimum Support Price (MSP) levels.
- Designated central nodes, including NAFED and NCCF, execute direct procurement drives at ground-level APMC markets and specialized collection hubs.

Connect the Dots: Stepping up MSP procurement of pulses and oilseeds directly targets crop diversification from water-intensive cereals toward climate-resilient legumes and oil-bearing crops under PM-AASHA.

Static Points Related to News

- Price Support Scheme (PSS): Component of PM-AASHA providing direct MSP procurement for oilseeds, pulses, and copra when market prices fall below MSP.
- NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India): Apex organization of marketing cooperatives handling central MSP procurement of pulses and oilseeds.
- Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP): Statutory advisory body recommending Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for designated agricultural commodities in India.

Points to Remember

- ₹5,547.99 crore approved for Kharif procurement under PSS.
- Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana covered under this financial clearance.
- Price Support Scheme serves as the primary intervention mechanism against market distress.

News Title: Ministry of Mines to Launch First Auction Phase of Offshore Mineral Blocks in Andaman Sea

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Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Civil Services Examination, Reserve Bank of India Grade B, and State Public Service Commission Exams — expect direct questions on the Offshore Areas Mineral Act, deep-sea mineral auctions, and critical mineral security.

News in One Liner: The Ministry of Mines announced the launch of the auction process for offshore mineral blocks situated in the Andaman Sea.

Detailed News

- The Union Ministry of Mines initiated the auction process for offshore mineral blocks in the Andaman Sea region.
- The tranche marks India's initial operationalization of offshore mineral exploration rights under the amended legal framework governing maritime economic zones.
- Identified blocks hold strategic reserves of poly-metallic nodules, critical minerals, and construction-grade seabed resources.
- The initiative seeks to expand India's domestic supply chains for high-tech manufacturing, clean energy transition components, and long-term mineral security.

Connect the Dots: Opening offshore mineral auctions operationalizes statutory changes made under the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act to secure critical raw materials for green energy transitions.

Static Points Related to News

- Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002: Governing legislation amended in 2023 to introduce competitive auction mechanisms for sea-bed mineral blocks.
- Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ): Maritime zone extending up to 200 nautical miles from a coastal baseline over which a sovereign state holds exclusive resource rights under UNCLOS.
- Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA): Regional forum promoting sustainable ocean economy initiatives and maritime security across Indian Ocean littoral states.

Points to Remember

- Andaman Sea region selected for the offshore mineral block auctions.
- The Ministry of Mines acts as the executing central authority.
- Objectives focus on critical mineral security and indigenous industrial supply chain resilience.

News Title: Ministry of Environment Reviews Air Quality Preparedness as Delhi Records Lowest Five-Year September Average AQI

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Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Civil Services Examination (GS Paper III - Environment), Staff Selection Commission, and State Public Service Commission Exams — expect questions on CAQM powers, Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), and air quality metrics.

News in One Liner: Delhi recorded its lowest September average Air Quality Index (AQI) in five years, as CAQM reviewed regional measures for winter pollution mitigation.

Detailed News

- The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) reviewed regional preparedness across NCR states to combat winter air pollution escalations.
- Environmental monitoring data confirmed that Delhi achieved its lowest average AQI for the month of September over a five-year tracking window.
- Mitigation strategies focus on stubble-burning management, strict enforcement of dust-suppression protocols at construction sites, and vehicular emission controls.
- Multi-agency coordination frameworks were activated under the revised Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) ahead of winter weather shifts.

Connect the Dots: Improved seasonal AQI metrics reflect the impact of inter-state regulatory enforcement under CAQM, increased biomass management machinery subsidies, and expanding electric public transit fleets in the National Capital Region.

Static Points Related to News

- Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM): Statutory body created under the CAQM in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 for unified air quality governance.
- Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP): Emergency response framework specifying staged anti-pollution measures triggered by worsening AQI thresholds in the NCR.
- Air Quality Index (AQI): Standardized index tracking major atmospheric pollutants

Points to Remember

- Delhi registered its lowest September average AQI in five years.
- CAQM leads regional oversight across NCR states.
- Focus areas cover stubble management, industrial emissions, and GRAP enforcement.

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Industry News

News Title: Union Government Extends RoDTEP and RoSCTL Export Tax Remission Schemes Through December Thirty-One

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Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Reserve Bank of India Grade B, Civil Services Examination (GS Paper III - Foreign Trade), and Banking Mains — expect direct questions on export duty remission schemes, DGFT notifications, and trade incentive caps.

News in One Liner: The Union Government extended the RoDTEP and RoSCTL export tax rebate schemes through December 31, 2026, retaining existing rates and value caps to support exporters.

