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The armies of India and Thailand began the 14th edition of Joint Exercise Maitree-XIV in Meghalaya

- On September 1, the 14th edition of the joint military exercise between the armies of India and Thailand, MAITREE-XIV, commenced at the Joint Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya.
- The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from September 1 to September 14, 2025.
- The exercise is part of the regular military-to-military exchange program between the two countries with the aim of enhancing interoperability and mutual understanding.
- The last edition of Exercise MAITREE was conducted at Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province, Thailand.
- A contingent of 120 Indian Army personnel from a battalion of the Madras Regiment has been deployed for the exercise.
- Participation has also been ensured by 53 soldiers of the Royal Thai Army's 1st Infantry Battalion, 14th Infantry Brigade.
- This year, the exercise has been designed to focus on company-level counter-terrorist operations in semi-urban terrain under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.
- Training modules are being carried out on tactical drills, joint planning, weapon skills, physical endurance, and raiding operations, concluding with a 48-hour validation phase.
- Instituted in 2006, Exercise MAITREE has been regarded as an important element of bilateral defense cooperation, reaffirming the shared commitment of India and Thailand to regional peace, security, and stability.



GST collection grew 6.5% to ₹1.86 lakh crore in August



- According to government data released on 1st September, India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections rose by 6.5% year-on-year to ₹1.86 lakh crore in August 2025.
- This marked the eighth straight month of revenues staying above ₹1.8 lakh crore, reflecting robust domestic consumption and steady economic activity.
- During August, gross domestic GST revenue grew 9.6% to ₹1.37 lakh crore, while revenue from imports contracted by 1.2% to ₹49,354 crore.
- Refunds of ₹19,359 crore were reported, representing a 20% decline from last year.
- Net GST revenue showed strong momentum with a 10.7% increase to ₹1.67 lakh crore.
- Collections under Central GST, State GST, Integrated GST, and cess all recorded year-on-year growth.
- Between April and August FY26, gross GST collections reached about ₹10 lakh crore, up from ₹9.13 lakh crore in the same period last year.

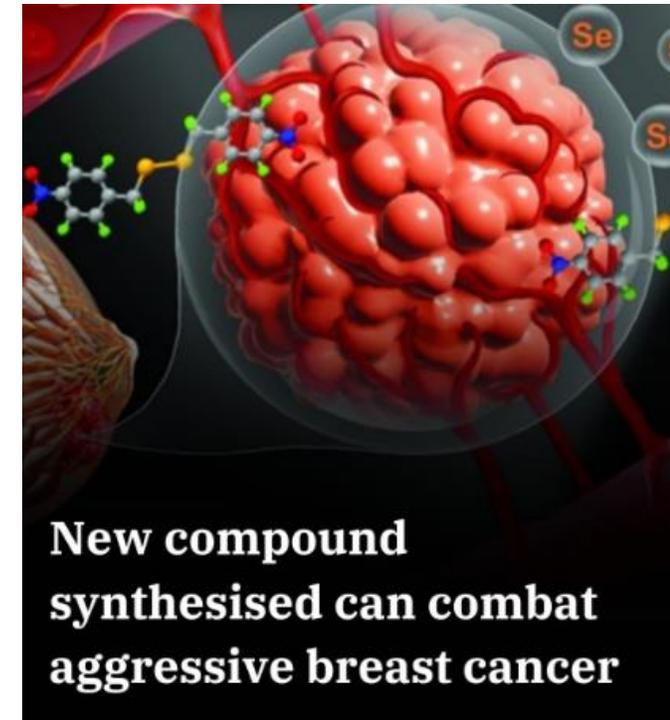
- GST revenues have steadily increased over the years, with FY25 recording an all-time high of ₹22.08 lakh crore.
- The GST Council will meet on September 3rd - 4th in New Delhi to deliberate on rationalisation, including moving to a two-slab rate structure and a 40% tax on sin goods.
- The buoyant revenue outlook has prompted Morgan Stanley to revise India's FY26 growth forecast upward to 6.7%, citing strong consumption and festive demand.

