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National News

Politics and Governance

PM Modi's Visit: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a visit to Bihar and West Bengal today to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for several development projects. In Bihar, the focus is on infrastructure, including bridges, roads, power plants, and health facilities. In West Bengal, he will inaugurate new metro sections in Kolkata, which are expected to significantly reduce travel time.

Parliamentary Session Concludes: The Monsoon Session of Parliament has concluded, with both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha being adjourned sine die. The session was described as fruitful by Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, despite protests from the Opposition.

Online Gaming Bill: The "Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025" has been passed by the Rajya Sabha, following its passage in the Lok Sabha. The bill aims to ban online games that involve real money and has been sent to the President for her assent.

Vice-Presidential Election: The Election Commission of India has appointed two observers for the upcoming Vice-Presidential Election. The NDA's nominee for the position is C.P. Radhakrishnan, while the INDIA Bloc has nominated B. Sudershan Reddy.

GST Reforms: A Group of Ministers on GST rate rationalization has accepted the Centre's proposal to restructure the GST system by reducing the number of slabs to two: 5% and 18%. The proposal, which would scrap the 12%

and 28% slabs, will now be recommended to the GST Council for a final decision.

Economy and Business

Biofuels Promotion: Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Puri, stated that the government has made significant progress in promoting biofuels as a sustainable alternative to petroleum products.

Economic Growth and Credit Ratings: Following a recent sovereign rating upgrade, Indian bonds are seeing a historic tightening of credit spreads abroad, reflecting robust overseas interest in India's economy. This indicates wider acceptability and cheaper funding costs for Indian companies in the international market.

Online Gaming Industry Impact: Following the passage of the Online Gaming Bill, shares of companies in the sector, such as Nazara Technologies, have dropped significantly due to the ban on real-money gaming.

Other Important Developments

Weather Forecast: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted heavy to very heavy rainfall in several states, including Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, East Rajasthan, and West Bengal. Heavy rain has already lashed parts of Chennai.

ISRO's Gaganyaan Mission: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that the first test flight for India's maiden space mission, Gaganyaan, is scheduled for December of this year.

Indian Railways: Indian Railways has announced plans to operate 380 special trains





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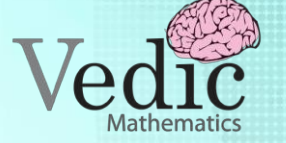
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for the upcoming Ganpati festival to ensure smooth and comfortable travel for passengers.

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MCQS

1. What is the primary focus of PM Modi's visit to Bihar, according to the provided text?
- Inaugurating a new metro section in Kolkata
 - Promoting biofuel production
 - Laying the foundation for infrastructure projects, including bridges, roads, power plants, and health facilities.
 - Announcing a new GST system

Answer: c) Laying the foundation for infrastructure projects, including bridges, roads, power plants, and health facilities. The text explicitly states, "In Bihar, the focus is on infrastructure, including bridges, roads, power plants, and health facilities." The other options relate to different parts of the provided text.

2. The "Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025" has been passed by which of the following?
- Lok Sabha only
 - Rajya Sabha only
 - Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
 - The GST Council

Answer: c) Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha The text clearly states that the bill "has been passed by the Rajya Sabha, following its passage in the Lok Sabha." This indicates it has been approved by both houses of Parliament.

3. Who has been nominated as the NDA's candidate for the Vice-Presidential Election?
- B. Sudershan Reddy
 - Kiren Rijiju
 - C.P. Radhakrishnan
 - Hardeep Puri

Answer: c) C.P. Radhakrishnan





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The text directly mentions, "The NDA's nominee for the position is C.P. Radhakrishnan," while B. Sudershan Reddy is the nominee for the INDIA Bloc.

4. What is the proposed new structure for the GST system, according to the Group of Ministers' recommendation?

- a) A single slab of 18%
- b) Three slabs: 5%, 12%, and 18%
- c) Two slabs: 5% and 18%
- d) No changes to the existing slabs

Answer: c) Two slabs: 5% and 18%

The text states that the Group of Ministers has accepted the proposal to "restructure the GST system by reducing the number of slabs to two: 5% and 18%."

5. What is the impact of the sovereign rating upgrade on Indian bonds, as described in the text?

- a) It has led to a drop in their value.
- b) It has resulted in a tightening of credit spreads abroad and cheaper funding costs for Indian companies.
- c) It has caused a drop in the shares of online gaming companies.
- d) It has led to a ban on real-money gaming.

Answer: b) It has resulted in a tightening of credit spreads abroad and cheaper funding costs for Indian companies.

The text states that "Indian bonds are seeing a historic tightening of credit spreads abroad," which "indicates wider acceptability and cheaper funding costs for Indian companies in the international market."

6. When is the first test flight for ISRO's Gaganyaan mission scheduled?

- a) December of next year
- b) This month

- c) This week
- d) December of this year

Answer: d) December of this year

The text specifies, "the first test flight for India's maiden space mission, Gaganyaan, is scheduled for December of this year."

7. Which of the following statements is NOT supported by the provided text?

- a) The Monsoon Session of Parliament has concluded.
- b) Nazara Technologies' share price dropped after the online gaming bill was passed.
- c) Indian Railways will run special trains for the Ganpati festival.
- d) Heavy rainfall has been forecasted only in South Indian states.

Answer: d) Heavy rainfall has been forecasted only in South Indian states.

The text mentions heavy rainfall has been forecasted for "several states, including Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, East Rajasthan, and West Bengal," which are in the North and East, in addition to mentioning Chennai in the South. Therefore, the statement that it has been forecasted only in South Indian states is incorrect.

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