Detailed News

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Textiles extended the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) and Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) schemes through December 31, 2026.
- Issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the extension keeps existing remission rates and value caps unchanged for eligible export categories.
- Coverage encompasses exports from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) units, Advance Authorisation holders, Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units, and Export Oriented Units (EOUs).
- Industry bodies, including the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), welcomed the move for providing cost certainty to textile and MSME exporters facing global trade headwinds.

Connect the Dots: Remission schemes neutralize un-refunded central, state, and local levies embedded in production chains, aligning Indian exports with WTO rules against exporting domestic taxes.

Static Points Related to News

- RoDTEP Scheme: Foreign trade mechanism introduced in 2021 under the Ministry of Commerce to refund un-rebated central, state, and local taxes on exported goods.
- RoSCTL Scheme: Specialized tax rebate scheme for apparel and garment exports administered under the Ministry of Textiles.
- Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT): Attached agency under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry responsible for implementing Foreign Trade Policy (FTP).

Points to Remember

- December 31, 2026 designated as the extended operational deadline for RoDTEP and RoSCTL.
- Existing remission rates and value caps kept completely unchanged.
- SEZ units, EOUs, and Advance Authorisation holders retain scheme coverage.

News Title: Gross Goods and Services Tax Collections Cross Two Trillion Rupees Benchmark in September

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Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Reserve Bank of India Grade B, and Civil Services Examination — expect direct questions on GST collection milestones, import-linked tax trends, and fiscal receipts.

News in One Liner: India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections rose 14.7% year-on-year to reach ₹2.04 trillion in September 2026, driven by strong import revenue.

Detailed News

- Gross GST mop-up in September 2026 increased to ₹2.04 trillion compared to ₹1.77 trillion recorded in the corresponding month of the previous year.
- Import-linked GST revenue surged nearly 26% year-on-year, adding ₹13,494 crore to overall collections and serving as the primary growth driver.
- Domestic GST revenue recorded steady growth, expanding by ₹12,662 crore compared to the same period last year.
- Total GST refunds stood at ₹27,001 crore during the month, dropping 3% year-on-year due to lower inverted duty structure claims.

Connect the Dots: Robust monthly GST collections enhance fiscal maneuverability for both Central and State governments ahead of GST Council policy reviews and festival-season consumption demands.

Static Points Related to News

- Goods and Services Tax (GST): Comprehensive indirect tax levied on the manufacture, sale, and consumption of goods and services across India under the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act.
- Import GST (IGST on Imports): Integrated GST collected by Customs authorities under the Customs Tariff Act on cross-border goods entering the domestic tariff area.
- GST Council: Constitutional body chaired by the Union Finance Minister under Article 279A to decide tax rates, exemptions, and administrative frameworks.

Points to Remember

- ₹2.04 trillion collected as gross GST revenue in September 2026.
- 14.7% year-on-year growth rate recorded in total collections.
- ~26% increase achieved in import-linked GST revenue.

News Title: HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index Rebounds to Seven-Month High of Fifty-Five Point One

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Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Reserve Bank of India Grade B, Staff Selection Commission General Studies, and Banking Mains — expect direct questions on Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) thresholds, manufacturing trends, and job creation indices.

News in One Liner: India's manufacturing activity surged to a seven-month high of 55.1 in September 2026 as stronger domestic and international demand boosted output and hiring.

Detailed News

- The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, climbed 2.3 points to 55.1 in September from 52.8 in August.
- Factory output and total new business expanded at their fastest rates since early in the year, driven by robust order inflows across key global markets including Europe, the US, the UAE, and Brazil.
- Employment generation in the manufacturing sector resumed at its fastest pace since May as manufacturers expanded payrolls to meet order backlogs.
- Despite September's sharp rebound, the average PMI for the second quarter (Q2) stood at 53.8 due to softer readings recorded during July and August.

Connect the Dots: A PMI reading above 50 indicates expansion in factory activity, signaling that manufacturing resilience continues to support broad industrial output metrics.

Static Points Related to News

- Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI): Monthly economic survey measuring activity across manufacturing and services sectors based on new orders, output, employment, supplier deliveries, and stocks.
- S&P Global: Global financial intelligence agency that compiles and publishes official PMI indices worldwide.
- HSBC India Manufacturing PMI: Private monthly economic indicator tracking trends in India's organized manufacturing sector.

Points to Remember

- 55.1 PMI recorded in September, marking a seven-month high.
- 2.3 points improvement recorded over August's 52.8 reading.
- Job creation reached its fastest expansion pace since May.

News Title: Union Finance Ministry Projects Seven Point Three Percent Real GDP Growth for Q2 While Warning of Supply Chain Risks

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Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Civil Services Examination (GS Paper III), Reserve Bank of India Grade B, and NABARD Grade A — expect direct questions on quarterly GDP projections, macroeconomic risks, and agricultural output forecasts.