GST Collection of Previous Months

- January 2025 – 1.96 lakh crore and February 2025 – 1.84 lakh crore
- March 2025 – 1.96 lakh crore and April 2025 – 2.36 lakh crore
- May 2025 – 2.01 lakh crore and June 2025 – 1.85 lakh crore
- July 2025 – 1.96 lakh crore and August 2025 – 1.86 lakh crore

A new compound to combat breast cancer has been developed by Indian Scientists

- A new nitro-substituted organoselenium compound has been designed by Indian researchers.
- The compound will reduce the invasiveness of aggressive triple-negative breast cancer cells.
- Dr. Asis Bala at the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology carried out the study jointly with Dr. Krishna P. Bhabak of IIT Guwahati.
- Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology.
- The compound is identified as 4-nitro-substituted benzylic diselenide (diselenide 7).
- It was made through nucleophilic substitution of benzylic halides with selenium derivatives.
- In lab studies, it was observed that the compound targeted multiple survival mechanisms in cancer cells.
- It blocked Akt/mTOR and ERK pathways. These are important for cancer cell growth.
- The compound generates reactive oxygen species, and reduces inflammation.



BHARATI initiative has been launched by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority

- The initiative was launched by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal, UAE Minister of Foreign Trade Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi and Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Shri Chirag Paswan during the Food & Beverages Sector Stakeholders Meeting.
- BHARATI will empower 100 agri-food startups. It will boost exports towards \$50 billion target by 2030
- The new initiative BHARATI was launched on the sidelines of the “Food & Beverages Sector Stakeholders Meeting”.
- BHARATI stands for Bharat’s Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement.
- The BHARATI initiative is designed to complement industry and government-led incubation programmes in the agriculture, food and food processing sectors.
- It also aims to attract startups working on advanced technologies.
- It will connect agri-food innovators, tech-driven solution providers.
- A nationwide awareness campaign is also part of the initiative.
- This campaign will engage stakeholders and attract solution-oriented startups from across India.



The Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025, has been issued by the Central Government



India overhauls Immigration Laws

Key Highlights from the Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025

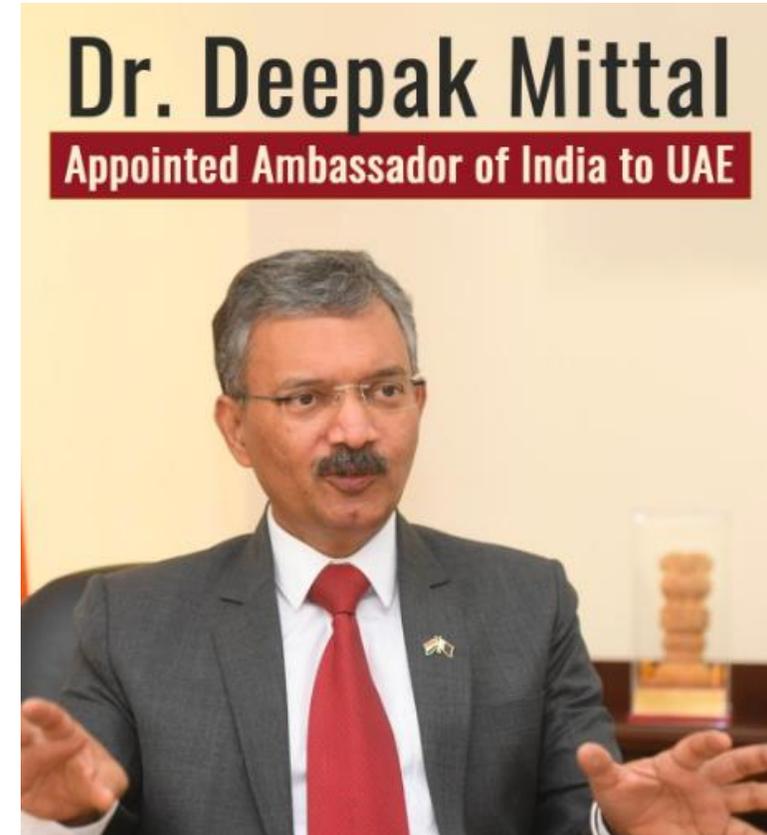
- It introduces significant exclusions from the regulations pertaining to valid passports, travel papers, and visas for particular groups of people and carriers.
- The order was announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in accordance with Section 33 of the Immigration and Foreigners Act of 2025.
- The Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Order of 2007 and the Registration of Foreigners (Exemption) Order of 1957 are superseded by the new order, unless those provisions have already been used.
- The notification went into effect right away after it was published in the Indian Gazette on September 1.
- The order outlines exceptions to several of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025's requirements for valid passports, travel papers, and visas in order to enter, remain in, and depart India.

