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National News

Weather and Flooding

Heavy rainfall and severe flooding have continued to affect several parts of northern India, leading to school closures and a rising death toll.

Widespread Flooding: States like Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, and Haryana are grappling with incessant rains that have caused rivers like the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi to swell, inundating villages and affecting thousands of people.

School Closures: Due to the worsening weather conditions and safety concerns, school holidays have been extended in several states. In Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, schools will remain closed until September 7, while in Jammu, they'll be closed until September 5.

Casualties: The relentless rain and associated events like landslides have led to dozens of deaths across the northern states. In Himachal Pradesh alone, 11 people died in the past 24 hours. The death toll in Punjab has reached 37.

Disaster Response: Rescue and relief operations are being conducted on a war footing. An interministerial team from the central government has been deployed to assess the flood damage in Jammu.

Economic Policy

The GST Council has approved a major restructuring of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system.

GST Rate Cuts: In a significant move, the GST Council has decided to simplify the tax structure from four slabs (5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%) to a two-rate system of 5% and 18%. A special 40% rate will apply to items like tobacco and luxury vehicles.

Relief for Consumers: The new rates, effective from September 22, are set to make a wide range of everyday items cheaper. This includes packaged food items like biscuits and noodles, personal care products like shampoo and toothpaste, and consumer durables like air conditioners and televisions.

Tax Exemption: The government has also made several items tax-free (0% GST), including individual health and life insurance policies, UHT milk, and various Indian breads like chapati and paratha.

Other National Updates

Navy Chief's Visit: Admiral Dinesh Tripathi, the Chief of Naval Staff, visited the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) in Lothal, Gujarat, to review the project's progress. He lauded the project as a "living testimony to India's maritime past, present, and future."

Nationwide Strike: The All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC) has urged the working class and the public to participate in a nationwide general strike today in New Delhi to protest against the government's "anti-labour" policies.

CA Exams Postponed: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has postponed the CA Final and Intermediate exams scheduled for September 3 and 4 in various centers in Punjab

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and Jammu due to the heavy rainfall and flooding.

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MCQS

- 1.Which rivers in northern India have swelled due to heavy rainfall, causing widespread flooding?
- a) Yamuna and Ganga
- b) Narmada and Godavari
- c) Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi
- d) Krishna and Kaveri

Answer: c) Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi The text states that "rivers like the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi" have swollen, leading to inundation in states like Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, and Haryana.

- 2.Until when have schools in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh been directed to remain closed?
- a) September 5
- b) September 7
- c) September 10
- d) September 15

Answer: b) September 7

The news report indicates that "schools will remain closed until September 7" in both Punjab and Himachal Pradesh due to the severe weather.

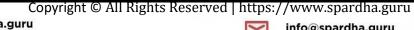
- 3. How many people have died in Punjab due to the recent rains and floods?
- a) 11
- b) 24
- c) 37
- d) Dozens

Answer: c) 37

The text specifies that "The death toll in Punjab has reached 37."

4. What is the new two-rate system approved by the GST Council?

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- a) 5% and 12%
- b) 12% and 18%
- c) 5% and 18%
- d) 18% and 28%

Answer: c) 5% and 18%

The GST Council has decided to "simplify the tax structure from four slabs (5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%) to a two-rate system of 5% and 18%."

5. What is the special GST rate that will apply to items like tobacco and luxury vehicles?

- a) 28%
- b) 30%
- c) 40%
- d) 50%

Answer: *c*) 40%

The news mentions that a "special 40% rate will apply to items like tobacco and luxury vehicles."

6.Which of the following items has been made tax-free (0% GST)?

- a) Biscuits and noodles
- b) Air conditioners and televisions
- c) Individual health and life insurance policies
- d) Shampoos and toothpaste

Answer: c) Individual health and life insurance policies

The text states that the government has made "individual health and life insurance policies" tax-free.

7. Who is the Chief of Naval Staff who visited the National Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal, Gujarat?

- a) Admiral Karambir Singh
- b) Admiral R. Hari Kumar
- c) Admiral Dinesh Tripathi
- d) Admiral Sunil Lanba

The news identifies the Navy Chief who visited the complex as "Admiral Dinesh Tripathi."

8. What is the purpose of the nationwide general strike urged by the All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC)?

- a) To demand higher wages for workers
- b) To protest against the GST rate cuts
- c) To protest against the government's "antilabour" policies
- d) To show solidarity with farmers

Answer: c) To protest against the government's "anti-labour" policies

The AIUTUC has urged a strike "to protest against the government's 'anti-labour' policies."

9. Why were the CA Final and Intermediate exams postponed in Punjab and Jammu?

- a) Due to a national holiday
- b) Due to a technical glitch
- c) Due to heavy rainfall and flooding
- d) Due to a transport strike

Answer: c) Due to heavy rainfall and flooding The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) postponed the exams "due to the heavy rainfall and flooding."

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Answer: c) Admiral Dinesh Tripathi

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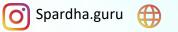




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