News in One Liner: The Finance Ministry projected India's Q2 real GDP growth at 7.3% in its Monthly Economic Review while warning that geopolitical supply-chain disruptions keep energy prices volatile.

Detailed News

- The Union Ministry of Finance released its Monthly Economic Review, projecting real GDP growth for the second quarter (Q2) at 7.3%, following a 7.8% expansion in Q1.
- Favorable monsoon conditions boosted Kharif sowing levels close to previous-year records, providing strong support for rural demand and agricultural GVA.
- The report cautioned against external vulnerabilities, highlighting weaponized supply chains, elevated global interest rates, and crude oil volatility as key growth risks.
- Total exports of goods and services rose 15.5% year-on-year to $399.3 billion during April–August, with a strong services trade surplus buffering the merchandise trade gap.

Connect the Dots: Stable domestic demand paired with prudent fiscal deficit management helps buffer India's domestic economic expansion against tightening global monetary conditions and external trade shocks.

Static Points Related to News

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP): Total monetary value of all finished goods and services produced within a country's geographic boundaries during a specific timeframe.
- Gross Value Added (GVA): Measure of the value of goods and services produced in an economy, calculated as output minus intermediate consumption.
- Monthly Economic Review: Official macro-analytical report published by the Department of Economic Affairs under the Ministry of Finance.

Points to Remember

- 7.3% projected as India's real GDP growth rate for Q2.
- $399.3 billion achieved in total exports during April–August.
- Supply-chain disruptions and energy price volatility flagged as primary external risks.

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Financial News

News Title: Reserve Bank of India Releases India's External Debt Data for End-June 2026

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Reserve Bank of India Grade B, Civil Services Examination (GS Paper III - Indian Economy), and Banking Mains — expect direct questions on external debt metrics, short-term debt ratios, and foreign exchange reserve coverage.

News in One Liner: The Reserve Bank of India released quarterly statistics showing India's total external debt stood at $682.3 billion at end-June 2026, maintaining low vulnerability indicators.

Detailed News

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published quarterly external debt statistics covering the period through end-June 2026.
- India's total external debt recorded modest movement, backed by commercial borrowings, non-resident deposits, and short-term trade credits.
- The ratio of short-term debt (original maturity) to foreign exchange reserves stood at 23.0% at end-June 2026.
- US Dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of India's external debt, followed by the Indian Rupee, Japanese Yen, Special Drawing Rights (SDR), and Euro.

Connect the Dots: Sustainable external debt management directly reinforces India's sovereign credit rating stability and buffers the domestic economy against global financial volatility and currency fluctuations.

Static Points Related to News

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI): India's central banking institution established on April 1, 1935, under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- Foreign Exchange Reserves: Assets held on reserve by a central bank in foreign currencies, including SDRs, gold reserves, and reserve tranche positions in the IMF.
- Commercial Borrowings: External commercial borrowings (ECBs) raised by eligible Indian entities from non-resident lenders under commercial terms.

Points to Remember

- End-June 2026 marked the assessment period for the latest RBI external debt release.
- 23.0% recorded as the short-term debt to foreign exchange reserves ratio.
- The US Dollar continues as the dominant currency component of India's debt portfolio.

News Title: Ministry of Finance Retains Interest Rates on Small Savings Schemes for October–December 2026 Quarter

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Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Reserve Bank of India Grade B, and Staff Selection Commission — expect direct questions on Public Provident Fund (PPF), Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY), and quarterly interest rate notifications.

News in One Liner: The Ministry of Finance retained the existing interest rates on all small savings schemes, including PPF and SSY, for the October–December 2026 quarter (Q3 FY27).

Detailed News

- The Department of Economic Affairs under the Ministry of Finance issued a notification retaining interest rates across all small savings instruments for Q3 FY 2026–27.
- The Public Provident Fund (PPF) continues to offer 7.1% per annum, while the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) yields 8.2%.
- Rates for Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) and National Savings Certificate (NSC) remain unchanged at 8.2% and 7.7% respectively.
- Post office savings deposits will earn 4.0%, while Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) delivers 7.5% with a 115-month maturity period.

Connect the Dots: Small savings interest rates are benchmarked against government security (G-Sec) yields as recommended by the Shyamala Gopinath Committee, providing stable fixed-income returns for retail depositors.

Static Points Related to News

- Shyamala Gopinath Committee: Committee appointed by the RBI/Govt that formulated the mechanism to align small savings interest rates with market G-Sec yields.
- Public Provident Fund (PPF): Popular long-term savings scheme established under the Public Provident Fund Act, 1968, offering EEE (Exempt-Exempt-Exempt) tax status.
- Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY): Small deposit scheme launched in 2015 under the *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* campaign targeting financial security for girl children.