- The new regulations exempt Indian Armed Forces personnel traveling on government transportation and their accompanying family members from these requirements when they enter or depart the country on duty.
- Indian nationals who enter India by air or land through the borders of Bhutan or Nepal are likewise exempt.
- Nepalese and Bhutanese nationals are also exempt from paying taxes when they enter India through their respective borders or when they travel to or from other countries with a valid passport, with the exception of China, Macau, Hong Kong, and Pakistan.
- Certain foreigners are exempt from visa requirements.
- The order also relieves carriers of certain responsibilities under the Act.

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Dr. Deepak Mittal has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates

- He is a 1998-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service. He has also served in the Prime Minister's Office under PM Modi.
- He was India's Ambassador to Qatar between 2020 and 2022.
- He played a crucial role in establishing India's first formal diplomatic contact with the Taliban.
- He will succeed Sunjay Sudhir, the current Ambassador to the UAE. Sunjay Sudhir is set to retire in September.
- UAE is among India's closest strategic partners in West Asia.
- UAE is home to over 3.5 million Indian nationals, one of the largest expatriate communities in the region.
- India and the UAE established diplomatic ties in 1972.
- PM Modi visited UAE in 2015. This was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister in over three decades.
- In February 2024, Mr. Modi inaugurated the BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi.
- This was his seventh visit to the UAE in nine years.



Gandhi Reappointed as Non-Executive Chairman of Yes Bank by RBI

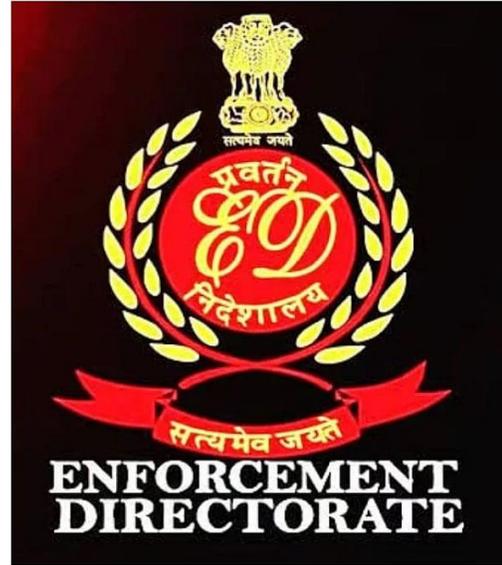
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of former Deputy Governor R. Gandhi as non-executive chairman of Yes Bank.
- His tenure will be from September 20, 2025, to May 13, 2027, with remuneration approved by the RBI.
- Gandhi served as RBI Deputy Governor from 2014 to 2017 and has 37 years of experience as a seasoned central banker.

Recent Appointments in Banking & Insurance Sector

- **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)** – C. A. Kalyani (29th officer)
- **Executive Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF)** – Urjit Patel (for 3 years)
- **Vice President & Chief Risk Officer of NDB** – Rajiv Ranjan; for 5 years
- **Ex Officio MPC Member** – Indranil Bhattacharyya



India's Enforcement Directorate issued its first Purple Notice through Interpol



- For the first time, India's Enforcement Directorate (ED) has published a Purple Notice through Interpol in a complex case of trade-based money laundering.
- Earlier, the Government of India had participated in the pilot initiative of the Silver Notice for tracing and recovering criminal assets.

Purple Notice

- It is one of the eight types of alerts issued by Interpol, specifically designed to provide information about methods, objects, devices, and concealment techniques used by criminals.
- The issuance of this Purple Notice not only strengthens international awareness about trade-based money laundering risks but also highlights India's leading role in shaping coordinated global responses to money laundering.
- Other notices: Red, Yellow, Blue, Black, Green, Orange, Silver Notice (pilot phase).

Enforcement Directorate

- ED was established on 1 May 1956 as an enforcement unit to deal with violations of FERA (Foreign Exchange Regulation Act). The Enforcement Directorate's headquarters is located in New Delhi.

Interpol

- Interpol, or the International Criminal Police Organization, is the world's largest international police organization, established in 1923 to facilitate cross-border police cooperation in combating international crime. The organization has 196 member countries and its headquarters is in Lyon, France.