Points to Remember

- October 1 to December 31, 2026 designated as the Q3 FY27 operational period.
- 7.1% interest rate retained for Public Provident Fund (PPF).
- 8.2% interest rate maintained for Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana and SCSS.

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National & State News

News Title: Tamil Nadu's First Booth-Less Toll System Operationalized at Paranur Toll Plaza

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for State Public Service Commission Exams (including TNPSC), Civil Services Examination (GS Paper III - Infrastructure), and Banking Mains — expect direct questions on Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) systems, FASTag technology, and smart highway projects.

News in One Liner: Tamil Nadu's first booth-less, Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system became operational at the Paranur toll plaza on the Chennai–Tiruchi National Highway.

Detailed News

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) operationalized Tamil Nadu's first booth-less toll system at the Paranur plaza on the busy Chennai–Tiruchi highway.
- The project deploys Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) technology, replacing traditional manned toll booths with overhead gantries.
- Gantries are equipped with RFID readers, radar scanners, audit surveillance cameras, and FASTag-automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) systems to scan moving vehicles.
- The system eliminates waiting time for FASTag-compliant vehicles while automatically generating toll challans for non-tagged vehicles or those with insufficient balance.

Connect the Dots: This highway automation aligns with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' (MoRTH) nationwide initiative to roll out barrier-free GNSS and ANPR-based toll collection to reduce highway congestion and carbon emissions.

Static Points Related to News

- Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF): Advanced tolling architecture enabling vehicles to travel through toll zones at highway speeds without stopping.
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI): Statutory body established under the NHAI Act, 1988, under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- FASTag: Electronic toll collection system in India operated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) using Passive RFID technology.

Points to Remember

- Paranur toll plaza selected as the site for Tamil Nadu's first booth-less MLFF facility.
- Overhead gantries replace traditional physical toll booths.
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and RFID readers enable barrier-free tolling.

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News Title: Bihar Cabinet Approves Draft Bihar Green Hydrogen Policy 2026 to Target One Lakh Tonnes Production by 2031

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for State Public Service Commission Exams (BPSC), Civil Services Examination (GS Paper III - Renewable Energy), and Banking Mains — expect direct questions on state green hydrogen targets, BREDA nodal mandates, and electrolyser manufacturing capacity.

News in One Liner: The Bihar Cabinet approved the draft "Bihar Green Hydrogen Policy, 2026" to promote clean energy, cut natural gas import dependence, and attract ₹16,000 crore in investments.

Detailed News

- The Cabinet Secretariat Department of Bihar announced the formal approval of the "Bihar Green Hydrogen Policy, 2026".
- The policy sets a target to achieve an annual production capacity of 0.1 million metric tonnes (1 lakh tonnes) of green hydrogen by 2031.
- It aims to establish 1 GW of electrolyser manufacturing capacity and develop nearly 2.5 GW of dedicated renewable energy capacity across the state.
- The Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency (BREDA) has been designated as the nodal agency to execute the policy, which is projected to attract ₹16,000 crore in private investments and create 12,000 jobs.

Connect the Dots: Bihar's policy aligns with the Union Government's National Green Hydrogen Mission (launched in 2023) to transform India into a global hub for green hydrogen production and export.

Static Points Related to News

- Green Hydrogen: Hydrogen gas produced via electrolysis of water powered entirely by renewable energy sources (solar, wind, or hydro), yielding zero carbon emissions.
- BREDA (Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency): State nodal agency under the Department of Energy, Government of Bihar, overseeing renewable energy schemes.
- National Green Hydrogen Mission: Central initiative targeting at least 5 million metric tonnes (MMT) annual green hydrogen production by 2030.

Points to Remember

- 1 lakh tonnes annual green hydrogen production targeted by Bihar by 2031.
- BREDA is designated as the official state implementation agency.
- ₹16,000 crore investment and 2.5 GW renewable energy capacity envisioned under the policy.

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World News

News Title: India Hosts Ninth Deputy National Security Adviser-Level Meeting of Colombo Security Conclave

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Civil Services Examination (GS Paper II - International Relations), Reserve Bank of India Grade B, and Defense Exams — expect direct questions on member states of the Colombo Security Conclave, security pillars, and Indian Ocean security frameworks.

News in One Liner: India hosted the 9th Deputy National Security Adviser-level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) virtually to strengthen Indian Ocean maritime security.

Detailed News

- The 9th Deputy NSA-level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave was hosted virtually by India, led by Deputy NSA (Strategic Affairs) Pavan Kapoor.
- Delegations from member states—including Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Sri Lanka—participated in the multilateral dialogue.
- Delegates reviewed the progress under the Roadmap for Cooperation and Activities for 2025–26 across the five core security pillars of the conclave.
- Member states reaffirmed their shared commitment toward maritime safety and security, countering terrorism, combating transnational crime, cyber security, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR).

Connect the Dots: The Colombo Security Conclave serves as a vital institutional pillar under India's broader SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision and Neighbourhood First policy.

Static Points Related to News

- Colombo Security Conclave (CSC): Regional security grouping formed in 2011 (re-grounded in 2020) focused on Indian Ocean maritime domain awareness.
- CSC Secretariat: Permanent secretariat based in Colombo, Sri Lanka, currently headed by Secretary General Vice Admiral S.N. Ghormade (Retd.).
- Five Pillars of CSC: Maritime Safety & Security, Countering Terrorism, Combating Transnational Crime, Cyber Security & Critical Infrastructure Protection, and HADR.

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Points to Remember

- 9th Deputy NSA meeting hosted virtually by India.
- Pavan Kapoor, Deputy NSA (Strategic Affairs), led the Indian delegation.
- CSC member countries include India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, Bangladesh, and Seychelles.

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Appointments and Resignation

News Title: Reserve Bank of India Approves Appointment of Anup Bagchi as Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Bank

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Reserve Bank of India Grade B, and Insurance Exams — expect direct questions on private bank CEO appointments, Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, and executive leadership transitions.

News in One Liner: The Reserve Bank of India approved the appointment of Anup Bagchi as the Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Bank for a three-year term starting October 27, 2026.

Detailed News

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted formal regulatory approval under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, for Anup Bagchi to assume leadership at HDFC Bank.
- Anup Bagchi, currently MD & CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, will take charge on October 27, 2026, for a three-year tenure.
- He succeeds Sashidhar Jagdishan, who completes his tenure on October 26, 2026, after serving as CEO since 2020.
- Bagchi brings over three decades of leadership experience across retail banking, wealth management, corporate banking, and insurance services.

Connect the Dots: Leadership transitions in India's Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) are closely monitored by the RBI to ensure smooth executive succession and institutional financial stability.

Static Points Related to News

- Section 35B of Banking Regulation Act, 1949: Mandates prior approval from the Reserve Bank of India for appointing, re-appointing, or altering remuneration of bank MDs and CEOs.

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● Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs): Banks categorized by the RBI as "too big to fail" (HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and SBI).
● HDFC Bank: India's largest private sector lender by market capitalization and asset base, headquartered in Mumbai.

Points to Remember
● Anup Bagchi appointed as MD & CEO of HDFC Bank for a 3-year term.
● October 27, 2026 marks his official start date as head of HDFC Bank.
● Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 governs the approval.

News Title: Reserve Bank of India Approves Appointment of Anup Kumar Saha as Managing Director and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Reserve Bank of India Grade B, and State Public Service Commission Exams — expect direct questions on private bank leadership changes, board approvals, and banking management terms.

News in One Liner: The Reserve Bank of India approved the appointment of Anup Kumar Saha as the Managing Director and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank for a three-year term.

Detailed News
● Kotak Mahindra Bank received regulatory clearance from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointing Anup Kumar Saha as its new Managing Director and CEO.
● Saha succeeds Ashok Vaswani, taking over executive management for a three-year term.
● An alumnus of IIT Kharagpur and IIM Lucknow, Saha previously served in senior executive roles driving retail lending, digital transformation, and banking operations.
● His appointment aims to accelerate Kotak Mahindra Bank's growth strategy as the fourth-largest private sector lender in India.

Connect the Dots: This appointment reinforces structural management updates across major private sector lenders to align with the RBI's corporate governance guidelines for commercial banks.

Static Points Related to News
● Kotak Mahindra Bank: Fourth-largest private sector bank in India, established in 1985 as a financial services firm and converted into a commercial bank in 2003.
● Corporate Governance in Banks: Regulatory norms specified by the RBI governing tenure limits, board composition, and succession planning for bank executives.

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● Reserve Bank of India Governance Directives: Rules mandating that bank CEOs serve a maximum tenure of 15 years to prevent concentration of executive management power.

Points to Remember

● Anup Kumar Saha approved as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
● Succeeds Ashok Vaswani for a three-year term.
● Educational background includes IIT Kharagpur and IIM Lucknow.

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Science & Technology

News Title: India Reaches Landmark Milestone of Over One Thousand Kilometers in Quantum-Secure Communication

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Civil Services Examination (GS Paper III - Science & Technology), Reserve Bank of India Grade B, and Defense/Technical Exams — expect direct questions on Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), National Quantum Mission targets, and quantum network scales.

News in One Liner: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh announced that India has officially crossed the 1,000-kilometer mark in quantum-secure communication networks.

Detailed News

● Union Minister of State for Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh confirmed that India successfully established quantum-secure communication links spanning over 1,000 kilometers.
● The achievement places India's quantum communication network among the longest deployed globally.
● Developed under the umbrella of the National Quantum Mission (NQM), the network integrates indigenous Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) hardware and protocols.
● The technology ensures ultra-secure encryption immune to conventional hacking and future quantum computing decryption threats, serving defense, banking, and critical infrastructure sectors.