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Indian Railways & State Bank of India Sign MoU for Enhanced Insurance Benefits to Railway Employees

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Indian Railways and the State Bank of India
- Under this MoU, insurance coverage for Railway employees maintaining salary accounts with SBI has been significantly enhanced. In case of accidental death, the insurance benefit has been increased to ₹1 crore, compared to the current coverage of ₹1.20 lakh, ₹60,000 and ₹30,000 for Group A, B, and C employees respectively
- Additionally, all Railway employees holding only a salary account with SBI will now be eligible for natural death insurance coverage of ₹10 lakh without the need for paying any premium or undergoing any medical examination.

About State Bank of India (SBI):

- Established in 01 July 1955 HQ Mumbai, Maharashtra
Chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty
- Some of the key complimentary insurance covers under this MoU include: Air Accident Insurance (Death) Cover of ₹1.60 crore plus an additional up to ₹1.00 crore on RuPay Debit Card; Personal Accident (Permanent Total Disablement) Cover of ₹1.00 crore; and Personal Accident (Permanent Partial Disability) Cover of up to ₹80 lakhs.



Tata Electronics–Merck Partnership for India’s Semiconductor Growth

- Tata Electronics Pvt. Ltd. signed an MoU with Merck to boost India’s semiconductor ecosystem.
- The partnership supports the India Semiconductor Mission to make India a global chip hub.
- Investment size is ₹91,000 crore (USD 11 billion) for India’s first chip fabrication plant.
- The fabrication plant will be set up in Dholera, Gujarat.
- Merck will supply high-purity materials, gas and chemical systems, turnkey fab infrastructure, and AI-powered Material Intelligence.
- Tata will gain access to Athinia, a secure data collaboration platform for real-time performance analytics.
- Both companies will share global best practices in safety, quality assurance, and manufacturing excellence.
- Plans include building local raw material supply chains, warehousing, and reducing import dependence.
- The collaboration will invest in skilling programs, workforce development, and industry benchmarks.



56th GST Council Meeting – Highlights



- Meeting chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 3–4 September 2025 in New Delhi.
- Major reform: Four GST slabs merged into two – **5% and 18%**, plus a new **40% sin & luxury slab**.
- Essentials like soaps, shampoos, toothpaste, dairy products, snacks, utensils, and baby products shifted to **5%**.
- Farm equipment (tractors, tyres, pesticides, irrigation tools) moved to **5%** to support agriculture.
- Healthcare boost: **Life & health insurance premiums exempted**; 33 life-saving medicines made GST-free.
- Critical healthcare products (thermometers, glucometers, oxygen, diagnostic kits, spectacles) taxed at **5%**.
- Automobiles: Small cars, hybrids, motorcycles ($\leq 350\text{cc}$), three-wheelers, trucks, and ambulances shifted to **18%** from 28%.
- ACs, TVs (all sizes), dishwashers, monitors, projectors – reduced from 28% to **18%**.
- 40% slab applied to **pan masala, gutkha, cigarettes, bidis, luxury cars (above limits), bikes >350cc, yachts, aircraft for personal use, firearms, casinos, betting, gambling, online gaming**.

- **Rate hikes:** Coal, lignite, peat raised from 5% to 18%; paperboards & pulp from 12% to 18%; textiles above ₹2,500 from 12% to 18%.
- **Compliance reforms:** Auto GST registration in 3 days for low-risk firms; 90% provisional refunds via automation; easier refunds for exporters.
- **Legal reforms:** GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) to start by end-2025; deadlines fixed for appeals; CGST Sections 15 & 34 amended for discounts and credit notes.

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SEBI Announces New Rules to Monitor Intraday Positions in Equity Derivatives from October 1, 2025

- SEBI issued new rules (September 1, 2025) for monitoring intraday positions in equity derivatives, effective from **October 1, 2025**.
- The intraday net position limit has been set at ₹5,000 crore per entity, compared to the earlier end-of-day limit of ₹1,500 crore.
- Gross intraday exposure has been capped at ₹10,000 crore, applied separately to long and short positions.
- Stock exchanges will monitor compliance using at least 4 random snapshots, and any breach on the expiry day will attract penalties.

**SEBI's new Framework set ₹10,000 Crore
Cap on Intraday Equity Index Derivatives**



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Securities and Exchange Board of India