Connect the Dots: Crossing the 1,000 km threshold advances the core deliverables of the ₹6,003 crore National Quantum Mission, which aims to develop long-distance inter-city quantum networks and quantum satellite communication links.

Static Points Related to News

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● National Quantum Mission (NQM): Central scheme launched in 2023 with a budget allocation of ₹6,003 crore to build quantum technology capabilities across computing, communication, and sensing.
● Quantum Key Distribution (QKD): Cyber-security mechanism utilizing principles of quantum mechanics (such as photon entanglement and superposition) to exchange encryption keys securely.
● Department of Science and Technology (DST): Nodal department under the Ministry of Science and Technology responsible for driving the National Quantum Mission.

Points to Remember
● 1,000 km milestone crossed in quantum-secure communication network length.
● Dr. Jitendra Singh announced the technological breakthrough.
● Implemented under the National Quantum Mission framework.

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Sports News

News Title: India Rises to Medal Tally Benchmark of Sixty at Asian Games Driven by Sweep in Archery and Shooting

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Staff Selection Commission General Studies, Banking Mains General Awareness, and State Public Service Commission Exams — expect direct questions on Asian Games medal hauls, compound archery sweeps, and mixed-team shooting records.

News in One Liner: Indian archers and shooters added to India's Asian Games haul, pushing the national medal tally to 60 medals (10 gold, 21 silver, and 29 bronze).

Detailed News
● India's medal tally surged to 60 total medals—comprising 10 gold, 21 silver, and 29 bronze—at the Asian Games.
● Indian compound archers executed a historic sweep, capturing gold medals across all men's, women's, and mixed team events.
● Trap shooters Neeru Dhanda and Kynan Chenai clinched the mixed team trap gold medal, setting a new Asian and Games record score.
● Additional bronze medals in boxing and Greco-Roman wrestling (Sunil Kumar) further propelled India into the top-10 overall team standings.

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Connect the Dots: This medal surge highlights the impact of targeted central funding under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations and the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) ahead of upcoming Olympic qualification cycles.

Static Points Related to News

- Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS): Flagship program established under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to provide specialized coaching and assistance to elite Indian athletes.
- Archery Association of India: National governing body for archery in India, affiliated with the World Archery Federation and the Indian Olympic Association.
- National Rifle Association of India (NRAI): Apex governing body for shooting sports in India, founded in 1951.

Points to Remember

- 60 overall medals reached by India (10 gold, 21 silver, 29 bronze).
- Compound archers achieved a complete team gold medal sweep.
- Neeru Dhanda and Kynan Chenai established a new Games record score in mixed team trap shooting.

News Title: Shubman Gill Smashes Fastest One-Day International Double Century in History Against West Indies

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level, and State Public Service Commission Exams — expect direct questions on individual cricket records, fastest double-century deliveries, and international batting totals.

News in One Liner: India captain Shubman Gill set the world record for the fastest double century in men's ODI history off 117 balls against West Indies, joining Rohit Sharma as the only batters with multiple ODI double hundreds.

Detailed News

- Indian captain Shubman Gill scored a record-breaking 223* off 133 balls against West Indies in Guwahati during the second ODI.
- Gill reached his double century in just 117 deliveries, breaking the previous men's ODI world record held by Ishan Kishan (126 balls).
- He became only the second batter in men's ODI cricket history to score multiple double centuries, joining teammate Rohit Sharma (3).
- Supported by Rohit Sharma's 101, Gill led India to a historic successful chase of a 406-run target in 43.3 overs.

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Connect the Dots: This performance underscores the evolution of modern white-ball batting power, supported by high-altitude venue dimensions and enhanced bat technology in contemporary limited-overs formats.

Static Points Related to News

- International Cricket Council (ICC): Global governing authority for international cricket, headquartered in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI): Apex administrative body for cricket in India, established in 1928 with headquarters at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai.
- Double Century in ODIs: Exclusive statistical benchmark in 50-over cricket first achieved in men's international cricket by Sachin Tendulkar in 2010.

Points to Remember

- 117 balls taken by Shubman Gill to score the fastest double century in men's ODI history.
- Joined Rohit Sharma as the second batter with multiple ODI double centuries.
- 223* scored in a successful chase of 406 runs against West Indies in Guwahati.

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Important Days

News Title: United Nations Observes International Day of Older Persons to Highlight Demographic Health and Social Protection

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Staff Selection Commission General Studies, Banking Mains General Awareness, and State Public Service Commission Exams — expect direct questions on global health observance dates, UN resolutions, and elder welfare schemes.

News in One Liner: The International Day of Older Persons was observed globally on October 1, 2026, advocating for human rights, active aging, and elder social protection.

Detailed News

- The United Nations and international civil society organizations commemorated the International Day of Older Persons on October 1, 2026.
- The global observance focuses on addressing the challenges of demographic aging, promoting healthcare accessibility, and ensuring financial independence for senior citizens.

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● UN initiatives emphasized strengthening universal pension coverage, digital literacy for elders, and elder abuse prevention policies worldwide.
● In India, government ministries highlighted senior welfare interventions, including the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) and the Vayoshreshtha Samman honors.

Connect the Dots: Observing this day aligns directly with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), reinforcing national policies like the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act.

Static Points Related to News
● UN General Assembly Resolution 45/106: Resolution passed on December 14, 1990, officially designating October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons.
● Vayoshreshtha Samman: National award scheme conferred annually by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to eminent senior citizens and institutions.
● Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: Global blueprint adopted in 2002 to respond to the opportunities and challenges of population aging in the 21st century.

Points to Remember
● October 1 is designated annually as the International Day of Older Persons.
● UN Resolution 45/106 established the observance in 1990.
● Focused on elder human rights, social safety nets, and healthcare access.

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Miscellaneous

Ranking and Reports

News Title: India Secures Thirty-Eighth Rank in Global Innovation Index 2026 Issued by World Intellectual Property Organization

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Reserve Bank of India Grade B, Civil Services Examination (GS Paper III - Science & Tech), and Banking Mains — expect direct questions on global index rankings, publishing bodies, regional leaders, and overperformance trends.

News in One Liner: India ranked 38th out of 139 economies in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2026, leading the South Asia region and maintaining its overperformer streak.

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Detailed News

● India secured the 38th spot out of 139 evaluated economies in the Global Innovation Index 2026 published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
● India retained its position as the top-ranked economy in South Asia while sharing the longest global streak as an innovation overperformer (16 consecutive years alongside Vietnam).
● The report highlighted India's gains driven by high venture capital deal values, software and artificial intelligence investments, digital public infrastructure, and scientific publishing output.
● Global R&D spending expanded to $3.4 trillion in 2026, with Switzerland retaining the overall top position globally.

Connect the Dots: India's ranking improvement reflects national R&D programs, start-up incentives under Startup India, and expanding patent filings managed by the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM).

Static Points Related to News

● World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO): Specialized agency of the United Nations established in 1967, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
● Global Innovation Index (GII): Annual benchmark ranking world economies based on innovation capabilities, input pillars, and output metrics.
● Switzerland: Consistently holds the rank as the world's most innovative nation according to the Global Innovation Index.

Points to Remember

● 38th rank secured by India in the Global Innovation Index 2026.
● WIPO serves as the publishing international organization.
● 16 consecutive years maintained by India as a designated innovation overperformer.

Person in the News

News Title: Fifteen-Year-Old Cricketer Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Named in TIME100 Next 2026 List of Global Rising Stars

Exam Radar: Strongly relevant for Banking Mains General Awareness, Staff Selection Commission General Studies, and State Public Service Commission Exams (including BPSC) — expect direct questions on international magazine honors, young sports achievers, and domestic cricket records.

News in One Liner: Bihar-born cricketer Vaibhav Sooryavanshi became the youngest honoree and sole Indian athlete named in TIME magazine's 2026 TIME100 Next list.

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Detailed News

● 15-year-old Indian cricketer Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was featured in TIME magazine's 2026 TIME100 Next list, which recognizes emerging leaders shaping the future across global industries.
● Sooryavanshi was listed under the 'Phenom' category, standing as the youngest overall honoree and the only Indian athlete selected in the 2026 edition.
● The left-handed batter gained national attention after making his senior Ranji Trophy debut for Bihar at age 12 in 2024 before being signed by Rajasthan Royals in the IPL.
● During his second IPL season, he accumulated 776 runs in 16 matches, breaking the record for the most sixes (72) scored in a single IPL season.

Connect the Dots: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's rise illustrates the success of grassroots domestic talent pipelines managed under the BCCI's domestic cricket structure and state cricket association leagues.

Static Points Related to News

● TIME100 Next: Annual list compiled by TIME magazine recognizing 100 rising stars and emerging leaders from across business, sports, politics, and culture.
● Ranji Trophy: India's premier first-class domestic cricket tournament founded in 1934 and administered by the Board of Control for Cricket in India.
● Bihar Cricket Association (BCA): State governing body responsible for conducting cricket operations and team selections in Bihar.

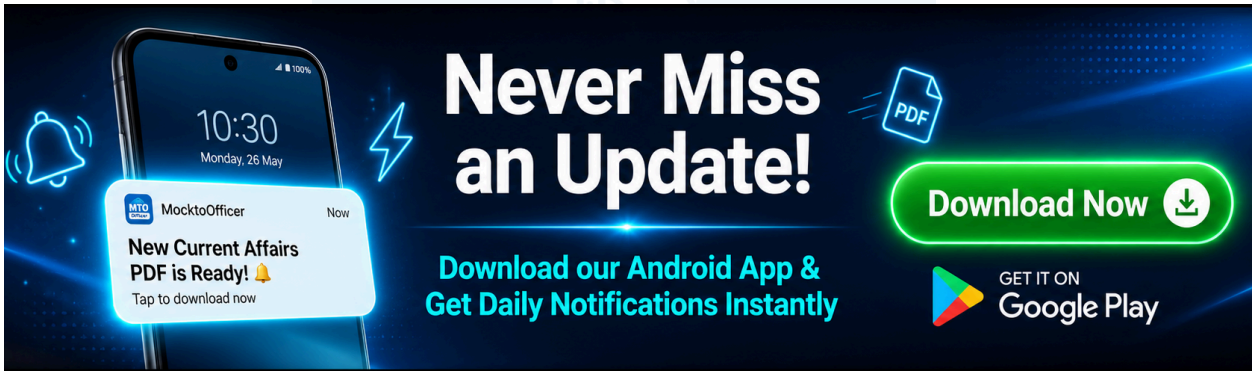
Points to Remember

● Vaibhav Sooryavanshi named in TIME's 2026 TIME100 Next list.
● Youngest honoree globally and sole Indian athlete featured on the list.
● Categorized under the 'Phenom' section by TIME magazine.

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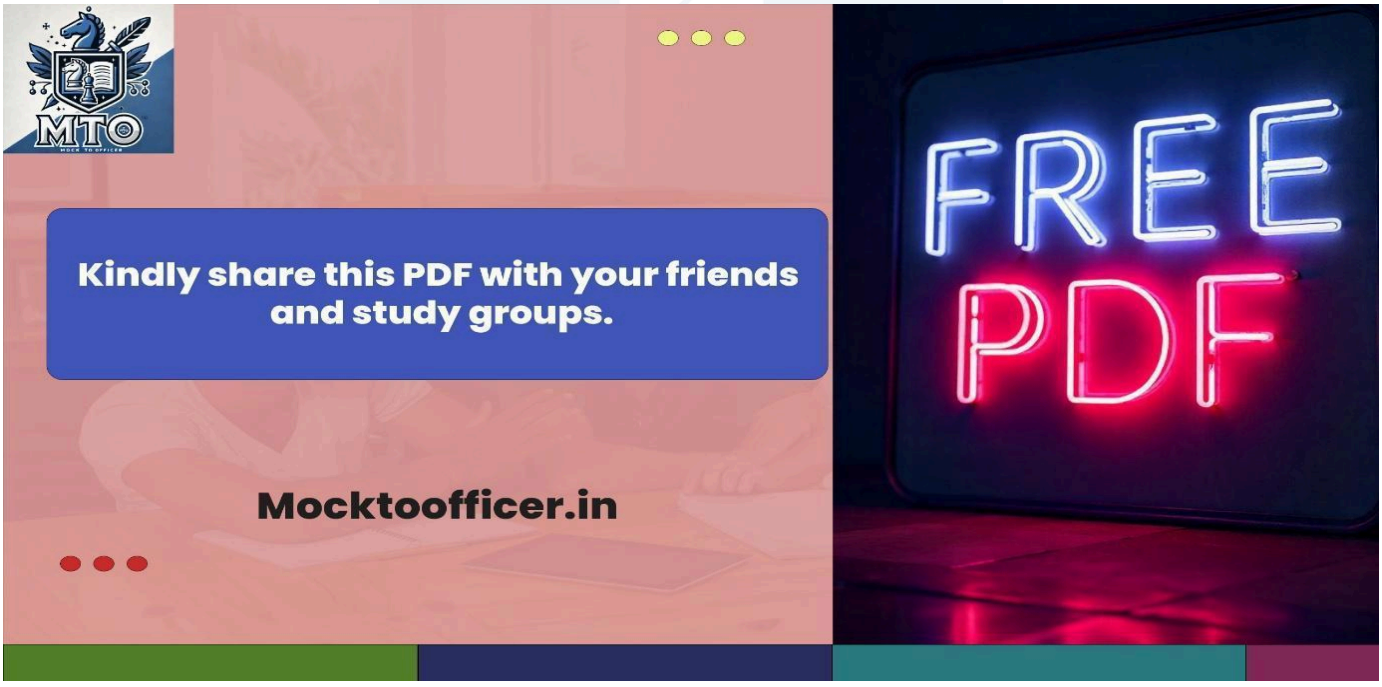




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